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# **Towards a forestry education and training strategy**

**Discussion document to the FSCC of DAFM  
December 2024**



*Image 01: Kevin Collins, DAFM addresses participants on the two day Native Woodland Conservation induction training at NPWS site Wicklow, May 2024*

Compiled by Woodlands of Ireland, December 2024.



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*‘There is a need for apprenticeship schemes for forestry contractors, technicians, machine drivers and operators and proactive measures to encourage people into the industry.’ DAFM 2023*

## **1. Introduction**

Woodlands of Ireland are looking to the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine (DAFM) to lead the development of a forestry education and training strategy to support the achievement of the Forestry Programme 2023-2027 measure targets and as a large component of a broader tree cover education and training strategy to be agreed on an all island basis.

In anticipation of the Forest Service of DAFM, through a subgroup of the Forestry Strategic Consultative Committee (FSCC) co-ordinating the forestry education and training strategy, Woodlands of Ireland are working on collecting information on all training courses available on tree cover on the island of Ireland and specifically to what extent the curriculums focus on semi-natural tree cover and native flora species. This document can be updated as new information becomes available.

The purpose of this discussion document is, apart from encouraging the setting up of a comprehensive stakeholder group to assist DAFM in developing a strategy, to outline the fragmented nature of the available training particularly where it applies to the management of semi-natural woodland (c. 130k ha) and ‘Other Wooded Lands’ (tree cover areas below the threshold of ‘Forest’, c.5% of land area of the island) Woodlands of Ireland (Wol) does not believe that this can be resolved without comprehensive tree cover education and training strategies that take the all island factors into account, for example trade in forestry goods and services, local woodland ecology (native provenance), responses to invasive species, pests and diseases.

The blending of modules from two or more course providers in different colleges in a co-operative training network may provide routes to hybrid qualifications that both suit employers and those they seek to recruit.

For example the education and training background, outlined in the suggested specification for (NPWS) Woodland Conservation Officer (Manager) recruits in part of the Wol submission to the NPWS Review in 2021\*, may require that kind of blending.

\*<https://www.woodlandsofireland.com/submission-npws-review-from-woodlands-of-ireland-april-2021/>

## 2. Silvicultural education in Ireland: Challenges and Opportunities

Dr. Ian Short, Broadleaf Silviculture Research Officer with Teagasc, gave an inspiring presentation on this subject at the Woodlands of Ireland Conference 2018, which began with the following definitions:

Education: The process of receiving or giving systematic instruction, especially at a school or university.

Silviculture: The art, practice and science of caring for forests and woodlands to meet diverse needs and values of landowners and society on a sustainable basis (Hemery & Skovsgaard, 2018)

Essentially he emphasised that different levels of education and training are required for owners, managers and staff at different times in the growing cycle of each woodland.

The presentation can be viewed at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bvpII-9fiNM> and a PDF of the presentation is downloadable from <https://www.woodlandsofireland.com/native-woodland-conference-2018-0/>

### Dr. Ian Short [Teagasc] - Woodlands of Ireland Conference 2018



[Download associated PDF presentation](#)

*Image 02: Screenshot of Ian Short's presentation opening slide (woodlandsofireland.ie)*

### **3. Consultation with various parties in the preparation of this discussion document**

Further to previous dialogue with colleges/universities staff about a Forestry Training and Education Strategy and how the development of native semi-natural woodland management skills training need to be an integral part of it, a meeting was held at UCD on 20th March 2024 and included Joe Gowran and Trevor Seery of Woodlands of Ireland (Wol), Tom Kent SETU, Marianne Lyons Teagasc Ballyhaise and Marie Doyle and Áine Ní Dhúbháin, UCD. Representatives from CAFRE at Greenmount Agriculture College (ref. Henry Shaw) were unable to participate directly pending clear direction from a new Agriculture Minister due in the Assembly at the time, but are keen to be updated of any significant developments.

The agenda included the three aspects focussed on in this report, listed below plus seeking the support of the colleges/universities in getting the issue of training and education firmly onto the agenda of the FSCC:

1. Assessment/Gap analysis of existing tree cover education and training courses and modules relevant to semi-natural woodland management on an all island basis.
2. Mapping of a network of both public and private sites available for training on the island including silvicultural systems of Continuous Cover Forestry (CCF).
3. Scoping out the requirements for setting up a Silviculture Apprenticeship similar in structure to the new Arboriculture Apprenticeship <https://gretb.ie/arboriculture/>

The 3 colleges are part of a larger Forestry Careers group which, to the best of our knowledge Wol has not been involved in previously. Broadly there is an acknowledgement that their curriculums or any new apprenticeships training need to reflect the diverse range of options that are offered in the new forestry programme, which of course is built on ongoing adaptation and innovation led by the Forest Service of DAFM in partnership with other stakeholders over several decades.

All parties were keen to get the issue of training and education firmly onto the DAFM Forest Strategy Consultative Committee agenda so the Wol CEO raised the subject with Paul Savage when the first meeting of the FSCC arose on the 26<sup>th</sup> March.

The Project Woodland Training Needs Analysis (TNA) Report from DAFM was circulated to the colleges group prior to the UCD meeting and also formed part of the discussion, in that the report had little or no direct references to any third level colleges. The TNA report was officially published later on the 9<sup>th</sup> August 2024.

Tom Kent, chairing the meeting, was most responsive during the meeting in being both critical and constructive of the Woodlands of Ireland approach.

Tom Kent followed up after the meeting with full details of the SETU Forestry course curriculum and put Wol in contact with Edmond Connolly, Manager of the South East Regional Skills Forum, who had been exploring the possibility of a Forestry Apprenticeship with FII and SEEFA recently, including an industry survey attached.



*Image 03: Coppice Silviculture explained by Mike Carswell in a one day DAFM funded introductory course based in Wicklow. Mike completed the Bill Hogarth Memorial Apprenticeship Trust (Cumbria England) training and actively manages several woodlands.*

#### **4. What is a Silviculture Apprenticeship?**

The following is a suggested Wol definition:

‘A Silviculture Apprenticeship is an employer sponsored training approach that is inclusive of practical skills that provides competence in both traditional and new areas of sustainable forest management in Ireland such as CCF and within that the active management of predominantly native semi-natural woodland and other wooded lands where the pursuit of hardwood timber production is as equally valid as softwood timber production in the context of the biodiversity and climate emergencies.’

A Higher/Degree Level Apprenticeship Programme Specification example from University of Cumbria accompanies this document and a link to another format of the course information is given here: <https://www.instituteforapprenticeships.org/apprenticeship-standards/professional-forester-integrated-degree-v1-1>

In Ireland the National Apprenticeship in Arboriculture Galway/Roscommon Education and Training Board (GRETb) <https://gretb.ie/arboriculture/> may provide some of the template for a Silviculture Apprenticeship but there are other options such as ‘Traineeships’ at ETBs to be explored (Marion Lyons pers. com) <https://www.solas.ie/programmes/traineeship/> for example *Establishing Trees & Shrubs* QQI Level 4 <https://www.fetchcourses.ie/course/finder?sfcw-courseid=467271>

It is accepted that skills training in an apprenticeship/traineeship structure needs to be industry consortium led (ref. Pacelli Breathnach) and that the provision of training for competence in semi-natural woodland management is unlikely to happen in isolation from the general needs of the forestry industry (ref. Forestry Careers Group).

Large factors that must influence any comprehensive course(s) content are the biodiversity and climate crises as well as planning for more diverse species and longer rotations stemming from moves to CCF and how all of that affects products and markets.

Wol referred to the NPWS and the Nature Restoration Law legal targets in arguing for industrial grade Woodland Conservation Officers (WCOs) within their own staff full time employed in the Service (in our forthcoming submission on the National Parks Review\*\*). While initially these WCOs may come from the private sector or Coillte, there is a need to build on practical skills training to a combined hybrid mix of modules that currently run at Ballyhaise, SETU and Wildlife Biology at MTU for example.

From Discussion with Paddy Bruton SSEFA PRO, it is noted that their members would welcome further discussion on this subject in the FSCC and are likely to submit potential sites to the map of a network of both public and private sites available for training, once the FSCC appoints a lead person to a subgroup focussed on a strategy that includes the follow through regarding the Training Needs Analysis (TNA) report.

\*\*<https://www.gov.ie/en/press-release/7ab53-minister-noonan-launches-public-consultation-on-the-future-of-irelands-national-parks/>

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*Image 04: Dr John Devaney NUIM Dept Biology talks Ancient Woodland and mapping at Crom Estate Fermanagh, Woodlands of Ireland Conference October 2024*

## 5. Forestry Courses and Woodland Management Training

Woodlands of Ireland are compiling a comprehensive list of current forestry courses and woodland management training available in Ireland. The main reason for compiling this database is to provide a comprehensive, centralized resource that informs potential forestry students, woodland managers, landowners, conservationists and professionals of what exists currently in Ireland. The list shown below, that WoI will continue to update, is available on the website at: <https://www.woodlandsofireland.com/forestry-course-and-woodland-management-training/>

### Courses in the European Framework of Qualifications

#### Post Leaving Certificate Training

##### **Certificate in Forestry (5M3425)**

Level: NFQ level 5

Award: Certificate

Duration: 1 year (26 weeks full-time course work, eight weeks Practical Learning Period)

Credits: 120

Delivery: Fulltime

Location: Teagasc, Ballyhaise, Co Cavan

Progression: Level 6 Advanced Certificate in Forestry (6M4337)

View more details

<https://www.teagasc.ie/education/courses/forestry/level-5-certificate-in-forestry/>

##### **Level 6 Advanced Certificate in Forestry (6M4337)**

Level: NFQ level 6

Award: Advanced Certificate

Duration: 1 year

Credits: 120

Delivery: Fulltime

Location: Teagasc, Ballyhaise, Co Cavan

Progression: Level 7 Bachelor Degree in Forestry – SETU Advanced entry YEAR 2

View more details

<https://www.teagasc.ie/education/courses/forestry/level-6-advanced-certificate-in-forestry/>

##### **National Apprenticeship in Arboriculture**

Galway and Roscommon

Education and Training Board (GRETb),

Mervue Business Park,

Monivea Road, Galway.

091 706283

[arbapprenticeship@gretb.ie](mailto:arbapprenticeship@gretb.ie)

<https://gretb.ie/arboriculture/>

## Third Level Forestry Training Courses- to level 8

### **Forestry (SE505)**

Level: NFQ level 7

Award: Bachelor of Science

Duration: 3 years

Credits: 180

Delivery: Fulltime

Location: SETU, Waterford

View more details

<https://www.setu.ie/courses/bsc-in-forestry>

### **Land Management in Forestry (SE523)**

Level: NFQ level 8

Award: Bachelor of Science (Honours)

Duration: 1 year

Credits: 60

Delivery: Fulltime

Location: SETU, Waterford

View more details

<https://www.setu.ie/courses/bsc-hons-in-land-management-in-forestry>

### **Agroforestry and Landscape Biodiversity (SE52B)**

Level: NFQ level 9

Award: Certificate

Duration: 12 weeks

Credits: 10

Delivery: Blended

Location: SETU, Waterford/Online

View more details

<https://www.setu.ie/courses/certificate-in-agroforestry-and-landscape-biodiversity>

### **Forestry (FOS1)**

Level: NFQ level 8

Award: Bachelor of Agricultural Science

Duration: 4 years

Credits: 240

Delivery: Blended

Location: UCD, Dublin/Online

View more details

[https://hub.ucd.ie/usis/!W\\_HU\\_MENU.P\\_PUBLISH?p\\_tag=COURSE&MAJR=FOS1](https://hub.ucd.ie/usis/!W_HU_MENU.P_PUBLISH?p_tag=COURSE&MAJR=FOS1)

### **Advanced Wood and Sustainable Building Technology**

Bachelor of Science

CAO Code AU837

Level 7

Duration 3 Years

CAO Points 225 (2024)

Method of Delivery On-campus

Campus Locations ATU Sligo

Mode of Delivery Full Time

Work placement Yes

<https://www.atu.ie/courses/bachelor-of-science-honours-advanced-wood-and-sustainable-building-technology>

### **Agriculture and Environmental Management**

Bachelor of Science Year 3 mandatory module: Forest and Woodland Management

CAO Code AU557

Level 7

Duration 3 Years

CAO Points 269 (2024)

Method of Delivery On-campus

Campus Locations ATU Mountbellew

Mode of Delivery Full Time

Work placement Yes

<https://www.atu.ie/courses/bachelor-of-science-agriculture-and-environmental-management>

### **Agriculture and Environmental Management**

Bachelor of Science (Honours) Year 3 module: Forest and Woodland Management

CAO Code AU657

Level 8

Duration 4 Years

CAO Points 311 (2024)

Method of Delivery On-campus

Campus Locations ATU Mountbellew

Mode of Delivery Full Time

Work placement Yes

<https://www.atu.ie/courses/bachelor-of-science-honours-agriculture-and-environmental-management>

### **Furniture Making and Architectural Woodworking**

Bachelor of Science (Honours) Year 1 module Materials and Techniques

CAO Code AU682

Level 8

Duration 4 Years

CAO Points 403 (2024)

Method of Delivery On-campus

Campus Locations ATU Connemara (Letterfrack Campus)

Mode of Delivery Full Time

Work placement Yes

<https://www.atu.ie/courses/bachelor-of-science-honours-furniture-making-and-architectural-woodworking>

**Bachelor of Science (Honours) in Wildlife Biology** -various modules of past and present relate to Native Woodland knowledge such as those on soils, ecology, habitat studies, land use management and biodiversity conservation.

Programme Code: TL\_SWILD\_B Award Level: 08

Total Credits: 240 Total Stages: 4

Award Type: Honours Bachelor Degree CAO CODE: MT880

Location: MTU Tralee Campus

[https://www.ittralee.ie/en/CourseModules/program-displayMTU.php?prog\\_code=TL\\_SWILD\\_B&stage=all&sem=all](https://www.ittralee.ie/en/CourseModules/program-displayMTU.php?prog_code=TL_SWILD_B&stage=all&sem=all)

There are also some related courses described at <https://www.mtu.ie/courses/mt880/>

### **TU838 Sustainable Timber Technology**

The TU Dublin School of Architecture, Building and Environment TU838 BSc (Hons) Sustainable Timber Technology programme includes structured industry placement in the second semester of Year 3. The first Year 3 students will be (work) placed in 2024.

<https://www.tudublin.ie/explore/faculties-and-schools/engineering-built-environment/architecture-building-and-environment/partnership/placement/tu838-sustainable-timber-technology/>

TUD: There are a range of Biodiversity, Ecology and Horticultural Sustainability Studies available through TUD campuses which include Special Purpose Award: Sustainable Horticulture at the Blanchardstown Campus

or elements on tree cover in single module certificates such as

**Trees and Woodlands** (HTSC H3018) ,

**Ecology and Biodiversity** (HTSC H2028)

**Plant Identification – Use and Management** (HTSC H1025)

**Plant Identification and Classification** (HTSC H1013)

### **University of Galway Civil Engineering modules**

CE222: Materials and Design

Engineering properties of timber and engineered wood products; Laboratory testing of timber.

Semester 2 | Credits: 5

CE227 Strength of Materials

10 credits

CE5102: Timber Engineering and Design of Timber Structures

Semester 2 | Credits: 5

### **Bachelor of Science (Environmental Science)**

Includes modules in year 3 on Nature Conservation and Habitat Management, Field Course with Environmental Skills, Habitat Management Planning, Legislation for Environmental Scientists

College of Science and Engineering

CAO Code: GY308

**UCC BSc (Hons) Applied Plant Biology**

<https://ucc-ie-public.courseleaf.com/programmes/bscr/>

**BSc (Hons) Ecology and Environmental Biology**

<https://ucc-ie-public.courseleaf.com/programmes/bscreb/>

### **Teagasc College of Amenity Horticulture**

Horticultural Apprenticeship Programme

Applicants must be directly employed by a SOLAS approved Employer

2 days off-the-job every second week generally

Duration: Two years

Certification: Higher Certificate in Horticulture

Location: National Botanic Gardens, Glasnevin, Dublin

<https://www.teagasc.ie/education/teagasc-colleges/botanic-gardens-college-of-horticulture/courses/apprenticeships/>

**BSc in Horticulture (Kildalton College):**

<https://www.setu.ie/courses/bsc-in-horticulture-kildalton-college>

### **Further Education (FE) Colleges in Northern Ireland**

Northern Regional College, South Eastern Regional College and Southern Regional College all offer a Horticulture Apprenticeship which will have tree related modules in them.

<https://www.nidirect.gov.uk/contacts/further-education-fe-colleges>

### **Level 3 City & Guilds Advanced Technical Extended Diploma in in Horticulture**

Tree related modules include: Nursery stock management, Plant and soil science, Plant health, Plant identification and planting, Plant propagation, Tree and shrub maintenance

Location: College of Agriculture, Food and Rural Enterprise CAFRE Greenmount Campus, Co. Antrim

### **Sample Masters and PhD opportunities**

#### **The ecological implications of alternative deer management strategies**

Funded PhD opportunity, Life and Health Sciences

Full-time and Part-time at Ulster University

<https://www.ulster.ac.uk/doctorscollege/find-a-phd/14-geography-and-environmental-studies/1681020>

University of Limerick

Trinity College Environmental Sciences

#### **Closer-To-Nature Forest Management:** closing date 17<sup>th</sup> December 2024

Post-doctoral Research Fellow Level 2 within UCD School of Agriculture and Food Science.

<https://universityvacancies.com/university-college-dublin/post-doc-research-fellow-lvl-2-ucd-1-year>

[https://my.corehr.com/pls/ucdrecruit/erq\\_jobspec\\_version\\_4.display\\_form](https://my.corehr.com/pls/ucdrecruit/erq_jobspec_version_4.display_form)

## Microcreds

An example of a Micro Credential Course at TUD is

**Biodiversity and Nature Conservation.** Course Code TU347

ECTS 5 Level 9

Award: Single Module CPD Certificate

Duration: 1 Week

Course Type: Micro-credentials

Mode of Study: Part Time

Method of Delivery :On-Campus

Commencement Date: June 2024

Location: Bolton Street

For a description of what Micro Credits are, see: <https://www.iua.ie/ourwork/learning-teaching/microcreds/>

Many Environmental Science and Biodiversity Courses include varying degrees of reference to tree cover including pre-university courses such as QQI Level 5 Award in Applied Ecology 5M5028 at Cathal Brugha Further Education and Training Campus:

<https://www.cathalbrughafet.ie/pre-uni-environmental-biodiversity> Duration: 1 year

The course description in the link above conveniently lists a range of courses students could progress towards.



*Image 05: Agroforestry Forum field event in Armagh with DAFM and AFBI inputs to knowledge transfer*

## 6. Short Forestry and Woodland Management Training

There are shorter courses/workshops/events in forestry and woodland management run by training companies and environmental NGO's. (See images 1-10 in this document) We have listed some of those available here:

### **Native Woodland Conservation Scheme Training:** (see image 1 above)

The Native Woodland Conservation (NWC) Scheme training course is targeted at training those directly involved in working with the scheme, including foresters, ecologists, landowners, Forest Service personnel, National Parks & Wildlife Service, Coillte, Teagasc etc. It offers a basic introduction by experts to native woodland ecology and management. The courses are run as part of the joint Forest Service/ Woodlands of Ireland Programme in conjunction with the NPWS. Further information is available at the Woodlands of Ireland website: <https://www.woodlandsofireland.com/native-woodland-scheme-training/>

For a selection of short courses also see Education and Training at <https://www.forestry.ie/directory>

### **College of Agriculture, Food and Rural Enterprise (CAFRE)**

#### **Introduction to Farm Woodland-Timber End Uses 1 half day**

Location: Clarke Cunningham's Timber Yard, 10 Ballytrim Road, Killyleagh, Co. Down, BT30 9TH

#### **Introduction to Farm Woodland-Timber End Uses 2 half day**

Course location: Balcas, 75 Killadeas Road, Enniskillen, Co. Fermanagh, Northern Ireland, BT94 2ES

Key Contact: Henry Shaw Course Manager [Henry.Shaw@daera-ni.gov.uk](mailto:Henry.Shaw@daera-ni.gov.uk)

<https://www.cafre.ac.uk/business-courses/introduction-to-farm-woodland-timber-end-uses-2/>

#### **Introduction to farm woodland – tree thinning full day**

Location: Clarke Cunningham's Timber Yard, 10 Ballytrim Road, Killyleagh, Co. Down, BT30 9TH

<https://www.cafre.ac.uk/business-courses/introduction-to-farm-woodland-tree-thinning/>

Hedge Laying courses hosted by CAFRE

<https://www.cafre.ac.uk/business-courses/hedge-laying/>

### **NPTC City and Guilds Courses**

NPTC City & Guilds Chainsaw Safety modules

<https://www.nptc.org.uk/qualificationschemedetail.aspx?id=352>

### **Basic Chainsaw Courses**

Maintenance and Crosscutting Unit 201 & 202 – City & Guilds (NPTC)

\*This is a basic level chainsaw course that does not include felling.

Candidates will learn the skill of Saw Maintenance and Crosscutting timber under tension and compression.

Course Elements:

Hazard Identification Risk Assessment

Health and Safety Legislation & PPE

Maintenance of a Chainsaw

Crosscutting under tension and Compression

### **Ground Course**

Units 3920 & 3921, (formally CS30 and CS31)

Chainsaw Maintenance, Crosscutting Timber, Felling & Process Trees up to 380mm diameter using a Chainsaw

### **MAINTENANCE, CROSS CUTTING & FELLING**

(formally known as CS30 & 31)

Max participants: 4

Duration: 5 Days

Cost: c.€1100 per person, incl. Assessment

### **FELLING TREES OVER 380mm**

This course leads to NPTC unit 301

Max participants:4

Duration: 3 days

Cost: c.€950 per person incl. Assessment

### **ASSISTED FELLING**

This course leads to NPTC unit 303

Max Participants: 4

Duration: 2 day

Cost: c.€550 per person, incl. Assessment

### **Pole Saw / Pruner Training**

Examples of chain saw safety course providers:

<https://www.frstraining.com/sectors/forestry-chainsaw/>

<https://www.arbortec.info/course-dates-2/>

<https://www.davidlawtreecare.ie/ground-course/>

<https://www.forumconnemara.ie/dulra> via Forum Connemara also provide access to certified safe pesticide use training for community projects on Rhododendron clearance. The provision of training through Dúlra is supported by the NPWS.

More courses with various levels of Ecology and Horticulture focus in the screengrab below from <https://www.fetchcourses.ie>

| REF    | COURSE TITLE                                                          | PROVIDER                                       | LOCATION             | STARTS     | CATEGORY                                        | TYPE |
|--------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------|----------------------|------------|-------------------------------------------------|------|
| 458488 | Ecology and Practical Fieldwork Skills (Applied Ecology)              | Kerry College Killorglin Campus                | Killarney            | 01/09/2025 | Natural sciences,mathematics and statistics     | F    |
| 463991 | Horticulture Level 5                                                  | Kinsale College (St. Brogan's College)         | Kinsale              | 08/09/2025 | Agriculture, forestry, fisheries and veterinary | F    |
| 458926 | Applied Ecology and Biodiversity (Applied Ecology)                    | Dundrum College of Further Education           | Dundrum - Dublin 14  | 25/08/2025 | Natural sciences,mathematics and statistics     | F    |
| 459112 | Applied Ecology & BioDiversity Studies (Applied Ecology)              | Bray Inst of Further Education                 | Bray                 | 08/09/2025 | Natural sciences,mathematics and statistics     | F    |
| 464000 | Sustainable Horticulture/Permaculture                                 | Kinsale College (St. Brogan's College)         | Kinsale              | 08/09/2025 | Agriculture, forestry, fisheries and veterinary | F    |
| 458638 | Pre-University Environmental & Biodiversity Studies (Applied Ecology) | Killester College                              | Dublin North Central | 08/09/2025 | Natural sciences,mathematics and statistics     | F    |
| 455524 | Mountain Skills                                                       | Kerry College Killorglin Campus                | Killorglin           | 09/12/2024 | Services                                        | P    |
| 462334 | Ecology & Environmental Sustainability (Applied Ecology)              | Tramore Road Campus, Cork College of FET       | Cork City            | 08/09/2025 | Natural sciences,mathematics and statistics     | F    |
| 461004 | Applied Ecology Level 5                                               | Mayo College of Further Education and Training | Westport             | 08/09/2025 | Natural sciences,mathematics and statistics     | F    |
| 461222 | Environmental & Sustainability Studies (Applied Ecology)              | O'Fiach College                                | Dundalk (Urban)      | 09/09/2025 | Natural sciences,mathematics and statistics     | F    |



*Image 06: Teagasc Ballyhaise Forestry students and tutors plus Aaron McNulty DAFM at potential training network site on native woodland establishment maintenance at Ardmeenán, Co. Leitrim*

## 7. Potential Woodland Training Sites (Dec 2024)

Please see an initial list of potential woodland training sites as part a tree cover education and training strategy on an all island basis, indicating opportunities to illustrate aspects of the measures of Forest Creation and Intervention 7 and 8 of the Forestry Programme 2023-2027 and using the FT abbreviations there:

**FT1** Native forests

**FT2** Forests for water

**FT3** Forests on Public Lands

**FT4** Amenity forests & Neighbourwoods

**FT5** Emergent Woodland / Rewilding

**FT6** Broadleaf, mainly oak

**FT7** Broadleaf, mainly birch, alder

**FT8** Agroforestry

**FT9** Seed Orchards

**FT10** CCF

**FT11** Mixed forests

**FT12** Mixed for mainly spruce, 20% broadleaves

**Native Tree Area Scheme**

**Intervention 7 - Climate Resilient Reforestation**

**Element 1:**Reforestation for CCF

**Element 2:**Reforestation for native forests

**Element 3:**Reforestation for Biodiversity/ Water Protection

**Intervention 8 – Reconstitution**

**Draft Map Link** incomplete- additional public and private sector sites can be added:

[https://www.google.com/maps/d/u/0/edit?mid=1RAi\\_xuCx7NwvpiSgHH4v0NcHu6RQGFg&ll=54.07090457581382%2C-9.315245697590566&z=15](https://www.google.com/maps/d/u/0/edit?mid=1RAi_xuCx7NwvpiSgHH4v0NcHu6RQGFg&ll=54.07090457581382%2C-9.315245697590566&z=15)

### Connacht

#### **Enniscoe House Woodlands, Co Mayo**

*Landowner:* Susan Kellett, DJ Kellett

*Location:* Enniscoe House, Prospect, Castlehill, Co. Mayo, F26 EA34

*Description:* C.38ha of old estate mixed species woodland

**FT 1,4,5,10,11. Intervention 7: Element 1 and 2**

#### **Ballinamore, Co Leitrim**

*Landowner:* John Sharry

*Location:* Ardmeenán, Ballinamore, Co Leitrim, N41RV08

*Description:* C.8ha new native woodland and conifer due for felling

**FT 1. Intervention 7: Element 1 and 2**

### **Ballyvarry, Co Mayo**

*Landowner:* Bernard Joyce

*Location:* Toomore/Laghtavarry, Ballyvarry, Co Mayo

*Description:* c.7.4 ha native woodland established 2003 +native woodland conservation 2001

**FT1, FT2 Woodland Improvement thinning**

### **Wild Nephin National Park, Mayo**

*Landowner:* NPWS

*Location:* Wild Nephin National park, Letterkeen, Co Mayo

*Description:* c. 4000ha **FT Intervention 7 - Climate Resilient Reforestation**

**Element 2:Reforestation for native forests**

**Element 3:Reforestation for Biodiversity/ Water Protection**

### **Connemara National Park, Galway**

*Landowner:* NPWS

*Location:* Connemara National Park, Letterfrack, Co Galway

*Description:* ???(Add in woodland description, FT - forest type)

## **Leinster**

### **Ballydermot House, Offaly**

*Landowner:* Ken Gill

*Location:* Ballydermot House, Clonbulloge, Co. Offaly

*Description:* c.20Ha of mixed woodland - <https://www.farmingfornature.ie/nominees/ken-gill/>

**FT 1,FT5, FT6 Broadleaf, mainly oak and potentially Native Woodland Conservation**

### **Glen of the Downs, Co Wicklow**

*Landowner:* NPWS

*Location:* Glen of the Downs, Co Wicklow

*Description:*

**Native Woodland Conservation**

### **Deputies Pass, Co Wicklow -**

*Landowner:* NPWS

*Location:*

*Description:*

**Native Woodland Conservation, FT10 CCF**

### **Wicklow National Park, Co Wicklow**

*Landowner:* NPWS

*Location:*

*Description:*

**Native Woodland Conservation.**

**Intervention 7 - Climate Resilient Reforestation Element 2:Reforestation for native forests**

## Munster

Myross Wood, Co Cork - CECAS

*Location:*

*Description:*

**Native Woodland Conservation**

### Killarney National Park

*Landowner:* NPWS

*Location:*

*Description:*

**Native Woodland Conservation, FT9 Seed Orchards**

## Ulster

### Loughgall research station

*Landowner:* AFBI of DAERA

*Location:* Armagh

*Description:*

**FT8 Agroforestry, FT9 Seed Orchards**

### Trinity Island, Cavan

*Landowner:* Tom O' Dowd

*Location:* Trinity Island, Co Cavan -

*Description:*

**FT6 Broadleaf, mainly oak. FT12 Mixed for mainly spruce, 20% broadleaves**

**Intervention 8 – Reconstitution Ash. Potential for Native Woodland Conservation.**

**Woodland Improvement thinning**

### Ballyhaise Agricultural College & Grounds, Cavan

*Landowner:* Teagasc Ballyhaise

*Location:* Ballyhaise Agricultural College, Co Cavan

*Description:* (Add in woodland description, FT - forest type)

### Glenveagh National Park

*Landowner:* NPWS

*Location:* Donegal

*Description:*

**FT1 Native forests, FT2 Forests for water, FT3 Forests on Public Lands**

**FT4 Amenity forests & Neighbourwoods, FT5 Emergent Woodland / Rewilding**

**FT9 Seed Orchards, FT10 CCF**

**CCF training:** Pro Sylva sites in Wicklow and Leitrim

Coillte site at Curraghchase Forest Park Co. Limerick

More sites to be added to the list and map by permission of landowners or their agents.

## 8. Conclusion

Forestry Skills Training Scheme grants in 2020 and 2024\*\*\*are not linked to a published comprehensive education and training strategy which has involved a diverse range of stakeholders in its production.

Appendix II: Policy Framework of the current forestry programme states: *‘As part of Working Group 3 of Project Woodland a Training Needs Analysis (TNA) was developed. It is envisaged that under this intervention this work will be further refined and developed, identifying and addressing training/education gaps in the industry as a whole and how best to address these gaps’.*

Ad Hoc measures such as the recent DAFM calls for proposals on forestry skills training will be more coherent when viewed as components of an overarching agreed strategy. The Forestry Strategic Consultative Committee (FSCC) now has the opportunity to initiate a stakeholder group to co-ordinate the forestry education and training strategy.

Proactive measures to encourage people into the industry should be proportionate in fully evaluating the role of native tree cover within or outside forests and therefore should include the ability of new entrants to blend qualifications from a menu of skills across a spectrum including agriculture, arboriculture, silviculture, horticulture, ecology, botany, engineering and timber products.

Woodlands of Ireland looks forward to participating with other groups and individuals in the development of a thorough forestry education and training strategy process with DAFM that leads onto an all island tree cover education and training strategy involving corresponding stakeholders in Northern Ireland as well.

\*\*\*<https://www.gov.ie/en/service/ee8846-forestry-skills-training-scheme/>  
<https://www.gov.ie/en/service/88f66-call-for-proposals-forestry-skills-training-2024-2025/>

**Appendix 1: A range of other knowledge transfer and learning scenarios are depicted in the recent images below**



*Image 07: Pro Sylva organised training on 'Irregular Silviculture' at Stourhead Estate, Wiltshire UK*



*Image 08: Public land Neighbourwood/ Native woodland establishment field event by Western Forestry Co-op at HSE Cloonamahon, Sligo*



*Image 09: Dr Jenni Roche leads an NPWS, Forest Service and local stakeholder workshop on site visits to Toon woodlands near Macroom, Co. Cork, April 2024*



*Image 10: John Kavanagh of None so Hardy nursery makes a point to stakeholders at a Wol seed networking meeting in Reenadinna Yew wood in Killarney National Park, November 2023*

All photos by Joe Gowran unless otherwise credited

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