

Forest Roads Scheme



Forest Service

January 2012

FOREST ROAD SCHEME

1. Scheme Outline and Legal Basis

- a) This scheme provides opportunities to forest owners to improve access to forests. Forest roads provide additional biodiversity opportunities in the forest by increasing open spaces and forest edge effect.
- b) These are the administrative provisions for the implementation of the Forest Road Scheme in Ireland as approved under the National Development Plan 2007 – 2013 and in accordance with State Aid Decision 162/2007.
- c) This document should be read in conjunction with the, Code of Best Forest Practice – Ireland, the current suite of environmental guidelines as published by the Forest Service and The Forest Roads Manual produced by the National Council for Forest Research and Development (COFORD) in conjunction with the Forest Service and any relevant circulars issued .
- d) The Scheme shall be administered by the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine and shall operate throughout the State.
- e) The National Exchequer funds the Scheme.
- f) The Scheme shall operate for a period to be determined by the Minister.

2. Objectives of Scheme

The objectives of the scheme include:

- a) To provide funding for the construction of harvesting roads.
- b) To improve the environmental and biodiversity value of the forests.
- c) To improve the economic value of the forests.
- d) To provide access for emergency vehicles.
- e) To provide drying areas.
- f) To provide chipping areas.

3. Standards.

A Forest Road Grant may be paid in respect of applicants who make a valid application and the road in question has been constructed in compliance with:

- a) The Pre-Construction Approval issued by the Minister. An Approval under this Scheme may be issued subject to additional conditions as laid down by the Minister. Each approval will be given a completion date subject to that contract. The Minister may extend an approval where it is beneficial to construct a road on a phased basis e.g. to allow the road base time to settle, subject to availability of funding. All written requests to extend an approval will be considered on a case-by-case basis, work on such roads must have already commenced.
- b) The terms and conditions of this Scheme as set out in this document and associated application forms.
- c) The Forest Road Manual published by COFORD.
- d) The Code of Best Forest practice and Forest Service Environmental Guidelines and Requirements.
- e) All relevant national and EU legislation in force.

4. Eligibility for Grant Aid

The approval of the Minister is required for all forest road construction projects, whether grant aided or not, as determined by the European Communities (Forest Consent and Assessment) Regulations 2010 (S.I. No. 558 of 2010). Applications submitted in compliance with this regulation will be approved but the length eligible for grant aid is subject to the criteria outlined below.

- a) Applications for grant aid towards the construction of harvesting roads may be submitted under this Scheme.
- b) All private owners of forests are eligible to apply. Lands owned by Public authorities and state owned companies will not be eligible to receive grant aid for forest road development.
- c) Where the road includes access to a public road, compliance with Section 17 of the Environment (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act, 2011, (see 6(a) below) is necessary –. If planning permission is not required, a statement to that effect by the registered forester will suffice. If planning permission is required, the application under this Scheme should not be submitted until it has been granted by the relevant local authority or evidence of application for planning permission submitted e.g. planning permission number or other confirmation from the local authority that an application has been submitted.
- d) Applications will be approved for grant aid solely on a “just-in-time, just-enough” basis – i.e. approvals will be restricted to applications for roads in

plantations where thinning/harvesting is imminent and will take place within the next two years. 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. Broadleaves may only be considered in the area calculation where they are suitable for tending and/or thinning and where the average height is at least 8 metres at the time of application.

- e) A Felling Licence number for the area to be thinned/harvested must be included with the application.
- f) Roading density will be limited for grant aid– only the minimum amount of roadway required, not necessarily the current maximum of 20m per hectare. The maximum forwarding distance should normally not be less than 500m.
- g) Grant aided road density shall not exceed 20m/ha. There will be no discretion above 20m/ha.
- h) No development / management roads will be grant aided
- i) All roading expenditure must represent value for money and claims submitted for grant aid must represent the actual costs incurred.
- j) Breakdown of costs must be provided in advance at the pre-approval and payment stages.
- k) A road map must be submitted showing clearly which plots are within 2 years of harvesting. Plot inventory details and proposed road specifications must also accompany each road application on the templates provided in Annex 3 and 4.
- l) Where co-operative road applications are more cost effective and sustainable, road grants on a single application may be refused.
- m) The use of felled poles or loose stumps from the roading site as a base for suitable formation material or gravel for “build on top” roads is not acceptable, except on deep peat sites, and that such construction will not be eligible for grant aid
- n) No additional funds will be given for Special Construction works in excess of the maximum grant rates of 20 m/ha.
- o) Where feasible, co-operative ventures involving joint or shared access between adjoining forests is encouraged.
- p) It is a basic principle of this scheme that any infrastructure funded should be open to the public for recreational use without charge. However, such access may be restricted where it is necessary to protect sensitive areas, or where vandalism or dumping is an issue, or to ensure the proper and safe use of the infrastructure. Where measures have been taken to protect any infrastructure from animal trespass, pedestrian access must be provided by a gate or stile or other means. Public access does not confer any permanent rights to individual members of the public.

- q) If it proves necessary to restrict access to any forest infrastructure works undertaken under this Scheme, the beneficiary must notify the Department in writing of the reason for the restriction and must specify the duration of the restriction.
- r) Roads, or part of a road application submitted for approval where no grant aid is required must be clearly indicated and labelled on the application form and associated maps. The approval letter issued will state the total road length approved and the length eligible for grant aid. Forest owners must note that the total approved length can include sections of road not eligible for grant aid. The length eligible for grant aid is subject to the conditions outlined above and cannot exceed 20 metres per hectare.

5. Grant Aid Rates and Conditions

- a) Grants of up to 80% of eligible costs incurred in the construction of a forest road are available subject to the maximum described at Annex 1 and are paid in two instalments. The Minister reserves the right to alter these rates from time to time. Grant aid may not exceed 20 metres of road per hectare of forest served. The Minister reserves the right to alter these rates from time to time.
- b) Where existing tracks/roads within a plantation require upgrading or extending to 20m/ha at the time of harvesting, application for grant aid towards the cost of upgrading or extending may be made. Upgrading does not include repairs of roads that have previously been used for harvesting purposes.
- c) Where appropriate, all or part of the forest road may be external to the plantation. For grant aid purposes, there is no difference between access roads and internal roads.
- d) The cost of bellmouths, lay-bys, drying areas and special construction works etc. is covered out of the overall road grant allocation for the site (i.e. at harvesting stage 20m/ha x Forest area). There is no additional payment for these features. Where a bellmouth is constructed 30 m (15 m for each “wing”) may be included as part of the road length for grant purposes. Where a lay-by is constructed the length of the lay-by may be included as part of the road length for grant purposes. The construction of a “Standard back in type loading bay” or a “Standard loading bay with internal turning area” may be grant aided where the area allows. Pull-in lay byes (longitudinal loading bays) along public roads may be considered on a case by case basis at an equivalent roading of 60m where the area allows. Apart from a loading bay, only the minimum amount of roadway required will be grant aided to ensure forwarding distances do not exceed a maximum of 500 metres.
- e) This grant scheme is cost-based. As a result, evidence of costs expended and receipts for items purchased must be retained and produced by the applicant or his/her agent on the request of the Minister.
- f) For audit purposes, recipients of grant aid or their agents under this Scheme will be required to retain invoices relating to work undertaken for a period of 6 years.
- g) An applicant shall be entitled to receive no more than €2m in grant aid under this Scheme in any calendar year, other than as may be approved by the Minister. This applies to all roads with a completion date after 01/02/08.

6. General Roads Provisions:

- a) The Minister for the Environment, Community and Local Government introduced Regulations on 21 September 2011 bringing into effect from that date certain provisions of the Environment (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act, 2011. Section 17 of that Act, while it continues to exempt forest roads from the planning process, requires that the creation of an access from that road to a public road must be approved by the relevant Planning Authority. A development to provide such access to a public road that had commenced before 21 September 2011, and will be completed not later than 12 months after such commencement, does not require approval by the Planning Authority.
- b) Inspection paths must be put in along the route of the proposed road in all circumstances. Forest Road specifications are required on all sites at Form 1 stage as specified in Annex 3. An Engineer, Engineering Surveyor or a Registered Forester for areas less than 20ha must draw up this specification. For areas 20ha or more or for difficult sites and special construction works, specifications drawn up by an Engineer or Engineering surveyor must be supplied and appropriate works supervision undertaken.
- c) Where environmental or other conditions so require, the Department may consult as set out in Chapter 11 of the current Forestry Schemes Manual.
- d) All road construction works shall be undertaken in compliance with the Forest Road Manual (COFORD) unless the Forest Service has approved otherwise.
- e) An Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) must be submitted in respect of any forest road construction project which exceeds 2,000 metres in length. An EIS may also be required for road projects below the 2,000 metre threshold if the Minister feels that the project is likely to have a significant environmental effect.

7. Application Procedure

All application forms are available from the Forest Service, Johnstown Castle Estate, Co. Wexford. Lo-call 1890 200 223, e-mail forests@agriculture.gov.ie

a) Roads Form 1 - Application for Pre-Construction Approval.

Application for approval to undertake works under this Scheme must be made using the 'Roads Form 1'. The applicant and a Registered Forester must complete the application. The application form sets out the requirements to be met to make a valid application. This form may also be used for non grant aided road applications where consent is required as outlined in S.I. No. 558 of 2010. Registered Foresters may also submit applications on the department's online system iNET.

b) Roads Form 2 – Application for 1st Instalment Road Grant.

Application for payment of the 1st Instalment must be made using the 'Roads Form 2'. The applicant and a Registered Forester must complete the application. The application form sets out the requirements to be met to make a valid application. Only costs incurred on the length eligible for grant aid up to Form 2 stage are deemed eligible as part of total costs.

c) Roads Form 3 – Application for 2nd Instalment of Road Grant

Application for payment of the 2nd Instalment must be made using the ‘Roads Form 3’. The applicant and a Registered Forester must complete the application. The application form sets out the requirements to be met to make a valid application. Following receipt of a Form 3 and associated documentation, the 2nd instalment grant will be paid when the harvesting operation is completed in those areas due for thinning/harvesting. This area harvested must be at least half of the approved eligible area served by the road and indicated on a map accompanying the Form 3. The built road must continue to facilitate the objectives of the Road Scheme and facilitate access for timber haulage, management and emergency vehicles. It is accepted that minor repair works, which do not result in preventing vehicular access, will not result in non-payment of the 2nd Instalment grant. The thinning/harvesting associated with this payment must be carried out in accordance with the environmental guidelines and the harvesting conditions of the felling licence and in particular any environmental protection measures related to archaeology, water quality and biodiversity. Where at least half of the approved eligible area is not thinned/harvested within 3 years of date of 1st instalment payment, the 20% final payment will be forfeit.

d) Forest Road Mapping Conventions

All applications for approval and grant aid must comply with the Forest Service Forestry Schemes Mapping Standards. These standards outline in detail the required mapping conventions to make a valid application. In addition to these standards applicants must clearly indicate and label sections of road lengths where approval is required to construct but which are not eligible for grant aid i.e. sections of road in excess of the maximum 20 m/ha

8. Payment.

The Department may pay grants to Applicants via Electric Fund Transfer (EFT). Applicants may mandate the payment of grants to an alternative payee using a mandate document that satisfies the requirements of the Minister.

9. Lands taken Out of Forestry.

Where land containing roadways or other infrastructural works grant aided under this Scheme, is taken out of forestry for an alternative land use, then the Minister may seek to recover grant aid from an applicant.

10. Taxation Requirements.

General:

It is a condition of grant aid of this scheme that all grant-aided activities shall be conducted in compliance with the laws of the State relating, *inter alia*, to tax and employment.

Tax Clearance:

Payment of financial aid as provided for in this scheme may be subject to the condition that a tax clearance certificate from the Revenue Commissioners be furnished before a payment is issued.

Value Added Tax:

Applicants and their Agents shall comply with all requirements of VAT law. All payments under the Scheme will be made net of VAT, regardless of the applicants VAT status.

11. Penalties

Penalties may apply at the discretion of the Minister and may include withholding payment of grants.

- a) Failure to comply with the terms and conditions of the Scheme, incorporating The Code of Best Forest Practice – Ireland, and the current suite of environmental guidelines may result in an appropriate penalty/sanction being applied.
- b) Monetary penalties, which shall apply to certain specific breaches of the Scheme, are set out in Annex 3 but other breaches of the Scheme not specified in Annex 3 may also incur a penalty.
- c) Penalties may include the withholding or repayment of the 1st and 2nd instalment of the Road grant.
- d) Monetary penalties shall include interest payable at the rate provided for under SI No. 13/2006. Interest shall be calculated for the period elapsing between a date specified in a notification to the applicant of the repayment obligation and either repayment or deduction.
- e) Penalty amounts may be deducted from future payments due to the Applicant under the Forestry Schemes. Where monetary penalties are not paid or recovered within the period requested, the Department may take whatever action is deemed necessary for their recovery.
- f) The principle of proportionality will apply. Penalties, which in the opinion of the Minister are proportionate to the alleged breach of the Scheme, may be imposed.
- g) The imposition of a penalty shall not relieve an Applicant of an obligation to comply with an instruction from the Minister to undertake remedial works in respect of a plantation.
- h) All materials used in the construction of a road must comply with the Waste Management Act 1996 and European Communities (Waste Directive) Regulations 2011 (S.I. No 126 of 2011). Applications for grant aid for roads constructed with materials not in compliance with the Act/Regulations will not be grant aided and remedial works may be required.

12. Good Practice

Good forestry practice is mandatory across all operations of the scheme.

13. Appeals

- a) An Applicant, his/her contractor or his/her agent may appeal a decision of the Minister's regarding an application for a Pre-Approval, a Grant or a penalty.
- b) An Appeals Committee hears all appeals made. Appeals should be lodged with the Department's Offices at Johnstown Castle, Co Wexford
- c) A challenge to the substantive or procedural legality of decisions, acts or omissions subject to the public participation provisions of Council Directive 85/337/EC (*ELA Directive*) may be made by way of judicial review under Order 84 of the Rules of the Superior Courts

14. Inspections:

The Minister reserves the right to carry out, inspections of any land, the subject of a grant aid application or grant under this Scheme.

15. Responsibility of Applicant

Responsibility for the successful construction and maintenance of forest roads rests with the applicant. The Department will not be held liable for any issue that arises regardless of whether the site received a Departmental Inspection or not. It is the responsibility of the applicant to ensure that the development complies with all relevant statutory provisions and that all necessary licences and/or consents are obtained.

16. Failure to abide by the terms and conditions of the scheme

- a) Where, for the purposes of obtaining payment under this Scheme, the applicant or a person acting on his/her behalf, knowingly makes a false or misleading statement or declaration or withholds essential information, his/her participation in the scheme may be terminated and all or part of the aid paid shall be reimbursed.
- b) Where an applicant or a person acting on his/her behalf, fails to abide by the terms and conditions of the scheme or where there is any material change in the circumstances of the applicant which would be in conflict with the spirit of the scheme, his/her participation in the scheme may be terminated and all or part of the aid paid shall be reimbursed.

- c) The obtaining of aid under the scheme by fraudulent means by the applicant or a person acting on his/her behalf, or others acting alone or together may render such persons liable to prosecution.

17. Review of Procedures and Grant Aid.

- a) The Minister reserves the right to alter the procedures and conditions to be followed in the operation of this Scheme. Such changes shall be notified in writing, prior to taking effect and providing reasonable notice of such changes to Registered Foresters and Registered Forestry Companies.
- b) The Minister reserves the right to review and vary, where occasion so demands, the amount of financial aid wherever specified in the Scheme.

18. Conditions of Approval

An approval issued under this scheme may be subject to additional conditions as laid down by the Minister. It is the responsibility of the applicant to ensure that the road constructed is compliant with the requirements of the scheme.

19. Information and Data Protection

The Minister reserves the right to make public information regarding the areas covered by the scheme including the number of participants, roads built, location, historical and archaeological sites, hectares covered etc. while observing the terms of the Data Protection Act.

20. Cumulation of Agriculture State Aids

Any Applicant who has raised finance under the Business Expansion Scheme (**BES**) and/or the Seed Capital Scheme (**SCS**) tax incentives must make the appropriate declaration at the time of application under this Scheme.

Annex 1

Category	Maximum Rate € / Linear metre	Maximum Density (metre/ ha)
Harvesting Road	€35	20
Harvesting Upgrade or Extension as defined.	€35	20*

* 13m applies where the applicant previously received a management road grant for 7m per ha or 10m applies where the applicant previously received a management road grant for 10 m per ha under a previous road scheme

Annex 2

FOREST ROAD SPECIFICATION

Applicant _____ Townland _____ OS No. _____ Ref: _____

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

Feature	Dimensions and Comment
Tree Clearance	15 metres
Interceptor Drains	2 or 3 excavated drains minimum of 3m from upper edge of formation
Gradient	Maximum 1 in 10 on straight sections and max. 1 in 12 on curves.
Horizontal curves	Minimum radius 20 metres, wider carriageway width (Figure 33, FRM*)
Formation Width	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)
Camber	200-300 mm for mineral soils and shallow peats. Min. 300 mm for deep peats
Formation Work	(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
Carriageway Width	3.4 metres with a 100 mm camber minimum
Pavement	Base course & surfacing or combined single course
Bearing Capacity	Must be able to withstand fully laden timber haulage vehicle traffic.
Turning circle for bell mouths, internal T-junctions, Back-in loading bay, Curves	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)	A-B	B-C			
1	Distance (m)					
2	Peat depth (mm)					
3	Formation (type)					
4	Well drained (Yes or No)					
5	Culvert (No. X size (mm))					
6	Pavement (total depth (mm))					
7a	Pavement base material type					
	Pavement base material depth					
7b	Pavement surface material type					
	Pavement surface material depth					
8	Road Gradient (% or ratio)					
9	Cross slope (% or ratio)					
10	Construction type					

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: _____

Annex 3

FOREST ROAD SCHEME REQUIRED INFORMATION

Planting Year (s)		
List Afforestation Contract Number(s)		Contract number(s) of plantation if applicable
Harvest Area (ha)		State area (ha) proposed for thinning/harvesting within the next 2 years. These areas must be clearly highlighted on the road map
Year of Harvesting (yr)		Applications will be approved solely on a “just-in-time, just-enough” basis – i.e. approvals will be restricted to applications for roads in plantations where thinning/harvesting is imminent and will take place within the next two years
Harvest Type		State whether clear fell and/or thinning
Estimated Harvest Volume (m3)		An estimate of proposed timber volume is required where thinning and harvesting is imminent
Proposed Road Density m/ha		Grant is not eligible for additional road lengths in excess of 20m/ha. Road density should include any existing roads serving the forest area
Road Length eligible for Grant Aid (m)		Length of road requiring grant aid up to maximum of 20m/ha
Road Length proposed without Grant Aid(m)		Lengths requiring approval but where no grant aid is sought should be stated here. Note all lengths in excess of 20 m/ha must be recorded if approval to construct is required

Estimated Costs (€) (for lengths eligible for grant aid only)	Est. Tonnes	€ (excl VAT)	Breakdown of costs must be provided in advance. All road expenditure must represent value for money and claims submitted for grant aid must represent the actual costs incurred.
Gravel and Stone			Comment (if applicable)
Culverts			
Formation Works			
Tree Clearance			
Other(specify)			
Total Direct Costs			
Management/Supervision			Maximum up to 30% of direct costs allowable
Total Costs			

Road Map and Inventory Details	A road map must be submitted showing clearly which plots are within 2 years of harvesting with the road alignment clearly mapped. All maps must comply with the Forestry Schemes Mapping Standards
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Inventory Details (attach extra page if required)

Plots Number (within 2 yrs of Harvesting)	Area ha	Species	Planting Year	DBH cm	Top Height (m)	Yield Class
Total						

Signed Registered Forester		Date	
Signed Applicant		Date	

Annex 4

Penalties

ADMINISTRATIVE PENALTIES

Penalty as % of Road Grant

Failure to comply with environmental guidelines up to 100%

Failure to comply with specific supplementary Environmental conditions up to 25 %

-Water/fisheries up to 25%
-Freshwater Pearl Mussel Requirements up to 25%
-NHA's/SAC's up to 25%
-Sites and monuments up to 25%
-Scenic areas up to 25%
-Distance from roads/dwellings up to 25%
-Other up to 25%

Failure to comply with conditions/governing

-Disposal of waste/rubbish up to 20%
-Hazardous fencing up to 20%
-Silt traps up to 20%

Dumping up to 10%

Over declaration of eligible grant aided road length is between 3 and 20%

Grant is reduced by (difference between the claimed and the approved length constructed)*2

Over declaration of eligible grant aided road length greater than 20% up to 100%

Failure to comply with conditions of approval letter up to 100%

Provision of a false statement, false information or false claim up to 100%

Annex 5

Definitions

- **Applicant** means a person who has applied for Approval under the Scheme or has constructed a Forest Road following an Approval under the Scheme **‘Application, Pre Construction Approval – Roads Form 1’** -This is an application for the Minister’s approval to construct a Forest Road under the terms of all relevant current legislation and guidelines. The application is to be prepared and counter signed by a Registered Forester as defined below and where applicable an Engineer. The Forest Service must approve the application before any work commences.
- **‘Application, Payment – Roads Form 2 – 1st Instalment Grant’** – This is an application to receive the first instalment of a cost-based Forest Road Grant following the construction of an approved Forest Road within the terms of the Pre-construction Approval. The application to be prepared and counter signed by a Registered Forester as defined below and where applicable an Engineer and approved by the Forest Service.
- **‘Application, Payment – Roads Form 3- 2nd Instalment Grant’**- This is an application to receive the second instalment of a cost-based Forest Road Grant following the construction of an approved Forest Road within the terms of the Pre-construction Approval. The application to be prepared and counter signed by a Registered Forester as defined below and where applicable an Engineer and approved by the Forest Service.
- **‘Approval’** is a Roads Pre-Construction Approval granted by the Minister. **‘Bell-Mouth’** – is a tapered entrance to facilitate safe entry/egress and off road parking.
- **‘Bridge’** – is a structure to facilitate the crossing of a stream/river/ravine etc.
- **‘Chipping Area’** a pull in position beside the drying area for chipping and loading of wood chips.
- **‘Code of Best Forest Practice’** is a Department document that details all forestry operations and the manner in which they should be carried out to ensure the implementation of Sustainable Forest Management in Ireland, as agreed at the Third Ministerial Conference on the Protection of Forests in Europe, Lisbon, 1998.
- **‘Completion Date’** - is the date the road/work was completed to the required standard.
- **‘Culvert’** – is one or more adjacent pipes or enclosed channels for conveying a watercourse or stream below formation level.
- **‘Department’** - is the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine.
- **‘Drain’** – is the provision of a channel to remove excess water or to lower the water table to a level below the road and to prevent the ingress of water in the future.
- **‘Direct Costs’** are the cost of materials, labour and machinery employed in the construction of the road.
- **‘Drying Area’** an area for the stacking of wood for energy
- **‘Engineer’** means a civil engineer and a member of ‘Engineers Ireland’;
- **‘Engineering Surveyor’** is a surveyor registered with the Minister with extensive experience of forest road surveying, design and construction.
- **‘Forest Service Environmental Guidelines’** means the following publications of the Forest Service, as may be amended from time to time: ‘Forestry and Water Quality Guidelines’; ‘Forestry and Landscape Guidelines’; ‘Forestry and Archaeology Guidelines’, ‘Forest Biodiversity Guidelines’; ‘Forest Harvesting and the Environment Guidelines’; and ‘Forestry and Aerial Fertilisation Guidelines’; and

'Forestry and Forest Protection Guidelines'. The Minister may, from time to time, add further guidelines to this definition.

- **'Forestry Schemes Manual'** means the schemes manual published by the Department; and which, from time to time, may be amended or replaced.
- **'Harvest Road'** – is a forest road constructed to facilitate the transport of timber out of the forest and onto the public road.
- **'Harvesting Upgrade/Extension'** – means the upgrading and/or extension of an existing management road to harvesting road standard. Restoring a road to its previous condition is not eligible for grant aid under the scheme.
- **Development/Management Road'** – is a forest road constructed to enable vehicle access for managing forests and includes a development road which is normally constructed before planting although some may be built prior to canopy closure.
- **'Minister'** – means the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine.
- **'Plantation'** means a plot or number of plots on the same holding, planted in a single planting season and the subject of a single application.
- **'Plot'** means an area of one species or a species mix.
- **'Other infrastructural works'** are bell-mouths, turntables, drains, culverts and bridges and may include Special Construction Works.
- **'Registered Forester'** – is a person qualified and registered with the Department under the Department's Registration of Foresters and Forestry Companies as set out for the purpose of the Forestry Schemes.
- **'Scheme'** – means the Forest Road Scheme.
- **'Special Construction Works'** – includes bridge construction, embankment construction, abutment construction, large culverts greater than or equal to 750 mm, retaining walls, geotextile layering and rock breaking or any other work considered eligible by the Forest Service.
- **'The Forest Road Manual'** is the Forest Road Manual as published by the National Council for Forest Research and Development COFORD, setting out guidelines for the design, construction and management of forest roads. This Manual may be downloaded from the COFORD web site: www.coford.ie.
- **'The Forest Service'** shall mean the Forestry Division of the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine.
- **'Turntable'** – is an area of road which facilitates the turning of vehicles.

Annex 6

Road Scheme Revision History

Recent Revision	Date	Title	Circulation
February 2012		Forest Road Scheme Document	Registered Foresters
Circular 1/2012	25 th January 2012	Forest Roads (grant) Scheme and Woodland Improvement Scheme	Registered Foresters
Circular 7/2011	25 th May 2011	Communities (Forest Consent and Assessment) Regulations 2010 (S.I. 558 of 2010)	Registered Foresters
Circular 5/2010	20 th July 2010	Implementation of phased payments	Registered Foresters
Circular 4/2010	26 th April 2010	Forest Road Scheme (80/20 instalment)	Registered Foresters
Circular 10/2009	22 nd July 2010	Forest Road Scheme/ ABE/Woodland Improvement	Registered Foresters
Circular 6/2009	31 st March 2010	Afforestation Grant and Premium Schemes	Registered Foresters
Circular 1/2009	9 th January 2009	Environmental Impact Assessments for Forest Road Developments	Registered Foresters
No Ref	2 nd May 2008	Road Construction Standards	Registered Foresters
No Ref	10 th September 2007	Road Construction	Registered Foresters