

Storm Arwen Information for members – updated 10th January

Scottish Forestry's response to Storm Arwen continues and work to assess the impact of the storm remains ongoing to obtain a more accurate picture of the volume of timber that might have been blown down.

Forest Research launched a [new citizen science app](#) which combines England and Scotland windblow data to increase the knowledge of the full impact of Storm Arwen. The app is easy to use and is aimed at foresters, landowners and land managers allowing them to view, validate and add to this data.

The app will remain open until the 23rd January and the information collected will be turned into a report to support the industry. You can visit the website [here](#). For health and safety reasons it is important that only professionals who have considered the risks involved with windblow attempt to map it in the field.

Initial assessments suggest a substantial volume of windthrow. In accordance with the [Scottish Windblow Contingency Plan](#), Scottish Forestry convened a meeting of a (Shadow) Scottish Windblow Action Committee which agreed that a regional approach would best address the concentrations of damage.

To best address the concentrations of damage two regional recovery groups have been established in the Northeast and the Scottish Borders and include representatives from Scottish Forestry, Confor and its new Processor Group, Forestry and Land Scotland, private forest owners, timber transport companies and Local Authorities. SLE sits on both these groups, and we are keen to hear from members, please submit any comments to karen.ramoo@scottishlandandestates.co.uk

The aim of the regional recovery groups is to establish a close network of key personnel on the ground that can easily communicate and collaborate with one another, to organise harvest of the damaged crops in an orderly manner that maximises the economic outturn.

Details for the Northeast meeting can be found [here](#). The first meeting of the Scottish Borders group takes place later this week.

Lastly the webinar hosted by the Farm Advisory Service on Storm Arwen – Clearance of Windblow Trees which we promoted to members is now available to view [here](#).

We would like to hear your views on the following

1. Have applied for a fast-track felling licence from Scottish Forestry to clear windblow
Yes/No but I intend to/no
2. If yes, has your felling licence application been successful? Please expand it not.
3. If you applied for a felling licence, how would you describe your experience?
Very good, Good, Neither good nor bad, Bad, Very bad
4. Do you have any specific feedback about the fast-track application process?
5. To assist with the clean up operation, what other support do you require?
6. Is there anything else you would like to see SLE doing to support members?

Further information

Scottish Forestry continue to publish update and advice for woodland owners and the forestry sector.

- Advice on [felling permissions for windblow](#)
- Advice on [felling permission exemptions for utilities and infrastructure](#)
- Information on [additional measures for felling permission approvals](#)
- Storm Arwen [mapping tool](#) developed by Forest Research

For more information on windblow please contact karen.ramoo@scottishlandandestates.co.uk

FAQSs

Are felling permissions needed for windblow?

The Forestry and Land Management (Scotland) Act 2018 brought in a requirement to seek permission to clear windblow with a number of limited exceptions. The Scottish Forestry [Felling Permission Guidance](#) sets out what these exceptions are; for clarity, you do not have to obtain a felling permission to clear windblow that is causing a danger to public safety or blocking roads.

Scottish Forestry has said that permissions will be fast tracked whereby the 28 days on the Public Register will not be required, this applies to Long Term Forest Plans as well. They will accept submission of the restocking plan at a later date so the Felling Permission can be issued, and work commence as soon as possible.

Felling Permission application forms can be found at <https://forestry.gov.scot/support-regulations/fellingpermissions>.

Members are advised to contact their local Scottish Forestry local office using the [Conservancy email addresses](#)

Do you have to replant after windblow?

Under the Forestry and Land Management (Scotland) Act 2018 you need to obtain a Felling Permission to deal with windblown trees, which is likely to include a condition to replant the area cleared of windblow.

We advise all members to contact their local Scottish Forestry [office](#) to seek advice.

Are restocking grants available?

There are no specific grants available for windblow but you can apply for a restock grant under the FGS Woodland Improvement Grant provided you have an approved Woodland Management Plan or a Long Term Forest Plan. <https://www.ruralpayments.org/topics/all-schemes/forestry-grant-scheme/woodland-improvement-grant/restructuring-regeneration/>

Compensation for loss of power

The industry regulator Ofgem sets clear guidelines for compensation when customers are affected by a prolonged power cut, details of which can be found at: <https://www.ofgem.gov.uk/information-consumers/energy-advice-households/check-compensation-rules-power-cut-or-supply-problem>

SSEN has advised SLE that customers that have been impacted and qualify for compensation, will automatically receive payment as per Ofgem's guidelines. Customers that have not had power restored after 48 hours will receive £70, and a subsequent £70 for each 12-hour period that they do not have supply thereafter. This is capped at a maximum of £700.

If a customer has been without power for more than 6.5 days, Ofgem have confirmed that the £700 limit on compensation has been removed by the network companies, allowing qualifying customers to be compensated up to £140 a day for every day off power.

Payments will be made by cheque as soon as is reasonably practicable following restoration of all customers. They have indicated that this will happen automatically, and there will be no need to call to request this.

SLE is still awaiting confirmation on how customers supplied by Scottish Power Networks will receive compensation.

For more information on compensation for loss of power please contact Lindsay.Duncan@scottishlandandestates.co.uk