

Maurus, Sonja

From: Dowling, Conor
Sent: Tuesday 23 December 2025 08:57
To: Maurus, Sonja
Subject: RE: Coillte Western Peatlands project
Attachments: DerryClare Refor to Native.pdf; DerryClare Defor Map.pdf

Hi Sonja,

Please see attached a map showing the areas of deforestation for peat restoration and a map showing the areas for reforestation and conversion to native species.

Deforestation area approx. 223ha

Reforestation area approx. 41ha

Regards,

Conor Dowling
Forestry Inspector

—
An Roinn Talmhaíochta, Bia agus Mara
Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine

Eastát Chaisleán Bhaile Sheáin, Co. Loch Garman, Y35 PN52
Johnstown Castle Estate, Wexford, Y35 PN52

M 
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From: Maurus, Sonja <Sonja.Maurus@agriculture.gov.ie>
Sent: Monday 8 December 2025 09:38
To: Dowling, Conor <Conor.Dowling@agriculture.gov.ie>
Subject: RE: Coillte Western Peatlands project

Hi Conor,

When you have reviewed the applications, could you send a summary with overview maps and area involved for each (permanent removal and felling & replanting) please?

Many thanks,

Regards,

Sonja

From: Dowling, Conor <Conor.Dowling@agriculture.gov.ie>
Sent: Friday 5 December 2025 10:34
To: Maurus, Sonja <Sonja.Maurus@agriculture.gov.ie>
Subject: RE: Coillte Western Peatlands project

Hi Sonja,

Dermot Tiernan send across 11 applications earlier this week. I am currently reviewing them as there are some errors in them. They have sent 13 applications for permanent forest removal to bog restoration and 4 felling and replanting for biodiversity applications.

Regards,

Conor Dowling
Forestry Inspector

An Roinn Talmhaíochta, Bia agus Mara
Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine

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From: Maurus, Sonja <Sonja.Maurus@agriculture.gov.ie>
Sent: Thursday 4 December 2025 17:11
To: Windle, Robert <Robert.Windle@agriculture.gov.ie>; Morris, Linda <Linda.Morris@agriculture.gov.ie>; Farrell, Janet <Janet.Farrell@agriculture.gov.ie>; Collins, Kevin <Kevin.Collins@agriculture.gov.ie>; Dowling, Conor <Conor.Dowling@agriculture.gov.ie>; Clune, Anne <Anne.Clune@agriculture.gov.ie>; Murphy, Mandy <Mandy.Murphy@agriculture.gov.ie>
Cc: O'Neill, Marie <Marie.O'Neill@agriculture.gov.ie>
Subject: RE: Coillte Western Peatlands project

Hi all,

Please see attached project proposal received from Coillte. As mentioned previously, I would be grateful if you could all have a look at this and send me your preliminary comments by Friday 12th December cob please. I can then summarise our comments and I would like to organise an online meeting for further discussion before we all go on our – well deserved – Christmas break.

@Dowling, Conor Coillte have informed me today that they have submitted a felling licence application for this project recently. Could you share the main details with me please?

Regards,

Sonja

From: Windle, Robert <Robert.Windle@agriculture.gov.ie>
Sent: Tuesday 4 November 2025 16:00
To: Maurus, Sonja <Sonja.Maurus@agriculture.gov.ie>; Morris, Linda <Linda.Morris@agriculture.gov.ie>; Farrell, Janet <Janet.Farrell@agriculture.gov.ie>; Collins, Kevin <Kevin.Collins@agriculture.gov.ie>; Dowling, Conor <Conor.Dowling@agriculture.gov.ie>; Clune, Anne <Anne.Clune@agriculture.gov.ie>
Cc: O'Neill, Marie <Marie.O'Neill@agriculture.gov.ie>; Murphy, Mandy <Mandy.Murphy@agriculture.gov.ie>
Subject: RE: Coillte Western Peatlands project

Hi Sonja

I am available to work on the assessment team. Please let me know when you'd like to meet.

Many thanks,

Robert

From: Maurus, Sonja <Sonja.Maurus@agriculture.gov.ie>

Sent: 04 November 2025 14:08

To: Morris, Linda <Linda.Morris@agriculture.gov.ie>; Farrell, Janet <Janet.Farrell@agriculture.gov.ie>; Windle, Robert <Robert.Windle@agriculture.gov.ie>; Collins, Kevin <Kevin.Collins@agriculture.gov.ie>; Dowling, Conor <Conor.Dowling@agriculture.gov.ie>; Clune, Anne <Anne.Clune@agriculture.gov.ie>

Cc: O'Neill, Marie <Marie.O'Neill@agriculture.gov.ie>; Murphy, Mandy <Mandy.Murphy@agriculture.gov.ie>

Subject: Coillte Western Peatlands project

Hi all,

Please be informed that ASG Paul Savage has recently given approval in principle to Coillte that DAFM will fund Coillte's Western Peatlands Project. However, for Coillte to get full approval, we require a detailed project proposal (see my email below to Coillte) which we will then need to assess before funding approval can be issued. Approval will probably be in the form of a detailed grant funding letter, including all terms & conditions that we think are required and necessary.

I had a quick chat with Robbie about this earlier and Robbie has suggested that we could take this opportunity to develop a DAFM Code of Good Practise for Conversion from Forests to Restored Peatlands and ask Coillte to contribute to this through information and data from their pilot project. This could be part of the T&Cs in the approval.

The reason why I am sending this email to you is that we will require to set up an assessment team following receipt of the proposal and I would like to invite you to be part of this, provided you have availability.

Could you confirm your availability to me by the end of this week please?

Also, I am happy to collect any initial thoughts and observations you might have on T&Cs that will be required in our approval letter.

If you have any questions about this, please don't hesitate to ask.

Regards,

Sonja

From: Maurus, Sonja

Sent: Tuesday 4 November 2025 13:52

To: 'Liam Malone' <Liam.Malone@coillte.ie>

Cc: Mooney, Robert <Robert.Mooney@agriculture.gov.ie>; O'Neill, Marie <Marie.O'Neill@agriculture.gov.ie>

Subject: RE: Western Peatlands project

Hi Liam,

Further to our phone conversation this morning and following up on the recent conversation between DAFM Assistant Secretary General Paul Savage and Coillte CEO Imelda Hurley, I am now requesting for Coillte to submit a detailed project proposal for the redesign of ca. 1,000ha of the Wild Western Peatlands. Following receipt of the detailed proposal, this Department will carry out an assessment of the proposal and then issue its decision.

I have attached an outline of the required elements that should be covered in this project proposal document please.

If you require any further information in relation to the attached outline, please do not hesitate to contact me.

I would appreciate if you could provide an indicative timeline by when you expect that the project proposal can be submitted to DAFM please.

Best regards,

Sonja

Sonja Maurus

Forestry Division – Coillte Corporate Governance and Coordination

An Roinn Talmhaíochta, Bia agus Mara
Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine

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Sonja.Maurus@agriculture.gov.ie, www.agriculture.gov.ie

From: Maurus, Sonja
Sent: Thursday 10 July 2025 11:08
To: 'Liam Malone' <Liam.Malone@coillte.ie>
Cc: Aileen O'Sullivan <Aileen.OSullivan@coillte.ie>; Dermot Tiernan <Dermot.Tiernan@coillte.ie>
Subject: RE: Western Peatlands project

Hi Liam,

Further to our recent meeting and as discussed, would you already be able to give me an indication by when the updated project concept note can be provided to the Department please?

In this context I would like to remind you that there are still approx. €20,000 available as part of the funding approved for the project preparatory phase in October '24 that can be claimed by Coillte any time.

Best regards,

Sonja

Sonja Maurus

Forestry Division – Coillte Corporate Governance and Coordination

An Roinn Talmhaíochta, Bia agus Mara
Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine

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Sonja.Maurus@agriculture.gov.ie, www.agriculture.gov.ie

From: Liam Malone <Liam.Malone@coillte.ie>
Sent: Tuesday 27 May 2025 18:14
To: Maurus, Sonja <Sonja.Maurus@agriculture.gov.ie>

Cc: Aileen O'Sullivan <Aileen.OSullivan@coillte.ie>; Dermot Tiernan <Dermot.Tiernan@coillte.ie>

Subject: Western Peatlands project

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Dear Sonja,

As Director of ESG in Coillte Forest, and following recent organisational changes in Coillte, I now have Director-level responsibility for the delivery of the DAFM-funded Western Peatlands project. Given this, and in light of the [granting of our planning application for the Derryclare](#) component last week, I would like to meet with you as soon as possible (virtually should suffice) to discuss a number of topics, including progress in the project, future plans, funding etc.

Can you please advise of your availability for a c.60-minute discussion over the coming fortnight?

Thanks & Regards,
Liam

Liam Malone

Environmental Social Governance Director | Coillte Forest | Coillte
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