

# Registration Form



The registration fee is €80 and includes morning and interval refreshments, lunch and conference booklet. Cheques to Technical Director, Society of Irish Foresters, Glenealy, Co. Wicklow, Ireland.

Name

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Company/organisation (if relevant)

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Address

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Email

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Please enclose cheque €80, to be made payable to Society of Irish Foresters and forwarded to Technical Director, Society of Irish Foresters, Glenealy, Co. Wicklow or by electronic payment as follows:

Account name	Society of Irish Foresters
Bank name/address	Ulster Bank, 130 Lower Baggot Street, Dublin 2
BIC	ULSB IE 2D
Account number	08772046
Sort code	98-50-20
IBAN	IE25 ULSB 9850 2008 7720 46

**This event is worth 15 Society of Irish Foresters CPD points.**

National Forestry Conference organised by the  
Wood Marketing Federation and the  
Society of Irish Foresters

# MINOR CONIFERS IN IRELAND



*An appraisal of the silvicultural and marketing potential  
of coniferous alternatives to Sitka spruce.*

**Johnstown House Hotel  
Enfield, Co. Meath  
Wednesday 31 May 2017**

# AGENDA

- 08.15 Registration, refreshments and conference literature.
- 09.00 Introduction – Donal Magner, *Forestry Editor*, Irish Farmers Journal.

## SESSION 1: SILVICULTURE, YIELD AND QUALITY ISSUES

Chairperson: Dr. Aine Ní Dhubhain, *Associate Professor of Forestry, University College Dublin*.

- 09.05 Keynote address: Andrew Doyle, *Minister of State with responsibility for forestry at the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine*.
- 09.25 Minor conifers – location and performance  
a) An assessment of Ireland's minor conifer forest inventory – John Redmond, *Inventory and Statistics, Forest Service, Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine*.  
b) What's performing best. Results of research trials and case studies – Dr. Niall Farrelly, *Forestry Researcher, Teagasc*.
- 09.50 The forester's view: The right trees in the right places – Marina Conway, *Chief Executive Officer, Western Forestry Co-operative*.
- 10.20 International perspective – silviculture of minor conifers in Britain – what do we know and what do we need to know? – Paul McClean, *Research Scientist*. Bill Mason, *Emeritus Silviculturist (Research Fellow) Forestry Commission*.
- 10.45 Break – coffee, tea.

## SESSION 2: PRODUCTION AND MARKETING POTENTIAL

Chairperson: Gerry Murphy, *President, Society of Irish Foresters*.

- 11.30 As the sawmiller sees it – developing economies of scale and potential markets for minor conifer species – Gerry Dolan, *Forestry Manager, Glennon Brothers Timber*.
- 11.55 Timber properties of minor conifer species in Britain and future marketing opportunities – Dr. Dan Ridley-Ellis, *Head of the Centre for Wood Science and Technology, Edinburgh Napier University*.
- 12.20 Minor conifers: past and future – Gordon Knaggs, *Consultant, Gordon Knaggs and Associates, and Fellow of the Institute of Wood Science*.
- 12.50 Open forum and discussion.
- 13.30 Close of conference – Paul Harvey, *Chairman, Wood Marketing Federation*.

Cover: Douglas fir, Carey's Castle, Co Waterford  
Right: Section of Coillte HQ, Co. Wicklow with Douglas fir cladding and seating; and Japanese larch, Gougane Barra, Co. Cork.  
Photography: Magner Communications and Coillte.

# NATIONAL FORESTRY CONFERENCE

This year's National Conference assesses the future role of minor conifer species in Irish forestry. The term 'minor conifer' refers to alternatives to Sitka spruce and includes the following species that have adapted well to Irish soil and climatic conditions: Norway spruce, Douglas fir, Scots pine, larch species, western red cedar, western hemlock and Monterey pine. Sitka spruce continues to be a major species in Irish forestry in terms of yield, site adaptability and market benefits. Its success is the main reason why the Irish forestry and forest products industry now has an annual value of €2.2 billion.



However, overreliance on one species has led to a one-dimensional forestry sector which could place the industry at risk especially in relation to possible future disease damage. Ireland doesn't have an alternative commercial species – hardwood or conifer – to Sitka spruce. Having addressed hardwoods in a previous conference, the organisers believe it is timely to explore the potential of alternative conifer species.

## WHO SHOULD ATTEND?

The conference is aimed at forest owners, producer groups, foresters and forestry companies, researchers, State agencies, timber processors and end users.

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