



2nd February 2023

Circular 01/2023

To all Registered Foresters and other Stakeholders

**(1) Native Woodland planting mix and
(2) Broadleaf planting in the FT11 and FT12.**

- (1) Please see attached Appendix 1, the species mixtures and planting patterns that apply with immediate effect to the Native Woodland Scenarios 1-5, replacing those same details set out in the NWS Framework document attached to Circular 05 / 2018. These details have been adjusted to take account of shortages of different minor species, to ensure that a suitable species mix is planted for all the scenarios. The revised details apply to native woodland creation under Forest Types FT1 (Native Forests), FT2 (Forests for Water) and FT3 (Forest Creation on Public Land) and to the Native Woodland Conservation Scheme. All other details of the 2018 NWS Framework document apply.
- (2) Please also note that only those approved broadleaved species (except for ash) listed in Table 8.6 of the *Forestry Standards Manual* are accepted to make up the minimum 20% broadleaves.

The above applies to the Interim Afforestation (*via de minimis*) Scheme and will now form part of the proposed Afforestation Scheme under the Forestry Programme 2023-2027.

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Appendix 1 – Native Woodland Framework: Revised species mixtures and planting patterns

Native Woodland Scenario	<p><u>Introductory notes</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ <i>This appendix is issued with DAFM Forestry Circular 01/2023.</i> ➤ <i>The species mixture & planting pattern required to promote the woodland type associated with each of the Scenario 1-5, are described below (other native species, including ground flora, will colonise naturally over time).</i> ➤ <i>The species mixture & planting pattern must be adhered to in order to be eligible for the corresponding Forest Type (FT) grant & premium category.</i> ➤ <i>A tolerance of +/- 25% for each species percentage is acceptable. For example, under Scenario 1, 30% sessile oak is prescribed, with an acceptable tolerance of 22.5% to 37.5%.</i> ➤ <i>Any shortfall in stocking must be compensated by increasing the percentage of other species within that mixture.</i> ➤ <i>Any variation beyond these tolerances must be agreed to in advance with DAFM and must be consistent with promoting the relevant woodland type.</i>
Scenario 1: Podzols / Oak-Birch-Holly Woodland	<p>Planting mixture: Sessile oak (30%), Scots pine (30%), downy birch (15%), rowan (15%), holly (10%).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Plant the sessile oak in groups, with one-quarter of the downy birch, holly & rowan scattered intimately throughout. ➤ Plant Scots pine in small pure groups, focusing on parts of the plot with free-draining soil (if present) & away from any watercourses adjoining or crossing the plot. ➤ Plant the remaining rowan, downy birch & holly as an intimate mix in remaining areas of the plot.
Scenario 2: Brown podzolics / Oak- Birch-Holly with Hazel Woodland	<p>Planting mix: Sessile oak (50%), hazel (15%)(*), downy birch (10%), Scots pine (10%), wild cherry (5%) <u>plus</u> minor species (10%) comprising at least one of the following: hawthorn, holly, rowan, crab apple.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Plant sessile oak with hazel & downy birch scattered intimately throughout. ➤ Plant wild cherry in groups of 5 to 10 trees amongst oak. ➤ Plant Scots pine in small pure groups on free-draining areas of the plot, particularly on slopes. ➤ Plant minor species alongside planned woodland edges & glades. <p>* For the 2023 / 24 planting season only, if suitable hazel is limited or unavailable, replace shortfall with additional sessile oak & downy birch, with both to comprise no more than 75% of the initial planting. Filling-in to include hazel, where suitable native material is available.</p>

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<p>Scenario 3: Brown earths / Oak-Ash- Hazel Woodland</p>	<p>Planting mix: Pedunculate oak (40%), downy birch (20%), hazel (20%)(*), hawthorn (5%), wild cherry (5%) <u>plus</u> minor species (10%) comprising at least two of the following: holly, spindle, rowan, crab apple, alder.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Plant pedunculate oak with downy birch, hazel & hawthorn scattered intimately throughout. ➤ Plant wild cherry in groups of 5 to 10 trees amongst oak. ➤ Plant minor species alongside planned woodland edges & glades. If included, plant alder in wetter areas of the plot. <p>* For the 2023 / 24 planting season only, if suitable hazel is limited or unavailable, replace shortfall with additional sessile oak & downy birch, with both to comprise no more than 80% of the initial planting. Filling-in to include hazel, where suitable native material is available.</p>
<p>Scenario 4: Gleys / Alder- Oak-Ash Woodland</p>	<p>Planting mix: Alder (50%), grey willow (10%), downy birch (10%), pedunculate oak (10%), hawthorn (5%) <u>plus</u> minor species (15%) comprising at least one of the following: holly, hazel, guelder rose.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Plant each of the following species in pure groups of 30-40 trees(*): alder, grey willow, downy birch. ➤ Plant pedunculate oak on drier areas of the plot. ➤ Plant hawthorn scattered throughout all of the above. ➤ Plant minor species between the above groups. <p>* Note: The above interspersed group planting of major species is carried out to improve stability & robustness, & to prevent the development of an alder monoculture.</p>
<p>Scenario 5: Highly Modified Peat & Peaty Podzols / Pioneer Birch Woodland</p>	<p>Planting mix: Downy birch (45%), rowan (10%), Scots pine (20%), sessile oak (15%) <u>plus</u> minor species (10%) to comprise at least one of the following: holly, hawthorn & hazel.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Plant downy birch & rowan in pure groups. ➤ Plant Scots pine & sessile oak in pure groups, on free-draining areas of the plot (especially on slopes). ➤ Plant minor species between the above groups & at edges. If included, plant hawthorn & hazel on more fertile areas of the plot (e.g. foot-slopes). <p><u>If the site is wet, or on wetter parts of the site, apply the following:</u></p> <p>Planting mix: Downy birch (50%), grey willow (30%), <u>plus</u> minor species (20%) to comprise of at least one of the following: rowan, hazel, alder & pedunculate oak, the latter on lowland sites <u>only</u>.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Plant downy birch & grey willow in pure groups. ➤ Plant minor species between the above groups & at edges. If considered, plant pedunculate oak on lowland sites <u>only</u>.

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