

Nature Conservation in Coillte

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Company Ecologist

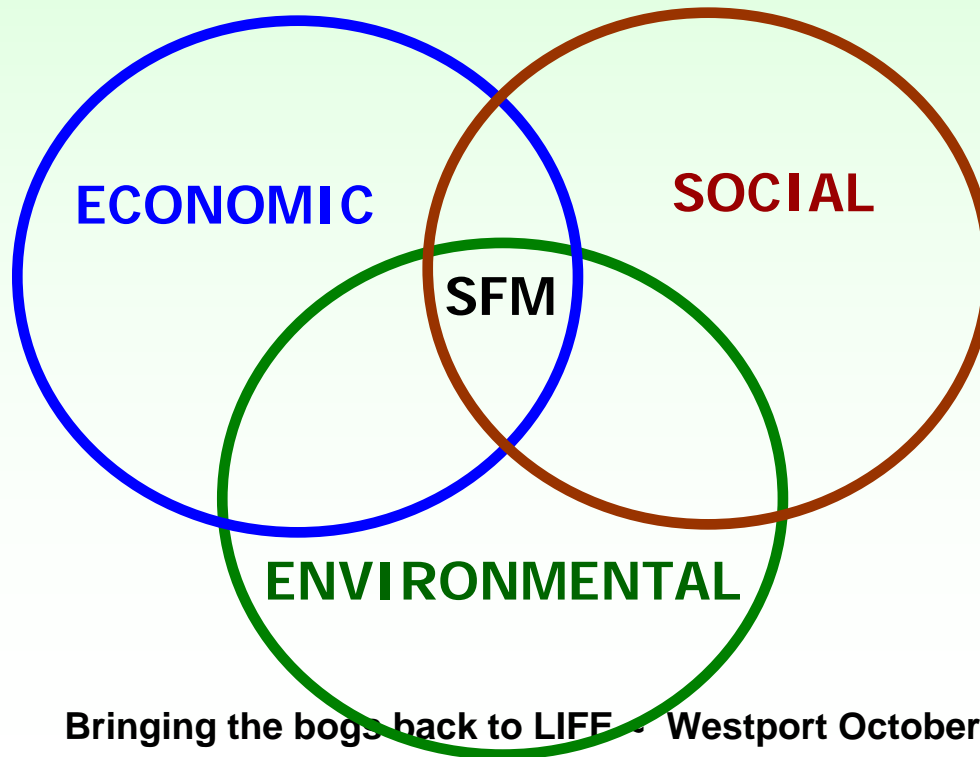


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Coillte & Nature Conservation

- Coillte is a commercial forest company
- Manages 445,000 ha of state forest land (6% of land)
- Major role in delivering national nature conservation and environmental objectives



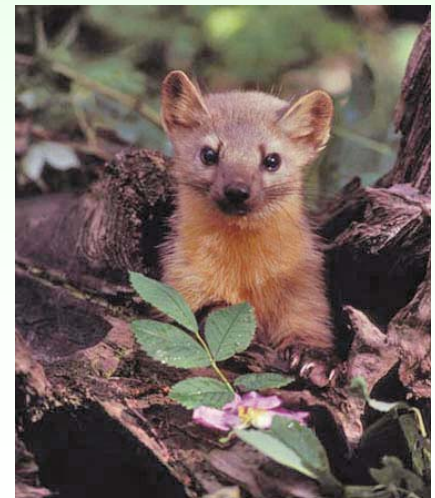
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Biodiversity Areas

- Coillte manages 20% of its estate for biodiversity (89,000 ha)
- Areas identified through ecological surveys by contract ecologists & consultation with local forest managers
- 14% (62,000 ha) fully surveyed
- 6% (27,000 ha) survey ongoing



Designated areas in Coillte lands

- National and EU legislation
- National > 20,000 ha is NHA
- EU Habitats Directive ~ 14,000 ha is SAC
 - habitats listed on Annex I
 - species listed on Annex II
- EU Birds Directive ~ 3,750 ha is SPA
 - bird species listed on Annex I

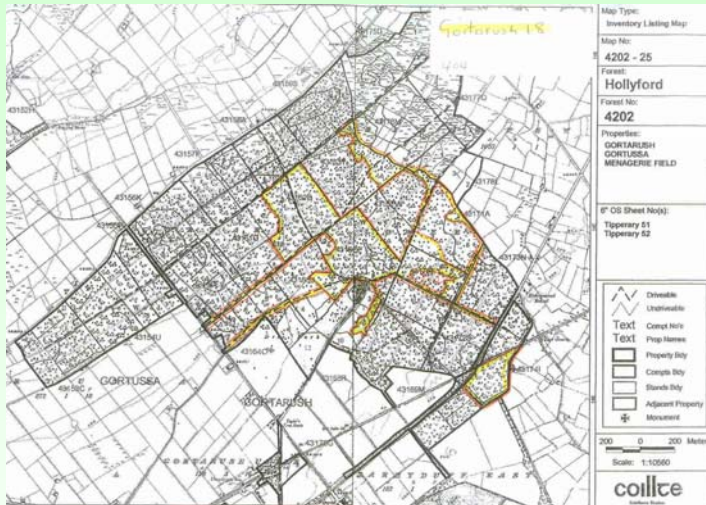


Ecological Surveys

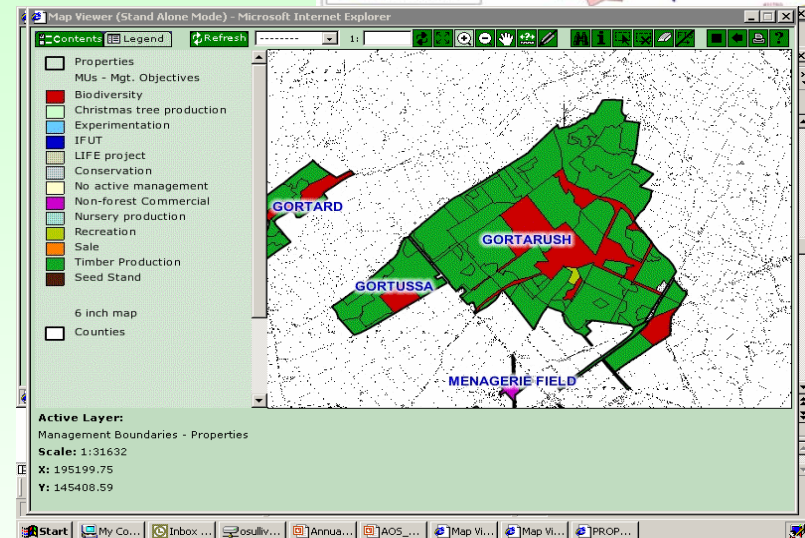
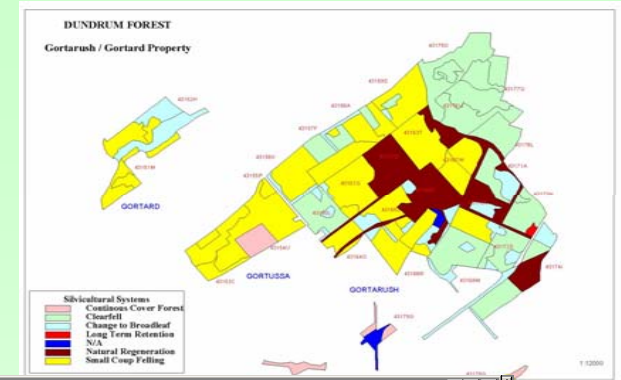
- 36 surveys to cover 13 districts
- 12 freelance ecologists
- Close liaison with Coillte staff
- Visited and assessed potential biodiversity areas, old woodland sites, NHAs / SACs
- Identify and propose biodiversity areas = areas of particular nature conservation value
- Habitat management recommendations



Ecological Surveys Outputs



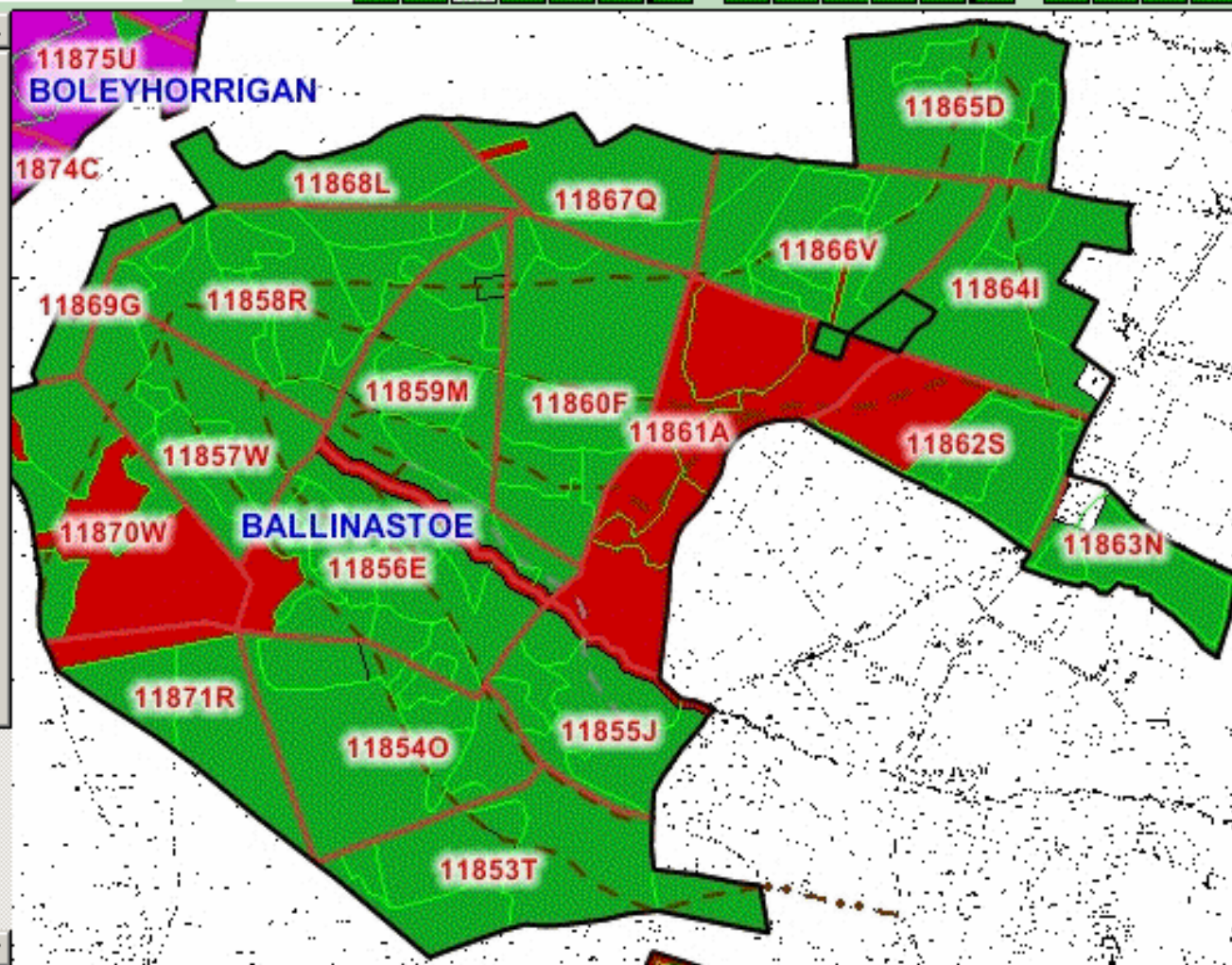
Ecologist's Map
"Agreed" biodiversity areas



Categorisation of estate
BAs mapped as Management Units



- Properties
- Compartments
- Sub Compartments
- Forest Roads
- Forest Road
- Proposed Road
- Right of Way
- Track
- MUs - Mgt. Objectives
- Biodiversity
- Christmas tree production
- Experimentation
- IFUT
- LIFE project
- Conservation
- No active management
- Non-forest Commercial
- Nursery production
- Recreation
- Sale
- Timber Production
- Seed Stand



Active Layer:

Management Boundaries - Properties

Scale: 1:21151

X: 317458.75

Y: 207233.9

Selected Habitat Areas

| Habitat | Area (ha) |
|----------------------------------|-----------|
| Bogs (blanket, raised & cutover) | 13,547 |
| Heaths | 11,994 |
| Conifer plantation | 16,631 |
| Mixed woodlands | 8,091 |
| Semi natural woodlands | 2,436 |
| Scrub | 4,084 |

86 habitats described according to Fossett, 2000

Other Habitat Areas

| Habitat | Area (ha) |
|-------------------------------------|------------------|
| Semi natural grassland | 1,114 |
| Fens & flushes | 246 |
| Sand dune systems | 33 |
| Turloughs | 16 |
| Calcareous & non-calcareous springs | 4 |
| Machair | 3 |

Selected Management Prescriptions

| Management Objective | Area (ha) |
|--|------------------|
| Remove conifers | 11,969 |
| Control grazing | 10,729 |
| Retain habitat | 10,189 |
| Encourage natural regeneration of native species | 6,943 |
| Control rhododendron, cherry laurel etc | 5,559 |
| Restore natural hydrology | 3,955 |
| Control naturally regenerating conifers | 2,229 |
| Fell conifers to recycle | 1,024 |

Biodiversity Database

- Data from ecological surveys loaded
- Allows identification and location of key habitats and species
- Includes ecological management recommendations at site level



Management Unit Summary

| | | | |
|--|---|--|---|
| Management Unit: <input type="text" value="WW03M0160"/> | MU year: <input type="text" value="2005"/> | District: <input type="text" value="E1"/> | Forest: <input type="text" value="WW03"/> |
| Property: <input type="text" value="BALLINASTOE"/> | Objective: <input type="text" value="BIO"/> | Total MU Area (ha): <input type="text" value="2.2"/> | |
| Subcompartments: <input type="text" value="11861A 2"/> | Motivation: <input type="text" value="Species Protection"/> | Agreed Biodiversity (ha): <input type="text" value="2.2"/> | |
| Surveyor: <input type="text" value="Niamh Roche & Fiona Dunne"/> | Ranking: <input type="text" value="Good"/> | Additional Biodiversity (ha): <input type="text" value="0"/> | |
| Survey year: <input type="text" value="2002"/> | | "Rejected" Biodiversity (ha): <input type="text" value=""/> | |

Habitats

| | Current | | | | | Target | | | | |
|------------|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Habitat: | <input type="text" value="WD3"/> | <input type="text" value=""/> | <input type="text" value=""/> | <input type="text" value=""/> | <input type="text" value=""/> | <input type="text" value="WD3"/> | <input type="text" value=""/> | <input type="text" value=""/> | <input type="text" value=""/> | <input type="text" value=""/> |
| %: | <input type="text" value="100"/> | <input type="text" value="0"/> | <input type="text" value="0"/> | <input type="text" value="0"/> | <input type="text" value="0"/> | <input type="text" value="100"/> | <input type="text" value="0"/> | <input type="text" value="0"/> | <input type="text" value="0"/> | <input type="text" value="0"/> |
| Area (ha): | <input type="text" value="2.2"/> | <input type="text" value="0.0"/> | <input type="text" value="0"/> | <input type="text" value="0"/> | <input type="text" value="0"/> | <input type="text" value="2.2"/> | <input type="text" value="0.0"/> | <input type="text" value="0.0"/> | <input type="text" value="0.0"/> | <input type="text" value="0"/> |

Management Prescriptions

First:

Second:

Notable species/ Annex I habitats recorded

Annex I:

Notable plants:

Ancient Forest Species(AFS):

Notable mammals:

Notable birds:

Other notable species:

Management plan:

Photos:

Outline Work Plan:

Treatment:

Biodiversity Database

COILLTE
HABITAT AND SPECIES OF CONSERVATION CONCERN IN IRELAND
MONITORING FORM

Habitat or species being monitored: **Ash woodland***
*read Guideline for Ash woodland.

| | |
|---|-------------------------|
| Forest no.: | Date of visit: |
| Property: | Date of previous visit: |
| Management Unit MU: | Observer: |
| Compartments/sub-compts., if necessary: | |
| Biodiversity Area (name and number) | |

Is this ash woodland on:
limestone pavement _____; rocky land _____; esker _____; thin limestone soils _____

Has hurley ash been recently taken from this site? _____

If so, are the felled ash left as deadwood or taken from the sites as firewood? _____

Are there plans to take hurley ash out in the future? _____

Sustainability of the ash wood depends on natural regeneration of ash.

Is natural regeneration of ash on the site: good _____; poor _____; absent _____?

Is the age-structure of ash on the site: good _____; moderate _____; poor _____?

Is ash still the dominant tree species on the site? _____

Is the cover of shrubs on the site: good _____; moderate _____; poor _____

The undershrubs *Gaulther rose Viburnum opulus* and *spindle Enosymin europaeus* are characteristic of ash woodland.

Are either or both of these shrub species present on the site _____

A particularly good species-rich ground layer and under-storey can develop in ash woods in the absence of grazing or browsing.

Are there signs of grazing or browsing at this site? _____

If so, by what animals? _____

What is the effect on the ground flora? severe _____; moderate _____; light _____

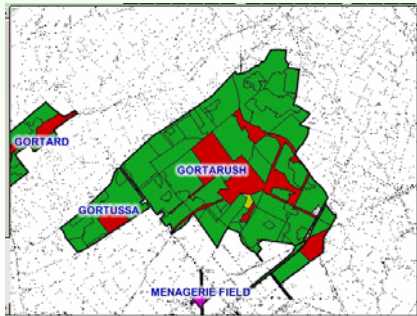
Are there any invasive, non-native tree or shrub species? _____

If so, what species? (give approximate % of canopy or shrub layer) _____

The Coillte Ecologist should comment on whether this site is in a favourable or unfavourable condition as regards the designated habitat/species, and on whether further survey or actions needed etc.

Is this site in a favourable _____; unfavourable _____ condition?

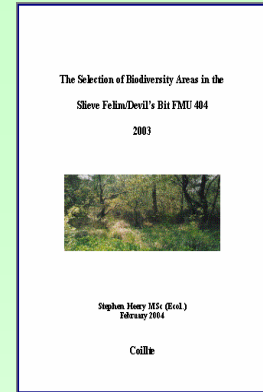
Habitat & Species Monitoring forms



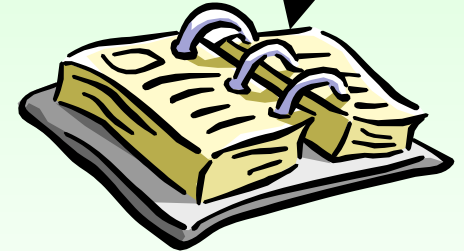
BA Map



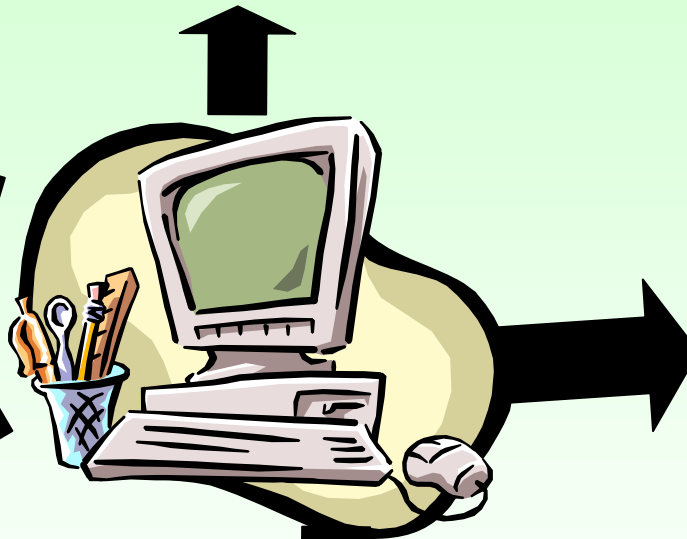
BA Photos



Forest Management Plan



District Strategic Plan



IP

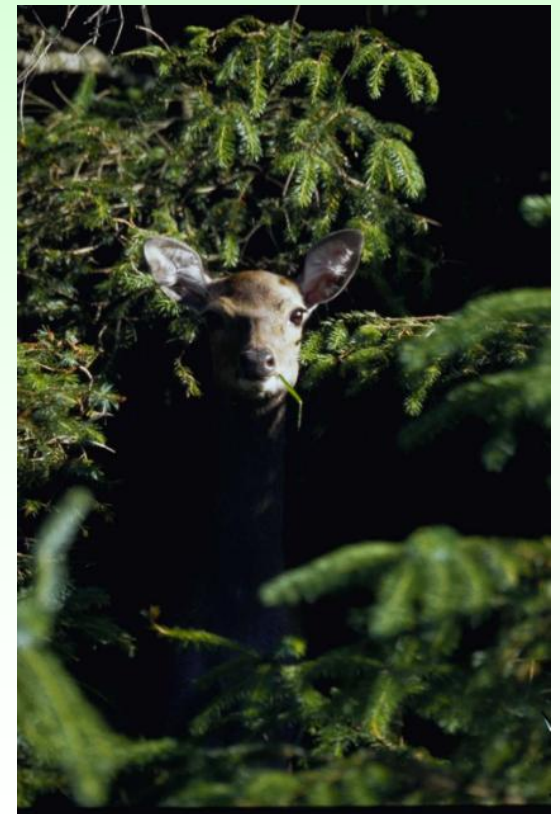
Integrated Planning

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Habitat & Species Guidelines

- Biodiversity database supported by
- Habitat and species guidelines
- Written by contract ecologists
 - Distribution
 - Ecology
 - Threats
 - Best practice
- For key species & habitats



BAP Species

- Lesser Horseshoe Bat



- Hen Harrier



- Freshwater Pearl Mussel



Coillte & EU LIFE Nature

- 3 major LIFE Nature restoration projects
- Blanket bog restoration 2004 ~ 2007
 - www.irishbogrestoration.ie
- Raised bog restoration 2005 ~ 2008
 - www.raisedbogrestoration.ie
- Priority woodland restoration 2006 ~ 2009
 - www.prioritywoodlandrestoration.ie



Coillte & EU LIFE Nature

- 3 LIFE Nature projects
- “Flagship” projects of nature conservation
 - Blanket bog ~ 1,989 ha
 - Raised bog ~ 571 ha
 - Priority woodlands ~ 550 ha
- Best and most valuable habitats
 - Being actively restored



Other projects

- Coillte Old woodland survey
- Native woodland scheme
- Riparian zones
- Irish squirrel survey & translocation projects
- Red grouse survey
- Bioforest & PLANFORBIO
- EU BioSoil project



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