



**STORM OPHELIA ~ COILLTE URGES ALL USERS OF FOREST LANDS TO EXERCISE
EXTREME CAUTION, TUESDAY, 17TH OCTOBER**

Tuesday 17th October 2017: Coillte urges all users of forest lands to exercise extreme caution following storm Ophelia.

Coillte urges all of its staff, contractors and members of the public to exercise extreme caution if entering forest lands following ex-hurricane Ophelia.

Early indications are that Coillte's forest estate has sustained damage from the strong winds of Ophelia and assessments are commencing by Coillte today to determine the scale and level of damage. It is estimated that it will take a number of weeks before the full extent of the damage can be made known.

Fallen and overhanging trees pose an extremely dangerous risk to the public and Coillte is urging everyone to remain vigilant and to exercise extreme caution if entering forest lands over the coming days. Members of the public should not approach fallen or overhanging trees as they pose a significant health and safety risk and access routes blocked by trees should only be cleared by trained experts.

Fallen or overhanging trees should be reported to Emergency Services or directly to Coillte at the following details: Michael Power – 0353 86 253 2262 or michael.power@coillte.ie

Please see Coillte's website at www.coillte.ie for the updated information on access to recreation sites.

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About Coillte

Coillte is a commercial forestry company, owned by the State, that manages approximately 7% of the country's land. Coillte operate three strong businesses from this land - their core Forestry Business, a Wood Panels manufacturing business MEDITE SMARTPLY and a Land Solutions business. Coillte export to over 30 countries worldwide and in the financial year 31 December 2016 generated EBITDA of €98 million. Coillte's vision is to be the best Forestry and Land Solutions company in Europe. To find out more visit www.coillte.ie