



27th October, 2020

Circular 18/2020

To all Registered Foresters

Biodiversity Map requirements for Afforestation and Forest Road applications

Regulations 5(2) and 6(2) of S.I.191 of 2017 set out the statutory requirements regarding the provision of certain map information with any application for an afforestation or forest road licence. This is essential in order to provide the Department with baseline environmental information and project design details, to inform its assessment of the application.

To better inform this process and to facilitate inclusion on the incoming Public Viewer, an increase in both the quantity of information included and the quality of presentation is required in relation to the Biodiversity (Bio) Map, effective immediately.

In this regard:

- The attached sample map illustrates the level of detail and the quality of presentation now required for Bio Maps submitted as part of all afforestation and forest road applications. The sample map illustrates proposed afforestation, and details can be extrapolated for forest road applications.
- The map should be produced using an orthophoto saved as a PDF document from iNET. Features should then be added using the various draw tools on Adobe Reader. Previous DAFM information days for Registered Foresters have included sessions introducing the use of Adobe Reader to illustrate maps.
- The attached Template Legend for the Bio Map is provided to assist in the preparation of the map. This template is provided as a Word document. Individual rows relevant to the application at hand can be retained, and others deleted, to reduce the legend's size. Any further information, (e.g. width, area, specifications) can be included in the 'Details' column.
- The resulting legend can then be clipped and imported into the PDF map, or alternatively, saved as a PDF and presented separately with the map. Using the draw tools on Adobe Reader to replicate the shading and/or symbols in the legend, relevant features can then be illustrated on the PDF orthophoto map.
- Note: If two or more setback types overlap, resulting in undue clutter, only illustrate the wider setback. However, in all cases, illustrate the features involved.
- The existing ABE Calculation Table is still required for afforestation applications and must be included on the Bio Map or accompanying the map.
- Refer to Chapter 18 (Mapping Standards) of the *Forestry Standards Manual* (Nov15) and amending Circulars for mapping conventions not altered by this Circular and attachments.
- Note that the Bio Map will be public document. Therefore, it should not include any personal details such as the Applicant's name or address.



Reminder regarding the importance of quality Harvest Plans accompanying Felling Licence applications

Circular 11 of 2019 describes the preparation of a Harvest Plan. When submitted as part of the Felling Licence application, the Harvest Plan greatly improves the quality of that application, facilitating its assessment by DAFM. In many instances where a Harvest Plan is not received, DAFM has had to subsequently request it, and this delays the licensing process.

All Felling Licence applications should be accompanied by a Harvest Plan (or an equivalent level of detail and mapping) that allows the Department to assess the application for potential environmental impacts and to enable it to carry out screening for Appropriate Assessment. For sites that are screened in for Appropriate Assessment, a well-developed Harvest Plan (or equivalent) is essential, as it is likely to inform part, or all the site-level mitigation associated with the Appropriate Assessment.

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