



THE

Irish Forester

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE SOCIETY OF IRISH FORESTERS

SUMMER 2014

Forestry programme proposes 15,000ha annual afforestation

The draft proposals of the Forestry Programme 2014-2020 have been announced by the Forest Service. As outlined by the President of the Society, it is a major concern that the target of 17% forest cover by 2030 has been pushed back to 2046 when forest cover of 18% is envisaged. This target will be achieved by planting 10,000ha in 2015 and 15,000ha thereafter. While this is a significant improvement on current afforestation rates, no costings have been supplied.

The following is a summary of the 11 proposed measures:

1. AFFORESTATION

The central Grant and Premium Category (GPC) afforestation scheme is retained with two major changes: premiums may be payable for a maximum period of 12 years instead of the current 20 years; and a single premium rate for farmers and non-farmers will apply.

Two new afforestation grant and premium schemes are being proposed on a pilot basis: agro-forestry, which will attract premiums for a maximum term of five years requiring a stocking rate of at least 400/ha; and short rotation fibre production, which will attract premiums for a maximum term of 10 years for fast growing broadleaves including alder, hybrid aspen, eucalyptus, poplar and sycamore.

Land planted under either scheme will be classified as forest land and the provisions of forest legislation in relation to replanting will apply.

2. ROADING

The proposed measure will support the construction of forest roads and associated infrastructure, similar to the existing scheme. It will ensure good silvicultural practices as well as increasing timber mobility.

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Padraic Joyce - Honorary Member



Pacelli Breathnach, President of the Society, presents Honorary Membership to Padraic Joyce, Emeritus Professor of Forestry at University College Dublin in recognition of his major contribution to Irish forestry. A lifelong member of the Society, Padraic took his forestry degree in UCD in 1949, his Masters degree in 1959 and his PhD in 1966. In 1967 he was awarded a Fellowship to Yale School of Forestry where he studied Forest Biometrics under Professor George Furnival. Padraic is still actively involved in forestry and is currently working on his latest publication Broadleaves in Ireland. He is the principal author of Growing Broadleaves and joint author with Niall OCarroll of Sitka Spruce in Ireland.

Message from the President



I welcome readers to this special edition of our summer newsletter which introduces the Society's latest initiative - a major national conference entitled 'What shall we do with the timber? - Opportunities for Irish wood and wood products' which will take place on Friday, 6 June in Johnstown House Hotel, Enfield, Co Meath. The Society of Irish Foresters and the Wood Marketing Federation of Ireland are jointly organising this conference. It will bring together an impressive panel of expert speakers to address the challenges facing this important sector of the economy which exports 80% of its products and has an annual value of €2.2 billion.

The theme of the conference is adding value through improved quality and innovation. The speakers will demonstrate how we can further increase the domestic and export market share of Irish timber, thereby creating greater market opportunities for timber growers and processors. This conference is aimed at forest owners, grower groups, foresters, forestry companies and timber processors. Further information and the conference registration form are in the accompanying conference brochure.

The Society is also engaged in contributing to a number of government policy documents including the ongoing Forest Policy Review, the Forestry Bill 2013 and the Consultation Paper on the Forestry Programme 2014-2020. It is a major concern that the target of 17% forest cover by 2030 appears to have been replaced by a new target of 18% forest cover by 2046. The objective in 'Growing for the Future' was to increase timber supply to a 'critical mass' which would allow Ireland to have an internationally competitive forest and forest products industry by 2030. It is unacceptable that this target has been arbitrarily extended to 2046.

The continuing decline in annual rates of afforestation, currently only 6,252ha, compared to the Government target of 10,000ha and the Programme for Government objective of 14,700ha per annum makes a mockery of setting targets without addressing the causes of such a decline.

Pacelli Breathnach President,
Society of Irish Foresters

Forestry programme proposes 15,000ha annual afforestation

3. RECONSTITUTION

The objective of this measure is to restore and maintain forests and forest ecosystems following significant damage by natural causes. It is proposed that the measure will be primarily aimed at restoring forest potential as a result of damage, or potential damage, from disease outbreaks.

4. NEIGHBOURHOOD

This scheme will provide grant support towards the enhancement of existing woodlands for public access, education, recreation and enjoyment especially on sites close to urban areas.

5. WOODLAND IMPROVEMENT

Similar to the existing scheme, it aims to support the thinning and tending of broadleaves to ensure woodland and landscape enhancement. Funding may also be provided for brushing to improve access for manual application of fertiliser where aerial fertilisation is not possible.

6. NATIVE WOODLAND SCHEME (NWS)

The NWS aims to encourage and support the protection and expansion of Ireland's native woodlands, using appropriate "close to nature" management techniques. It contains two elements: native woodlands conservation and native woodland establishment.

7. KNOWLEDGE TRANSFER

This measure acknowledges and supports the transfer of awareness, knowledge and skills to forest owners through knowledge transfer groups. Given the importance of Continuous Professional Development, the Society is currently reviewing its CPD programme which has now reached its 10th anniversary. The Society would welcome the opportunity to play its part under these measures and agrees that it can "play a pivotal role in achieving objectives such as developing a culture of forest management".

8. PRODUCER GROUPS

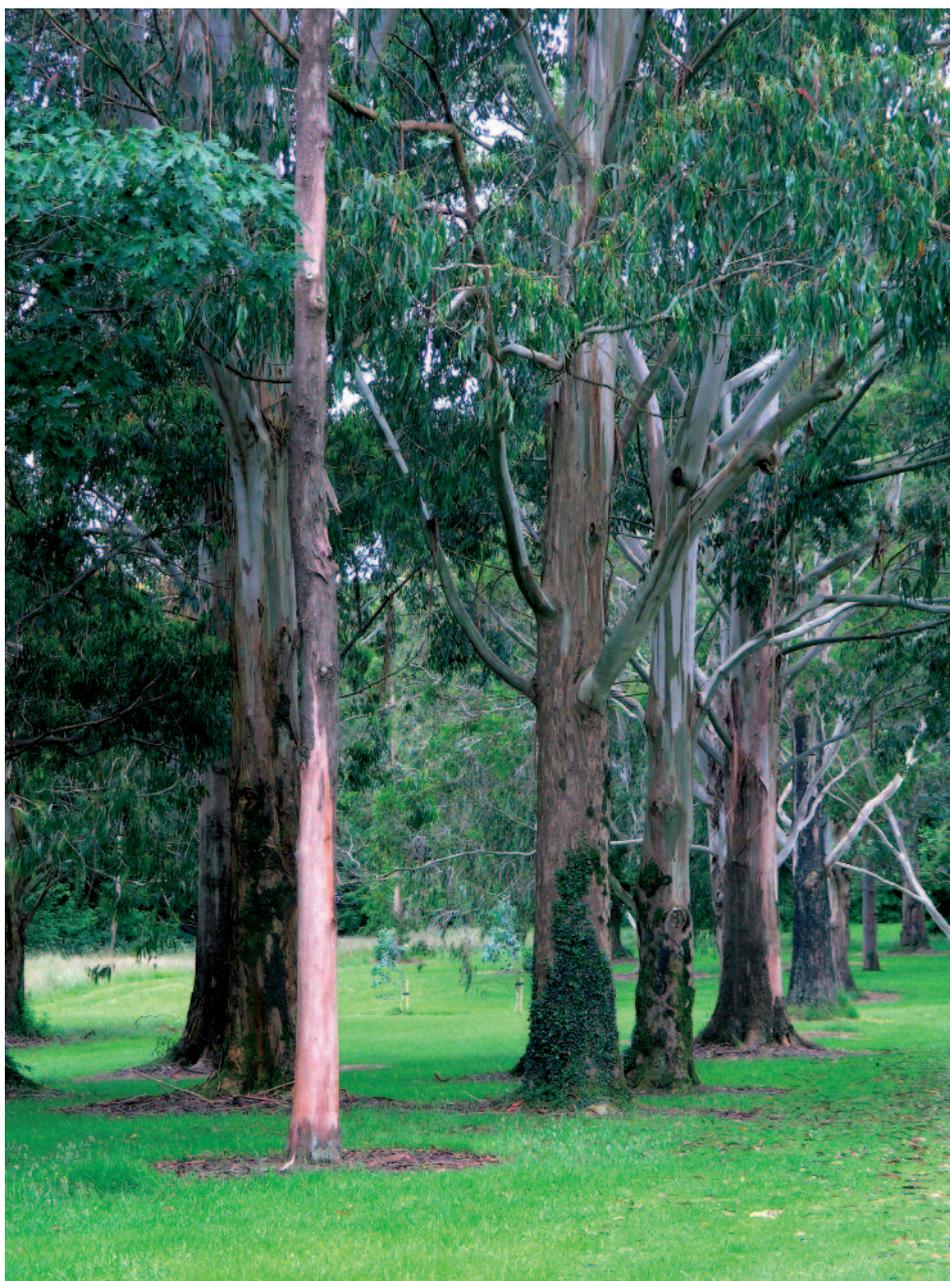
The objective of this measure is to encourage and facilitate private forest owners to work cooperatively in the management and marketing of their forest resource as part of grower or producer groups.

9. FORESTRY TECHNOLOGY

This measure aims to support the introduction of new technologies for use in private forests, which have the potential to increase efficiency, reduce costs or contribute to reducing the environmental impact of forestry operations.

10. GENETIC REPRODUCTIVE MATERIAL

The forest genetic measure will support the conservation of native forest genetic material and improve the resilience of Irish forest species to disease and the effects of climate change. This measure will provide support towards the costs related to the management and



Eucalyptus is one of a number of species identified as suitable for short rotation fibrecrops under the new measures.

conservation of registered seed stands and production areas such as seed orchards. Eligible forests include crops registered by the Department as seed production sites or seed stands which are being actively used for seed production.

11. FOREST MANAGEMENT PLANS (FMPs)

The primary objective of this proposed measure is to encourage and facilitate private forest owners to complete and submit FMPs to the Forest Service by 2020. These will facilitate the issuing of felling licences and will apply to forests exceeding a certain size, which has yet to be determined.

The Society believes that if these measures are properly co-ordinated, they should contribute to accurate national forecasting of timber production as well as providing the groundwork for forest certification for private plantation owners.

COMMENT

The new planting targets are ambitious. However, the Society is concerned that previous targets have been completely ignored and, in the absence of reliable costings, it is difficult to assess these proposals. If the Department persists in reducing the premium period from 20 to 12 years, then it is likely that even current inadequate annual afforestation rates will fall further.

That said, the Society welcomes measures such as the enhancement of the reconstitution grant, the proposed mandatory nature of a CPD programme, the forest genetic scheme for reproductive material and the introduction of FMPs.

The Society also welcomes the commitment by the Forest Service to engage in further public consultation during the year before the measures are approved by the DPER and the Commission.

What shall we do with the timber? – Opportunities for Irish wood and wood products



The Society of Irish Foresters, the Wood Marketing Federation and the *Irish Farmers Journal* are combining to organise a major national conference in Johnstown House Hotel, Enfield, Co. Meath, on Friday, 6 June 2014

The organisers acknowledge that few industries have a greater degree of interdependency than forestry. How the various links in the forest value chain interact and perform determines the capability of the sector as a whole. These links begin with the quality of our seed and nursery stock, which decides the viability of our forests, the performance of down-stream industries and the effectiveness with which the sector delivers a range of social and environmental benefits.

This conference highlights the need for an integrated approach as a precondition for the optimal development of the forest industry. A wide range of expert speakers will address the major challenges facing the sector which now exports close to 80% of its products and has an annual value of €2.2 billion.

In challenging and thought-provoking presentations, each speaker will demonstrate how we can further increase the domestic and export market share of Irish timber, thereby creating greater market opportunities for timber growers and processors.

The emphasis throughout these presentations is on quality and innovation, beginning in the nursery and continuing along the chain to the forest, sawmill, panel board mill, wood energy outlets and manufacturing, before reaching the consumer.

Who should attend? The conference is aimed at foresters, forest owners, producer groups, forestry companies, researchers, State agencies, timber processors, end users and specifiers including architects, engineers and designers.

The *Irish Farmers Journal* is supporting the event and the Journal's editor, Justin McCarthy, will chair the morning session. The main topics are:

- Growing quality for future forests and wood processors including research into vegetative production (VP) by Mike Harvey, Director at Maelor Forest Nurseries Limited
- Adding value in the forest – how good silvicultural practices can optimise the forest resource by Niall Farrelly, Teagasc.
- Acknowledging interdependency – the need for a partnership approach between grower and timber processor by Traolach Layton, Forestry Manager GP Wood Ltd.
- Adding value in the sawmill in an export led industry and the

importance of quality, price, certification and continuity by Mike Glennon, Joint Managing Director, Glennon Brothers

- Market opportunities for wood in renewable energy by Joe O'Carroll, Managing Partner, OC Consulting
- Opportunities for increasing international market share for Irish panel board products. David Murray, Innovation Manager, Coillte Panel Products.
- Exploring new products for Irish timber including engineered wood. Dr. Annette Harte, Senior Lecturer, Civil Engineering, NUI Galway.

The conference registration fee is €70 which includes refreshments and three course lunch at the award winning Johnstown House Hotel.

Speakers



Mike Harvey

Mike Harvey is Director, Maelor Forest Nurseries located at Fields Farm, Bronington on the Welsh border. Maelor produces approximately 20 million trees a year for customers throughout the UK and Europe. The nursery places strong emphasis on quality and research especially in vegetative propagation (VP) of improved Sitka spruce, root electrolyte leakage testing and pest and disease control.



Dr Niall Farrelly

Dr Niall Farrelly is a research forester with Teagasc Forestry Development Department, specialising in research on forest productivity, management land use and resource analysis. His research programme focuses on how environmental factors and forest management practices affect the productivity, composition and structure of forest ecosystems. Other research involves ecosystem classification and land use analysis.



Traolach Layton

Traolach Layton graduated from UCD in 1978 with a degree in forestry, Traolach went on to complete a masters degree in wood technology in the University of Washington, Seattle in 1982. He joined Palfab Ltd. in 1986 where he worked as Forestry Director until 2013 when he was appointed Forestry Manager, GPWood Ltd. after the merger of Palfab and Grainger Sawmills. A member of the Society of Irish Foresters, he is a 'registered forester' with the Forest Service.



Mike Glennon

Mike Glennon is joint Managing Director, Glennon Brothers – one of Ireland's largest and longest established sawmills. Through its plants in Ireland and Scotland, the company supplies Irish, UK and French markets with quality certified products for the construction, pallet wood and fencing industries. He is a major contributor to policy issues in the Irish forestry and forestry products industry through his involvement in the COFORD council and IBEC.



Joe O'Carroll

Joe O'Carroll, a forestry graduate from UCD and a masters graduate from UCC, set up OC Consulting in 2005 following five years as operations manager with COFORD (National Council for Forest Research & Development). OC Consulting provides management services for Imperative Energy Ltd., in developing 70 biomass projects in the UK and Ireland. It has also been involved with the creation of international forestry funds.



David Murray

David Murray is Innovation Manager at Coillte Panel Products (CPP). He co-ordinates the company's export drive which is focused primarily on Europe, but sells into 25 countries globally. While CPP exports to European markets in the UK, Belgium, the Netherlands, Scandinavia and Germany, it has developed new markets in Russia, Turkey and Mexico in recent years.



Dr. Annette Harte

Dr. Annette Harte is Senior Lecturer in Engineering at the College of Engineering and Informatics, NUI Galway. Her research includes the development of engineered wood products, numerical modelling, design and optimisation of timber structures and sustainable construction. She is leader of an EU COST network on the Reinforcement of Timber Structures, comprising international researchers.

THE STANDMODEL PROJECT

Developing flexibility and accuracy in dynamic forest management forecasting tools

Dynamic models have been in use in Irish forestry since 2005. They were developed by Dr Lance Broad and Mr Ted Lynch using data sourced from the Coillte permanent sample plot system. This dynamic system is an alternative to the Forestry Commission Yield Tables which have been in use in Ireland for several decades.

One advantage of this dynamic system is that it is flexible, since it can simulate thinnings at varying frequencies and intensities according to the user's intended management of the forest. Importantly, it is not essential to follow a defined regime. This flexibility gives the user the power to make forecasts based on different regimes and thus evaluate potential management strategies and make informed decisions. Another advantage is its increased accuracy, since the system is developed using Irish data.

The idea behind the dynamic models is that the forest is a system which is defined by the stand variables, basal area, height and density, at a point in time. The system's behaviour (i.e. the development of single species even-aged stands) from that point onwards can be determined using a growth equation. This system allows the user to input his/her own specific inventory data and grow the forest on from this point rather than trying to "best fit" inventory data to a tabulated model. Models for the main timber species in Irish forestry have been developed and these are installed in a programme called Growfor.

Led by Prof. Maarten Nieuwenhuis of UCD Forestry and Mr Paddy Purser of PTR, Dr Andrew McCullagh has added two species to the Growfor programme: Japanese larch (*Larix kaempferi* (Lamb.) Carriere) and ash (*Fraxinus excelsior* L.). Ash is the first broadleaf species to be modelled using this approach. These models were developed using data sourced from Coillte and private growers. The programme provides a variety of timber prices which allow the user to estimate the potential return of the different management options. A recent development is that of user-defined assortments which adds further to the flexibility of the system. PTR manages and maintains the Growfor software and provides data for model development. Dr Lance Broad is based in New Zealand but remains involved to do specific programming and give advice.

A new UCD-based and CORORD-funded project, BETTERFOR, has started which will make use of the two cycles of measurements from the National Forest Inventory. Dr McCullagh and Dr Kevin Black of FERS Ltd. will investigate whether inventory data may be used to strengthen and refine the dynamic yield models in the Growfor system and the single tree model Carbware that is used in greenhouse gas reporting under the Kyoto protocol. The project will report on an investigation into mixed species modelling, the potential improvements in a va-



Models for the main timber species in Irish forestry are installed in the Growfor programme. The most recent additions to the programme are Japanese larch and ash.

riety of functions, including assortment, mid-diameter and mortality in Carbware, and a validation of the growth function in Growfor.

To obtain a copy of the Growfor software, contact Mr Paddy Purser (ptr@eircom.net). Training in the use of the software is also available. For

more information about the BETTERFOR project, contact andrew.mccullagh@ucd.ie. Funding for the STANDMODEL and BETTERFOR projects was awarded to UCD under competitive calls for proposals from the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine under the National Development Plan 2007-2013.

Age	Top Ht	N/ha	DBH	BA	V/N	V/ha	N/ha	DBH	BA	V/N	V/ha	E/ha	Tot Vol	€ Tot	N/ha	DBH	BA	V/N	V/ha	Tot Vol	CAI	MAI	
15	15.0	1500	14.9	26.0	0.109	163.5																10.9	
16	16.2	1475	15.8	29.1	0.134	198.3																34.8	12.4
17	17.3	1448	16.7																			34.8	13.7
18	18.3	1419	17.6																			34.4	14.9
19	19.2	1389	18.4																			33.9	15.9
20	20.1	1357	19.2																			33.1	16.7

New dynamic forest management forecasting tools can simulate thinnings at varying frequencies and intensities according to the user's intended management of the forest

Plans in place after windthrow

A Forest Service spokesperson said that estimates put the area blown down by Storm Darwin last February at between 5,000 and 7,000ha. The greatest damage was caused in west Limerick, north Kerry, northwest Cork and parts of Tipperary, Kilkenny, Wexford and Waterford.

The Windblow Taskforce, chaired by Tom Hayes, Minister of State with responsibility for forestry, has:

- estimated the area, volume and extent of the damage;
- made recommendations to address issues, arising from the windblow; and
- made recommendations for the orderly removal of windblown timber.

Forest owners who have experienced windblow have been advised not to rush into decisions especially in relation to the sale of timber. They need to take a step-by-step approach to minimise risk and maximise the salvage value of their plantations. Blown timber can still have considerable value. Check the Department website:

www.agriculture.gov.ie/forests-service/windblow/

Plantation owners are urged to seek advice which is available from registered foresters, forestry companies and Teagasc forestry advisers. Few owners are equipped to deal with windblow on their own as it is a complex issue involving timber sale and harvesting and possible roading, followed by site preparation and replanting. This requires input not only by professional foresters, but also by contractors involved in harvesting, road construction, where required, ground preparation and planting.



REVIEW

Updated edition of *Glimpses of Irish Forestry* published by the Society

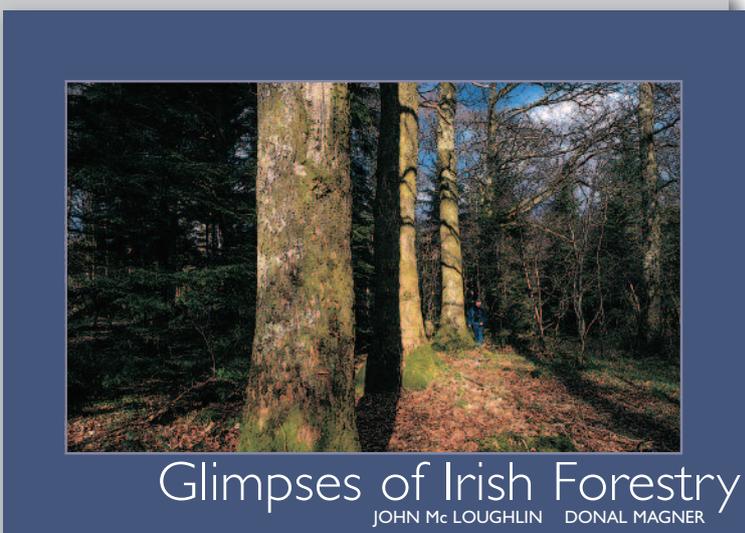
Kevin Hutchinson

This gem of a little book is an updated edition of the Tree Council of Ireland's 2007 publication.

Every country should produce its own version of this book, as it is a one-stop shop for concise information on all aspects of forestry. It begins with an overview of early Irish woodland cover, deals with the demise of those woods and then goes on to cover the development of modern Irish forestry.

It then moves on to deal with a diverse range of subjects including non-wood benefits, threats to our forests, growing forests the natural way, species selection in Irish forests, native broadleaves, introduced broadleaves, native conifers, introduced conifers, the importance of trees in law, culture and folklore, the Ogham stone, trees and places, biodiversity and Irish forests and future trends. It also includes a range of statistics on the Irish forestry and forest products sector.

The book is beautifully illustrated with photographs and graphics. It is a must not only for foresters and arboriculturalists but for anybody with even the slightest interest in Irish trees and forestry. It would also make an ideal gift for visiting foresters. Highly recommended.



Glimpses of Irish Forestry by
John Mc Loughlin and Donal Magner.
Published by the Society of Irish Foresters, 2014
(50 pp, softback).



Kevin Hutchinson is PRO of the Society and a former president. An arborist and forester, he was elected to the post of president of the Tree Council of Ireland in April. Kevin was one of the joint photographers for the recent Tree Council of Ireland publication *Heritage Trees of Ireland* by Aubrey Fennell.

UCD Students' Tour – France 1975



Eugene Hendrick, Pat O'Sullivan, Kevin Hutchinson and Sean White with foresters from France's Office National des Forêts (Région: Franche-Comté) during the UCD students' tour in April 1975.



Prof. Padraic Joyce admiring a magnificent silver fir, Forêt de Joux, during the 1975 tour.

2013 Augustine Henry medal for Matt O'Rourke



Society President Pacelli Breathnach presented the 2013 Augustine Henry medal to Matt O'Rourke, Waterford Institute of Technology at the Society's field day at Clone Nursery, Aughrim, Co. Wicklow on 25 April.

SOCIETY EVENTS 2014

16 May

Northern Field Day - Florencecourt
Florencecourt, Co. Fermanagh

6 June

National Conference
Johnstown House Hotel, Enfield,
Co. Meath

19 September

Western Field Day
Mohill, Co. Leitrim

30 September-4 October

Annual Study Tour
Slovakia

9 October

Annual Sean Mac Bride
Forestry Lecture
UCD

Acknowledgements

Editorial

Donal Magner, Pacelli Breathnach, Charles Harper,
Kevin Hutchinson, Pat O'Sullivan

Photography

Donal Magner, Kevin Hutchinson

New Members

We welcome the following new members to the Society of Irish Foresters

Technical
Conor Dunphy, Stephen Kelch,
Edward McTernan,
Barry Rintoul

Associate
Dermot Byrne,
Michael Pardini,
Ellen Rochford

Student
Aaron Abbott,
Joseph McManus,
Thomas Turpin-Jelfs



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