

**SITE INSPECTION REPORT OF THE DISTRICT FOREST OFFICER,
MADURAI**

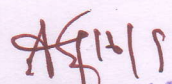
**DIVERSION OF FOREST LAND IN KILUVAIMALAI RF OF MADURAI
RANGE FOR LAYING OFC CABLE BY RELIANCE JIO INFOCOMM LTD.,
SCO, MYLAPORE, CHENNAI**

An area of 0.033 hectares of forest land in Kiluvaimalai RF of Madurai range is proposed to be diverted for laying OFC cable by Reliance JIO Infocomm Ltd., SCO, Mylapore, Chennai.

When the said area proposed for diversion was inspected on 05.09.2020, the length of the proposed laying of OFC cable was measured to be 1.05 or 1.1 Km in the presence of JIO officials. The proposed diversion falls in Kiluvaimalai RF. The cable is proposed to be laid on left side of the road starting from the junction on Madurai-Natham NH and all along the Saranthangi road (in East-West direction) leading to Saranthangi. The road is located on the northern side of the Kiluvaimalai RF. The user agency had proposed to lay the cable at a depth of 1 metre involving excavation at a width of 30 cm. From this, the proposed diversion is calculated as $1100 \text{ m} \times 0.3 \text{ m} = 0.033 \text{ hectares}$. There are Eucalyptus trees all along the left side of the road but the user agency informed that they will not harm the trees. No rock blasting or other form of destruction is allowed in the proposed area. If the work exceeds proposed width, it may harm the trees and hence, the commitment is to be strictly upheld by the user agency.

From the records, it is ascertained that the said road is not in any of the forest records. The road is illegally formed in 2010 for which an offence was registered in OR.No.45 of 2010 in Madurai range. But, a BT road is in existence and is currently used. Cairn stones are seen on the other side of the road that clarifies that the said road falls within the RF.

The proposed diversion is essential to provide telecommunication services. It is a small tract of the project that is covering large landscapes. With the direction to user agency to ensure that the work must be restricted to proposed area and wherever machinery cannot be accessed the work must be carried out manually, the project is considered.


District Forest Officer