

22<sup>nd</sup> July 2009

**Ref: 10/2009**

To the forester or company  
named in the address

### **Forest Road Scheme**

*The reason for the clarifications 1 and 2 below is to concentrate the limited resources available for the Forest Roads Grant scheme to projects that have the most immediate need for access for harvesting and to concentrate these funds to where the largest amounts of timber are to be extracted per linear metre of grant aided road. Item 3 is aimed at having proposals received by the Forest Service in a standard format.*

1. In the calculation of area served by any proposed harvesting road, only the area to be harvested within the next two years can be taken into account. Young conifers will not be considered regardless of their location in the plantation.
2. Broadleaves may only be considered in the area calculation where they have already been tended to Forest Service standards and are now at a subsequent thinning stage.
3. Please see attached Forest Road specification template. Please fill this out and include with every Form 1 for the Forest Road Scheme regardless of the size of area served, in addition to the forest inventory details as previously required.

### **Areas for Biodiversity Enhancement (ABEs)**

*Areas chosen as ABEs should represent the best areas for biodiversity enhancement within a forest. There has been an increasing attempt to use unplanted areas as ABE often where it is part of a large expansive area and not an intrinsic part of the planted area. While protecting Biodiversity areas outside of the forest area is desirable and encouraged it is not within the scope of the afforestation scheme and is therefore not eligible for funding. The clarification below attempts to explain the Forest Biodiversity Guidelines to help maximise the biodiversity benefit of our ABEs.*

1. ABE's are areas suitable for planting where the potential for a commercial forest crop is foregone for the purpose of retaining open spaces and habitats for biodiversity.
2. The area occupied by linear (e.g. hedgerows, public road setbacks etc.) or point features (e.g. archaeological sites) must be accurately assessed and this area

must be noted on the biodiversity map. This area must be added to any plot sized ABE area to give a total ABE area.

3. ABE's must be an integral part of the proposed forest area.
4. ABE's must be situated where they provide the best opportunity for enhancing the biodiversity within the forest area while also protecting watercourses and archaeological sites through the use of buffer and exclusion zones.
5. Existing forests (conifer and broadleaf) or parts of existing forests may not be used as ABE. To be deemed to be a forest it must have a minimum area of 0.1 hectare and a minimum width of 20m. Other tree covered areas with smaller dimensions to a forest may be included as ABE.

### **Woodland Improvement Scheme - Tending and Thinning of Broadleaves**

*The reason for the new provision below is largely due to economies of scale.*

Applications for areas totalling 2 hectares or less at Form 1 and Form 2 stage for this scheme can be accepted without the requirement for a registered forester's involvement. A registered forester is required for areas over 2 hectares.

Yours Sincerely

Gerry Fogarty  
Assistant Principal  
Forest Service

## FOREST ROAD SPECIFICATION

Applicant \_\_\_\_\_ Townland \_\_\_\_\_ OS No. \_\_\_\_\_ Ref: \_\_\_\_\_

*General - forest road specification. (delete/amend as appropriate to this site)*

Feature	Dimensions and Comment
<b>Tree Clearance</b>	15 metres
<b>Interceptor Drains</b>	2 or 3 excavated drains minimum of 3m from upper edge of formation
<b>Gradient</b>	Maximum 1 in 10 on straight sections and max. 1 in 12 on curves.
<b>Horizontal curves</b>	Minimum radius 20 metres, wider carriageway width (Figure 33, FRM*)
<b>Formation Width</b>	Minimum 5.5 m on flat cross sections. Variable on side slopes with proviso that at least 4 m of total width is on solid parent material. (Figures 3,4,5 & 6, FRM)
<b>Camber</b>	200-300 mm for mineral soils and shallow peats. Min. 300 mm for deep peats
<b>Formation Work</b>	(i) Strip organic/ peat soil over a minimum width of 5.5m (ii) Excavate and camber sub-grade material (iii) Grade and compact with a vibrating roller (iv) Provide stream and formation run-off culverts at 40-100 m intervals
<b>Carriageway Width</b>	3.4 metres with a 100 mm camber minimum
<b>Pavement</b>	Base course & surfacing or combined single course
<b>Bearing Capacity</b>	Must be able to withstand fully laden timber haulage vehicle traffic.
<b>Turning circle for bell mouths, internal T-junctions, Back-in loading bay, Curves</b>	Turning circle adequate for timber truck minimum 12m radius turning circle with additional forest road width required, tapering gradually back to 3.4m. (Figure 34, FRM). Internal Junctions (Figure 36, FRM), Back-in loading bay (Figure 38, FRM) Additional width for curves (Figure 33, FRM),

*Section Specific - Forest road specification (Map Enclosed)*

	Section Location (on map)				
<b>1</b>	<b>Distance (m)</b>				
<b>2</b>	<b>Peat depth (mm)</b>				
<b>3</b>	<b>Formation (type)</b>				
<b>4</b>	<b>Well drained (Yes or No)</b>				
<b>5</b>	<b>Culvert (No. X size (mm))</b>				
<b>6</b>	<b>Pavement (total depth (mm))</b>				
<b>7a</b>	<b>Pavement base material type</b>				
	<b>Pavement base material depth</b>				
<b>7b</b>	<b>Pavement surface material type</b>				
	<b>Pavement surface material depth</b>				
<b>8</b>	<b>Road Gradient (% or ratio)</b>				
<b>9</b>	<b>Cross slope (% or ratio)</b>				
<b>10</b>	<b>Construction type</b>				

Comments:

**NOTE:** Section Location, Give a column to each road section (a-b, b-c, c-d, etc.).

Item 3, select the formation type that best matches from Table 12, FRM.

Item 4, a well drained site is one where the water table is more than 600 mm below formation level.

Item 5, for guidance on appropriate culvert sizing and layout – see section 11, Streams and Water Crossings, FRM.

Item 6, depending on item 3 and item 4 determine pavement depth from Table 12, FRM.

Item 7, see Section C.7. Construction Material and Appendix E.6 Specification for Road Material, FRM.

Item 10, e.g. 'excavate' formation or 'build on top' etc. See section C.3 Forest Road formation methods, FRM.

*\*FRM = Forest Road Manual. Guidelines for the construction and management of forest roads. Second edition. Authors Tom Ryan, Henry Philips, James Ramsay and John Dempsey. Published by COFORD, 2005*

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ Company: \_\_\_\_\_ PH: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_