



Press Release: 27/11/2025

Native Woodland Strategy 2026-2030 Public Consultation

Woodlands of Ireland is a partnership-based environmental charity founded in 1998, dedicated to native woodland conservation and expansion. Previously, Woodlands of Ireland, in conjunction with a range of public and private sector stakeholders, had developed a 5-year native woodland strategy for the period 2016 to 2020, which is now overdue for updating. You can view this document here: [A Strategy for Native Woodlands in Ireland 2016-2020](#).

Since that time, grant-aided native woodland establishment has grown to form c.40% of afforestation activity, while the [native woodland conservation scheme](#) has struggled to gain significant ground. Here are several factors which need to be considered in an updated strategy for 2026-2030:

- Native Woodland Conservation, Climate Resilient Reforestation, Native Forest Establishment, Emergent Woodland, Woodland Improvement Thinning, Continuous Cover Forestry and Neighbourwood grants are some existing funding mechanisms in the [Roi Forestry Programme 2023-2027](#), which support the better management and expansion of woodlands largely composed of native species.
- The challenging [EU Nature Restoration Law](#) (NRL) legally bound woodland targets in the 2026-2030 period (10,000ha of recreated Oak woodland and c.4000 ha of alluvial (wet) woodland by 2030) require planning, implementation and workforce training and development for long-term maintenance in both the public and private sectors.
- Opportunities for timber production from native woodland and close to nature silviculture systems applied to them require consideration in a range of sites.
- A comprehensive tree cover education and training strategy is needed to achieve the DAFM Forestry Programme, [EU Water Framework Directive](#) and EU NRL targets.
- Irish Environmental Network (IEN)/ Northern Ireland Environment Link (NIEL) and Public Participation Network (PPN) member groups' input is welcome and essential.
- Many new organisations have emerged to populate the fertile ground of native tree cover expansion in recent years and need to be included in this consultation.

To seek input from a diverse range of stakeholders in the creation of this new strategy for native woodlands, Woodlands of Ireland is conducting an online public consultation from now until **Friday, 16th January 2026**, followed by webinars in February and a March gathering.





Building B, The Enterprise Centre, Drumshanbo, Co. Leitrim, N41Y2P3
info@woodlandsofireland.com www.woodlandsofireland.com

To contribute, you can choose one or all of the following options:

- (1) Make your views known to Woodlands of Ireland through info@woodlandsofireland.com
- (2) Complete the questionnaire at this link by 16th January:
<https://www.woodlandsofireland.com/nws-consultation-form/>
- (3) Contribute to webinars in February 2026, dates to be confirmed.
- (4) Attend an in-person discussion group in March 2026, focused on the bullet points above and additional points raised from the consultation, location and date to be confirmed.

