

Transforming private plantations to diverse multifunctional forests through close-to-nature management

Jonathan Spazzi, Teagasc Forestry Development Officer, Clare, Limerick and North Kerry

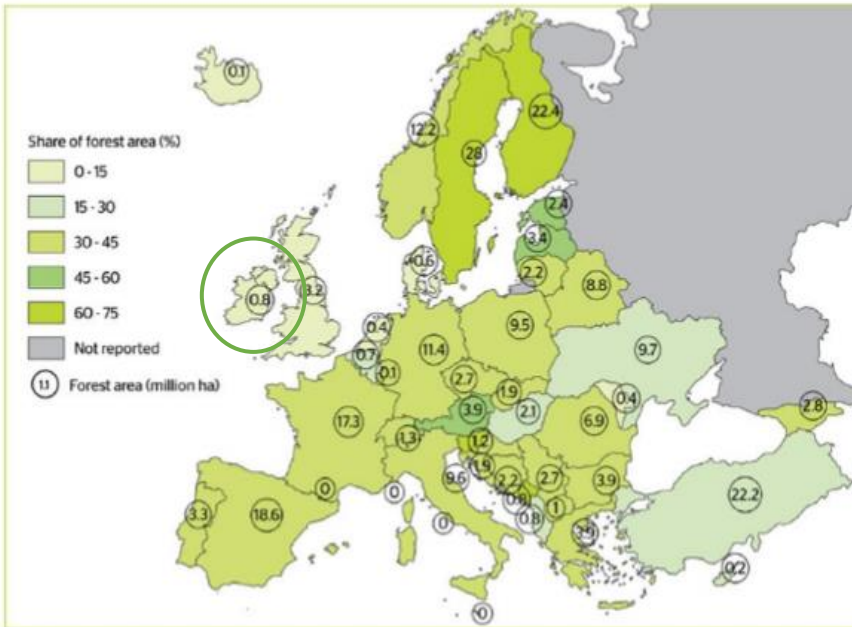
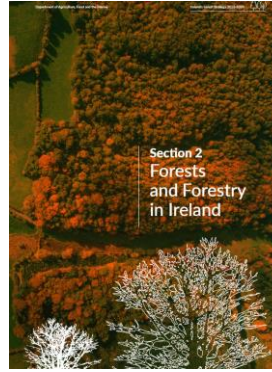
Dermot Dunphy, Forest Sector development, Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine



An Roinn Talmhaíochta,
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Department of Agriculture,
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Background - Forests & Forestry in Ireland



Ireland's National Forest Inventory 2022

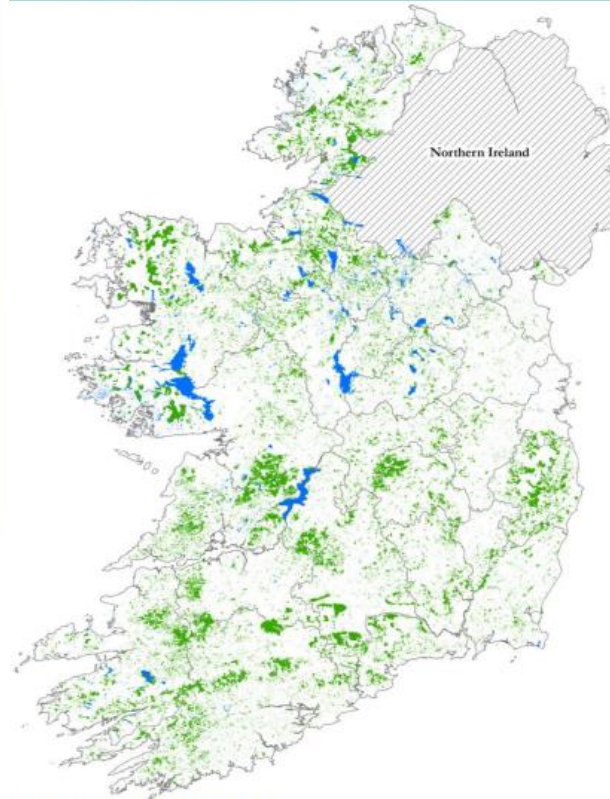
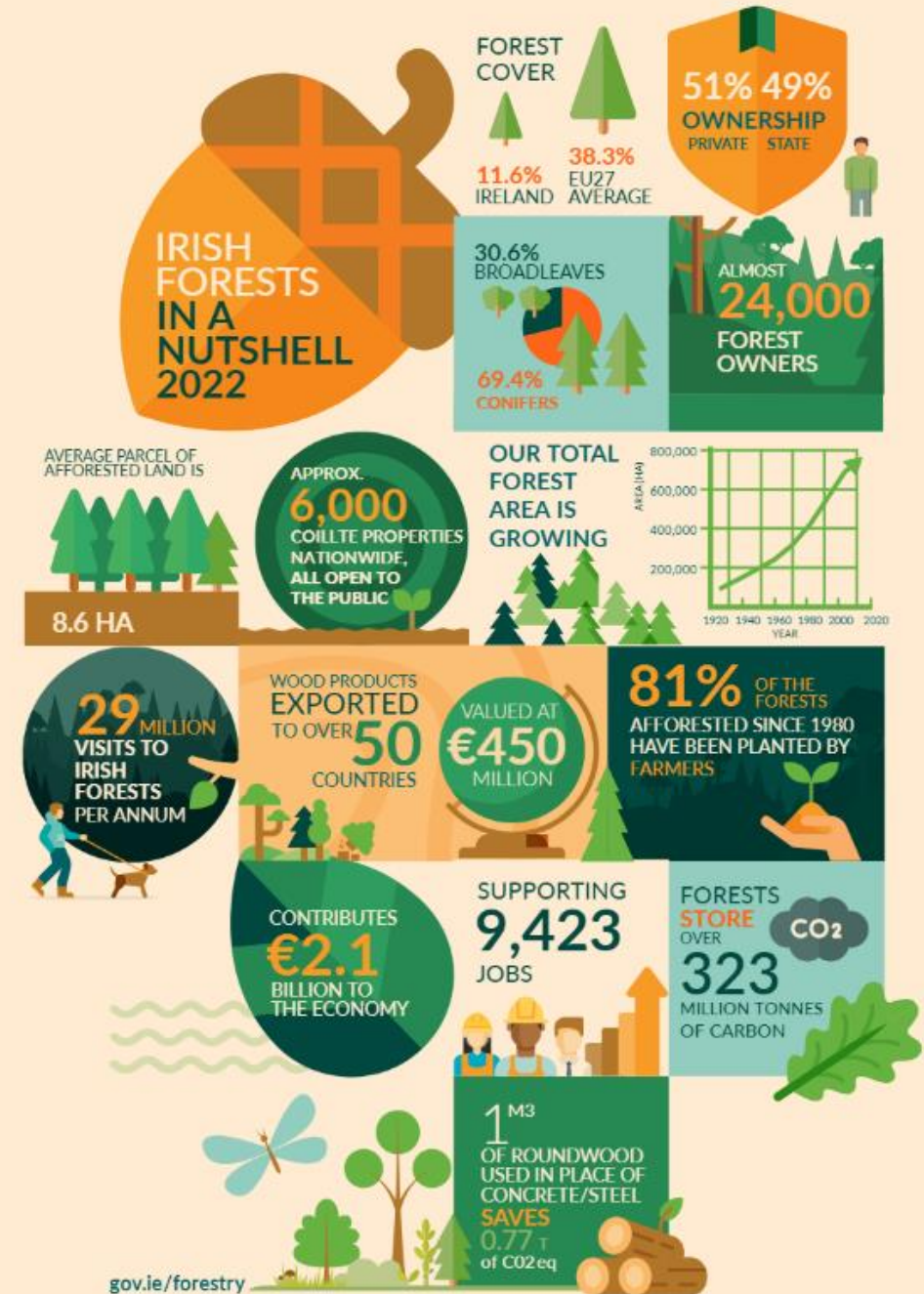
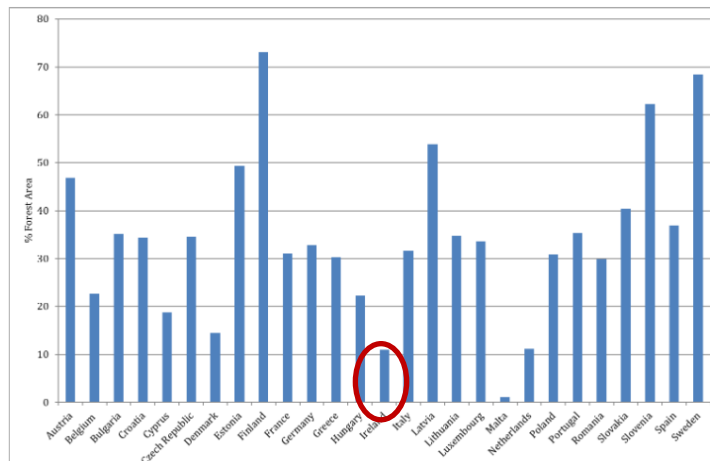


Figure 8. Map of forest cover in Ireland, 2022.



Development Context



- **Forest Strategy 2030 and Vision 2050**

- Both the strategy and vision underpin the Forestry Programme
- The Forestry Programme is the main implementation vehicle in the immediate term

- **Forest Expansion Creation**

- Strong focus on increasing low levels of afforestation
- Need to expand area of native forests, higher premiums and supports
- More diverse commercial forests
- Agroforestry

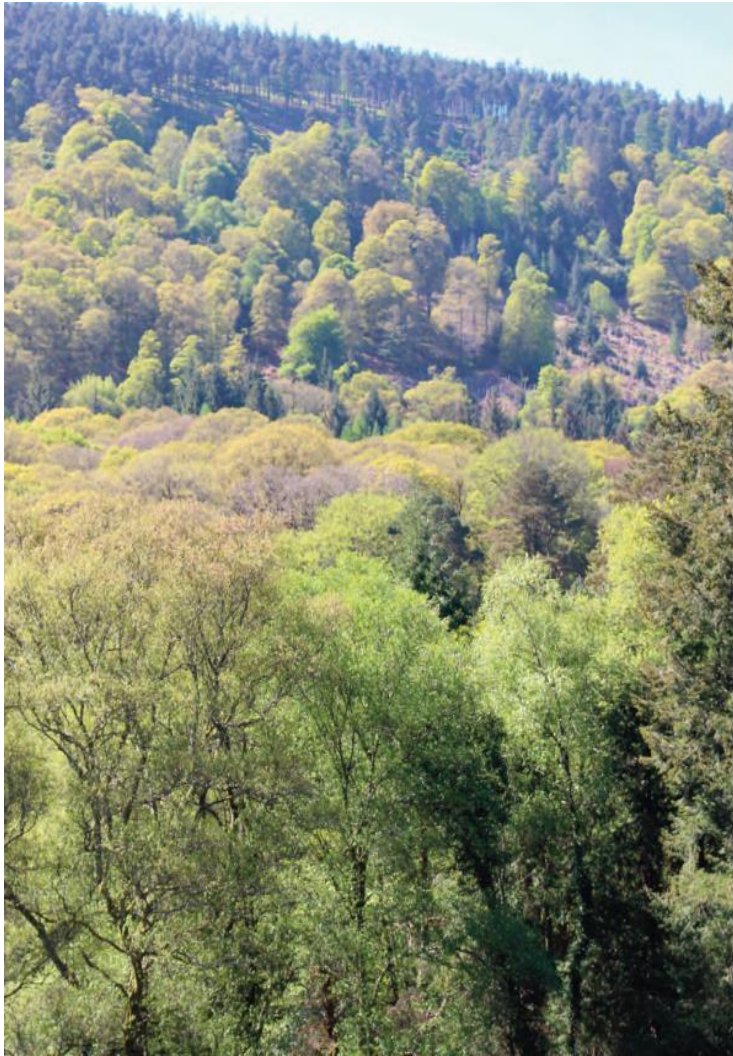
- **Existing Forests**

- Emphasis on restoring existing native woodlands
- Provide better access for communities, through public lands and “neighbourwoods”
- Supports for existing forest owners

- **Forest Management**

- More emphasis on continuous cover forestry
- Increased focus on management plans

Forestry Programme 2023-2027



- The €1.3bn funded Forestry Programme 2023-2027 is the largest investment in tree-planting to date in Ireland
- It is ambitious and aims to increase forest cover whilst also delivering ecosystem services with environmental and climate benefits
- Target of 8,000ha per annum broken down by 12 forest types
- Significantly increased grant & premium rates (between 46% & 66%)
- Designed to incentivise farmers to engage as an additional income stream and diversification option.
- Reflected by increased premiums to 20 years for farmers

Supports For existing Forests: Woodland Improvement Scheme (WIS)



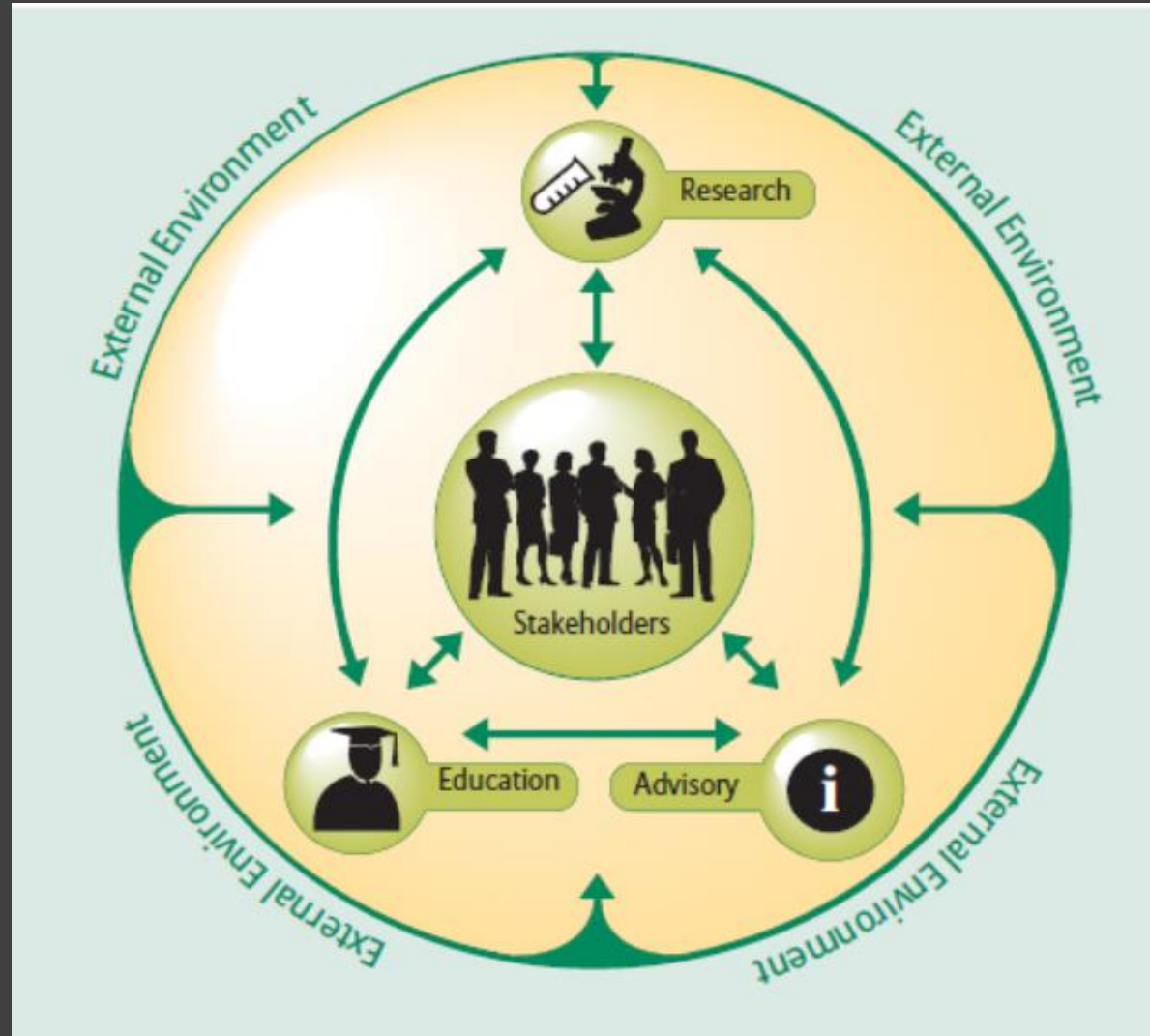
- Element 1: Thinning and Tending
- Element 2: Agroforestry Maintenance
- Element 3: Continuous Cover Forestry
- Element 4: Coppice and Coppice with Standards
- Element 5: Seed Stand Management

Element 3: Continuous Cover Forestry



- This Scheme will provide funding for conversion of existing forests to Continuous Cover Forestry (CCF) over a 12 year transitional period.
- The scheme is available to private forest owners who wish to pursue transformation from the conventional clearfell/replant silvicultural system, to CCF.
- Production should concentrate on growing high quality logs, usually produced from very large trees.
- The understory must be managed to provide space to promote natural regeneration.

The Teagasc Forestry Development Department

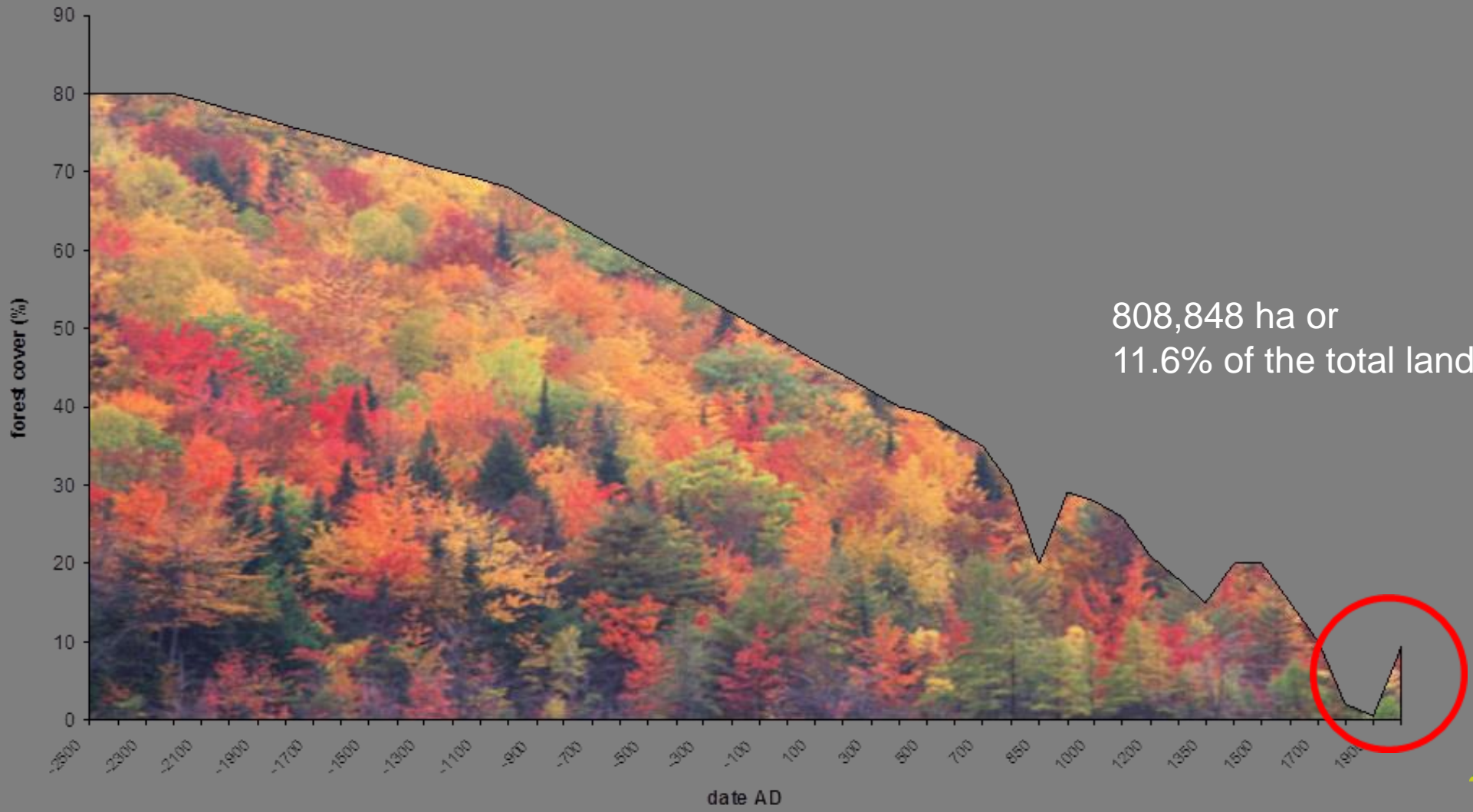


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Irish forests history: from deforestation to reforestation



808,848 ha or
11.6% of the total land area of Ireland



Ireland's Forest Strategy Implementation Plan

Draft for public consultation



Irish forestry current evolution

- Growing interest amongst forest owners and foresters on integrated management options
- Hands-on owners with high level of engagement
- Production, personal satisfaction, biodiversity and legacy mix
- National and European policy is increasingly promoting integrated management
- Successful roll out of the DAFM CCF and NW schemes
- **Opportunity to diversify management but also to foster a new farm-forest culture**
- **Recognised training-need for owners, foresters and contractors**

Teagasc close-to-nature “marteloscope” workshops

Registration

Early booking is advisable, follow the relevant link below to secure

- Tuesday 23 April - **Registration closed**
- Wednesday 24 April - **Registration closed**
- Wednesday 8 May - **Registration closed**
- Thursday 9 May - **Registration closed**

For further information and to express interest in attending future events contact [Jonathan Spazzi](#), Forestry Adviser with Teagasc.

This event is organised by the Forestry Development Department, Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine.

Teagasc Forestry e-News: Issue 165, 26 April 2024

Welcome to this edition of Teagasc Forestry e-News.

In this e-newsletter, we invite you to our nationwide series of Spring Forest Walks starting next Thursday.

We also make you aware that we are now in the main wildfire risk season.

Spring Forest Walks



Exploring the importance of proactive forest management with Teagasc

Plot 2: Broadleaf mix
63x63 meters-0.4 ha



Main house
Car park
Coffee shop

Plot 1: Conifer mix
63x63 meters-0.4 ha





FOREST MOOC FOR CHANGE

MASSIVE OPEN ONLINE COURSE FOR FOREST RESILIENCE

NEW SESSION

From October 14 to December 31, 2024

THE FIRST FREE ONLINE COURSE ON
CONTINUOUS COVER MIXED FORESTRY,
AVAILABLE IN THREE LANGUAGES.

Register now on

forestmoochange.eu

Teagasc Free online training on close-to-nature management

- 8 weeks online programme: facilitation-style virtual meetings, video tutorials and interactive exercises
- The video tutorials allows participants to join in remotely in the comfort of their home and explore the subject matter
- **FOREST MOOC FOR CHANGE: free interactive online course on close to nature management**
- **Over 12000 participants in 3 languages in the last 2 years**

Transformation case studies: Helen and Liam Bresnan



Operation	Year	Age	Volume/ha (t)	Pulp	Stake	Pallet
First thin	2017	17	50	60%	10%	30%
Second thin	2020	20	48	47%	-	53%



VISUAL forest survey and IBP testing in Ireland



How to use the Index of Biodiversity Potential (IBP)?

The IBP survey does not require complex measurements or special naturalist knowledge of the species, except for the identification of trees. In practice, it involves walking through the stand and counting the items relating to each of the ten factors, for example the number of large dead trees or forest layers. On the basis of these observations, a score between 0 and 5 is assigned for each factor. Adding together these scores gives the IBP and characterises the stand on a gradient of low to high carrying capacity. It also makes it possible to identify features within a stand that are favourable to species diversity or, conversely, those that are insufficiently represented and which should be favoured during management activities.



From the IBP to practical recommendations - a common thread: habitat diversity and continuity

Forest species have highly diverse needs. However, the requirements of as many of them as possible can be met by increasing the number of habitats and ensuring their continuity in time and space. The IBP factors target the main habitats to be favoured. By following this common thread of habitat diversity and continuity, managers can reconcile wood production with maintaining a high level of biodiversity.

Example of an IBP survey in a stand → Management recommendations that can be derived (e.g. for factors A and D)



National demonstration events:

Betty and Jonathan Sykes forest transformation



Woodland festivals



Family events

- Woodland Scavenger Hunt
- Bemusement Woodland Games
- Archery
- Face painting & Kids crafts
- Storytelling & Singing in the woods
- DJ & Balloon making
- Birds of Prey
- Beekeeper



Market Traders selling locally made crafts, Food stalls and Music.



Location

Eircode - F45 H265
GPS Co-ordinates - 53.780344, - 8.515307



For updates or information:

- www.facebook.com/westernforestrycoop.ie/
- www.woodlandfestival.ie
- Ring 071-9161458

This is a non-ticketed event,
€10 car parking fee applies.

Please note this is an outdoor event, please wear suitable clothing and footwear.



Supported by the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine, Western Forestry Co-op and Masonite.

Western Forestry Co-op
Your Local Forestry Co-op
Woodland Festival
Come see the wood from the trees...



SUNDAY 28TH AUGUST
12noon to 6pm
Clonalis Estate, Castlereah,
Co. Roscommon

The Woodland Festival brought to you by Western Forestry Co-op is an outdoor rustic festival that will celebrate all that's good about trees and woodlands at the Clonalis Estate, a 700-acre mixed woodland & farmland.

www.woodlandfestival.ie
www.facebook.com/westernforestrycoop.ie/



Diverse markets for diverse forests



Concluding remarks

- Growing interest amongst forest owners in the benefit of integrative management
- National and European policy is increasingly promoting close to nature management for resilience
- Need to target resources towards greater stakeholder engagement for collective learning and ideas sharing
- Focus on fostering, documenting and communicating case studies progress
- Large scale programme of developing and maintaining communication flows between all stakeholders towards new integrated management systems
- Collaborative and adaptive approach: co-creating forest transformation between practice, research and policy



Thank you for your attention