

## **REF: Circular 14/2011 – Planting of Alder in GPC 5, 6 and 7**

This circular clarifies the use of alder in small groups planted in localised areas within ash, sycamore, oak and beech plots claimed as GPC 5, 6 and 7 under the Afforestation and FEPS Schemes.

### **GPC 5, 6 and 7**

Alder can be included in these GPC's where it meets the following conditions

- Is planted in small groups in localised moist wet areas or adjoining aquatic zones
- Does not comprise more than 10% of the plot area
- Planted in groups that are less than 0.1 ha in size
- Intimately mixed and less than 10% of the plot area on sites requiring a nurse species
- Planted at spacing's applicable for the claimed GPC i.e. all trees must be planted at 3,300/ha for GPC5,6 and 7 and 2500/ha for GPC1,2,3 and 4

Alder must not be planted in soils where water is stagnant.

Groups of alder equal to or greater than 0.1 ha must be plotted and claimed as GPC8.

In addition to the above rules, GPC 6 and 7 plots must contain oak or beech with the capacity to form at least 70% of the canopy at maturity when combined with other additional broadleaves or nurse species. However the alder component, if applicable, cannot exceed 10% of the plot area.

These species percentages will apply to all applications approved after 1<sup>st</sup> September 2011 and all sites not yet planted.

Forest Service

1<sup>st</sup> September 2011