



# Memorandum

**To:** Forestry Service , *Attn: Mr Philip Carr*  
**From:** Congella McGuire, Heritage Officer, Clare County Council  
**Date:** 19<sup>th</sup> December 2005  
**Re:** Response to Submissions Forestry Act 1928 to 1988

Planning Section  
New Road  
Ennis  
Co. Clare

*Roinn Pleanála*  
*Bothar Nua*  
*Inis*  
*Contae an Chláir*

T: +353 65 682 1616  
F: +353 65 682 8233  
E: [plannoff@clarecoco.ie](mailto:plannoff@clarecoco.ie)  
W: <http://clarecoco.clare.ie>

1. An Indicative Forest Strategy for County Clare would have assisted in the proper planning and strategic approach to afforestation in Clare. Clare County Council aimed to have this work completed prior to tree further planting in the county and to be in line with the formulation of Clare County Development Plan 2005.

Clare County Council were in the process of supporting the Forest Service in their agenda to develop an Indicative Forest Strategy for the County with the Forest Service. The Forest Service had insufficient resources and did not prioritise the completion of this strategy. This work should be legislated for in future.

2. Clare County Council make comments on all forestry applications referred to them. Where Clare County Council have objection to a proposal, a copy of the decision is often requested by the Council from the Forest Service. There is no obligation on the Forest Service to inform Clare County Council of their decision, this situation is unsatisfactory for proper planning.
3. It is imperative that a proper assessment of the biodiversity is carried out on site prior to consideration of planting proposal. Many sites coming forward for planting are on marginal land and of high nature conservation value. In many instances, areas of fen and bog are being planted, which are of local importance. In this regard, the EIA thresholds should be higher.

Please Note Change of Address:  
Economic Development and Planning Dept.  
Unit 1, Westgate Business Park  
Kilrush Road  
Ennis  
Co. Clare


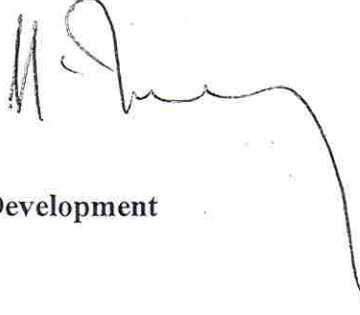




CLARE COUNTY COUNCIL  
*Comhairle Chontae an Chláir*

4. Recent studies from the Burren and in county Clare generally, are showing that many archaeological monuments are unknown, in some cases, as many as 50% in the Burren. Upland areas are particularly of concern in this regard. Clare County Council's Field Monument Adviser intends to work with the local Forestry Adviser to assess some sites in Clare in this regard. Thus, it is important that areas proposed for planting are fully assessed for their archaeological potential.
5. Legislation and incentives should be put in place to encourage continuous cover felling.
6. There should **not** be an obligation to replace in ecologically sensitive areas already damaged by forestry, ie. peatland, upland areas, coastal sites, wetland, fens, sensitive locations, etc. Premature removal of forestry in these areas could be considered.
7. Funding and further incentives should be forthcoming to encourage better supply of native trees of local provenance.
8. Legislation should be reformed to protect views and scenic areas and the setting of monuments should be protected as per policy in Clare County Development Plan 2005.
9. Provision should be made to protect tree of amenity value in urban areas. The present legislation is not effective and puts onus and financial burden on the Local Authority.

Please note that I am available to discuss in further detail the above proposals.

  
  
Congella McGuire  
Heritage Officer  
Economic Planning & Development  
Clare County Council

Planning Section  
New Road  
Ennis  
Co. Clare

*Roinn Pleanála*  
*Bothar Nua*  
*Inis*  
*Contae an Chláir*

T: +353 65 682 1616  
F: +353 65 682 8233  
E: [plannoff@clarecoco.ie](mailto:plannoff@clarecoco.ie)  
W: <http://clarecoco.clare.ie>

Change of Address:  
Economic Development and Planning Dept.  
Unit 1, Westgate Business Park  
Kilrush Road  
Ennis  
Co. Clare

