



04th March 2024

Circular 4/2024

To all Registered Foresters

Native Tree Area Scheme (NTAS) update and list of registered foresters

The Department is seeking notification from all registered foresters who wish to be identified as offering their services in relation to the Native Tree Area scheme. This is already the case for Native woodland applications. This will allow prospective customers who wish to engage in the NTA identify foresters who offer this service at a county level. Please contact the following email address with following in subject bar – **Register as NTAS forester**

Forestryonline@agriculture.gov.ie

Changes to NTAS technical standards

Currently the NTA2 is only eligible along aquatic zones. The Department has reviewed this and with careful consideration has decided to extend this scenario to features including relevant watercourses and hotspots. These are defined in the Forestry Standards Manual.

Further, the planting of field corners has presented some challenges for prospective landowners in light of the requirement for a minimum tree to tree width of 20 m. The Forestry Standards Manual stipulates that this minimum width can reduce for 10% of the plot to 10 m. As part of a review of this, the Department has decided for the purpose of the NTA1 only to increase the threshold from 10% to 30%. This will allow for NTA1 applications to be planted in field corners and tree to tree widths of less than 20 m in 30% of the plot.

NTAS - FAQs

A FAQ document for the NTAS is now available on the Departments website - [gov - Native Tree Area Scheme \(www.gov.ie\)](http://gov.gov.ie)

Here you will find answers to a number of queries that have arisen since the scheme opened. As this is a working document, please continue to raise relevant queries in relation to the NTAS and we will keep the document updated. Queries can be sent to:

ForestryAppEnq@agriculture.gov.ie

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