

Forestry and Wood Update

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# Forest Planning – Policy and Practice

Forest location and design are constrained by a number of factors, such as environmental designation, landscape considerations, site suitability and the ability to generate a commercial return. To address these and other related issues, COFORD hosted a one-day conference entitled ***Forest Planning – Policy and Practice*** in the Tullamore Court Hotel on Friday 23 May 2003.

In his opening address, the Chairman of COFORD, David Nevins, highlighted the importance of the conference topic, noting that is was “very timely as forest location and design are two key issues for the future development of forestry and indeed the wider landscape in Ireland”.

The morning session was chaired by Prof. Jack Gardiner, UCD. Damien Allen, Forest Service, presented *An overview of Forest Service national policy and instruments for forest location and design*, in which he described the historical development of forest policy and planning and the subsequent development of indicative forest strategy.

Dr Frank Søndergaard Jensen, Danish Forest and Landscape Research Institute, gave a paper on *Forest location planning and design in Denmark* in which he outlined the development of forestry and forest planning in a Danish context.

*David Nevins, COFORD Chairman, presenting his opening address to the delegates at the Forest Planning Conference in Tullamore.*

Pat Farrington, Forest Service, presented *GIS in landscape design – things to consider*. He showed the usefulness of GIS in its practical application in the past, present and future management of Ballinagee Forest in west Wicklow.

Dr Simon Bell, Edinburgh College of Art, discussed *Forest design practice in the UK*. He described the historical development of landscape design in forestry in Britain, showing the problems encountered and the results achieved, and mentioned the new tools available to improve evaluation of design quality and sustainability.

Vivian Ryan, Coillte, presented *Coillte’s forest planning system*. He discussed the importance of Coillte’s investment in its new information technology system, which has the capacity to integrate its GIS map based system with its inventory database.

The afternoon session was chaired by John Connelly, Forest Service. Mike Bulfin, Teagasc, spoke on *Forest location planning – indicative forest strategies and the FIPS system*. He highlighted the importance of planning in forestry, which is one of the most regulated industries, and described the indicative forest strategy as a scientific decision support system to guide the location and character of new afforestation, resulting in the right tree being planted in the right place.

Niall Farrelly, Forest Service, discussed *Forest productivity a key layer in FIPS*. The main aims of FIPS are to give inventory information on composition of the national forest estate in order to provide regular forecasts of timber production on a national basis. The main outputs of FIPS are a national forest soil classification map, a national forest productivity map, and a stability indicator map.

Tomas O’Leary described *How the Irish public view forests in the landscape – results from research*. This study was commissioned by the Forest Service and was based on a questionnaire designed by UCD and the ESRI. The conclusions included:

* The public is positively disposed towards broadleaves and conifers concerning perceived environmental impacts.
* Forests in general are less acceptable in landscapes judged to be of high scenic beauty.
* Coniferous forests are less acceptable in landscapes of high scenic beauty.

Michael Cregan, Michael Cregan and Associates, spoke about *Making forests work in the landscape*. He discussed the role of forests in maintaining biodiversity, productivity and regenerative capacity to fulfil ecological, economical and social functions, and noted the positive role of continuous forest cover.

Terry O’Regan, BHL Landscapes, concluded the day with his presentation *Challenging the consensus*. He commented on the current fashion to seek consensus amongst different population sectors, particularly on issues that have proved controversial in the past.

The presentations from the workshop are available on CD from COFORD at a price of €15 (inclusive of packing and postage).

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# The Irish Joinery Awards 2003

COFORD is one of the sponsors of the Irish Joinery Awards 2003, and entries are now being collected. The Irish Timber Trade Association’s (ITTA) annual award scheme was devised to promote and foster the skills used in the joinery industry. Known as the Irish Joinery Awards, the scheme has the full support of the Construction Industry Federation (CIF) and the Royal Institute of the Architects of Ireland (RIAI).

For the purpose of this awards scheme, joinery is defined as a solid timber element or an element with genuine veneer that is fixed as part of the building it occupies. Commissioned furniture for a project in the Republic of Ireland is also eligible.

The aims and objectives of the award are:

* to publicly recognise architects and designers who specify quality joinery;
* to promote and foster the skills used in joinery production;
* to encourage architects and designers to specify quality joinery.

The award scheme is open to architects, joinery manufacturers and designers. All projects must be located in the Republic of Ireland. Projects must be completed in the period 1 May 2001 to 30 April 2003. The panel of assessors will select the awards and commendations, which they feel fulfil the aims of the Irish Joinery Awards.

Awards will be made in the following categories:

* A Public Building (accessible to the public)
* A Commercial Project
* A Private/Residential Project
* Conservation/Restoration Project
* Furniture –– Commissioned for a project in the Republic of Ireland
* Innovative Use of Irish Wood in Joinery Applications
* A Very Large Project of Special Interest

The closing date for receipt of entries is Friday, 29 August 2003. Entry forms can be downloaded from [www.coford.ie/joineryawards2003.pdf](http://www.coford.ie/joineryawards2003.pdf). For further information, contact The Irish Timber Trade Association, Elmville, Upper Kilmacud Road, Dundrum, Dublin 14. Tel: 01 - 298 0162. E-mail: itta@indigo.ie

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# Annual Conference:Wood Energy 2003

Following on from the success of last year’s ***Wood Energy*** Conference in Carrick-on-Shannon, COFORD will again link up with Sustainable Energy Ireland to host ***Wood Energy 2003***. The event will be held at the offices of the EPA at Johnstown Castle Estate in Wexford.

Seminar sessions will be held on Wood Energy in Ireland and Europe; Wood-fuelled CHP; Wood Pellets; and Wood Heating.

Three parallel sessions of interactive workshops will be included to discuss key issues in greater detail, i.e. Wood fuel supply chain; The case for CHP – best practice experience of cost-effective energy solutions; and Wood-fuelled heating – the development of wood chip and wood pellet markets.

A range of technologies for converting wood to energy will be demonstrated. A large-scale chipping demonstration is to be organised in the vicinity of Johnstown Castle. Details will be posted on the COFORD website as they are finalised – visit [www.coford.ie/woodenergy2003.htm](http://www.coford.ie/woodenergy2003.htm)

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# Wood Awards 2003

Entries are currently being sought for the Wood Awards 2003. Anyone associated with the design, production, installation or commissioning of outstanding examples of joinery and wood structures is welcome to participate. An official entry form can be downloaded from [www.woodawards.com](http://www.woodawards.com). There are four categories (commercial, private, structural and conservation/restoration) and projects must have been completed between 31 March 2001 and 31 May 2003. Winners will be announced on 15 October 2003 at Carpenters’ Hall in the City of London.

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# Carbon Corner

## Modelling carbon stock change

When computing overall increases in carbon stocks in typical forests planted since 1990 we have assumed that the species breakdown is conifer:broadleaf 80:20. Attributed carbon accretion rates have been on the basis of Sitka spruce (80%) and beech (20%). More recently we have deducted emissions due to soil disturbance and vegetation suppression during the first five years of the crop’s life (2.4 t CO2/year).

Thinnings have also been netted off – although there is a clause in the Marrakesh Accords to the Kyoto Protocol that states that
… *for the special first commitment period debits resulting from harvesting during the first commitment period following harvesting and reforestation shall not be greater than credits accounted for on that unit of land*.

This is to avoid situations where normal, sustainable, harvesting and reforestation operations would, because of the accounting conventions used (net changes in carbon stocks during the commitment period), be associated with emissions for a unit of land, even though the overall contribution of the forest to climate change is positive.

An example may serve to clarify the situation. A crop of Sitka spruce is planted in 1994. It receives its first thinning in 2010, removing 60 m3/ha. This is roughly equivalent to 73 t CO2/ha. Over the five years of the commitment period the same hectare has sequestered 58 t CO2 (using the current models). The net carbon stock change over the five years, from an accounting view, is *minus* 13 t CO2. In reality the emissions are very small as the wood will be converted into products and will take some time to go back to atmosphere as CO2.

Notwithstanding these considerations, a conservative approach has been taken, and in all cases where the crop reaches the age of first thinning during the commitment period thinnings have been netted off, using a five-year thinning cycle. In fact on some areas the increment may well be greater than the harvest over the five years of the commitment period. At present it is difficult to predict the proportion of such areas, or indeed the level of thinning in the crops concerned.

Coming back to the notional hectare of Sitka spruce and beech, it is possible to model the annual net uptake of CO2 over a 30-year plus period. The pattern is shown in the graph below. The curve falls at age 18 due to the onset of thinning. Forestry Commission yield models have been used, hence the step-wise changes. In nature the change over time would approximate to a curve. The net cumulative uptake is in the region of 125 t CO2/ha.

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# Broadleaf Seminar in Northern Ireland

In October 2002 the first in a series of two-day events on growing and managing broadleaved trees and utilising hardwood timber was organised by COFORD in Carrick-on-Shannon. The overall objectives of these events are to:

* bring growers and potential growers of broadleaves and processors/users of hardwoods together to increase the level of understanding of each others enterprises, practices, procedures and problems,
* demonstrate effective management techniques to ensure the production of quality logs from our broadleaved forests,
* showcase the range of products that can be made from home-grown hardwoods,
* build momentum of a wood culture in Ireland.

The second event in this series, held in Kilkenny on 10 and 11 April 2003, again proved very popular with over one hundred participants attending.

More recently, the Forest Service, Northern Ireland, in conjunction with COFORD and the Institute of Chartered Foresters, hosted the third in the series at the White Gables Hotel in Hillsborough, Co Down. This event was aimed at owners and managers of broadleaved woodland, whether recently planted or close to maturity, who wished to produce good quality timber. There has been an increasing trend towards planting broadleaves in Ireland. Over the last ten years, supported by the Woodland Grant Scheme, the Farm Woodland Scheme and Farm Woodland Premium Scheme, just over 3,000 ha of predominantly broadleaved woodland have been established by landowners in Northern Ireland, which has increased the total broadleaved woodland area in private ownership to over 13,000 ha.

Pat Hunter-Blair, Forest Service Northern Ireland, was the chairman on the first day. Iain Davies, Forest Service Northern Ireland, gave a paper quantifying the broadleaf resource in Northern Ireland. The remainder of the day was spent in the field. The first stop was at the farm of Joseph Gibson, close to Hillsborough, in a young broadleaf plantation, planted in 1999, and consisting of oak (80%) and ash (20%) – four oak followed by one ash in the row. Here Des Campbell, Forest Service Northern Ireland, presented a hands-on demonstration of formative shaping. The next stop was at the farm of Vincent Fitzpatrick at Loughinisland. This site was planted with pure oak in 1988, at an average spacing of 1.8 m x 1.8 m, with approximately 3100 stems/ha. Martin O’Hare, Forest Service Northern Ireland, described the recent tending operation to encourage the development of approximately 1000 of the best stems/ha as potential final crop trees.

The third stop was at Hollymount, a Forest Service wood, where John Joe Cassidy described a number of management options in a poor quality broadleaved wood that had not received formative shaping or tending. This demonstrated the importance of managing broadleaves throughout the early development of the crop.

The final stop was at a very fine mixed stand of beech, oak and European larch, planted in 1947 at 1.8 m x 1.8 m (3100 trees/ha) at Tollymore Forest. The management plan, described by John Joe Cassidy, is to develop continuous broadleaved cover of predominantly mixed beech and oak. This will be achieved by continued thinning to encourage the beech understorey. Removal of the overstorey will take place when natural regeneration is successfully established.

The chairman for the second day was Dr Eugene Hendrick, COFORD. Gavin Munro (T&G Norman, Carlisle) gave two presentations. The first was on hardwood timber sales, with a detailed description of preparation of hardwoods for sale and issues such as timing of felling, preparation for sale, presentation, parcel size, felling procedures and other sales options. In his second presentation, he discussed valuing and grading of hardwood timber. This was followed by a demonstration at Tollymore Forest where all these issues were demonstrated.

The programme concluded with a visit to Clark Cunningham’s sawmill and workshop at Killyleagh, Downpatrick. The proprietor led the group on a tour of the facility, commencing in the log yard followed by the sawmill, drying kiln to the furniture workshop and showrooms.

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# Christmas Tree Research and Extension Conference

The International Christmas Tree Research and Extension Conference will be held from 14 to 19 September 2003 at Hendersonville and Boone, North Carolina, USA. This is the sixth in a series of conferences on Christmas tree research and extension and is hosted by North Carolina State University. The purpose of the conference is to provide a forum for exchange of scientific research results relating to the production and marketing of Christmas trees and greenery. Participants at this conference are likely to be researchers, extension agents, extension specialists who work professionally with the Christmas tree industry, foresters and students. Specific topics covered by the conference include Christmas tree species; sources of planting stock, planting stock production and propagation; plantation establishment and cultivation; fertilisation and nutrition; genetics; insect and disease resistance; integrated pest management; economic and management issues and tree quality.

For further information please contact John Frampton, Associate Professor and Christmas Tree Geneticist, Department of Forestry, North Carolina State University, North Carolina, USA. E-mail: john\_frampton@ncsu.edu

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# International Seed Federation Conference

The International Seed Federation (ISF) was founded in 1924. It is a non-profit organisation of national associations and individual seed companies with members spread over 62 developed and developing countries of all continents. ISF represents the mainstream of the world seed trade and serves as an international forum where issues of interest to the world seed trade are discussed.

This year’s meeting of the Tree and Shrub Seed Group of the ISF will take place in Ireland. It is to be hosted by Coillte Nurseries and will be held in Carlow from 28 August to 1 September 2003. Members from over 20 countries attended last year’s meeting, which was held in China. The meeting this year will consist of two indoor sessions, including the Annual General Meeting of the Group and lectures and presentations by invited speakers. There will also be an outdoor session, which will include visits to Coillte Nurseries, the National Seed Centre and some Coillte forests. Mr Arie Boeve from Holland is the Chairperson and Mr Bernard Le Buanec from Switzerland, the representative from the ISF Secretariat, will also attend.

For more information, contact Pat Doody at Coillte (email: pat.doody@coillte.ie).

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# Symposium onContinuous Cover Forestry

The Society of Irish Foresters held its Annual Symposium on 2 May 2003, at the Standhouse Hotel in the Curragh, Co Kildare. Over seventy members of the Society participated in this event. The chairman for the morning session was Mike Bulfin, Teagasc.

The opening paper *Continuous cover forestry definitions, systems and current Irish research*, presented by Dr Áine Ní Dhubháin, UCD, defined continuous cover forestry, outlined the background and increasing interest in this system of forest management in Ireland and Britain, and concluded with a resume of research currently under way into continuous cover forestry in Ireland.

Prof. Hans Otto, Pro Silva, Germany, gave a background and overview of site mapping in German forestry and its importance in the context of continuous cover forestry. The objective is to realise the full production potential of a site by optimising increment and yield and minimising possibility loss through insect and fungal attack. Methods, results and costs of site mapping were presented and the practical output for the forest owner described.

Morgan Roche, Pro Silva, Ireland, presented the *Constraints of continuous cover forestry in Ireland*. Tree species that are an integral part of selection forestry in Europe are not native to Ireland, and without these species a true selection system is not possible. A further constraint to the principles of continuous cover forestry is the general absence of autochthonous populations of tree species, and Irish forests are dominated by introduced species with a low degree of “naturalness”.

The chairman for the afternoon was John Joe O’Boyle, Northern Ireland Forest Service. John Murphy, Coillte, presented *Continuous cover forestry – Coillte policy and practice* which demonstrated the traditional way Coillte managed its forests on a clearfell at end of rotation system with replanting. In the forest certification process this system was considered unacceptable in certain circumstances and other systems had to be tried. This led to consideration of low impact silvicultural systems and these systems are now on trial on a number of sites throughout the country.

Prof. Huss, University of Freiburg, Germany, presented the final paper *Two-storeyed forests or the benefits of nurse crops*. Prof. Huss explained that nurse crops have been extensively used in Central Europe. Birch and other pioneer species such as aspen, roan, ash pine and alder are increasingly used to:

* give shelter to oak, beech and other species;
* produce hardwoods of better quality;
* provide woodland owners with early cash incomes;
* reduce establishment costs;
* improve the aesthetical value of the young forest;
* shorten the long succession from pure even-aged stands to more natural mixed stands.

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# Global Study on the State of Forest Tree Genetic Modification

The New Zealand Forest Research Institute Ltd (NZFRI) is conducting a survey on the status and trends of the development of genetic modification in forest trees, and the application of genetic modification (GM) in forestry. This survey is being funded by the Food and Agriculture of the United Nations (FAO).

Although not as advanced as in agriculture, GM of forest tree species is making rapid progress. Genetic engineering has been contemplated for addressing traits such as virus resistance, insect resistance, lignin content and herbicide tolerance. There is no officially reported commercial production of genetically modified forest trees, although the number of requests for field trial authorisation is growing in several developed and developing countries.

The goal of this survey is to provide updated information on the scientific and commercial activities that could lead to the deployment of genetically engineered trees in forestry. The data collected in the questionnaire will be compiled with other public sources of information by NZFRI. The questionnaire is in six parts:

* Name and address of the organisation and questions about the institutional framework of the organisation.
* Research and development – tree species, traits targeted, field tests and commercial plantations.
* Regulatory framework.
* Intellectual property and experience.
* The future of GM trees – risks, benefits and obstacles in GM trees.
* Perception and communication.

The final report on the *State of Forest Tree Genetic Modification* will be published and distributed, free of charge, by FAO and it will also be posted on the FAO and NZFRI Internet sites.

For further information, contact Dr Christian Walter, Forest Research (NZFRI), E-mail: Christian.walter@forestresearch.com

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# Issues of Hardwood Research and Utilisation in Europe

An international conference on hardwood related topics will take place at Sopron University, West Hungary on 25 and 26 September 2003. The emphasis of the conference will be on new challenges in hardwood utilisation and on hardwood related research. The conference will feature international speakers, who will present technical and poster presentations on a topics such as breeding and cloning of hardwoods, hardwood processing, preservation and bio-degradation, hardwood utilisation in composite materials and product design and marketing. The Faculty of Wood Sciences and the Wood Science Research Centre at the University of West Hungary sponsor the programme.

For further information, contact Dr Laszlo Bejo, University of West Hungary, Sopron, Bajcsy-Zs.u.4., 9400 Hungary. E-mail: Ibejo@fmk.nyme.hu

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# Symposium: Towards the Sustainable Use of Europe's Forests

The symposium ***Forest ecosystem and landscape research: scientific challenges and opportunities*** will be held from 25 to 27 June 2003, in Tours, France.

European forest management has developed since the early 19th century, particularly in terms of the protection of forests and sustainable wood production. The last decades, however, have dramatically changed the prerequisites for forest management in Europe, mainly due to observed and anticipated environmental changes, and a changing socio-economic context. The objectives of this symposium are to discuss and support the preparation of a European Network of Excellence focused on sustainable forest management and to provide a scientific forum on forest ecosystem and landscape research. The symposium is structured around three research areas:

* Forest management and practices,
* Ecosystem functioning,
* Environmental economics and sociology.

For further information, contact Ms Brita Pajari, European Forest Institute, email: Brita.Pajari@efi.fi. For comprehensive information about the event, click on to <http://www.efi.fi/events/2003/Forest_ecosystem/>

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# 4th All Ireland Ornithological Research Conference

*Irish Birds* and the Department of Zoology and Animal Ecology, UCC, are sponsoring a two-day meeting at the Boole Lecture Complex, UCC, on Friday, 14 November, and Saturday, 15 November 2003.

The aim of this conference is to give all ornithological researchers, amateur or professional, an opportunity to discuss their studies and learn of the work of others. All interested persons are invited to attend this meeting, and those wishing to contribute material are asked to submit a short summary before 20 June 2003.

For further information, contact Dr John O’Halloran (email: j.ohalloran@ucc.ie) or Dr Tom Kelly (email: t.Kelly@ucc.ie).

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# Coillte Launches E-newsletter

Coillte will be launching an information e-newsletter over the next few weeks. The purpose of this newsletter is to inform stakeholders of Coillte's activities and news. Coillte plans to issue this newsletter on a quarterly basis, but this may be reviewed over time.

If you would like to subscribe to Coillte's newsletter, please send an email to 'newsletter@coillte.ie' with the word 'subscribe' in the subject line. For details of Coillte's latest news, log onto http://www.coillte.ie/about\_coillte/news.htm

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# Vacancy: Forest Manager

SWS Forestry Services Ltd is an Irish forestry contracting company responsible for the management of over 47,000 acres of forest, and providing a highly professional countrywide service on all aspects of forestry management. They require a forest manager in the south of Ireland.

If you are interested in applying for this position, send your CV to Pat Carroll, SWS Forestry Services, Shinagh House, Bandon, Co Cork. Tel: +353-23-29144 or email: pat.carroll@sws.ie

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