

Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food

23rd August 2011

To the Forester or Forestry Company named in the address

Ref: Circular 11–2011: Revision of the Establishment Element of the Native Woodland Scheme (NWS)

Dear Sir or Madam,

Please find attached a document setting out changes (effective from 24 August 2011) to the Establishment Element of the Native Woodland Scheme (NWS Establishment).

Principally, the NWS Forester now uses a site appraisal framework to identify the most appropriate native woodland type (or types), planting mix and Grant & Premium Category (GPC) for the site. Furthermore, the input of a NWS Ecologist and the development of a Native Woodland Plan are no longer mandatory under NWS Establishment. These changes are designed to streamline the application process under NWS Establishment, bringing it in line with those under the Afforestation Scheme and FEPS.

Furthermore, subject to normal restrictions, NWS Establishment is focused in particular on the following site types:

- sites within areas regarded as being particularly sensitive from an environmental, landscape or amenity perspective;
- sites located immediately adjacent or close to existing designated native woodland; and
- sites that create physical connectivity between existing native woodlands and other important habitats.

Other changes are also detailed.

Yours sincerely

Gerry Cassidy
Assistant Principal