



Forest Service



File Ref: PA36/09

22 July 2009

Circular: 10/2009

Forest Road Scheme

The reason for the clarifications 1 and 2 below is to concentrate the limited resources available for the Forest Roads Grant scheme to projects that have the most immediate need for access for harvesting and to concentrate these funds to where the largest amounts of timber are to be extracted per linear metre of grant aided road. Item 3 is aimed at having proposals received by the Forest Service in a standard format.

1. In the calculation of area served by any proposed harvesting road, only the area to be harvested within the next two years can be taken into account. Young conifers will not be considered regardless of their location in the plantation.
2. Broadleaves may only be considered in the area calculation where they have already been tended to Forest Service standards and are now at a subsequent thinning stage.
3. Please see attached Forest Road specification template. Please fill this out and include with every Form 1 for the Forest Road Scheme regardless of the size of area served, in addition to the forest inventory details as previously required.

Areas for Biodiversity Enhancement (ABEs)

Areas chosen as ABEs should represent the best areas for biodiversity enhancement within a forest. There has been an increasing attempt to use unplanted areas as ABE often where it is part of a large expansive area and not an intrinsic part of the planted area. While protecting Biodiversity areas outside of the forest area is desirable and encouraged it is not within the scope of the afforestation scheme and is therefore not eligible for funding. The clarification below attempts to explain the Forest Biodiversity Guidelines to help maximise the biodiversity benefit of our ABEs.

1. ABE's are areas suitable for planting where the potential for a commercial forest crop is foregone for the purpose of retaining open spaces and habitats for biodiversity.
2. The area occupied by linear (e.g. hedgerows, public road setbacks etc.) or point features (e.g. archaeological sites) must be accurately assessed and this area must be noted on the biodiversity map. This area must be added to any plot sized ABE area to give a total ABE area.
3. ABE's must be an integral part of the proposed forest area.
4. ABE's must be situated where they provide the best opportunity for enhancing the biodiversity within the forest area while also protecting watercourses and archaeological sites through the use of buffer and exclusion zones.
5. Existing forests (conifer and broadleaf) or parts of existing forests may not be used as ABE. To be deemed to be a forest it must have a minimum area of 0.1 hectare and a minimum width of 20m. Other tree covered areas with smaller dimensions to a forest may be included as ABE.

Woodland Improvement Scheme - Tending and Thinning of Broadleaves

The reason for the new provision below is largely due to economies of scale.

Applications for areas totalling 2 hectares or less at Form 1 and Form 2 stage for this scheme can be accepted without the requirement for a registered forester's involvement. A registered forester is required for areas over 2 hectares.

Gerry Fogarty
Assistant Principal
Forest Service