**Forestry FAQ’s**

**Forestry in Ireland**

1. **How much land is currently planted in Ireland?**
The total area of forest in Ireland is estimated to be 731,650 ha or 10.5% of the total land area of Ireland (NFI 2012).

2. **What are the planting targets for Ireland?**
A. The planting targets for the remaining years of the forestry programme are as follows;

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Scheme</th>
<th>2018</th>
<th>2019</th>
<th>2020</th>
<th>TOTAL</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Afforestation, ha</td>
<td>7,205</td>
<td>8,115</td>
<td>8,290</td>
<td>20,655</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>of which GPC 1-8</td>
<td>6,215</td>
<td>6,615</td>
<td>6,790</td>
<td>19,125</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>of Which NWS establishment</td>
<td>450</td>
<td>450</td>
<td>450</td>
<td>1,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>of which Agro-forestry</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>215</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>of which energy and fibre</td>
<td>500</td>
<td>1,000</td>
<td>1,000</td>
<td>315</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

3. **Are the planting targets being met?**
Total afforestation figures for the years 2015 – 2017 show that overall planting is some 7% less than the cumulative target for these years. However, the shortfall in planting for native woodlands, agroforestry and forestry for fibre combined was much greater at 74%.

4. **Are there targets for each County?**
No. Targets set are at a national level only. There are no regional or county targets.

5. **How much land is currently planted in each County**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>COUNTY</th>
<th>Forest area</th>
<th>% of county cover</th>
<th>Total Planting 2017 (ha)</th>
<th>Total Planting 2016 (ha)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Carlow</td>
<td>8,400</td>
<td>9%</td>
<td>62</td>
<td>46</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cavan</td>
<td>16,830</td>
<td>9%</td>
<td>317</td>
<td>425</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clare</td>
<td>52,290</td>
<td>16%</td>
<td>518</td>
<td>552</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cork</td>
<td>83,620</td>
<td>11%</td>
<td>420</td>
<td>608</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Donegal</td>
<td>56,340</td>
<td>12%</td>
<td>54</td>
<td>36</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dublin</td>
<td>5,230</td>
<td>6%</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Galway</td>
<td>59,410</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>400</td>
<td>331</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kerry</td>
<td>53,170</td>
<td>11%</td>
<td>378</td>
<td>405</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kildare</td>
<td>10,400</td>
<td>6%</td>
<td>33</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kilkenny</td>
<td>19,020</td>
<td>9%</td>
<td>90</td>
<td>181</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Laois</td>
<td>25,260</td>
<td>15%</td>
<td>99</td>
<td>163</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
6. **What is the annual budget for the afforestation programme?**
The afforestation budget is decided as part of the annual budgetary process. A total of €91.5 million has been allocated in 2018 for afforestation covering liabilities for premiums and grants for previous years as well as new afforestation for this year.

7. **What targets for planting of broadleaf trees?**
As part of Ireland’s State aid approval for our Forestry Programme the target for total planting of broadleaf species is set at 30% of annual planting. An important objective of the new measures being introduced under the MTR is to provide additional incentives for landowners to plant broadleaves.

8. **What broadleaf species are planted under the afforestation scheme**
- Pedunculate oak *Quercus robur*
- Sessile oak *Quercus petraea*
- Red oak *Quercus rubra*
- Beech *Fagus sylvatica*
- Sycamore *Acer pseudoplatanus*
- Norway maple *Acer platanoides*
- Common alder *Alnus glutinosa*
- Italian alder *Alnus cordata*
- Hybrid aspen *Populus tremula x tremuloides Eucalyptus (species)*
- Poplar (Clones) *Populus*
- Southern beech *Nothofagus procera / N. obliqua*
- Cherry *Prunus avium*
- Spanish (Sweet) Chestnut *Castanea sativa*
- Lime *Tilia cordata / T. platyphlos*
- Norway maple *Acer platanoides*
- Downy Birch *Betula pubescens*
- Silver Birch *Betula pendula*
Forestry and the Economy

9. *How many people are employed in the Irish forestry sector?*
It is estimated that there are 12,000 people employed directly and indirectly in the forestry sector in Ireland.

10. *What is the annual output of the sector?*
The contribution of the forestry sector to GDP is estimated to be in the region of €2.3 billion.

Forestry and the Environment

11. *What are the main environmental benefits of forestry?*
Well-sited, designed and managed woodlands and forests deliver a wealth of environmental benefits, particularly for in the areas of climate, water quality and biodiversity. These include the protection of water quality, whereby trees stabilise river banks and areas of woodland buffer against nutrient runoff. They also help retain water after heavy rainfall, and therefore can form part of wider landscape efforts to manage flood risk. They also provide habitats for a wide range of species, and connect semi-natural habitats within the wider landscape. Forests also enhance the landscape and provide places for people to recreation and to enjoy the outdoors. They also provide the ideal setting for school children to learn about the environment.

12. *How will the afforestation programme help Ireland meet its climate change targets?*
Forests have an important role to play in climate change mitigation in a number of ways. Forests sequester and store carbon from the atmosphere and supply harvested wood products, which are themselves a store of carbon and help to substitute non-renewable, energy intensive materials in the economy. Under the existing EU Effort Sharing Decision removals of Greenhouse Gases by forests are not accountable against our EU targets to 2020. For the 2021-2030 accounting period, Ireland’s emission reduction targets are laid out in the provisionally agreed Effort Sharing Regulation which includes the option to account emissions and removals from land use, land use change and forestry (LULUCF) to a limited degree following rules laid out in a separate regulation (provisionally agree LULUCF regulation). For Ireland, this amounts to 26.8 million tonnes of CO2 equivalent (MT) during the period. Afforestation is forecast to be an accountable sink of 22 MT during this period. However, this figure does not include the substitution of materials in other sectors which are an additional benefit to meeting our emission reduction targets.

13. *What can forestry do to improve biodiversity and water quality?*
New mixed woodland plantations including broadleaves and conifers add a wide range of diverse habitats suitable for a multitude of plants and animals. The biodiversity value of forests can be further enhanced by the inclusion of setbacks in response to features such as water, public roads and archaeological sites. These setbacks create more ‘edges’ within the forest, which are particularly valuable for wildlife. This value can be further enhanced by planting single and small groups of native species along the edge, forming a gradual transition from the tall forest canopy to the ground vegetation, and expanding the range of habitats for wildlife. At a wider level, carefully placed woodlands and forests can link up semi-natural habitats in the wider landscape, forming important corridors routes for wildlife between these.
Regarding water quality, a combination of water setback and native woodland developed along aquatic zones can deliver a wider range of ‘eco-system’ services, including:

- reduction in sediment mobilisation and runoff into watercourses
- interception of nutrient runoff into watercourses
- bank stabilisation
- food input into the aquatic ecosystem
- shading / cooling
- regulation of floodwater
- mitigating acidification

These benefits can be realised at afforestation stage or at reforestation stage. With careful planning, such an approach can be applied strategically in areas where particular efforts are needed to protect and enhance water quality, making forestry an important tool in achieving the objectives under the Water Framework Directive.

Mid-Term Review (MTR)

14. What is the Mid-Term Review?
The MTR is not a policy review exercise in itself but is a review of measures that were put in place at the beginning of 2015 to fulfil existing policy objectives. This review takes account of the legal framework within which the Department can implement its forest policy; this framework is the Forestry Programme 2014 – 2020 for which Ireland has EU State aid approval.

The purpose of the MTR of the Forestry Programme 2014 -2020 is to;

a) Compare targets against outturn (see Appendix 1).
b) Where targets were not achieved, identify why this was so.
c) Introduce measures that will help address barriers to achieving future targets.
d) Ensure these proposals are consistent with State Aid approval for the forestry programme.

15. Is the programme funded entirely by the State or is it part funded by the European Union?
The programme 2014-2020 is funded entirely by the Irish Exchequer as was the previous programme.

16. Why are Grant and Premium increases not retrospective to those who have planted under the current programme?
Under Sub chapter 3.4 paragraph (70) of the EU Guidelines for State aid in the agricultural and forestry sectors and in rural areas 2014 to 2020 “...aid does not present an incentive for the beneficiary wherever work on the relevant project or activity has already started prior to the aid application by the beneficiary to the national authorities.” Therefore any changes arising from this review process can only apply to financial approvals issued under the new MTR.

17. When do the new rates apply?
The new rates are applicable with immediate effect.
18. What measures are being launched as part of the MTR? When will other schemes be launched.
Rate increases under the MTR are applicable with immediate effect. Other measures being introduced now are as follows;

Forest Road Scheme
• Road density increased from 20m /ha to 25m /ha

Woodland Improvement Scheme (WIS)
• The WIS scheme will now be opened up to non grant aided broadleaf forests and all broadleaf mixtures that meet the required eligibility criteria.

Native Woodland Conservation
• The grant available under the Public High Forest category will now equal that of the Private High Forest.
• Fencing allowances available under the Afforestation Scheme will also apply to Native Woodland Conservation.

Forest Genetic Reproductive Material
• Grant aid/ha increased to €750/ha (€600 first instalment and €150 for second instalment).
• For areas susceptible to deer damage and where deemed appropriate by the Forest Service additional support for deer fencing will be provided to protect the stand. This will be paid in accordance with the rates and densities per hectare as described in the Afforestation Scheme document.
• Applications for the following minor conifers will now be considered;

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>tree variety</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Pseudotsuga menziesii</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Pinus sylvestris</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Thuja plicata</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Tsuga heterophylla</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

There are a number of measures that will not be in place until later in the year. These include the following;

• Forest Fencing and Tree Shelter Scheme
• Establishment of a “Woodland Fund” for native woodland establishment (GPC 9&10)
• Woodland improvement scheme : Second thinning and Continuous cover forestry
• Native woodland conservation: Access to the Forest Fencing and Tree Shelter Scheme
• KTG’s
• New Forest management and certification scheme

Further details on these schemes and when they will be rolled out will be circulated over the coming months.
19. **How does the MTR benefit farmers and non farmers deciding to plant?**

Landowners deciding to plant will benefit from higher planting rates as follows;

- 5% Higher premium rates for diverse conifer and broadleaf planting categories (GPC 4 – 10);
- 2% higher premiums for all GPC’s where the area planted is equal to or greater than 10ha;
- Significantly higher premium rates for both agro forestry and forestry for fibre;
- Top up payment that may arise from “Woodland fund” when establishing native forests;
- Improved fencing arrangements may make it feasible to plant smaller fields and plantations;

20. **How does the MTR benefit existing forest owners?**

The MTR will benefit existing forest owners as follows;

- National knowledge transfer scheme to help forest owners manage their own forests;
- Introduction of a new forest certification scheme that will provide a pathway to forest certification for private forest owners;
- Support for continuous cover forestry for the first time, allowing forest owners to develop alternatives to clearfelling;
- New fencing and tree shelter scheme for established plantations up to form 3 stage which are threatened by deer; This will enable some plantations that have premiums and 2nd instalment grants on hold to carry out remedial works with additional funding;
- Second thinning grant for broadleaves available for the first time, particularly important in the management of mixtures;

21. **How does the MTR benefit the environment?**

The MTR will benefit the environment as follows;

- Increased rates that support the planting of more diverse species including native woodlands;
- Improved conditions for the native woodland conservation scheme including access to new fencing and tree shelter scheme and higher rates aimed stimulating more involvement by public bodies;
- Proposal for a “Woodland Fund” to make the establishment of new native woodlands more attractive;
- Improvements in forestry for fibre rates will encourage landowners to grow renewable energy;
- Agro forestry is good for animal welfare, improves biodiversity and can prevent nutrient runoff.

22. **Has the MTR been screened for environmental impacts?**

In accordance with article 2(3) of Directive 2001/42/EC modifications of a plan require an SEA if the competent authority considers that these changes are likely to have a significant effect on the environment. In order to determine whether the modifications proposed in the MTR of the Forestry programme 2014 – 2020 will have a significant effect, a SEA and AA screening exercise was carried out. The following bodies were consulted as part of this process.
Replies received were carefully considered and the Department’s SEA screening determination concluded that the proposed updates to the Forestry Programme 2014 – 2020 will not give rise to the requirement for Stage 2 Appropriate Assessment, and therefore SEA is not required.

**Forestry and Farming**

**23. I’m thinking of planting some of my land – what are the benefits?**

- a) 100% of the cost of establishing the new forest is covered by the grant paid by the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine.
- b) An annual premium of up to €206 per acre (€510 per hectare) is payable each year for 15 years on the most popular planting category.
- c) Forestry is compatible with other agriculture schemes. Farmers can continue to receive their Basic Payment on land which is also planted. Forestry and GLAS can exist side by side on the same farm once land parcels being considered for forestry do not have GLAS activities associated with them.
- d) Where land is underutilised, forestry can help farmers to make better use of their valuable asset while at the same time diversifying their income stream. This can be done without reducing the size of the herd. For example, if you are a livestock farmer and are under-stocked, you can generate additional income simply by planting trees!
- e) The market for timber has improved in recent years and has remained steady.
- f) A recent change in taxation rules means that income from forestry clear-felling is tax free.
- g) Forestry is good for the environment. It plays a key role in protecting water quality and in climate change mitigation through carbon sequestration and by replacing fossil fuels with a renewable source of energy.
- h) The new Afforestation Scheme introduces greater flexibility in terms of the type of forestry that can be established. Agro forestry is available for farmers who wish to continue to graze the land while also growing trees on the same land, while where farmers do not want to wait 35-40 years before clearfell, the planting of poplar or eucalyptus for fuel is a good option. Forests planted under this Scheme can be felled after 10-15 years. Grants and premiums are available for both the Agro forestry and Forestry for Fibre Schemes.
- i) There is plenty of support available for farmers who are considering forestry as a land use. Teagasc advisors are on hand to provide assistance when required.
- j) While price volatility is a feature of agricultural commodity markets, forestry on the other hand is insulated to some extent from market fluctuations because, if prices are low, a forest owner may decide if he/she wishes to wait before harvesting (clearfelling) the timber.

For up-to-date and detailed information on forestry grants schemes visit [https://www.agriculture.gov.ie/forestservice/grantsandpremiuimschemes2015-2018/](https://www.agriculture.gov.ie/forestservice/grantsandpremiuimschemes2015-2018/)
24. *Can I continue to farm if I plant some of my land?*

Forestry is compatible with other agriculture schemes. Farmers can continue to receive their Basic Payment on land which is also planted. Forestry and GLAS can exist side by side on the same farm once land parcels being considered for forestry do not have GLAS activities associated with them.

The Department would like to encourage forestry as a land use option amongst active farmers where planting trees becomes part of the farming mix; in this situation farmers see forestry as existing alongside their current enterprise, delivering multiple benefits both environmental and economic. For example a beef farm could include native tree species planted along the riverside to protect water quality providing a rich habitat for wildlife; there could be trees grown for firewood either for domestic use or for sale in local markets. Dairy farms could use trees to help achieve their greening targets, to help intercept nutrient and soil runoff while affording shelter to grazing calves.

Agroforestry is included under the Department’s afforestation scheme and allows farmers to farm the same land that is planted with trees. For example animals can graze between the trees or silage can be cut. Forestry for fibre is another planting category which provides the option for farmers to grow timber for fuelwood for domestic supply or for supply into the local market. This planting category allows farmers to clearfell after 15 years which is much shorter that traditional forestry which is between 35 – 40 years.

Forestry on the farm is not so much about converting the entire farm to forestry but planting parts of the farm that are marginal for agriculture but productive for forestry. This could be achieved in some cases without reducing the herd size and result in a more profitable and environmentally friendly farm.

25. *Can I retain my BPS payment if I plant some of my land?*

Land which was afforested since 2009 is eligible to draw down a BPS payment provided that the afforested land meets the following requirements:

- The land to be afforested was declared on a 2008 SPS application form;
- The applicant who declared that land on a 2008 SPS application form was paid under the 2008 Single Payment Scheme;
- The land to be afforested was eligible to draw down an SPS payment in 2008.

Applicants who afforest part of their holding from 2009 onwards, and wish to benefit from the Basic Payment, must retain at least 10% of the eligible hectares declared in 2008 (by the applicant or their predecessor) in an agricultural activity subject to a minimum of 3 hectares.

If the applicant is a new entrant to farming, the minimum area to be retained in an agricultural activity will be fixed by the Department on a case by case basis. Applicants who wish to benefit from the Basic Payment on afforested land must be the person or persons in joint management or in receipt of an afforestation premium. This applies to members of the same family. The afforested land must meet all the requirements of the Afforestation Scheme.
Eligible forestry parcels that are declared on BPS applications to activate entitlements will also be subject to cross-compliance requirements.

26. **What agricultural activities can I carry out in the Agro-forestry measure?**

The following agricultural activities will be permitted, so long as such activity is compatible with protecting the trees:

- **Pasture:** Grazing by sheep or young domestic stock is permitted during the spring and summer months for the first 6-8 years, depending on tree growth, but trees must be protected and tree shelters checked regularly. Thereafter, when tree shelters are replaced with plastic mesh, larger animals may be introduced.

- **Fodder:** Silage and hay production is permitted. It is important that appropriate machinery is used when cutting silage and/or hay so as to ensure that the trees are not inadvertently damaged.

- **Agro-forestry must remain under forestry and therefore is subject to a re-planting obligation.**

27. **Where can I find more information on the new rates?**

Go to the Departments website using the following link

28. **Q. Where can I find a list of approved foresters?**

Go to the Departments website using the following link

**Miscellaneous Questions**

29. **Is the premium still tax free and have the tax exemptions changed?**

Premiums are income tax free but are reckonable for the Universal Social Charge and PRSI.

30. **Is the income derived from thinnings and clearfells exempt from Income Tax?**

Income from the occupation of woodlands in the state managed on a commercial basis and with a view to the realisation of profits is exempt from Income Taxes. Forest owners should take independent tax advice as individual taxation requirement may differ for certain cases.

31. **Is the 20% threshold for planting unenclosed land applicable following the MTR?**

Yes, the 20% threshold for unenclosed land remains in place.

32. **Do you have to replant following clearfelling?**

A key aim of Ireland forest policy is to increase forest cover from 10.5% to 18% through the reforestation of existing forest lands and afforestation. Sustainable forest management and, in particular, a robust reforestation policy, are vital to achieving this long-term aim. The general incentives and provision of grants and premiums is to convert lands to forestry permanently. This is to ensure both value for money for the significant public funding of forestry and also to safeguard the continued environmental benefits of afforestation. However
in certain limited circumstances non replanting may be considered on application and each case assessed on its merits. All felling is regulated by the Forestry Act.

33. What returns can I expect from the sale of thinnings and clearfells of a typical plantation
Timber prices vary depending on size, location and species. In general good quality first thinnings might be expected to realise €500/ha standing and clearfells around €20,000 / ha. However prices can vary and you are advised to seek professional advice from a forester if you are intending a sale.

34. What is the typical cost of reforestation
The cost of reforestation will depend on the species planted and how much fencing is required. Costs range from about €2,500 – €5,000 per hectare depending if conifers and/or broadleaves are planted respectively.

35. How long does it take for approvals to plant to issue?
It will depend on the level of consultation required. However in general it will take approximately 3 months.

36. Is afforestation permitted on land with archaeological sites or monuments present?
In addition to protections under national law it is a principle of the state aid approval for the new FP and the previous programmes that significant adverse impacts to the environment are avoided. This includes archaeological sites or monuments. Therefore, planting directly on sites or monuments or within their immediate environs is not permitted.

However, many single sites or monuments can be sensitively integrated into a planting project with the use of appropriate exclusion zones, access paths and on occasion maintenance of particular lines of sight. These unplanted areas are also eligible for the 15% ABE allowance and as such don’t necessary impact on the payment of grants or premiums. Under the new FP the minimum exclusion zone distances for archaeological sites and monuments in all new schemes is 20m.

Where there are groups of sites or monuments or where there is an evident elevated potential for related sub-surface remains, for example areas designated as archaeological complexes, zones of archaeological potential, or within listed or tentative World Heritage Sites, more detailed consideration may be required before an approval can be issued. In other cases special conditions may be attached. Applicants or their consultants may be asked to submit further information in the form of an archaeological impact assessment (AIA) report or may be required to have an archaeologist present to monitor ground preparation works as they take place.

All determinations in relation to projects containing or near archaeological sites or monuments are made following consultation with the National Monuments Service of the Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht and are based on their advice and statutory requirements.
37. **Do you have to allow public access to grant aided forest roads?**
A condition of grant aid is that public access must be provided to the grant aided forest road network. This does not provide a legal right of way. In limited circumstances public access may be restricted temporarily for a number of specific reasons on application e.g. during harvesting operations. Grant aid can be refused where a forest owner does not want any form of public access in any circumstance. In these cases forest consent without grant aid will be considered.

38. **What is the current position with planning permission and forest road construction?**
Responsibility for the control of access to public roads rests with the relevant local authority in its capacity as both the road authority and the planning authority. Under existing legislation, planning permission is not required for the construction of a forest road, other than where such development consists of the provision of access to a public road.

The Department have put forward an amendment to be included in the Planning and Development (Amendment) Bill 2016(P&D(Amdt)Bill 2016 which would allow for the Department to approve the construction of a forest road, including the entrance to a public road (other than a National Road) without planning permission being required from the relevant Local Authority.

At Committee Stage of the P&D(Amdt)Bill 2016 in the Seanad, Minister of State English indicated his intention to introduce the amendment regarding the forest road entrances, among other amendments, at Report Stage in the Seanad. If agreed by the Seanad, the amendments will then be sent to the Dáil for approval.

37. **Why does the State claim ownership of C-credits of private forests?**
At present, removals of greenhouse gases by forests in Ireland cannot contribute to our emissions reduction targets up to 2020. In addition, greenhouse gas removals from Irish forests are not included in the Emissions Trading Scheme.

Under the provisionally agreed Effort Sharing and LULUCF regulations, EU Member States must account emissions and removals of greenhouse gases from the land-use, land use change and forestry sector during the 2021 to 2030 period. Where this sector results in a net reduction of greenhouse gases, a limited amount of removals may be accounted against Ireland’s overall emissions reduction target. On the other hand, if this sector results in a net emission or production of greenhouse gases, this too must be accounted by the State. These regulations specifically avoid creating an accounting obligation for private individuals or companies. The regulations set out targets and an accounting framework for EU Member States and do not create a private market for forest carbon credits or debits.
### 38. Chalara update
Reconstitution Scheme and Woodland Improvement Scheme Options

**Categories 1, 2 and 3 - Summary Table**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grant aided forest category</th>
<th>Top height of trees/average DBH/age requirements</th>
<th>Clearance requirement / advice</th>
<th>Support schemes available</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>&lt;7m in top height</td>
<td>Must remove all ash trees in the affected plot(s)</td>
<td>Reconstitution Scheme (Chalara Ash Dieback) only.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>≥7m in top height but not meet any one of the following three criteria - a) ≥15m in top height, or b) on average ≥18cm in average DBH, or c) ≥25 years of age</td>
<td>Must remove the individual ash trees which show signs of infection in the affected plot(s) / plantation</td>
<td>Woodland Improvement Scheme (Element 1: Thinning and Tending) And/or Reconstitution Scheme (Chalara Ash Dieback)*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Meet any one of the following three criteria - a) ≥15m in top height, or b) on average ≥18cm in average DBH, or c) ≥25 years of age</td>
<td>Advice on options for managing their situation etc.</td>
<td>Woodland Improvement Scheme (Element 1: Thinning and Tending) only.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* Where an owner of a grant aided forest in Category 2 chooses to first avail of the Woodland Improvement Scheme (Element 1: Thinning and Tending) to remove individual infected ash trees through thinning, they will **not** be precluded from re-applying for assistance under the Reconstitution Scheme (Chalara Ash Dieback) to clear and replant any remaining ash trees in that particular plot / or portion thereof at a future date, subject to meeting the eligibility criteria etc. of the Scheme.