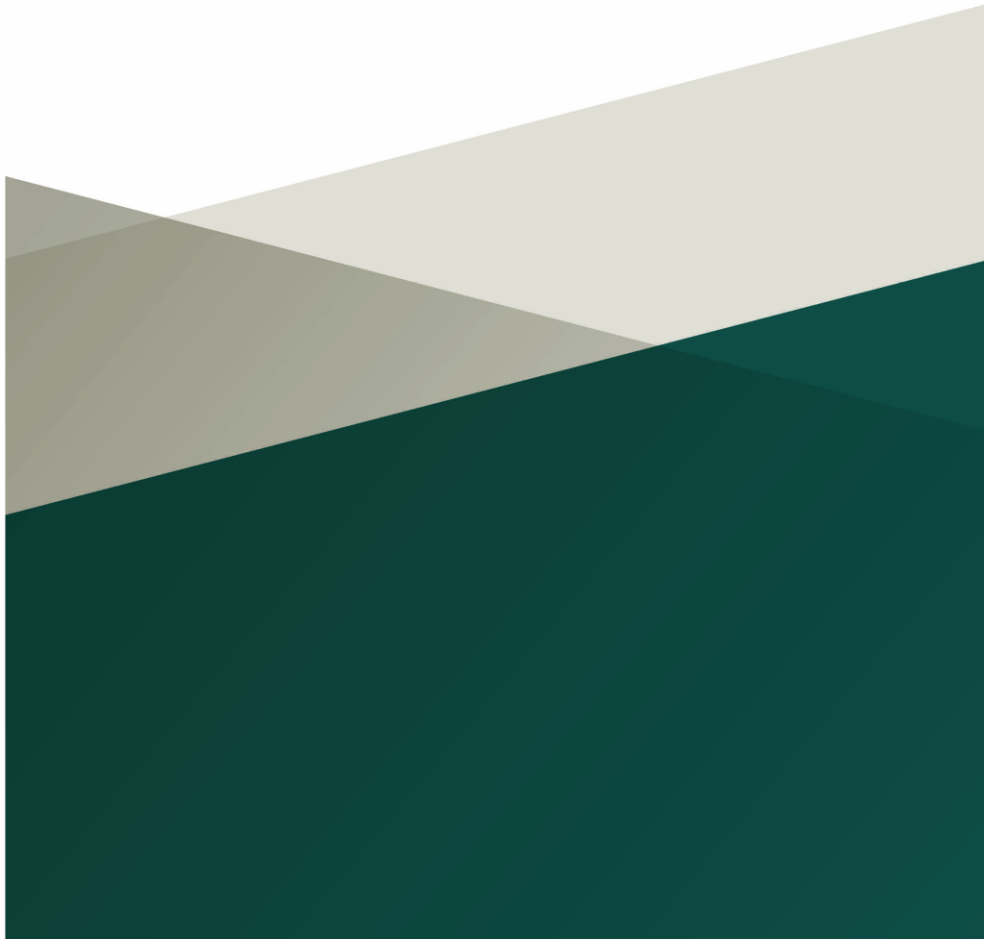


# Frequently Asked Questions

## Afforestation Scheme 2023-2027 Launch



Version 1: 6 September 2023

## Contents

1. When can new applications for the Afforestation Scheme 2023-2027 be submitted?	4
2. How do I make an application?	4
3. How will the Afforestation Scheme 2023-2027 differ to the scheme offered in the Forestry Programme 2014-2020?	4
4. I have a valid Afforestation Licence and would like to plant now, what do I need to do?	5
5. How long will it take to get a decision on my financial application?	6
6. I have a valid Afforestation Scheme approval and commenced work in 2022. What payment rates will apply?	6
7. I submitted an afforestation application that I made under the Forestry Programme 2014-2020 that I have not received a decision on. What happens next?	7
8. Where are the terms and conditions for the Afforestation Scheme 2023-2027?	7
9. What is the definition of a farmer?	7
10. What payment rates will be offered for the Afforestation and Scheme 2023-2027?	9
11. Can Afforestation approvals for GPC 1 be changed to a Forest Type (FT)?	12
12. Can I apply for the Native Tree Area Scheme now?	12
13. Previously it was permissible to plant 5% broadleaves in a block and 10% broadleaves throughout the conifers. Under the Afforestation Scheme 2023-2027 can I now plant 10% broadleaves in a block and 10% broadleaves throughout the conifers?	12
14. Are all the Scenarios 1 – 6 IN (FT1) Native Forest, now 2,500 stems/ ha?	12
15. Are farmers who enter the Afforestation Scheme 2023-2027 entitled to Basic Support Payments?	12
16. When will farmer qualification be confirmed and can this be done before planting commences?	12
17. Once farmer definition is confirmed at Form 2 payment stage, does it last for the duration of the contract?	13
18. If my Afforestation licence expires soon can it be extended?	13
19. Will there be in person training for Registered Foresters?	13
20. Will there be grant aid available for old estates with dead or dying ash?	13
21. Can the Ornithological reports be carried out at all times of the year?	13
22. Will the FT for Emergent woodland applications be accepted in Hen Harrier SPA's?	13
23. Will pre-screening and Ornithological Report's be eligible for Environmental Report Grant?	13
24. How will the new programme requirements impact existing in-system pre-approval afforestation applications?	13

<b>25. Will guidance be provided in relation to the identification and classification of organo mineral soils?.....</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>26. Are premium payments for afforested land paid to landowners under the De Minimis Scheme or the Afforestation Scheme? .....</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>27. Do the answers provided in respect of environmental considerations questions for afforestation pre-approval application remove the requirement to supply Natural Impact Statements (NISs) in respect of afforestation applications or for remove the requirement for DAFM to produce Appropriate Assessment Determinations (AADs)?.....</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>28. What financial supports are provided to landowners and registered foresters in respect of the new field survey requirements, mapping and ecological report requirements in respect of pre-approval afforestation applications submitted under the new afforestation scheme? .....</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>29. What is the minimum broadleaf requirement for Forest Type 10 or FT10? .....</b>	<b>15</b>
<b>30. What financial supports are available for fencing the broadleaf component of FT11 and FT12 plots? .....</b>	<b>15</b>
<b>31. What is the support email for iNET in regards to submitting online applications?.....</b>	<b>15</b>
<b>32. Are non-farmers eligible for the Native Tree Area Scheme (NTAS)? .....</b>	<b>15</b>
<b>33. When will the spatial layers required to answer the scheme questions related to Environmental Considerations for afforestation become available to view in the iNET online application system for registered foresters?.....</b>	<b>15</b>
<b>34. What is the minimum broadleaf requirement for Forest Type 12 or FT12? .....</b>	<b>15</b>
<b>35. Is support funding available for transitioning conifers on peat soils to other species?</b>	<b>15</b>
<b>36. Is planting of trees on Bord Na Móna cutaway and industrial peatlands envisaged under the new forestry programme? .....</b>	<b>16</b>
<b>37. What support is available to protect the 20% broadleaves on a FT12 site from Deer damage?.....</b>	<b>16</b>
<b>Appendix 1 – Afforestation Declaration for licence holders .....</b>	<b>17</b>
<b>Appendix 2 – Declaration sent to applicants who have not received a decision.....</b>	<b>18</b>
<b>Appendix 3 – Environmental Declaration by Forester .....</b>	<b>19</b>

The Afforestation Scheme 2023-2027 has now been finalised by the Department and received State Aid approval at European Union level. The new Afforestation Scheme will differ in some ways from the outgoing scheme, and this has some implications for applicants who hold a valid afforestation licence, applicants who have submitted an application but not yet received a decision and new applicants. These FAQs have been compiled to give guidance to all applicants.

**1. When can new applications for the Afforestation Scheme 2023-2027 be submitted?**

It is planned that new applications for the Afforestation Scheme can be accepted from the 06<sup>th</sup> of September.

**2. How do I make an application?**

You will need to work with a Registered Forester to submit an application on your behalf. The Department maintains a list of Registered Foresters which is available at:

[List of registered foresters](#)

**3. How will the Afforestation Scheme 2023-2027 differ to the scheme offered in the Forestry Programme 2014-2020?**

- Payment rates have increased significantly with premiums for planting trees increasing by between 46% and 66%.
- A new 20-year premium term will be offered exclusively for farmers.
- Agroforestry premiums will double in duration from 5 to 10 years.
- Forest Types (FTs) will replace Grant and Premium Categories (GPCs) and new Forest Types can be selected including Forests for Water, Neighbourwoods, Emergent Forests and Continuous Cover Forestry.
- A Habitat description and map may now qualify for payment of the Environment Report and associated grant.
- A 20% broadleaf species component is now mandatory for all mixed forest types, including FT12.
- Certain areas of the country may no longer be eligible for grant aid due to more stringent conditions regarding High Nature Value farmland, peat soils, breeding wader bird species, and freshwater pearl mussel.

**4. I have a valid Afforestation Licence and would like to plant now, what do I need to do?**

We intend to write to all licence holders the week beginning 11<sup>th</sup> September with information on what to do if you wish to plant.

It is intended that your registered forester will need to submit a Form 1a for financial approval on your behalf along with a form, signed by you, indicating that you opt into the terms and conditions of the Afforestation Scheme 2023-2027 (see Appendix 1).

One of the changes made to the Afforestation Scheme 2023-2027 is that the Grant and Premium Categories (GPCs) that you were approved for will not be offered and have been replaced by Forest Types (FTs). Table 1 below lists the corresponding FTs and in your declaration, we will require you to confirm which FT you will now plant.

**Table 1 – GPCs and FTs**

<b>If you have approval for the following GPC for one or more forest plots:</b>	<b>You may change to the following Forest Type (FT) in relation to those same forest plots:</b>
GPC 1 - Unenclosed	N/A - GPC 1 will no longer be offered as a grant aided forest, you will need to remove any GPC 1 plots from your application before you submit your Form 1a
GPC 2 - Sitka spruce/lodgepole pine	N/A - new application required for FT12
GPC 3 - 15% Diverse mix	FT12 - Mixed high forests with mainly spruce, 20% broadleaves
GPC 4 - Diverse	FT11 - Mixed high forests: Conifer, 20% broadleaves
GPC 5 - Broadleaf (except oak & beech)	FT7 - Other Broadleaf
GPC 6 - Oak	FT6 - Broadleaf, mainly oak
GPC 7 - Beech	FT7 - Other Broadleaf
GPC 8 - Alder	FT7 - Other Broadleaf
GPC 9 - NWS Est (Scenarios 1-3)	FT1 - Native forests

GPC 10 - NWS Est (Scenario 4)	FT1 - Native forests
GPC 11 - Agroforestry	FT8 - Agroforestry
GPC 12 - Forestry for Fibre	N/A - GPC 12 will no longer be offered as a grant aided forest, you will need to remove any GPC 12 plots from your application before you submit your Form 1a
Scheme - Creation of Woodlands on Public Lands	FT3 - Forest Creation on Public Lands

It will not be possible for you to change to the following new Forest Types. If you would like to plant any of these FTs your Registered Forester will need to submit a new afforestation application on your behalf.

FT2	Forests for water
FT4	Neighbourwoods
FT5	Emergent Forests
FT9	Seed Orchards
FT10	CCF

Approvals Section will confirm to you and your Registered Forester in writing whether you have been admitted to the Scheme and if you have been admitted this will be communicated through the financial approval. In some cases approvals may not issue if they do not comply with the new scheme requirements.

Please note that Creation of Woodland on Public Lands Scheme has been replaced by FT3 in the Afforestation Scheme 2023-2027 and applicants who would like to use their valid approval will also need to follow the process outlined above.

**5. How long will it take to get a decision on my financial application?**

All applications for financial approval will require an assessment by the Department. This is a new step and is necessary to ensure that the proposed planting adheres to the terms and conditions of the new Scheme.

**6. I have a valid Afforestation Scheme approval and commenced work in 2022. What payment rates will apply?**

Your Registered Forester can submit a Form 2 in 2023 for any work that commenced up to and including 31/12/2022 and it will be paid at the Forestry Programme 2014-2020 (extended to end 2022) rates. This also applies in cases where the work commenced in 2022 but may be completed in 2023. This applies to all Forestry Schemes.

**7. I submitted an afforestation application that I made under the Forestry Programme 2014-2020 that I have not received a decision on. What happens next?**

DAFM have written to all applicants requesting that you sign a form indicating that you opt into the terms and conditions of the new Afforestation Scheme 2023-2027 (see declaration in Appendix 2). Registered Foresters can view the content of this letter in Circular 13 of 2023.

Some changes have been made to the new Afforestation Scheme and you and your Registered Forester will be asked to answer some additional questions (see Appendix 3). The Grant and Premium Categories (GPCs) that you were approved for will not be offered under this Scheme and have been replaced by Forest Types (FTs). [Table 1](#) lists the corresponding FTs and in your declaration, we require you to confirm which FT you now wish to plant. Please see question 4 for the full list of which FTs can be selected relative to the GPC that you originally applied for.

Your Registered Forester will also need to complete the Environmental Declaration in Appendix 3 and this has been included in Circular 13 of 2023.

This Scheme has been subject to a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) and Appropriate Assessment (AA) process. The Minister reserves the right to revise the terms & conditions of the Scheme in accordance at any time. Applicants may therefore be required to “opt-in” to any revised terms and conditions before a decision is made on their application.

**8. Where are the terms and conditions for the Afforestation Scheme 2023-2027?**

The terms and conditions for the Afforestation Scheme 2023-2027 are available in the Scheme document on the DAFM website at [www.gov.ie/forestry](http://www.gov.ie/forestry), see information on Forestry Grants and Schemes. Technical documents referred to in the Scheme document can be found at [gov.ie - Regulation, Forest Health and Resources \(www.gov.ie\)](http://gov.ie - Regulation, Forest Health and Resources (www.gov.ie))

**9. What is the definition of a farmer?**

Forests established and maintained in accordance with the Afforestation Scheme 2023-2027 will be eligible for the payment of an annual premium for a period of up to 20 years for farmers and 15 years for non farmers.

Applicants that can pass the Departments Active Farmer check and that are an approved member of Basic Income Support for Sustainability (BISS) scheme in the application year and a member of either BISS or Basic Payment Scheme (BPS) in the previous 4 years will be considered a farmer for this scheme. All other applicants will be deemed to be non-farmers for the purposes of this scheme.

'Active Farmer' means the applicant claiming payments on the land must be the applicant farming and/or managing the land, that is, the Active Farmer. The farming activities can include meeting a minimum stocking rate (0.10 livestock unit per forage hectare), producing crops, cutting hay/silage, maintaining landscape features. See BISS terms and conditions for further information.



## 10. What payment rates will be offered for the Afforestation and Scheme 2023-2027?

	Forest Type	Grant /ha	Annual Premium/ha	Duration of Premiums for farmers	Duration of Premiums for non-farmers
FT1	Native forests	€6,744	€1,103	20	15
FT2	Forests for water*	€6,744	€1,142	20	15
FT3	Forests on Public Lands**	€10,544	€1,103	15	n/a
FT4	NeighbourWoods***	€10,200	€1,142	20	15
FT5	Emergent Forest	€2,500	€350	20	15
FT6	Broadleaf, mainly oak and beech	€6,744	€1,037	20	15
FT7	Diverse Broadleaf	€4,314	€973	20	15
FT8	Agroforestry	€8,555	€975	10	10
FT9	Seed Orchards	€10,000	€1,142	20	15
FT10	Continuous Cover Forestry	€5,421	€912	20	15
FT11	Mixed high forests: Conifer, 20% broadleaves	€4,452	€863	20	15
FT12	Mixed high forests with mainly spruce, 20% broadleaves	€3,858	€746	20	15

\* Additional payment of €1,000 per ha will be paid to landowner on completion of planting

\*\* Grant includes support for appropriate recreational facilities

\*\*\* Grant includes support for appropriate recreational facilities

## Environment report and associated grant

The aims of the environment report and associated grant are: (i) to increase the quality of afforestation applications, particularly in relation to potential environmental sensitivities; (ii), to increase the throughput of applications by DAFM; and (iii) to ensure applicants and their agents are reasonably reimbursed for the additional costs associated with the required standard and scope of the environmental reports submitted.

Environmental reports that are eligible for this grant may include:

- A Pre-Screening Report
- A Habitat Description and Map
- An Ecology Report covering non-Appropriate Assessment ecology requirements
- A Natura Impact Statement.
- Archaeology Impact Assessment
- Archaeology Monitoring Report

Other reports, such as bird surveys, botanical surveys, water and landscape-related assessments and Environmental Impact Assessment Reports may also be required and are also eligible.

### Grant rate

€450 per hectare for first hectare

€400 for second ha

€350 for third ha

€50 per ha for subsequent hectares to a maximum of 20 hectares

## Fencing Rates

Fence Type	€ per metre (IS436 rates)	€ per metre (non IS436 Rates)	IS436 (160m/ ha cap)	Non IS436 (120m/ha cap)
Stock	5.50	4.50	Max €880/ha at forest level	Max €540/ha at forest level
Stock/ Sheep	7.00	5.00		
Stock/ Rabbit	7.00	6.50		
Upgrade to deer	9.00	8.00	€1,440/ha	€960/ha
Deer	18.00	14.00	All deer fencing must be approved in advance. Only sites where at least 70% of the area enclosed by the deer fence of FT 1 to 11 is eligible.	
Deer/ Rabbit	18.00 New Deer fencing capped at €2,880/ha	14.00 New Deer fencing capped at €2,100/ha		

The maximum metres of fencing funded will be based on the total lengths of new fences erected to Forest Service specifications and based on the area of the forest multiplied by 160 metres, where IS436 is used exclusively, irrespective of fence type erected. Maximum fencing cap of €50,000 per forest. Where non IS436 deer fencing is used a cap of 150 metres per ha will apply to the deer fencing element and capped at €2,100 per ha.

**11. Can Afforestation approvals for GPC 1 be changed to a Forest Type (FT)?**

No, areas of GPC1 will need to be excluded. The land proposed for planting will need to meet soil type(s) eligible for afforestation under the new Forestry Programme and meet the required R + N score of 6.0 or above . More information can be found in the Land Types for Afforestation document which can be found at [gov.ie](http://gov.ie) - Regulation, Forest Health and Resources can be found at [gov.ie - Regulation, Forest Health and Resources \(www.gov.ie\)](http://gov.ie - Regulation, Forest Health and Resources (www.gov.ie))

**12. Can I apply for the Native Tree Area Scheme now?**

The Native Tree Area (NTA) Scheme will operate separately to the Afforestation Scheme 2023-2027. It is planned to open the NTA Scheme for applications in September 2023. A Statutory Instrument is required to give a legal basis to the Native Tree Area Scheme and it expected that the regulation will be signed into law in the coming weeks. iNET and iFORIS development has been carried out to allow NTAS applications to be submitted to DAFM using iNET when the scheme formally opens. It will not be possible to transfer an approval that you received under a previous Afforestation Scheme to the NTA Scheme.

**13. Previously it was permissible to plant 5% broadleaves in a block and 10% broadleaves throughout the conifers. Under the Afforestation Scheme 2023-2027 can I now plant 10% broadleaves in a block and 10% broadleaves throughout the conifers?**

Yes. The location of broadleaves should complement the individual site. This is normally done by planting the broadleaves near setbacks from water courses, dwelling houses, public roads, hedgerows, archaeological monuments and other features. It may also include groups planted through the conifers.

**14. Are all the Scenarios 1 – 6 IN (FT1) Native Forest, now 2,500 stems/ ha?**

Yes, all scenarios in FT1 Native Forest are now 2500 stems per ha.

**15. Are farmers who enter the Afforestation Scheme 2023-2027 entitled to Basic Support Payments?**

Subject to meeting the terms and conditions of the Basic Income Support for Sustainability (BISS) landowners who enter the Afforestation Scheme 2023-2027 will be entitled to BISS.

**16. When will farmer qualification be confirmed and can this be done before planting commences?**

Farmer qualification will be confirmed at Form 2 payment stage.

**17. Once farmer definition is confirmed at Form 2 payment stage, does it last for the duration of the contract?**

Once a farmer qualifies as a farmer at Form 2 payment stage then farmer status is in place for the 20 years of that contract. If the land changes ownership during that 20 years then Change of Ownership procedures will need to be adhered to. For more information please see [gov.ie - Forestry Grant Scheme - Change of Ownership \(www.gov.ie\)](http://www.gov.ie)

**18. If my Afforestation licence expires soon can it be extended?**

It may be possible to issue an extension, but only if the licence has not yet expired. Please contact the Approvals Section of the Forestry Division on 053-9163400 or at [forestryappeng@agriculture.gov.ie](mailto:forestryappeng@agriculture.gov.ie) with your contract number if you wish to apply for an extension.

**19. Will there be in person training for Registered Foresters?**

Yes, as part of the rollout of the forestry programme there will be person to person training. This will include indoor and field based training. These training sessions will be regionally based. They will cover the new aspects of the scheme, peat, HNVf and Birds but we are keen to receive feedback on any elements where you believe additional training is required.

**20. Will there be grant aid available for old estates with dead or dying ash?**

Depending on the site, there are two possible schemes that may be availed of: 1) Native Woodland Conservation Scheme when it launches 2) Reconstitution Ash Dieback Scheme 2023-2027.

**21. Can the Ornithological reports be carried out at all times of the year?**

The bird related protocols and procedures to apply will depend on the location of the proposed project and the bird species of concern.

**22. Will the FT for Emergent woodland applications be accepted in Hen Harrier SPA's?**

There will be no new afforestation approved in any SPA.

**23. Will pre-screening and Ornithological Report's be eligible for Environmental Report Grant?**

Yes, ecology and archaeology reports are eligible for the Environmental Report Grant (ERG). Environmental reports that are eligible for this grant may include A Pre-Screening Report, A Habitat Description and Map, An Ecology Report covering non-Appropriate Assessment ecology requirements, A Natura Impact Statement, Archaeology Impact Assessment and Archaeology Monitoring Report. See also Appendix 1 of the Draft Forestry Scheme Manual.

**24. How will the new programme requirements impact existing in-system pre-approval afforestation applications?**

Afforestation applications currently in the system will be assessed to align with environmental legislation, in particular Schedule 1 of S.I. No. 191 2017 (which transposes Annex IIA of the EIA Directive), and with the State Aid conditions

underpinning the new Forestry Programme. The work in relation to any additional field or other assessments of these files will be predominantly conducted by DAFM forestry inspectors and ecologists.

**25. Will guidance be provided in relation to the identification and classification of organo mineral soils?**

Yes, there is guidance in appendix A of the Land Types for afforestation Soil and Fertility document. This covers both soil survey for organo mineral soils and soil survey and identification of modified fens and modified cutaway raised bogs. Field training will be organised by DAFM on a regional basis. This training will include the survey protocols for organo-mineral soils.

**26. Are premium payments for afforested land paid to landowners under the De Minimis Scheme or the Afforestation Scheme?**

The De Minimis Scheme is no longer in operation (see also Circular 10 of 2023 Closure of Interim Afforestation Scheme (via General De Minimis)). Premium payments will be paid (20 years for farmers and 15 years for non-farmers) for all newly planted lands meeting the required standards under the new afforestation scheme.

**27. Do the answers provided in respect of environmental considerations questions for afforestation pre-approval application remove the requirement to supply Natural Impact Statements (NISs) in respect of afforestation applications or for remove the requirement for DAFM to produce Appropriate Assessment Determinations (AADs)?**

The purpose of the Environmental Considerations section is to fully align the assessment process with the environmental legislation, in particular Schedule 1 of S.I. No. 191 2017 (which transposes Annex IIA of the EIA Directive), and with the State Aid conditions underpinning the new Forestry Programme. They also serve to structure the various checks Registered Foresters are required to undertake in relation to these key sensitivities. The requirement for DAFM to carry out Appropriate Assessment is related to the potential environmental impacts of a project on the qualifying interests of European Sites proximate to the proposed afforestation site. Article 6(3) of the Habitats Directive sets out the requirement for Appropriate Assessment in relation to SACs and SPAs or European Sites. Appropriate Assessment Screening and Appropriate Assessment is an ongoing legal requirement for all afforestation applications submitted to DAFM. See also Circular 02 of 2020 Appropriate Assessment Procedures which sets out the requirements and circumstances where NISs are required in support of afforestation projects.

**28. What financial supports are provided to landowners and registered foresters in respect of the new field survey requirements, mapping and ecological report requirements in respect of pre-approval afforestation applications submitted under the new afforestation scheme?**

Afforestation projects can now avail of the significantly increased grants and the Environmental Report Grant to help offset the costs of environmental reports incurred as part of the application process (e.g. habitat report, archaeology report). See

Appendix 1 Draft Afforestation Scheme Document for information related Environmental Report Grant Payments.

**29. What is the minimum broadleaf requirement for Forest Type 10 or FT10?**

The minimum broadleaf component for FT10 is 20% of planted area. See also Appendix 1 of the Draft Forestry Schemes Manual.

**30. What financial supports are available for fencing the broadleaf component of FT11 and FT12 plots?**

The maximum metres of fencing funded will be based on the total lengths of new fences erected to Forest Service specifications and based on the area of the forest multiplied by 160 metres, where IS436 is used exclusively, irrespective of fence type erected. Maximum fencing cap of €50,000 per forest. Where non IS436 deer fencing is used a cap of 150 metres per ha will apply to the deer fencing element and the rate is capped at €2,100 per/ha. Sites where at least 70% of the area enclosed by the deer fence for FT1 - FT11 are eligible for deer fence funding. Deer fencing must be approved in advance i.e. at the pre-approval stage. FT11 and FT12 plots will also be eligible for the Deer Tree Shelter, Hare and Deer Fencing Scheme. Details of this scheme will be published shortly.

**31. What is the support email for iNET in regards to submitting online applications?**

For support queries related to iNET online applications please contact: 049 4368288 or email forestryonline@agriculture.gov.ie and a support ticket will be raised (where appropriate) to address any iNET system technical issues encountered.

**32. Are non-farmers eligible for the Native Tree Area Scheme (NTAS)?**

To be eligible to enter the Native Tree Area Scheme (NTAS) the applicant (i.e. farmer or non-farmer) must be the sole freehold owner of the lands in question. The nominated Native Tree Areas Scheme lands must be currently used for farming purposes including dairy farming; livestock production; cultivation of fodder or tillage crops or the growing of horticultural crops.

**33. When will the spatial layers required to answer the scheme questions related to Environmental Considerations for afforestation become available to view in the iNET online application system for registered foresters?**

Spatial layers relevant to the assessment of Environmental Considerations are currently available from the iFORIS and iNET map viewer test systems. These are now available in the iNET map viewer.

**34. What is the minimum broadleaf requirement for Forest Type 12 or FT12?**

This forest type is comprised of a plot Sitka spruce plus a minimum 20% broadleaves by area. The broadleaf content must be at least 20% of area planted. See also Appendix 1 of the Draft Forestry Schemes Manual.

**35. Is support funding available for transitioning conifers on peat soils to other species?**

The Climate Resilient Reforestation Pilot Scheme, when launched, will provide funding for transitioning conifer stands. The objective of this Climate Resilient Reforestation

Scheme is to increase the climate resilience of the national forest estate by increasing the proportion of forest land managed under permanent forest cover using close to nature silviculture. This Scheme provides a range of options to support forest owners considering a move to close to nature forest management at reforestation stage. These options are arranged under three elements, as follows:

Element 1: Reforestation for Continuous Cover Forestry (CCF): Encourages the design and layout of the replacement forest so as to facilitate the future realisation of quality wood products using established CCF principles / practices.

Element 2: Reforestation for Native Woodlands: Encourages the replacement, at reforestation stage, of existing conifer stands with the most appropriate native woodland type or types appropriate for the site, using the NWS Framework and the various scenarios therein. (Note, such projects were previously funded under the last Forestry Programme, under the Native Woodland Conservation Scheme.)

Element 3: Reforestation for Biodiversity and Water: Encourages the creation of undisturbed areas for biodiversity and water protection, realised through drain-blocking, slow-water damming and the planting of widely-spaced groups of native broadleaves, typically in areas adjoining the water setback required at reforestation stage.

**36. Is planting of trees on Bord Na Móna cutaway and industrial peatlands envisaged under the new forestry programme?**

An application for an afforestation approval has been submitted by Bord Na Mona under a Pilot Scheme for the afforestation of lands at the Tipperary, Kilkenny border. This Pilot Scheme facilitates native woodland regeneration on industrial cutaway at landscape scale, on some 203 ha in and around the Littleton Bog complex, aiming at minimum intervention, and is compatible with other forms of peatland restoration measures at this scale. This pilot scheme is restricted to the afforestation of Bord Na Mona industrial peatlands only.

**37. What support is available to protect the 20% broadleaves on a FT12 site from Deer damage?**

An applicant can apply for support at the Afforestation approval stage for the Deer Tree Shelter (DTS), Hare and Deer Fencing Scheme. The support for protecting the 20% ADB is €625/ha. For example: a 10ha plot of FT12 will have a minimum of 2ha ADB planted at 4m x 4m spacing. The maximum claimed area at Form 2 for the DTS scheme will be 10ha and be eligible to receive a grant of €6,250.



## Appendix 1 – Afforestation Declaration for licence holders

AFFORESTATION SCHEME 2023-2027

OPT IN & DECLARATION BY APPLICANT

Contract Number: CN

FO Number:

I/We \_\_\_\_\_

hereby accept the revised terms of the Afforestation Scheme 2023-2027 and request that my application for an afforestation licence and technical approval under the terms and conditions of former Afforestation Scheme be transferred to an application under the terms and conditions of the Afforestation Scheme 2023-2027.

I wish to change my application as follows:

<b>Plot number</b>	<b>GPC</b>	<b>Proposed Forest Type</b>

Applicant(s) signature(s) \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Name(s) in Block Capitals \_\_\_\_\_

Appendix 2 – Declaration sent to applicants who have not received a decision.

AFFORESTATION SCHEME 2023-2027

OPT IN & DECLARATION BY APPLICANT

Contract Number: CN

FO Number:

I/We \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_

hereby accept the revised terms of the Afforestation Scheme 2023-2027 and request that my application for a licence and technical approval under the former Scheme be transferred to an application under the terms and conditions of the Afforestation Scheme 2023-2027.

I wish to change my application as follows:

<b>Plot number</b>	<b>Approved GPC</b>	<b>Proposed Forest Type</b>

Applicants Signature(s) \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Name(s) in Block Capitals \_\_\_\_\_

## Appendix 3 – Environmental Declaration by Forester

**CONTRACT NUMBER:**

### **Aspects of the environment that are likely to be significantly affected by the afforestation project**

Considering:

- a. the characteristics of the project, as previously submitted and taking into account the above changes from GPCs to the new Forest Types available under the new Afforestation Scheme;
- b. the location of the project in relation to environmental sensitivities such as water, biodiversity, archaeology, landscape and adjoining and nearby roads, dwellings and local amenities; and
- c. the types and characteristics of potential impacts that might arise;

- 1. To the best of your knowledge, are any significant effects on the environment expected to result from this project? YES / NO**
  
- 2. To the best of your knowledge, are any residues, emissions or waste expected to arise from this project? YES / NO**

If 'YES' to either or both questions, please provide a brief description below:

Signed \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_