



Woodland Supports – Climate Action & Community
Forestry Programme 2023 – 2027
Marina Conway, CEO
Western Forestry Co-operative



Western Forestry Co-op

- Est 1985 by Dairy Co-operatives in Western Counties
- Response to a need for support services for landowners considering forestry
- Current Co-op shareholders



- Longest established and largest forestry co-operative in Ireland providing professional forestry services



Co-op Services

- Forest Establishment (afforestation & reforestation)
- Forest Management (tending, maintenance)
- NeighbourWood, Field & Open Days, Woodland Festival
- Forest Roading and Felling License
- Harvesting
- Forest Insurance, Forest Valuation





Largest ever investment by an Irish Government in tree-planting

Premiums for planting trees to be increased by between 46% and 66% and extended to 20 years for farmers

Proposed Forestry Programme (FP) Interventions

1. **Forest Creation**
2. **Creation of Agroforestry Systems**
3. Infrastructure and Technology investments
4. Sustainable Forest Management
5. Developing skills and empowering people for sustainable forest management
6. **Open Forest Measure: Social, cultural & heritage forests (existing forests)**
7. Climate Resilient Reforestation
8. Reconstitution

Forest Creation Types & Premium Rates

	Forest Type	Proposed Annual Premium/ha €	Years Farmer	Years Non Farmer
FT1	Native Forests	€1,103	20	15
FT2	Forests for Water	€1,142	20	15
FT3	Forests on Public Lands	N/A	N/A	N/A
FT4	Amenity Forests & NeighbourWoods	€1,142	20	15
FT5	Emergent Woodland / Rewilding	€350	20	15
FT6	Broadleaf, mainly Oak	€1,037	20	15
FT7	Broadleaf, mainly Birch/Alder	€973	20	15
FT8	Agroforestry	€975	10	10
FT9	Seed Orchards	€1,142	20	15
FT10	CCF	€912	20	15
FT11	Mixed High Forests: Scots pine, Douglas fir	€863	20	15
FT12	Mixed High Forests: mainly spruce, 20% Broadleaf	€746	20	15

FT3 - Forests on Public Lands

- Native Woodlands on State land
- Climate Action Plan
- Establishment Grant
- Facilities Grant (trails, seats, signs)
- Forest playground Grant
- No forest premium



Cloonamahon Native Woodland Park

Largest project of this scale in the country

Accessibility element very important

Collaborative project between:

- HSE – Lead partner, landowner
- Western Forestry Co-operative – forest managers and neighbouring landowner
- Coillte - Neighbouring landowner
- Sligo County Council – Amenity, recreation, tourism



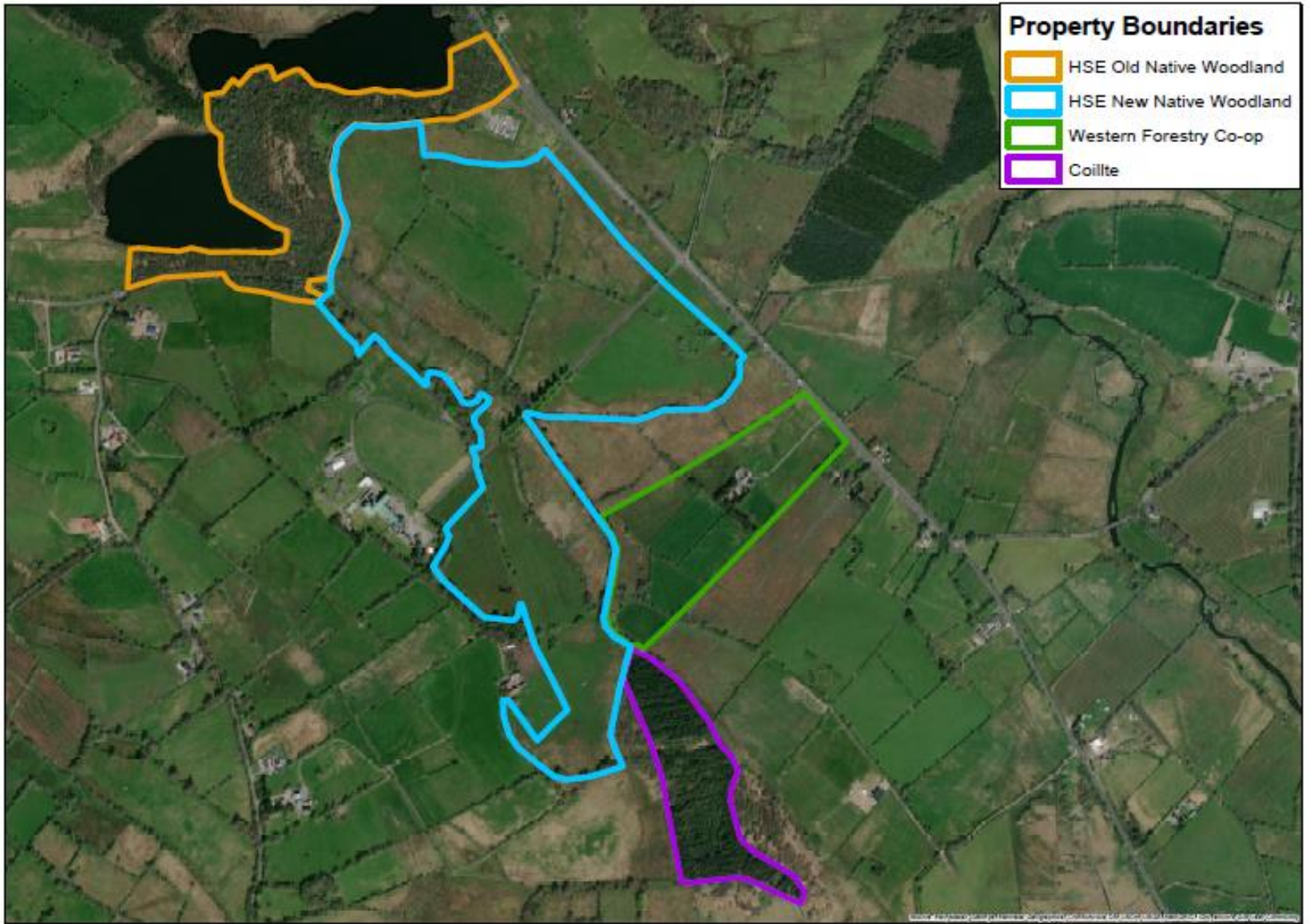
Cloonamahon Native Woodland Park

Phase 1

- 105 acres Native Woodland, 4km trails, picnic areas, seating, forest playground, Habitat & Info signs

Phase 2

- HSE Native Woodland Conservation
- WFC Model Forest
- Coillte replant with native woodland & amenities
- Sligo CoCo amenity plans - Link to Collooney Greenway, New Cycleway to Collooney due to N4 upgrade



FT4 - Amenity Forests & Neighbourwoods

- Creation of new woodland for recreation
- Private landowners partnering with communities
- Establishment & Facilities Grant (max 12ha)
- Forest premium €1,142 (15 or 20 yrs)
- Neighbourwood Plan (scale important)
- Example 6 ha (15 acres)
 - Land price €8-10k per acre - €120-150k
 - Forest premium 15 years - €102,780 - bridging finance

Proposed FP Interventions

6. Open Forests: Social, cultural & heritage forests
(existing forests – max 12 ha)
- NeighbourWoods, forest classroom, Heritage



Balla Neighbourhood

Woodland Operations & Facilities

1. 4 bay Car park
2. 650m of new path and 530m upgrade to existing path
3. 3 Picnic benches, 4 seats, woodland grove
4. Signage - Information signs, woodland habitat signs
5. Tree Trail of 15 trees
6. Wildlife - Bat and Owl boxes
7. Fairy Village

Laurel Infestation



Laurel Removal



Tree Planting



New Paths



Paths Upgrade



Fairy Village



Signs & Tree Trail



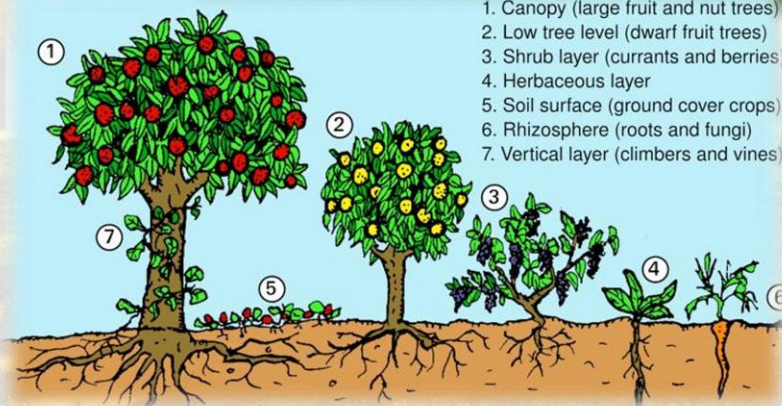
Car Park



Proposed FP Interventions

FT 8 - Creation of Agroforestry Systems

- Silvopastoral, Silvoarable, Forest Gardening



Native Tree Area Scheme (Farmers)

Small scale planting of native trees without an afforestation licence

Two Types:

NTA 1 - Creation of small native forests

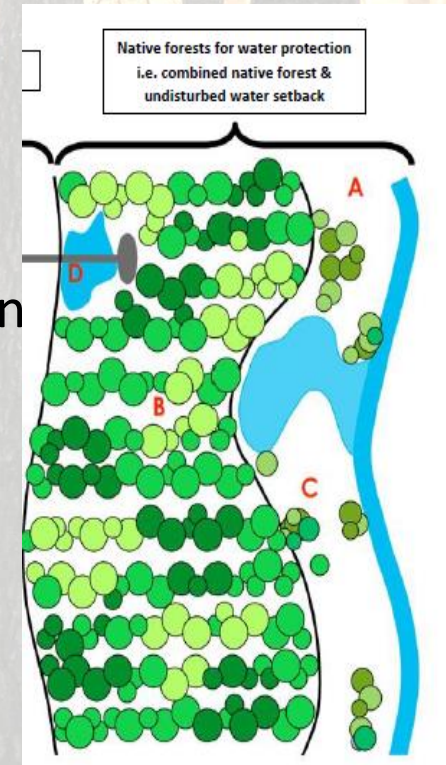
Establishment of new native forests on farmed land

NTA 2 - Creation of native forests for water protection

Native forests and undisturbed water setbacks to protect and enhance water quality

Native Tree Area Scheme Premiums over 10 years:

- €2,206 per ha annually for NTA1
- €2,284 per ha annually for NTA2





Future of Forestry

Woodland creation - never had more options



Explore Your
Options



Huge caveat - Delivery
Not all land suitable, scale important
Planning & Advice - NB

Thank you
Questions welcome



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