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

Company/organisation (if relevant)

Address

Email

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:

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<th>Society of Irish Foresters</th>
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<td>Bank name/address</td>
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This event is worth 15 Society of Irish Foresters CPD points.
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 Ni 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.


10.45 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.


12.50 Open forum and discussion.

13.30 Close of conference – Paul Harvey, Chairman, Wood Marketing Federation.

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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Cheques to Technical Director, Society of Irish Foresters, Glenealy, Co. Wicklow, Ireland.

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