

Cork Environmental Forum

Position Paper 12 - Woodland Conservation

*The appointment of a County Council Nature Conservation Officer is an essential first step towards conserving the existing Woodland stock of County Cork.

*The Forest Sensitive Areas Map of County Cork should be used as a Planning tool to help identify the existing Woodland stock of County Cork.

*This identification should take the form of a State of Environment Report on Woodlands in North, South and East Cork, similar to that conducted for West Cork by An Taisce.

*The Woodlands of County Cork should be considered in the County Development Plan as its critical Environmental Stock.

*Targets for maintaining and enhancing the numbers and distribution of existing Woodlands in the County should be set in the County Development Plan.

*All Woodlands identified by survey to be at critical risk of felling or damage should be the subject of new Tree Preservation Orders.

*All Woodland areas already identified in the County Development Plan for Tree Protection should be the subject of new Tree Preservation Orders.

*All planned development that impacts on Woodland areas should be subject to professional tree impact surveys, and require management proposals, which include for any necessary compensatory replanting.

*The County Development Plan should encourage the development of a Green Network throughout the County linking Woodland areas, Forestry plantations and existing Hedgerows, and careful insertion of new development into this Network.

*The coastal areas of West Cork currently contain 30% of its total broadleaved and mixed Woodland stock, and any designations in the County Development Plan should ensure the maintenance and enhancement of these areas.

*The Forest Inventory and Planning System, currently under development by the Forest Service, should be linked with Cork County Council and other relevant Agencies, to facilitate the enhancement of existing woodlands and riparian zones.

*The Woodlands of Ireland project is finalising a Native Woodland Scheme now being introduced. It should be widely publicised throughout County Cork with the support of Cork County Council, Duchas, the Forest Service and Cork Environmental Forum.

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To foster, promote & implement sustainable development within the Cork region

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