

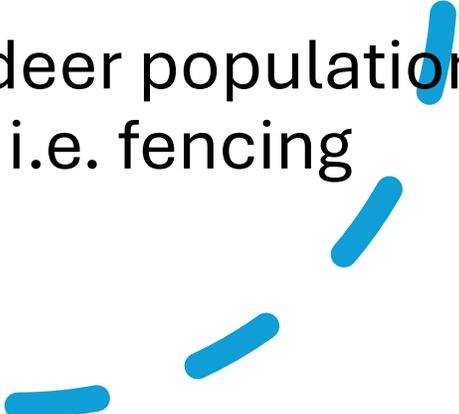
Society of Irish Foresters Field Day Eastern Field Day 19/05/2025

Deer Management

DAFM - Deer Management Measures

Stephen Sheridan – DAFM Forestry Inspector

Impacts of deer on Irish Forestry

- Browsing damage
 - Reduced biodiversity – reduces natural regeneration and limits habitats within the understorey
 - Economic loss
 - Forest structure alteration – selective browsing favours unpalatable species
 - Management challenges – rising deer populations demand costly control measures i.e. fencing
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DAFM Deer Protection Measures

- The Forestry Programme 2023 – 2027 allows for protective measures against deer in all new afforestation sites - which may be vulnerable to deer damage.
- This is offered as a Deer Fencing Grant at establishment stage
or,
- Protective measures under DAFMs new Deer Tree Shelter Scheme (DTS).
- The DTS scheme can be applied for at establishment stage (form 1) or prior to the Year 4 inspection (if deer damage has occurred).

Deer Fencing at Afforestation Stage

- Deer Fencing is available on FT1 – FT11 sites at afforestation stage.
- Deer fencing is paid at two rates:
 - IS436 is paid at €18 / meter and 160 meters of fencing grant aided per ha.
 - Non IS436 is paid at €14 / meter and 150 meters of fencing grant aided per ha.

DAFM deer fencing specification

Deer	<p>ribbon placed back on top.</p> <p>(a). <u>Rectangular wire mesh</u>, 1.9 m high or two lengths of sheep wire, one over the other and secured together with staples.</p> <p>(b). Alternative fencing specifications/post arrangements may be approved on a case-by-case basis, on application to the Forestry Division. (For example, on very uneven terrain, on exceptionally stony ground, or where post-holes cannot be dug or augured, non-tensile suspended fencing may be approved.)</p> <p>Note that a strand or strands of barbed wire must not be strung along the top of the deer fence. Use plain wire instead.</p>	<p>Length: 3 m (driven 1 m into ground)</p> <p>Diameter: 12.5 cm</p> <p>Distance apart: 8 m</p>	<p>Turning posts for angles less than 30°.</p> <p>Length: 3.0 m</p> <p>Top diameter: 20 cm</p> <p>Distance apart: As required</p>	<p>H-frame only. Strut (1.8 m length, 10 cm diameter) to be fixed to strainer posts using either galvanised steel rod or rebated joint (See IS 146:2001)</p> <p>Length: 3 m (driven 1 m into ground)</p> <p>Top diameter: 20 cm</p> <p>Distance apart: 80 m</p>



Deer Tree Shelter Scheme (DTS)

- DTS Scheme launched in September 2023
- It provides funding for deer fencing and / or deer tree shelters in existing forests where deer damage has occurred or is likely to occur.
- It also funds protective measures against deer at afforestation stage as per the scheme rules.

DTS Scheme

Installation of shelters at afforestation:

- **FT types 1-7** €1600 / ha up to 3ha max payable area.
- 625 trees per ha (4m x 4m)
- **FT types 10-12** €625 / ha on the 20% ADB element
- 125 ADB trees planted 4m x 4m

The same as above applies on sites post form 2 and prior to form 3 where deer damage > 40%

DTS Scheme

DTS Scheme – Deer Fencing element

- Deer fencing is available for FT1 – 7 forests post form 2 and prior to form 3
- Deer damage must exceed 40%
- Payment rates and specifications are the same as at afforestation stage.
- **RUS sites are eligible for deer fencing under the DTS scheme.**

DTS Scheme approvals

Since the scheme launched DAFM has approved 296 DTS applications.

This year DAFM has paid 55 DTS applications totalling €319,706

The payments this year have ranged from €110 to €30,268

Average support paid under DTS Scheme this year in €5,812

A large orange circle containing the text 'Woodland Improvement Scheme' in white. A smaller purple circle is partially visible at the bottom left of the orange circle.

Woodland Improvement Scheme

Four blue, curved, brush-stroke-like decorative elements arranged in an arc at the top right of the slide.

Woodland Improvement Grant Element 3 – Continuous Cover Forestry

- Grant Support is available under this scheme for the below eligible operations linked to deer management
 - Deer management and deer management plans e.g. erection of high seats.
 - Forest Protection e.g. fencing and tree guards
 - Maintenance of open spaces, rides and glades.



Examples of eligible deer management operations under the Woodland Improvement Scheme Element 3 – CCF



Forest Road Scheme

Ecologically Enhanced Forest Roads

- This measure is open to applicants with >5ha area serviced by the forest road.
- Constructing a new forest road introduces opportunities to create additional open space within the forest.
- This creates a new opportunity to manage deer within the forest.
- Deer management infrastructure and facilities can be supported under this measure.
e.g. High seat, creation of a safe backstop
- Grant aid available is allocated at a maximum of **€1,000** per project.
- DAFM has an allocation of 25 projects per annum.

Any questions welcome
