

Irish Wood Producers

To Whom it may concern,

We are a not for profit producer group for private forest owners in the South East.

Our members are very diligent when it comes to the management of their forestry. They consider themselves stewards of the land, usually following many generations, feeling a huge responsibility to continue to care for their land.

Some have planted over generations and others are only new to forestry. Most have both softwoods and hardwoods planted, all with wildlife corridors, buffer zones and all acutely aware of site sensitivities going back generations.

Motivation to plant trees includes: sustainable land management, creating a sustainable legacy, creating a habitat, contributing to carbon sequestration, growing an amenity and finding an alternative, sustainable and viable crop. Some members are involved in wildlife rehabilitation, create pond areas, erect nesting boxes, host heritage walks and see their forestry as a multi-function resource.

Forest management wise, all members not only comply with all statutory obligations but show much greater interest and care for all activities on site than is required. Contractors must meet the high expectations of each forest owner often with extra requests on site management.

Currently, forest owners' efforts to manage their forestry in a timely and sustainable manner is being thwarted. In the name of 'environmental interest' broadleaf afforestation sites and conifer clearfells to be followed by broadleaf reforestation have been ironically prevented. Yet nationally and globally we need more planting of the right tree species on the right sites to slow climate change, to sequester carbon, to replace diminished habitat, to supply local timber and to provide multifunctional resources for mental and physical well-being.

Irish Wood Producers would like to strongly support the Forest service and the Department of Agriculture in their efforts to support the development of forestry in Ireland and particularly the implementation of the Draft Agricultural Appeals (Amendment) Bill 2020.

Yours faithfully,

Irish Wood Producers |

