



**An Roinn Talmhaíochta,  
Bia agus Mara**  
Department of Agriculture,  
Food and the Marine

# Forestry Programme 2023-2027

22nd August 2023

# Intervention 1 – Forest Creation



- Aims to increase forest cover whilst also delivering ecosystem services with environmental and climate benefits.
- Afforestation Scheme:
- Target of 8,000ha per annum broken down by 12 forest types.
- Increased premiums to 20 years for farmers.
- Significantly increase grant and premium rates.
- 20% broadleaf now mandatory for all conifer forest types.
- Annual broadleaf target will increase to 50% of total annual planting.
- New Forest Types proposed – Forests for water, Emergent Woodland, Neighbourwoods, Seed Orchards, and Continuous Cover Forestry
- Woodland Environmental Fund option will continue - €1,000 per ha top up by a company to the landowner

# Forest Types



- **FT1 – Native forests**

- Promotion of native forest biodiversity, within the wider landscape, deliver ecosystem services such as soil and water protection and landscape enhancement.
- Planting details are dictated by the Native Forest Framework, which identifies the most appropriate native forest type for each particular plot, based principally on soil. Species planted are restricted to those that are native to Ireland and prescribed by the Framework document, i.e. Scenarios 1-6.
- All species must be planted at a stocking rate of 2,500 stems / ha on all sites and at a spacing of 2.0 x 2.0 meters.

- **FT2 – Forests for Water**

- Create new native forest in strategic locations, where this landuse change would deliver specific ecosystem services regarding the protection of water and aquatic ecosystems or would reinforce and expand areas of alluvial forests.
- FT2 is designed to address specific needs including [inter alia] to help Ireland achieve the water quality objectives as set out in the River Basin Management Plan for Ireland 2023 – 2027; to facilitate the expansion of Annex I Habitat 91E0 Alluvial Woodland and to help protect drinking water sources.



# • Forest Types

- **FT3 – Forests on Public Lands**

- Forest Creation on Public Lands is to encourage Public Bodies to establish new native forest on suitable land under their ownership and control. FT3 is specifically aimed at Public Bodies, including Government Departments and State Sponsored Organisations, Higher Education Authorities, and Local Authorities.
- Forest Creation on Public Lands is primarily aimed at the creation of new native woodlands (under FT3). The scheme also includes funding for recreational development (under Elements 1 and 2), but this application of the scheme is optional in nature, to reflect situations where the Applicant may not wish to engage in recreational development, or where the site does not lend itself to this use.

- **FT4 –Amenity Forests / Neighbourwoods**

- These Forests are accessible, close-to-home forest amenities established on green field sites and developed in partnership with local communities and other interested groups, for public use and enjoyment.
- Suitable projects under FT4 must have a clear potential for the development of an attractive amenity forest in areas that are strategically located, easily accessible and can be or are being well used by local people.
- FT4 Forest Type requires the creation of new native forests consistent with the six Native Forest Establishment Framework scenarios (see also FT1).



# • Forest Types

- **FT5 – Emergent Woodland**

- Forest establishment under FT5 involves the protection and enhancement (primarily through enrichment planting, if needed) of young native forests already emerging on the site through natural regeneration.
- Incorporating emergent forests into the Forestry Programme, through FT5, protects these ‘rewilding’ habitats and ensures that they will continue to develop into native forests reflecting the natural potential vegetation for that site.
- FT5 aims to protect this emergent forest and to enable it to continue its natural progression over time to native high forest.
- These emergent forests represent an important biodiversity feature within the landscape, with the potential for delivering many ecosystem services.
- FT5 is designed to encourage landowners to consider the possibility of retaining existing emergent forest and to allow this habitat to grow on as native woodland, for both environmental and wood production purposes.

- **FT6 –Broadleaf (mainly oak and beech)**

- This FT comprises pure oak or beech.
- Oak and beech must be planted pure at a stocking rate of 2,500 stems / ha on all sites and at a spacing of 2.0m x 2.0m.
- On large sites where additional shelter is required, an appropriate nurse species may be introduced, with at least 10 lines of oak between each line of nurse species.
- All nurse species must be planted at a spacing of 2m x 2.0m.



# • Forest Types

- **FT7: Diverse Broadleaf**

- This FT is comprised of an acceptable broadleaf species like Cherry, Birch, Spanish Chestnut, Sycamore etc, other than oak or beech and may include Additional Broadleaves (ADB).
- All species must be planted pure at a stocking rate of 2,500 stems / ha on all sites and at a spacing of 2.0m x 2.0m.
- On larger sites where additional shelter is required, an appropriate nurse species may be introduced. All nurse species must be planted at a spacing of 2.0 x 2.0m.

- **FT8: Agroforestry**

- Forest establishment under FT8 has been designed to create silvopastoral agroforestry systems which combine forestry and pasture on the same area of land.
- A stocking rate of 400-800 trees per ha is specified subject to design requirements.
- Acceptable broadleaf species include oak, sycamore and cherry.



# • Forest Types

- **FT9 Seed Orchards:**
  - The aim of forest establishment under FT9 is to increase the availability and quality of forest tree seed in new newly planted seed orchards and seed production areas.
  - FT9 supports the establishment of outdoor seed orchards on green field sites. The maximum eligible area for outdoor seed orchards is 5 ha.
- **FT10: Continuous Cover Forestry**
  - Establishment of production forests which are suitably structured with a diversity of trees species to be managed as continuous cover forests from establishment.
  - Mandatory minimum 20% broadleaf requirement for this FT.
  - All species must be planted at a stocking rate of 2,500 stems / ha on all sites and at a spacing of 2.0 x 2.0 meters.



# • Forest Types

- **FT11 Mixed high forests: Conifer, 20% broadleaves**
  - This forest type is comprised of a plot planted with an acceptable conifer species (excluding Sitka spruce) with a minimum 20% broadleaves.
  - Broadleaf species can be intimately mixed throughout the forest or planted in groups through the forest, or a combination of both (where silviculturally compatible with the main species).
  - All species must be planted at a stocking rate of 2,500 stems / ha on all sites and at a spacing of 2.0 x 2.0 meters.
- **FT12 Mixed high forests with mainly Sitka spruce, 20% broadleaves**
  - This forest type is comprised of a plot Sitka spruce plus a minimum 20% broadleaves by area.
  - Broadleaf species can be intimately mixed throughout the forest or planted in groups through the forest, or a combination of both (where silviculturally compatible with the main species).
  - All species must be planted at a stocking rate of 2,500 stems / ha on all sites and at a spacing of 2.0 x 2.0

# Forest Creation – Proposed Rates



	Forest Type	Proposed Grant/ha	Proposed Annual Premium/ha	Proposed Duration of Premiums for farmers	Proposed 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	n/a	n/a	n/a
FT4	NeighbourWoods***	€10,200	€1,142	20	15
FT5	Emergent Forest	€2,500	€350	20	15
FT6	Broadleaf, mainly oak	€6,744	€1,037	20	15
FT7	Other 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
Native Tree Area Scheme will be paid at FT1 and FT2 rates. Premiums will be paid over 10 years rather than 20 at a rate of €2,206 per ha annually for NTA1 and €2,284 per ha annually for NTA2					

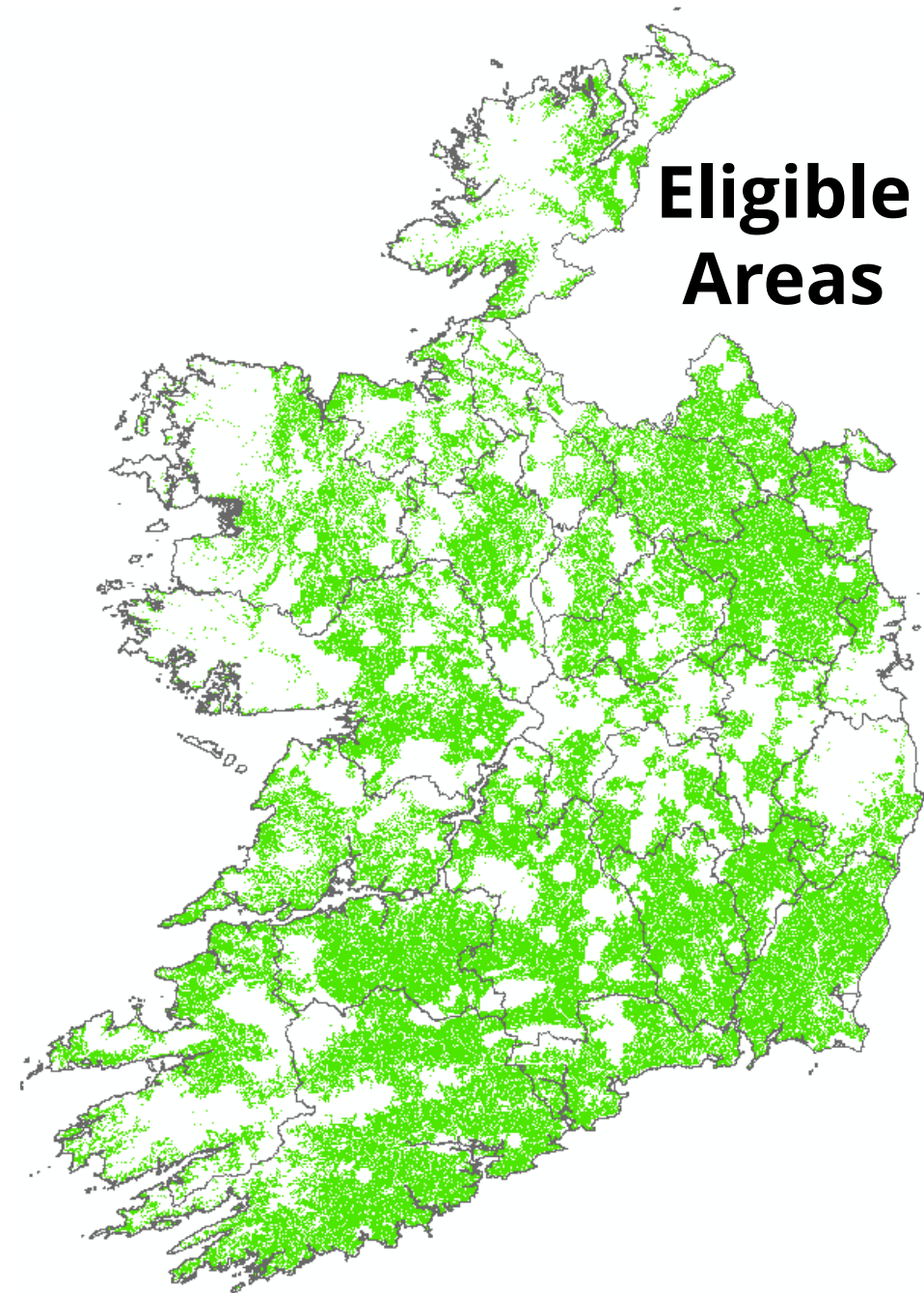
\* Additional payment of €1,000 per ha will be paid to landowner on completion of planting

\*\* Grant includes Trails, Seats & Signage Facilities payment

\*\*\* Grant includes Facilities payment

# Native Tree Area Scheme

1. Provisions signed into law on 4<sup>th</sup> April 2022 (Animal Health and Welfare and Forestry Act 2021), to increase native tree planting as part of a scheme by removing the requirement for an afforestation licence for small areas.
2. Scheme has been developed that will allow a maximum of 2 hectares to be planted per holding. Two interventions:
  - NTA 1: Creation of small native forests.
  - NTA 2: Creation of native forests for water protection.
3. The Scheme will not follow the pre-approval process of the Afforestation Scheme. Direct entry to the Scheme will apply, using the same approach as Agri-Environmental Schemes.
4. Eligibility criteria incorporated into the scheme to ensure that all tree planting works comply with environmental law.
5. Applicants will be able to submit an application to join the scheme on approximately 3.1 million hectares of land.



**Eligible  
Areas**

# Native Tree Area Scheme



3. Total amount of premium payments same as FT1 but paid over a 10 years.
4. Once the SEA/AA process has concluded, the scheme will be commenced by way of Regulation.



Thank you