
From: Dowling, Conor
Sent: Wednesday 4 March 2026 10:54
To: Maurus, Sonja
Subject: RE: Coillte Western Peatlands project - Updated Concept Note Nov. 25

Hi Sonja,

I spoke with Dermot Dunphy in Forest Sector Development. He works on the EU Deforestation Regulation. Under WP3 the removal of timber isn't subject to EUDR as its not being converted to agricultural land but habitat restoration. See a brief summary below.

*According to Article 2(3) of EUDR 'deforestation' means conversion of **forest to agricultural use** and should be understood as a change in the use of the land from 'forest' as defined in Article 2(4) of EUDR (discussed in detail in Section 3) to 'agricultural use' as defined in Article 2(5) of EUDR (discussed in detail in Sections 4, 4.c and 4.d).*

*Conversion of forest land also does not fall under the EUDR definition of 'deforestation' if the primary purpose of the conversion and its subsequent land use is not agricultural use, but e.g. renewable energy deployment, industrial use, **restoration of biodiversity**, forest fire prevention, animal welfare in extreme climatic conditions, or management of invasive alien species. Ancillary agricultural activities may take place where essential to support the primary purpose of conversion and of the land use after the conversion (see section 4.a), or where the agricultural activity does not change the predominant use of forest (see section 4.b).*

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

—
www.agriculture.gov.ie

From: Maurus, Sonja <Sonja.Maurus@agriculture.gov.ie>
Sent: Tuesday 17 February 2026 16:22
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>; Fahy, Orla <Orla.Fahy@agriculture.gov.ie>; Ryan, Cormac <Cormac.Ryan@agriculture.gov.ie>
Cc: O'Neill, Marie <Marie.O'Neill@agriculture.gov.ie>
Subject: FW: Coillte Western Peatlands project - Updated Concept Note Nov. 25

Hi all,

Many thanks to all who have reviewed the WWP Concept Note and have provided comments in relation to the attached discussion note already. I am hoping to organise a brief Teams meeting to finalise the questions we should raise with Coillte next week. **Would you be available to meet online on Thu. 26/02 at 10am?**

Regards,

Sonja

From: Maurus, Sonja

Sent: Thursday 8 January 2026 11:25

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>; Fahy, Orla <Orla.Fahy@agriculture.gov.ie>

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

Subject: Coillte Western Peatlands project - Updated Concept Note Nov. 25

Hi all,

Thanks to all, and in particular to Orla and Conor, for feedback on Coillte's updated Concept Note for the Western Peatlands Project. It would be important that we send our first feedback to Coillte very soon and I have therefore tried to summarise my initial comments together with the feedback received to date in the attached internal Discussion Note. I have also highlighted a number of questions in this note for your consideration please.

In addition to the Discussion Note and updated Concept Note (Coillte), I have attached 2 maps, provided by Conor, showing the areas of deforestation for peat restoration and showing the areas for reforestation and conversion to native species that are part of the recently submitted felling applications for this project:

Deforestation area approx. 223ha

Reforestation area approx. 41ha

Could you all have a look at this, insert your comments and feedback in the document **and return this to me by next Friday 16th January** please?

We could then maybe meeting during the week starting on 19th January with a view to returning our feedback to Coillte before the end of the month.

Regards,

Sonja

From: Maurus, Sonja

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: 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

Eastát Chaisleán Bhaile Sheáin, Co. Loch Garman, Y35 PN52

Johnstown Castle Estate, Co. Wexford, Y35 PN 52, Ireland

T +353 (0)53 916 3435

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

Eastát Chaisleán Bhaile Sheáin, Co. Loch Garman, Y35 PN52
Johnstown Castle Estate, Co. Wexford, Y35 PN 52, Ireland
T +353 (0)53 916 3435 [REDACTED]
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

CAUTION: This Email originated from Outside of this department. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognise the sender and know the content is safe. Otherwise Please Forward any suspicious Emails to Notify.Cyber@agriculture.gov.ie .

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
Dublin Road, Newtownmountkennedy, Co Wicklow, Ireland A63 DN25

E Liam.Malone@coillte.ie
[REDACTED]

www.coillte.ie

Keep up to date with us:



IF YOU PRINT THIS EMAIL, PLEASE RECYCLE IT. PAPER IS RENEWABLE AND RECYCLABLE

As a valued contact, Coillte is committed to protecting your privacy. We have updated our Privacy Policy which provides information on how we protect and use personal data. For further information please access the policy here <https://www.coillte.ie/privacy-policy/>

This e-mail and any files transmitted with it are confidential and intended solely for the use of the individual or entity to whom they are addressed. Any views expressed in this message are those of the #author except where the author specifically states them to be the view of Coillte.

If you have received this e-mail in error, please notify the sender. While Coillte scans e-mail and attachments for viruses, it does not guarantee that either are virus-free and accepts no liability for any damage sustained as a result of viruses.