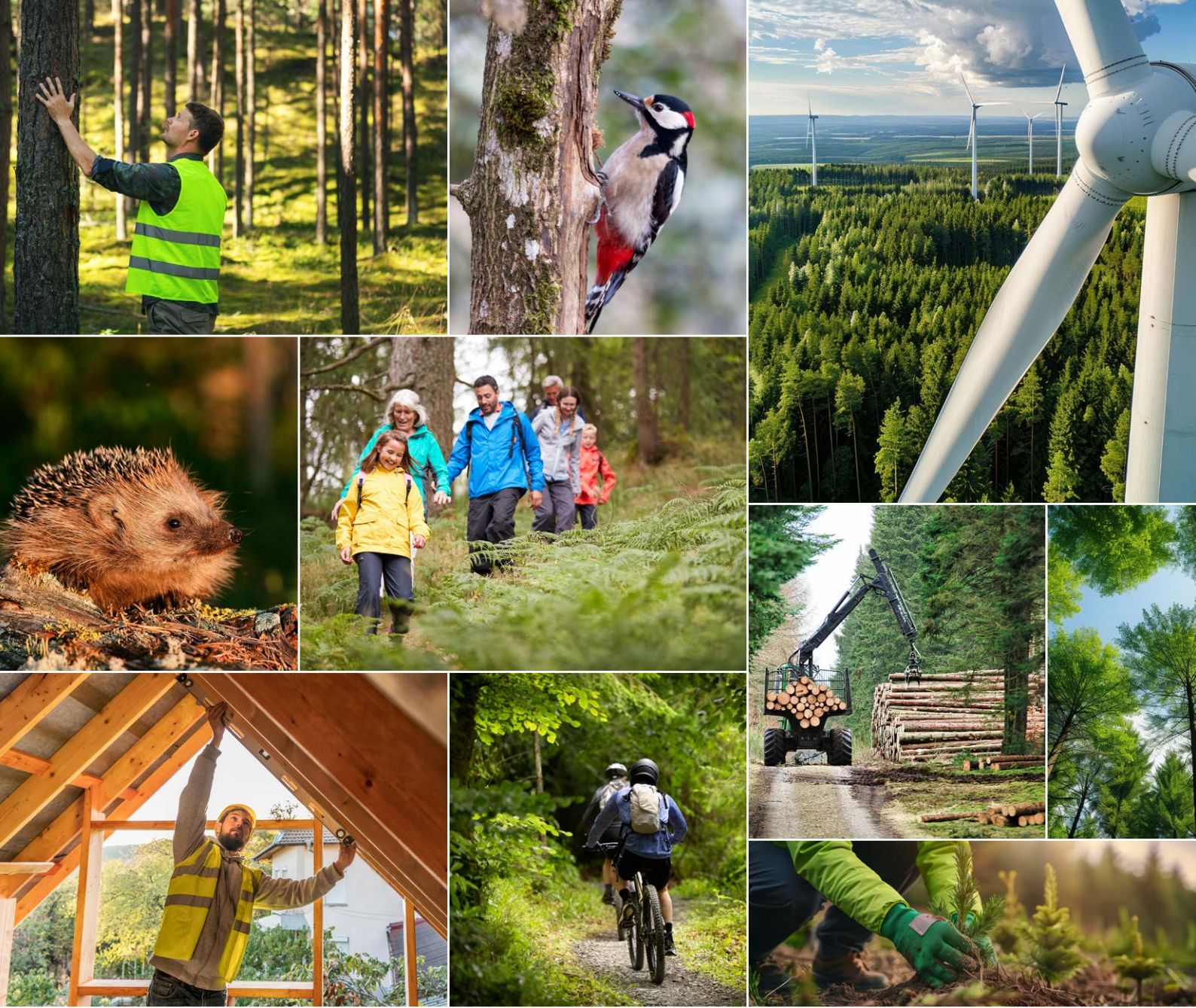




Draft
Land Use Strategic
Implementation Plan
2026 – 2035
(LUSIP)



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1 Introduction

The world is undergoing significant changes, leading to increased pressures and demands on forests. Forests provide many benefits. They help to address climate and biodiversity challenges, they support regional development and peoples' health, and they supply sustainable wood products to meet housing demands.

As the manager of 7% of Ireland's land, and approximately 50% of the forests in the country, Coillte recognises the critical role forests play in addressing these issues and have worked to better understand how we can best contribute through the development of a new strategic vision for our future forest estate.

Coillte's Strategic Vision identified 11 ambitions for the sustainable management of Coillte's estate to 2050 and beyond. This vision is based on our commitment to deliver the multiple benefits of forests to society, including climate mitigation, biodiversity enhancement, sustainable timber production, and public recreation, while ensuring Coillte remains financially sustainable and socially responsible.

OUR PURPOSE

To manage the state forests on behalf of the people of Ireland.

OUR MISSION

To deliver the multiple benefits of our forests for climate, nature, wood and people.

OUR VISION

To create a sustainable future for all from our forests.

In seeking to develop a balanced strategic vision for forestry and land-use, the approach taken has been to first consider the right objective, then to determine the most appropriate location to deliver on the objective, the right place, and then the optimum land use type and management, to best meet these objectives. This approach is underpinned by four key pillars and their associated ambitions: Forests for Climate, Forests for Nature, Forests for Wood, and Forests for People (Figure 1 and 2).

Figure 1 | A visual representation of the link between multiple pillars



Figure 2 | Eleven ambitions across the four strategic pillars

Forests for climate

- Enable the creation of 100,000 ha of new forests, half of which will be native woodlands, which will sink 18m tonnes CO₂ by 2050
- Manage the existing Forest Estate to increase the carbon store by 10m tonnes of CO₂ by 2050
- Redesign 30,000 ha of peatland forests for climate and ecological benefits by 2050
- Generate an additional 1 Gigawatt of renewable wind energy to power 500,000 homes by 2030

Forests for nature

- Enhance and restore biodiversity by increasing the area of our estate managed primarily for nature from 20% to 30% by 2025
- Transform areas of our forests so that 50% of our estate is managed primarily for nature in the long-term

Forests for wood

- Produce 25m cubic metres of certified Irish timber, to support the construction of 300,000 homes by 2030¹
- Promote the use and benefits of wood products to increase the level of timber homes from 20% to 80% by 2050

Forests for people

- Enable the investment of €100 million in world-class visitor destinations to support growth in tourism and recreation by 2030
- Double the number of recreation areas to 500, to benefit local communities and people's wellbeing
- Create 1,200 new jobs in rural communities to support the just transition to a low carbon economy

¹ Ambition at launch in 2022, Coillte has since produced some of the volume.

1. INTRODUCTION

Working towards realising our vision, in 2023 Coillte developed the Forest Estate Strategic Land Use Plan (FESLUP), which provided the framework to balance the delivery of the multiple uses of our forests until 2050. The FESLUP sets out Coillte’s strategic ambitions and objectives, and outlines a roadmap for achieving them, focusing on creating a resilient forest estate that delivers environmental, social, and economic benefits.

The Land Use Strategic Implementation Plan (LUSIP) is the next step within Coillte’s strategic planning hierarchy, translating the high-level ambitions and objectives outlined in the FESLUP into implementable and measurable actions over the period of 2026-2035 (Figure 3).

Figure 3 | Coillte’s planning hierarchy with the LUSIP bridging the gap between strategy and implementation



The primary purpose of this LUSIP is to bridge the gap between strategy and implementation, making sure Coillte's long-term vision is realised based on a structured and collaborative approach that considers all land-based activities in the organisation. In this regard, the LUSIP integrates spatial data, scenario planning, and best practices in forestry management. The LUSIP establishes indicators to monitor progress and incorporates the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) and Appropriate Assessment (AA) to ensure environmental considerations are integrated into the plan, and the plan aligns with all relevant environmental legislation and the environmental policy framework in Ireland. Mitigation measures were developed and integrated into the plan through the SEA and AA to prevent, reduce and as fully as possible offset any potential significant adverse effects that may occur due to the implementation of a plan.

The LUSIP is being developed through a phased approach. The initial stage focuses on creating an outline plan that details the high-level actions for each FESLUP objective, while the second stage refines these actions through extensive consultation and environmental assessments. This structured, participative process ensures the LUSIP remains adaptable and relevant, enabling Coillte to deliver a resilient forest estate that supports not only a strong and sustainable wood and timber sector in the country, but also Ireland’s climate, biodiversity, and societal goals while safeguarding its natural resources for future generations.

2 Forest Estate Actions



2. Forest Estate Actions

This section is organised around Coillte’s four strategic pillars, Forests for Climate, Nature, Wood, and People. Within each pillar, specific actions are identified to help deliver on FESLUP objectives and corresponding Strategic Vision ambitions.

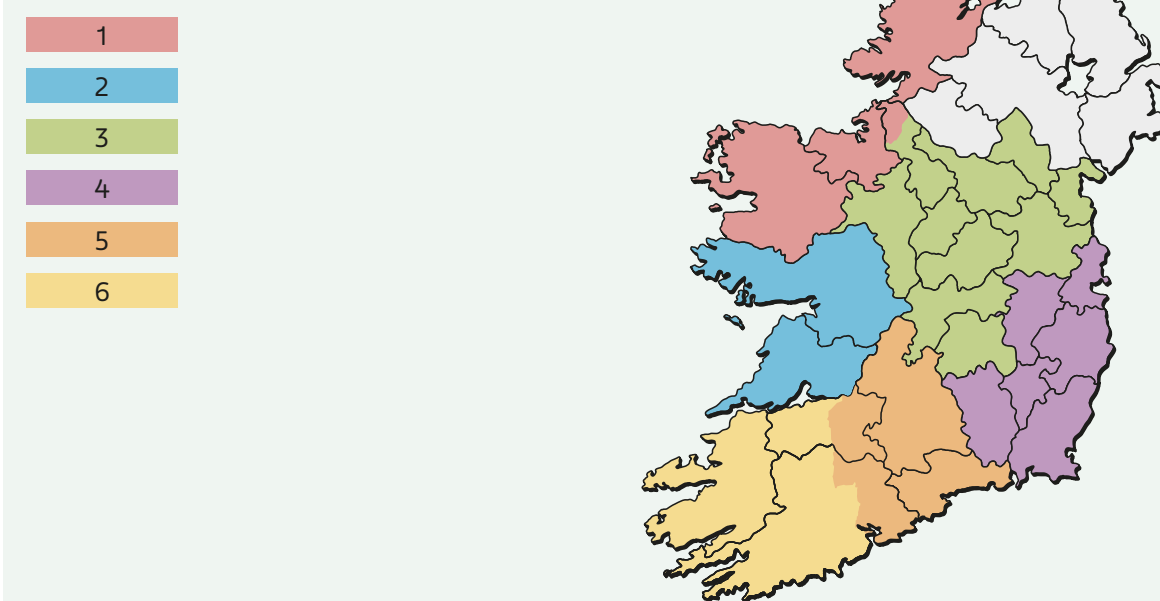
Indicative timeframes are assigned to actions to monitor progress effectively and guide their timely implementation, while recognising that execution and ongoing efforts may continue beyond the indicated periods. On this note, some ambitions were established before this plan was developed and may have different original timeframes—for example, Ambitions 4 and 7 target 2030, while Ambition 5 focuses on 2025. However, the actions outlined in this plan align with and support their delivery within the 2026 – 2035 period.

The list of actions includes both ongoing work and new opportunities to enhance delivery of our ambitions. Where possible specific targets have been identified, it should be noted it is not possible to establish targets for all actions due to their nature, that might be associated with the development of procedures, documentation and engagements.

Additionally, some of the actions detailed below will require input and collaboration from various stakeholders, and indeed some of the outcomes and/or deliverables detailed are not under the direct control of Coillte. For example, in Action NO18.A1 which notes Coillte will “*Through the Deer Management Forum, assist in the development of Irish Deer Management Strategy and once developed, update processes to implement the recommended measures*”, it should be noted the Deer Management Strategy is a national policy, and whilst Coillte will collaborate with various stakeholders in the strategy development and subsequent implementation once adopted, the development and adoption of the Strategy itself is the responsibility of the Deer Management Forum². Where Actions or deliverables are not under the direct control of Coillte, or where they are dependent on third-party input or approval, this is indicated in the action tables with a partnership icon . Coillte will actively engage with external stakeholders to ensure alignment, gather insights, and advocate for necessary policy or regulatory changes to support the plan delivery.

Although this plan has a national scope, actions are reported by Business Area Unit (BAU) where applicable. This will ensure implementation is adapted to local context, enhancing effectiveness of the plan. Figure 4 illustrates Coillte’s BAUs.

Figure 4 | Coillte’s Business Area Units (BAUs)



² The Irish Deer Management Forum is a multi-stakeholder advisory body formed by DAFM, NPWS, Coillte, farmers, hunters, and other conservation groups and academic experts. Its primary purpose is to develop strategies for the sustainable management of wild deer in the country.

2.1 Forests for Climate | Objectives & Actions



Ambition 1 of the Strategic Vision

1 Enable the creation of 100,000 ha of new forests, half of which will be native woodlands, which will sink 18m tonnes CO₂ by 2050.



		Geographic Reporting Scale	Time-frame
C01	Undertake a review to understand Land Use policy implications for productive and native afforestation and assess land resource availability and the impact of alternative agricultural schemes.		
C01.A1	Outline the potential pathways to support the sustainable delivery of 100,000 ha by 2050.	National	2026 – 2030
C02	Engage with government and other key regulatory bodies to ensure that the policy and regulatory framework supports Coillte's Climate ambitions.		
C02.A1	Develop and implement a Stakeholder Engagement Plan to raise awareness of the Afforestation Ambition.	National	2026 – 2030
C03	Support Local and National Government to develop afforestation opportunities on suitable publicly owned lands.		
C03.A1	Support and facilitate those public bodies who are committed to pursuing opportunities for afforestation on publicly owned land by supplying key afforestation management and planning services, where appropriate.	National	2026 – 2035
C04	Collaborate with key stakeholders to explore options for farmer led afforestation.		
C04.A1	Consider proposals to help promote sustainable farmer-led afforestation and collaborate with key stakeholders.	National	2026 – 2030

		Geographic Reporting Scale	Time-frame
C05	Secure the necessary investment to achieve Coillte's Climate ambitions by exploring all sources of available funding.		
C05.A1	Explore new funding models to deliver nature and climate-based credits and create projects that will deliver new afforestation and continue to support investors in Irish forestry by providing afforestation, woodland management, and other important services that promote afforestation.	National	2026 – 2035

Ambition 2 of the Strategic Vision

2 Redesign 30,000 ha of Peatland Forests for climate and ecological benefits by 2050.



		Geographic Reporting Scale	Time-frame
C06	Synthesise existing information to identify potential location(s) for the redesign of peatlands at scale.		
C06.A1	Review existing in-house information to identify potential locations for the redesign of ca. 15,000 ha of peatlands and engage with external stakeholders, as appropriate, ensuring environmental considerations and constraints inform this process where possible. Redesign of unproductive Peatland Forests will be science-based and will ultimately be delivered - subject to carbon funding initiatives - over the longer term through a combination of rewetting/rehabilitation ("Forest-to-Bog" projects) and transitioning to semi-natural forests with open spaces as appropriate.	National	2026 – 2035
C07	Continuously develop guidelines for the redesign of peatlands based on best Irish and international practice informed by suitably qualified professionals.		
C07.A1	Engage with experts and practitioners undertaking large scale peatland rehabilitation programmes in Ireland and continue to review the international literature and develop best practices on the redesign of peatland at scale in an Irish context.	National	2026 – 2035
C08	Establish and implement monitoring and management frameworks for redesigned peatlands. Such monitoring and management frameworks shall be designed by suitably qualified, multidisciplinary professionals.		
C08.A1	Develop monitoring and management frameworks for redesigned peatlands using earth observation and on-site measurement techniques.	National	2026 – 2030

Ambition 3 of the Strategic Vision

3

Manage the existing Forest Estate to increase the carbon store by 10m tonnes of CO₂ by 2050.



		Geographic Reporting Scale	Time-frame
C09	Utilise land use planning models to deliver balanced carbon mitigation management options to achieve the 10m tonnes of CO ₂ storage target.		
C09.A1	Update land-use planning model to generate Greenhouse Gas (GHG) profile using up-to-date inventory and harvest volume data and undertake analysis to ensure proposed management options implemented within the timeframe of this plan supports the delivery of the longer-term ambition.	National	2026 – 2035
C010	Undertake continued refinement and analysis of the impact of forest management and mitigation measures to improve forest productivity, including managing the age profile to improve the estate's carbon efficiency.		
C010.A1	Continually review and analyse forest management practices that can support climate mitigation, and where appropriate engage with scientific experts in the field to further understand the data and knowledge of carbon dynamics. Consider how they can be incorporated into reporting requirements such as Science Based Targets initiative (SBTi) and GHG protocol. In addition, engage with forest owners and industry to raise awareness regarding the implementation of forest management practices on climate regulation.	National	2031 – 2035
C011	Identify and quantify the impacts of climate change and develop measures to make Coillte's estate more climate resilient.		
C011.A1	Develop a forest resilience strategy that considers the impacts of climate change, identifies risks and mitigations as well as the risk of pests and diseases and evaluate how these findings can be incorporated into our planning models.	National	2026 – 2030
C012	Develop evidence and understanding of carbon management within the forest and across the forestry supply chain and pilot new decision-making tools.		
	Refer to C010 Actions.		
C013	Deepen our understanding of the potential of product substitution from harvested wood and undertake additional analysis related to fossil fuel displacement and value chain emissions.		
C013.A1	Review and update analysis on product substitution based on up-to-date wood supply and usage figures to produce new displacement factors.	National	2026 – 2030

Ambition 4 of the Strategic Vision

4

Generate an additional 1 Gigawatt of renewable wind energy to power 500,000 homes by 2030.



		Geographic Reporting Scale	Time-frame
C014	Support FuturEnergy Ireland (FEI) and third-party renewable energy developers in their current and future renewable energy endeavours, in full consideration of protection of the environment including Appropriate Assessment screening where necessary.		
C014.A1	Continue to enable FEI and non-FEI projects where appropriate through providing land agreements to facilitate renewable energy projects.	BAU	2026 – 2030
C015	Engage with Government and other key stakeholders to ensure that the policy and regulatory framework can effectively deliver the approval and granting of permissions for renewable energy projects including a correctly structured, timely and well-resourced planning process.		
C015.A1	Coillte will support FEI and third-party developers in seeking improvements in the planning process by actively engaging in relevant public consultations and making submissions as opportunities arise throughout the duration of the plan, including consultations relating to statutory land use plans.	National	2026 – 2030
C016	Develop a clear policy and explore opportunities for both onshore and offshore grid infrastructure, rollout and services to support ongoing development, in full consideration of protection of the environment including Appropriate Assessment screening where necessary.		
C016.A1	Coillte will develop a policy outlining Coillte's role as a Landowner in the facilitation of grid infrastructure.	National	2026 – 2030
C016.A2	Consider proposals in relation to grid solutions (such as long duration energy storage) received from FEI and third-party developers as they relate to Coillte property for the timeframe of the plan.	National	2026 – 2030



2.2 Forests for Nature | Objectives & Actions



Ambition 5 of the Strategic Vision

5 Enhance and restore biodiversity by increasing the area of our estate managed primarily for nature from 20% to 30% by 2025.



		Geographic Reporting Scale	Time-frame
N01	Classify additional biodiversity areas on the estate, focusing on habitats of the best ecological quality, and/or which have the best habitat restoration potential.		
N01.A1	Coillte will identify an additional c.44,000 ha across the estate to be managed primarily for nature. The BioClass system will be used to rank the ecological value of these new biodiversity areas and to assign a target habitat, which indicates the overall management goal.	National	Complete
N02	Continue the process of producing and implementing management plans for biodiversity areas, combining both ecological and forestry perspectives and expertise in the effort to improve biodiversity found within the Coillte estate, subject to Appropriate Assessment screening, as necessary.		
N02.A1	Scale up the management of biodiversity areas; increase the annual operational programme to deliver, by 2029, biodiversity interventions on 2,000ha. The management actions will primarily include Continuous Cover Forestry (CCF), coupe felling, control of invasive species and re-wetting or maintaining ecologically important bog habitat and will be informed by BAMPlans (Biodiversity Area Management Plans) that are prepared jointly by foresters and ecologists.	National	2026 – 2030
N02.A2	Develop markets and supply chain to optimise timber produced from CCF management actions. Diversifying end markets will support CCF implementation.	BAU	2026 – 2030
N02.A3	Innovate and explore ways of leveraging Coillte’s forest management planning systems and capability to incorporate biodiversity objectives and prioritise sites of highest ecological value.	National	2026 – 2030

		Geographic Reporting Scale	Time-frame
N03	Create a framework for the selection, appropriate restoration and conservation of ancient and long-established woodland, and engage with key regulatory bodies to promote the approach.		
N03.A1	Coillte will map ancient forests on the estate, assess their ecological value using BioClass procedure and develop appropriate management approach.	National	2026 – 2030
N03.A2	Lead engagement with relevant stakeholders to demonstrate and promote our management approach.	National	2026 – 2030

Ambition 6 of the Strategic Vision

6 Transform areas of our forests so that 50% of our estate is managed primarily for nature in the long-term.



		Geographic Reporting Scale	Time-frame
N04	Continue to increase the implementation of alternative silvicultural systems including continuous cover forestry (CCF) in forests of ecological value. Any plan or project arising shall be subject to Appropriate Assessment screening, as necessary.		
	Refer to N02, N03, and N06 Actions.		
N05	Develop metrics, set targets and develop an effective regime to monitor and report on key environmental parameters on the Coillte estate; including valuable habitats / species and the ecological benefits of biodiversity management actions.		
N05.A1	Review and update existing biodiversity monitoring procedures, to ensure the management actions are effective in protecting and enhancing the habitats present.	BAU	2026 – 2030
N05.A2	Develop a methodology for recording and reporting habitats at scale across the estate, combining Coillte’s inventory and Geographic Information System (GIS) skillsets and capability with available ecological data.	National	2031 – 2035
N05.A3	Explore approaches to mapping change in sites of high ecological value/ sensitivity.	National	2031 – 2035
N05.A4	Develop a process for recording and reporting species (flora and fauna) to build our knowledge of their occurrence across the estate and to better inform appropriate protection measures.	BAU	2031 – 2035

Ambition 6 of the Strategic Vision

6

Transform areas of our forests so that 50% of our estate is managed primarily for nature in the long-term.



		Geographic Reporting Scale	Time-frame
N06	Continue to identify portions of the estate with potential to make a greater contribution to biodiversity and explore opportunities to transform them to improve their nature conservation value.		
N06.A1	Develop criteria for defining the target habitat of forests managed primarily for climate (forest redesign) and develop protocols to define the silvicultural systems and management approaches that will improve their value for nature.	National	2026 – 2030
N06.A2	Continue to engage with DAFM, NPWS, IFI ³ and other bodies in a process of knowledge exchange to agree protocols for managing forest re-design sites for the benefit of habitats and species.	National	2026 – 2030
N07	Engage with key regulatory and other bodies to develop a common vision for how these sites (ref N06) should be managed.		
	Refer to N06 Actions.		
N08	Develop protocols for managing these sites (ref N06), appropriate to their scale, habitat connectivity and site type, that will improve their nature conservation value.		
	Refer to N06 Actions.		



3 Department of Agriculture, Food and Marine (DAFM), National Parks & Wildlife Service (NPWS), Inland Fisheries Ireland (IFI).

Additional Nature Objectives		Geographic Reporting Scale	Time-frame
The following objectives are not explicitly linked to any Ambitions of the Strategic Vision, but are overarching nature objectives relating to all pillars:			
N09	Review and update, as appropriate, Environmental Risk Assessment (ERA) standards and procedures to inform planning and operations, in line with ongoing and emerging best practice.		
N09.A1	Review existing ERA procedures, implement changes as required, and integrate into planning and operations.	National	2026 – 2030
N010	Identify and implement ways of improving the advance planning of biodiversity management actions and integration into business planning, where appropriate and feasible.		
	Refer to N02 Actions.		
N011	Identify and implement methods to improve inventory processes and data-gathering, to expand our knowledge of nature on the estate and our reporting capacity.		
	Refer to N05 Actions.		
N012	Review and improve methods for how biodiversity features and other important environmental features are recorded across the estate. Methods shall be informed by the input of suitable specialists in ecology.		
	Refer to N09 Actions.		
N013	Enhance guidance for the management of habitats and species relevant to Coillte's estate and activities, with the input of suitably qualified specialists.		
N013.A1	Maintain and update the existing protocols for protected species and habitats adopted in Coillte appropriate assessment and develop action plans for key species on the estate (e.g. lesser horseshoe bat, freshwater pearl mussel etc.) having due regard to existing and emerging best practice and relevant NPWS species plans, such as the following: • Hen Harrier Threat Response Plan • Lesser Horseshoe Bat Species Action Plan	National	2026 – 2030
N013.A2	Continue engagement and partnership projects with NPWS and other relevant agencies e.g. IFI to deliver management actions to enhance species and habitats, moving them towards more favourable conservation status.	National	2026 – 2030
N014	Engage with the relevant regulatory agencies on the measures required to move statutory designated sites to favourable conservation status.		
	Refer to N013 Actions.		

		Geographic Reporting Scale	Time-frame
N015	Engage with relevant agencies to improve a science-based understanding of the interaction between forests and water.		
N015.A1	Continue engagement with relevant agencies and stakeholders to explore how forest management can play a role in enhancing water quality and catchment status.	National	2026 – 2030
N015.A2	Participate in projects such as Blue Dot, EU Waters for Life and HydroSed ⁴ , to deliver and promote positive forest management actions.	National	2026 – 2030
N016	Engage with relevant agencies and stakeholders to explore how Coillte can play a role in delivering programmes and measures aimed at enhancing water quality in catchments.		
	Refer to N015 Actions.		
N017	Collaborate with relevant stakeholders to develop national strategies towards the management of invasive species.		
N017.A1	Develop best practice for controlling invasive species on Coillte sites, through collaboration with staff, practitioners, contractors and other agencies who are engaged in this work, to share experiences and knowledge.	National	2026 – 2030
N018	Collaborate and engage as a key partner with the ongoing preparation of the Deer Management Strategy and seek to implement once published, in so far as possible and appropriate.		
N018.A1	Through the Deer Management Forum, assist in the development of Irish Deer Management Strategy and once developed, update processes to implement the recommended measures.	National	2026 – 2030
N019	Identify and target appropriate funding mechanisms that will enable the implementation of conservation and protection measures at scale.		
N019.A1	Identify and create packages of work to enable delivery of biodiversity goals relevant to the Coillte estate, improving habitat quality in biodiversity areas and benefiting key species on the estate.	National	2026 – 2030
N019.A2	Develop partnerships with appropriate funding partners.	National	2026 – 2030

⁴ Blue Dot is an Irish programme to protect and restore rivers and lakes of the highest ecological status. EU Waters of LIFE is an EU-funded project trialling best-practice measures to safeguard Ireland's pristine waters. HydroSED is a research project studying the hydrological and sediment impacts of forestry operations on water quality.

2.3 Forests for Wood | Objectives & Actions

Ambition 7 of the Strategic Vision

7 Produce 25m cubic metres of certified Irish timber, to support the construction of 300,000 homes by 2030.¹

		Geographic Reporting Scale	Time-frame
W01	Maintain production capacity to harvest and supply certified roundwood to support the wood processing industry.		
W01.A1	To produce c.30 – 33 M m ³ of certified timber between 2026 – 2035, of which c.26 – 28 M m ³ from clearfell, c.3 – 4 M m ³ from thinnings and c.0.5 – 1 M m ³ from Continuous Cover Forestry. Restocking of approximately 55 – 60 thousand hectares, and the construction of approximately 800km of new roads. ⁵	BAU	2026 – 2035
W02	Maintain independent environmental certification of Coillte-managed forests.		
W02.A1	Undertake surveillance and compliance audits and address any non-compliances as necessary to maintain forest certification.	National & BAU	2026 – 2035
W03	Work with other contributors to produce a medium-term all-Ireland roundwood forecast on a regular basis.		
W03.A1	To continue Coillte's contribution to the <i>All Ireland Roundwood Production Forecast</i> .	National	2026 – 2030
W04	Introduce a three-year rolling plan for roundwood supply that addresses all the short-term and medium planning requirements to make roundwood available in each planned year of operations.		
W04.A1	To produce a set of Harvest Blocks on an annual basis at least three years in advance of planned year of harvest to enable timely environmental risk assessment, Appropriate Assessment, and regulatory approval for felling, replanting and roading.	National & BAU	2026 – 2035

⁵ The Ambition 7 timber production of 25 million cubic metres of certified timber by 2030 refers solely to Coillte land. The associated action target and timeframe have been updated to also reflect production from third-party land and timber managed by Coillte throughout the entire planning horizon.

		Geographic Reporting Scale	Time-frame
W05	Report annually to the wood processing sector on the available supply of roundwood for the year ahead and the actual supply that materialised in the previous year.		
W05.A1	To produce annual reports on both available supply for the forthcoming year and actual supply for the previous year.	National	2026 – 2035
W06	Ensure access to the forest estate for the purpose of Roundwood removals is maintained through Forest Industry Transport Group collaboration with partners and stakeholders.		
W06.A1 	The Forest Industry Transport Group will collaborate with relevant stakeholders to optimise haulage routes, schedules and highlight the importance of maintaining access to the forest estate.	National	2026 – 2035
W07	Monitor forest health and condition to detect and mitigate against the potential impact of pests and diseases and guide management interventions to ensure the estate can continue to deliver under the pillars of Climate, Nature, Wood and People.		
W07.A1	Continue annual forest health monitoring across the estate, engage with DAFM and other Irish, UK and EU counterparts, to update and review contingency planning in response to any evolving abiotic or biotic threats.	National	2026 – 2035
W08	Maintain timber security measures including the geofencing of all forests and tracking of roundwood removals from the Coillte Estate.		
W08.A1	Maintain and enhance existing physical infrastructure and apply geo fencing technology to ensure timber removals are conducted in line with Coillte's code of practice for timber removals.	National	2026 – 2030
W09	Support innovation and the adoption of new technologies and practices to enhance the efficiency of the roundwood supply chain, including mechanisms for monitoring roundwood stocks in the forest.		
W09.A1	Continue to adopt new technological solutions and work with industry partners to enhance the efficiency of the roundwood supply chain.	National	2026 – 2035
W010	Support government and other stakeholders to expedite the approval and granting of forestry licences to ensure sufficient and consistent volumes of roundwood supply are available.		
W010.A1 	Continue to engage with DAFM, Forestry Appeals Committee (FAC), and relevant stakeholders to make the licencing application, approvals, and appeals process more efficient.	National	2026 – 2030
W011	Promote initiatives aimed at increasing public awareness regarding the importance of forests in delivering the wood supply needed to meet Irish housing demand.		
W011.A1	Communicate and engage with the public through a variety of channels to create the link between productive forestry and need for Irish wood products.	National	2026 – 2030

Ambition 8 of the Strategic Vision

8

Promote the use and benefits of wood products to increase the level of timber homes from 20% to 80% by 2050.



		Geographic Reporting Scale	Time-frame
W012	Develop comprehensive evidence on the benefits delivered by the forestry sector and on the benefits of using home grown sawnwood in construction.		
W012.A1	Develop evidence-based reports to support initiatives aimed at increasing the use of sustainable timber in construction and disseminate key findings to effectively promote and highlight the benefits of increased sustainable timber usage.	National	2026 – 2030
W013	Engage with government and relevant bodies to revise regulations concerning the use of wood in construction.		
W013.A1 	Conduct a comprehensive analysis of current wood construction regulations to identify barriers and opportunities, develop evidence-based proposals for regulatory change.	National	2026 – 2030
W013.A2 	Collaborate with industry associations, environmental groups, and academic experts to advocate for these changes through strategic communication while monitoring progress with government bodies.	National	2026 – 2030
W014	Engage with government and relevant bodies to introduce green procurement guidelines for new public buildings and to introduce sustainability mechanisms in construction to reduce the carbon footprint of new builds.		
W014.A1 	Research and compile best practices on green procurement policies and collaborate with government, industry experts to promote procurement and sustainable construction practices.	National	2026 – 2030
W015	Support the demonstration of new forms of timber-based construction in Ireland.		
W015.A1 	Collaborate with industry and academia to establish partnerships for high-impact pilot projects that demonstrate sustainable timber construction techniques and effectively promote the outcomes to target stakeholders.	National	2026 – 2030
W016	Assist in the development of design guidance for practitioners and educational courses in timber building systems including the use of mass timber and timber frame construction in Ireland.		
W016.A1 	Conduct a comprehensive review of design guidelines and educational materials to identify gaps and best practices.	National	2026 – 2030
W016.A2 	Create a centralised training resource repository and partner with educational institutions to integrate timber into third-level curricula as a core module.	National	2026 – 2030



2.4 Forests for People | Objectives & Actions

Ambition 9 of the Strategic Vision

9 Enable the investment of €100 million in world-class Visitor Destinations to support growth in tourism and recreation by 2030.



		Geographic Reporting Scale	Time-frame
P01	Identify priority site locations and develop masterplans for future Visitor Destinations, in full consideration of the protection of the environment and subject to Appropriate Assessment screening where necessary.		
P01.A1	Assess potential new visitor destinations sites. Select 3 sites and complete Strategic Design Planning (SDP) on those sites.	National	2026 – 2030
P02	Strengthen our strategic partnership for the delivery of Visitor Destinations with Fáilte Ireland to support shared objectives.		
P02.A1	Agree and sign a new Partnership agreement with Fáilte Ireland for the period of 2030 to 2035.	National	2026 – 2030
P03	Engage with Local Authorities to identify opportunities to create recreational projects of scale, in line with local and national development plans.		
P03.A1	Work with Local Authorities to identify projects of scale and to source funding.	BAU	2026 – 2030
P04	Monitor visitor numbers and measure impact, to protect the environment and enhance customer experience.		
P04.A1	Develop sustainability plans at key destinations and report on the visitor numbers and associated sustainability factors annually.	BAU & National	2026 – 2030

		Geographic Reporting Scale	Time-frame
P05	Develop commercial partnerships that support investment to deliver Outstanding Visitor Destinations.		
P05.A1	Develop bespoke partnerships to design and build new visitor destinations based on the requirements of each project. Seek to secure the support of partners who are experts in developing sustainable visitor destinations.	BAU	2026 – 2030

Ambition 10 of the Strategic Vision

10 Double the number of Recreational Areas to 500, to benefit local communities and people’s wellbeing.



		Geographic Reporting Scale	Time-frame
P06	Create a system of classification for Recreation Areas, in full consideration of the important ecological features of Coillte’s estate, setting out the offer and facilities to be provided for each category.		
P06.A1	Develop a classification system and criteria for recreation areas describing the recreational offering and facilities.	National	2026 – 2030
P07	Develop assessment criteria to identify locations for future Recreational Areas.		
	Refer to P06 Actions.		
P08	Develop a community model to enable public and local authority involvement in the development of Recreation Areas.		
P08.A1	Create a community engagement model that facilitates public and local authority participation in the development and maintenance of Recreation Areas while providing opportunities for local communities to contribute and benefit.	National	2026 – 2030
P09	Develop methods to measure and quantify the social and wellbeing benefits of outdoor recreation.		
P09.A1	Using industry expertise, measure and quantify the economic, social and wellbeing benefits of outdoor recreation.	National	2026 – 2030
P09.A2	Expand the Woodlands for Health programme, while promoting sustainable and environmentally responsible interaction with woodland areas.	National	2026 – 2030

		Geographic Reporting Scale	Time-frame
P10	Develop a community model to support public engagement, identify the emerging social and recreational needs and provide meaningful opportunities for local communities to support the development of Recreation Areas.		
	Refer to P08 Actions.		
P011	Develop deeper relationships with local authorities to identify and execute local recreational opportunities and leverage funding.		
P011.A1 	Partner with local authorities and development companies to develop and support Outdoor Recreation Committees.	BAU	2026 – 2035
P012	Expand digital services to support the mapping and analysis of Recreational Areas and improve efficiencies in monitoring and management.		
P012.A1	Partner with external providers of digital recreation services to develop a process to map and analyse recreation areas.	National	2026 – 2030

Ambition 11 of the Strategic Vision

11

Create 1,200 new jobs in rural communities to support the just transition to a low carbon economy.



		Geographic Reporting Scale	Time-frame
P013	Support businesses of different types and scale to develop and grow markets for value-added wood products, forest tourism and recreation opportunities.		
P013.A1 	Support RD&I and demonstrator projects that advance new value-added wood products and timber-based building systems.	National	2026 – 2030
P013.A2 	Partner with IAAT (Irish Association for Adventure Tourism) to promote forest recreation opportunities for service providers and operators.	National	2026 – 2030
P014	Support the operational contractor base to grow and diversify, so that it has the capacity to deliver Coillte's afforestation, peatland redesign and nature ambitions.		
P014.A1	Through the Workforce Capacity Project, focus on sourcing new contractors to meet our demands. Ensure contractors are equipped with the skills needed to align with Coillte's ambitions.	National	2026 – 2030

		Geographic Reporting Scale	Time-frame
P015	Enhance operational guidance for staff and contractors regarding biodiversity management and peatland redesign, with the input of suitably qualified specialists.		
	Refer to C07, N06, and N09 Actions.		
P016	Support the provision of education and training to attract new entrants to the sector and enhance skills in new and emerging areas.		
P016.A1 	Collaborate with industry forums, educators, and government stakeholders to design and deliver targeted training programs, enhance tertiary education curricula, and develop innovative initiatives, such as digital learning experiences for students, to attract new entrants and build skills in emerging areas. Additionally, advocate for the inclusion of forestry-related skills on the Critical Skills List, monitor annual updates, and address gaps in recognising essential forestry roles through partnerships and apprenticeships.	National	2026 – 2030
P017	Support the enhancement of the curriculum in tertiary education and the development of apprentices to attract new forestry and related professionals to the sector.		
	Refer to P016 Actions.		
P018	Support and continue to engage with government and other stakeholders towards the inclusion of forestry skills on the Critical Skills List.		
	Refer to P016 Actions.		

Additional People Objectives: Human Wellbeing & Health

The following objectives are not explicitly linked to any Ambitions of the Strategic Vision, but are overarching objectives relating to Forests for People:

		Geographic Reporting Scale	Time-frame
P019	Maintain occupational health and safety across the Coillte estate.		
P019.A1	Continue to monitor H&S across the estate and provide updated guidance to all staff and contractors.	National	2026 – 2035
P020	Expand the Woodlands for Health programme.		
	Refer to P09 Actions.		



2.5 Additional Actions

These actions resulted from the draft environmental assessments and ensure that the adoption of environmental mitigations are implemented.

	Geographic Reporting Scale	Time-frame
Coillte commit to delivering the Land Use Strategic Implementation Plan (LUSIP) actions in accordance with the Environmental Governance Framework (EGF) defined under the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) and Appropriate Assessment (AA) of the LUSIP. This EGF provides a policy-level framework for environmental protection and will inform decision-making and will guide lower-level plans, projects and activities being delivered under the LUSIP.	National	2026 – 2035
Coillte commit to adopting and implementing all recommendations relating to environmental protection defined under the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) and Appropriate Assessment (AA) of the LUSIP.	National	2026 – 2035

3

Considerations – SEA & AA

3. Considerations – SEA & AA

Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) is a systematic process used to evaluate and mitigate the potential environmental impacts of plans and programmes before they are implemented. Required by the EU SEA Directive (2001/42/EC), this process ensures environmental considerations are integrated into the planning and decision-making stages. The SEA examines a range of environmental factors, such as biodiversity, water, soil, air quality, and cultural heritage, to identify potential risks and impacts and recommends mitigation measures to prevent, minimise and as fully as possible offset any potential significant adverse impacts that may arise due to the implementation of a plan.

Conducted under the EU Habitats Directive (92/43/EEC), Appropriate Assessment (AA) focuses on assessing the potential effects of plans or projects on European sites forming part of the Natura 2000 Network (Special Protection Areas and Special Areas of Conservation). The AA process determines whether a plan could have significant impacts on the integrity of qualifying interests, special conservation interests and conservation objectives of these sites. If risks and potential effects are identified, mitigation measures are developed to ensure the ecological integrity of these sites is maintained.

By incorporating SEA and AA into the development of the LUSIP, Coillte has ensured that the Plan complies with all relevant environmental legislation and the environmental policy framework in Ireland and result in optimum environmental outcomes. These assessments were embedded during the plan-making process through detailed scoping, consultation with environmental authorities, and iterative reviews, allowing for the refinement of the actions and the development of an Environmental Governance Framework (EGF) that defines meaningful environmental mitigations for the actions, fully integrating them into this Plan (Appendix I).

The complete findings and mitigation measures arising from the SEA process are set out in the accompanying SEA Environmental Report, which should be read alongside the LUSIP. This report outlines how environmental considerations have influenced the Plan’s development and provides a detail of how potential impacts have been addressed.

As part of the SEA process, a framework for monitoring the likely significant environmental effects of implementing the LUSIP has also been established and is described in the SEA Environmental Report. This SEA monitoring framework is aligned with the broader Plan monitoring and will track key environmental indicators over time. The results of SEA monitoring will feed into future reviews of the LUSIP to ensure that environmental protection remains central to its implementation.

4

Plan Delivery



4. Plan Delivery

4.1 Strategic Enablers

The successful execution of the LUSIP relies on key capacities and resources that act as strategic enablers. These enablers provide the foundation for achieving our goals by increasing and improving the forestry workforce, securing necessary funding, and ensuring alignment with national policies and regulations.

By adopting a collaborative and sector-wide approach, these enablers will support the growth and innovation needed to meet our forests for climate, nature, wood, and people ambitions. Together, they will drive operational efficiency, promote sustainable practices, and increase the value of the forestry sector overtime. Below, we outline the specific enablers we identified for the implementation of our strategy.

1.	Workforce Development	The promotion of forestry as a career option, in schools, through apprenticeships, scholarships, graduate programmes – a ‘whole sector’ approach.
2.	Funding Partnerships	Funding and support for our Climate, Nature, and People ambitions and projects through public and private partnerships.
3.	Regulatory Efficiency	Streamlined forestry regulation of licencing consent for planting new forests, habitat restoration, harvesting roundwood, and forest redesign.
4.	Land Use Policy	A national land use policy that enables and promotes the achievement of the national afforestation target and forestry strategy at national and local level.
5.	Building with Wood	Building regulation and policy that supports and promotes the use of sustainable wood in the construction of Irish homes.
6.	Financial Sustainability	Financial sustainability through cost efficiency in our operations and value creation in our markets.

4.2 Governance Processes to Support Plan Delivery

Coillte recognises the importance of an effective governance process to support the implementation of the LUSIP actions. Governance structures and framework will ensure the implementation is aligned with our objectives and risks are managed appropriately. Process and procedures will be developed to support managing the implementation of the LUSIP actions, along with effective monitoring to allow evaluation of the implementation and inform any adjustments required.

4.3 Multi-Objective Planning

The LUSIP will inform our planning processes through a Land Use layer, which classifies the estate into Coillte’s four Strategic Pillars - Climate, Nature, Wood, and People. This classification establishes the primary objective for each management unit, ensuring forest planning decisions contribute directly to high-level ambitions while maintaining a structured and transparent decision-making process.

However, land management is rarely defined by a single goal. In practice, each management unit supports multiple objectives beyond its primary classification. For example, a stand of young plantation with low canopy cover categorised under the Wood Pillar may also contribute to the Nature Pillar, providing shelter and nesting sites for the Hen Harrier (*Circus cyaneus*). Similarly, Nature units managed under CCF to diversify forest structure with trees of different ages and sizes to support fauna and flora, may also contribute to timber production and carbon sequestration. Through this multi-objective framework, we ensure the complex and interdependent nature of forestry is reflected in our planning, balancing priorities, and ensuring optimisation of resource use.

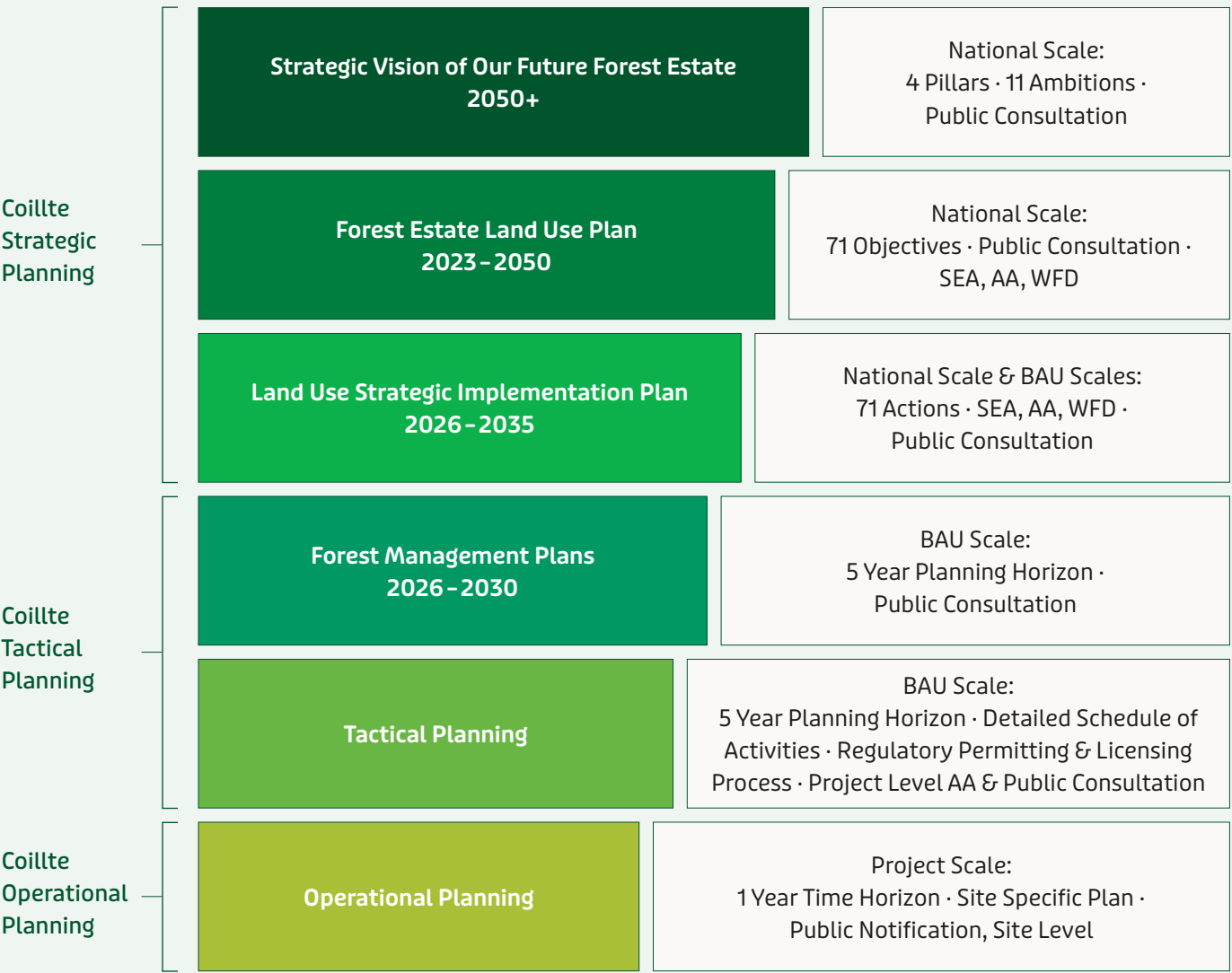
4.3.1 Incorporating the LUSIP Actions into Coillte’s Planning Systems

The actions described in the LUSIP will inform our hierarchical planning framework through the Forest Management Plans (FMPs – Figure 5). The FMPs are the core operational tools used by BAUs to guide land management and will serve as a mechanism for translating our Strategic Vision into practical, site-specific actions.

The FMPs operate on a five-year planning cycle and are specific to each Business Area Unit, aligning them with local priorities, operational constraints, and resource planning. Although they are not subject to SEA or AA, they undergo extensive public consultation. This provides an important opportunity for community engagement, transparency, and accountability at local level.

By cascading the LUSIP actions through the BAU Forest Management Plans, we ensure that our strategy is considered into established workflows and internal governance structures, rather than being treated as an external or parallel process. This integrated approach will allow for flexibility in how actions are adapted to local conditions, providing feedback loops into both strategic and operational planning.

Figure 5 | Coillte Planning Framework



5

Monitoring



5. Monitoring

Monitoring is a key component of the LUSIP and will help ensure the Plan is working as intended and advancing the delivery of our ambitions. To support this, a set of high-level indicators has been identified. These indicators will track progress across the strategic pillars of the Plan and assess the effectiveness of its actions.

The indicators have been chosen to reflect the full scope of the LUSIP, including land use, climate action, biodiversity, sustainable forest management, and recreational development. Together they provide a clear picture of how the Plan is being implemented, while identifying areas that may require adjustments or additional support.

List of indicators:

- Area of forest cover by year (ha)
- Area identified as appropriate for primarily nature management (ha)
- Area identified as appropriate for forested peatland redesign (ha)
- Area of afforestation licence applications on behalf of Coillte or Coillte led initiatives (ha)
- Area of biodiversity interventions implemented per year (ha)
- Volume of certified timber invoiced by year (m³)
- Greenhouse Gas (GHG) profile of the Coillte estate
- Renewable Energy generated or under construction in the Coillte estate (MW)
- Number of dedicated recreational forests
- Number of visitors to Coillte recreational areas
- Number of staff and contractors employed by Coillte
- Number of audits over a five-year period; ISO, H&S, certification, and forest health
- Percentage of timber frame houses constructed in ROI per year
- Percent of Irish wood used in construction in ROI per year

A formal review of the LUSIP will be conducted five years after the plan is published. This review will assess the progress made, evaluate the effectiveness of the actions, and incorporate lessons learned to inform future planning cycles. By establishing this structured timeline for review, we will ensure the LUSIP remains aligned with evolving priorities and continues to deliver measurable benefits across all strategic pillars.

6 Appendix



6. Appendix

6.1. Appendix I – Environmental Governance Framework

Environmental Mitigation

Peatland Forest Redesign projects shall be science based and will be designed and implemented in accordance with identified best practice to ensure optimal environmental and climate outcomes, including minimising Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emissions during works and increasing GHG sequestration over time.

Forest-to-Bog projects will be conducted for the purpose of delivering environmental, biodiversity and climate benefits. Forest-to-Bog projects will be designed in a way that prevents/minimises unintended adverse effects on the environment, including biodiversity, European sites, soils or water, which could potentially occur due to the physical and landscape changes associated with these projects. These projects shall be carried out in accordance with relevant environmental legislation and in alignment with inter-related environmental policy, supporting the protection of the environment (e.g., Water Action Plan 2024, 4th National Biodiversity Action Plan etc.).

Monitoring and management frameworks for redesigned peatlands will be developed by suitably qualified experts in accordance with best practice. A multi-disciplinary team of geo-technical and environmental experts will be required to provide input into the framework development process to ensure environmental effects are properly measured, quantified and identified, including effects on ecological receptors, hydrology, ground conditions and GHG flux.

The framework will include for example:

- An environmental assessment process to identify environmental sensitivities and define necessary monitoring and remedial actions and environmental mitigations; and
- Method statement for the carrying out of measurement techniques in accordance with relevant standards.

Archaeological surveying will be carried out to inform peatland redesign projects as appropriate to site type. Archaeological monitoring will be undertaken during works, where necessary. Archaeological mitigation will be adopted and implemented during projects in accordance with the Planning Authority and National Monument Services requirements, where required.

Land agreements to facilitate renewable energy development projects and associated grid infrastructure development projects shall require consideration of the following by the third-party developer:

- All projects shall be subject to EIA and AA Screening and/or full EIA and AA as necessary, having due regard to European sites and associated Qualifying Interests/Special Conservation Interests when designing, planning, and operating projects in accordance with legislative requirements.
- Appropriate regard shall be had for potential adverse effects on ecology when designing and planning projects. Projects will be obliged to adhere to mitigation measures as outlined in the EIA and conditions of planning.
- All renewable energy development projects and associated grid infrastructure development projects carried out by third party developers within the Coillte estate are required to be compliant with planning and environmental legislation by the third-party developer.

Seek to augment forest planning processes and enhance forest management practices, as necessary, to support improvements in water quality, in line with emerging and future DAFM requirements and the objectives of the Water Action Plan 2024 (and any relevant future iterations of this Plan).

Continue to adopt, implement and promote measures to reduce chemical pesticide use in forestry in line with the EU Regulatory Framework for Pesticides.

Continue to prevent and mitigate potential impacts of Coillte’s operations, projects, and activities on biodiversity, with the aim of avoiding negative effects and promoting positive effects on habitats and species, in alignment with the objectives of the 4th National Biodiversity Action Plan (and any future iterations of this Plan).

Coillte’s assistance in the development of an Irish Deer Management Strategy shall be science based and shall have due regard for the need to sustainably manage deer numbers to reduce the pressure on habitats caused by overgrazing.

Implement the Memorandum of Understanding between Coillte and The National Parks and Wildlife Service, with a view to protecting, restoring and enhancing habitats and species of nature conservation value on the Coillte estate.

Coillte shall ensure all forestry-related operations are undertaken in accordance with relevant environmental protection requirements and DAFM standards/guidelines, including but not limited the following:

- Forestry Standards Manual (DAFM, 2024)
- Environmental Requirements for Afforestation (DAFM, 2024)
- Conditions for Felling and Reforestation Standards for Felling & Reforestation (DAFM, v2019)
- Land Types for Afforestation Land Types for Afforestation: Soil & Fertility (DAFM, 2024)

Promote and facilitate the transition to the use of alternative fuel vehicles in forestry and transport operations with a view to decarbonising operations in line with national climate objectives.

Biodiversity Area Management Plans (BAMPlans) will be developed for biodiversity areas on the Coillte Estate, in accordance with Coillte’s current procedure. Coillte will engage with the NPWS where necessary, to consult on BAMPlans and to source species data for sites, where relevant. BAMPlans will be developed by Senior Ecologists and Foresters collaboratively.

BAMPlans will be developed for all Coillte sites within European sites (SACs) which are designated for woodland QIs or contain woodland as a supporting habitat (e.g. bog woodland and peatland habitats). BAMPlans will have due regard for the conservation objectives of the SAC and corresponding woodland QI.

The implications of forestry activities on European sites shall be considered as necessary during the preparation of any BAMPlans (in terms of alignment with conservation objectives) and during the DAFM licence application process. Where Appropriate Assessments/Natura Impact Statements are required for forestry operations, mitigation prescribed under the AA process will be sufficiently robust to ensure the forestry projects will not have adverse effects on the integrity of European sites, in accordance with Article 6(4) of the Habitats Directive (92/43/EEC).

Coillte will continue to develop and implement BAMPlans for biodiversity areas that contain invasive species. BAMPlans will have due regard for best practice and the most up-to-date scientific information and guidelines for the treatment of invasive species.

Protocols for habitat and species protection will continue to be developed by competent ecologists and will have due regard for best practice and the most up-to-date scientific information and guidelines.

All forestry works will continue to be undertaken by suitable qualified professionals.

Coillte commit to continually improving forest management practices, ensuring alignment with emerging and future forest-related good practice guidelines and standards, as appropriate, in light of future trends and evidence-bases.

Proactively seek opportunities to plant native woodland in riparian zones in support of biodiversity and water quality protection aims, having regard to DAFM’s Woodland for Water document - in support of policy aims to protect and improve water quality in Ireland.

Have due regard to soil type and the location of acid sensitive headwater catchments when undertaking forestry planning processes with a view to preventing afforestation occurring at unsuitable locations and resulting in adverse effects on water quality.

Ensure forest planning processes and forest management practices are suitably informed by latest research on forestry’s potential impact on water quality, including outputs from the EPA’s HYDROFOR research project, for example.

Seek to inform, shape, and adhere to all future DAFM requirements relating to water quality protection/ enhancement, including requirements arising from the implementation of the Water Action Plan 2024 (and future iterations) and emerging and future environmental research.

Secure and resource multi-disciplinary teams to deliver large-scale forestry projects in accordance with relevant environmental protection requirements, including foresters, environmental scientists, ecologists, hydrologists, archaeologists and other specialists, as appropriate.

Appropriate consideration shall be given to potential impacts any Coillte project may have on environmental receptors in Northern Ireland, such ecological receptors (including migratory/mobile species, designated sites, important non-designated habitat etc.), water quality in cross-border water bodies, Northern Irish heritage assets etc. Coillte will seek to consult with Northern Irish environmental stakeholders in relation to projects that may give rise to transboundary environmental effects.

Coillte shall ensure due regard is had to potential impacts on landscape character and visual amenity when planning, designing and delivering forestry projects. All Coillte forestry projects shall be carried out in line with relevant landscape related guidelines/standards (e.g. DAFM’s Forestry and the Landscape Guidelines) with a view to ensuring forestry projects are integrated into and complement existing landscape and do not have adverse effects on landscape (including seascape) character, protected/sensitivities views or prospects, or sensitive visual receptors.

The potential impact of recreational development on biodiversity, including protected flora species, will be considered, as necessary, when designing and planning such development. Appropriate ecological mitigation will be integrated into development projects that have the potential to generate significant adverse effects on sensitive ecological receptors.

Coillte shall continue to require third-party operators, who manage certain recreational activities within the Coillte Estate, to adhere to all relevant environmental protection requirements.

Visitor destination developments will be sustainably managed in accordance with planning requirements. Where necessary and in locations where recreational access is formalised only, recreational activity will be appropriately managed by Coillte to ensure litter prevention, ecological protection, water quality, noise limitation and heritage protection.

Visitor destination development shall be designed, planned, and constructed in accordance with best practice, to ensure such development will not adversely affect the environment. Lighting design shall prevent adverse effects on light sensitive species. Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems (SUDS) and Nature-Based Solutions (NBS) shall be incorporated into designs where feasible.

Any visitor destination development taking place at sensitive locations should be designed in a manner that promotes positive effects on landscape character and visual amenity and uses natural and flowing forms (including biophilic design principles, where feasible) that integrate seamlessly with natural landscape elements. Materials best suited to that type of approach will be natural and robust, giving a strong sense of permanence and integration. Green roofs and Sustainable Urban Drainage System (SUDs) principles should also be incorporated into projects, where feasible.

Built development within the Coillte Estate shall be designed and constructed in a manner that has appropriate regard to the setting surrounding heritage assets that may be present in an area. Archaeological and/or Architectural Heritage Impact Assessment shall be undertaken for development projects, as required under planning legislation. Such assessment shall have regard to potential impacts on both the physical integrity and setting of archeological/architectural features.

Appropriate Traffic and Transport Assessment shall be undertaken for visitor destination development that may give rise to significant traffic and transport-related impacts, where required under planning legislation. Sustainable mobility measures should integrate into such projects in alignment with national sustainable mobility policy aims. Consultation with transport authorities and providers shall take place when planning such projects with a view to promoting the use of public transport to travel to and from visitor destinations.

Climate mitigation measures shall be embedded into the design of visitor destination developments, as necessary (e.g., electric vehicle charging points, rooftop solar panels, energy efficient design etc.).

The following themes shall be promoted when planning visitor destinations: Amenity and Recreation, Sustainability and Climate Change, Circularity, Biodiversity and Heritage, Education and Sustainable Practices, and Health and Well-being.

Visitor destination projects will be subject to EIA and AA Screening, and full EIA and AA, where required under planning legislation. Appropriate environmental mitigation will be integrated into developments, as necessary, to prevent adverse effects on the environment.

Coillte shall ensure that development projects supported or promoted by the LUSIP accord with flood risk planning requirements, avoiding inappropriate development in areas at risk to flooding and new developments increasing flood risk elsewhere.

Design habitat creation, restoration and enhancement into development projects occurring within the Coillte Estate, wherever feasible.

Continually improve the effectiveness of forestry related environmental mitigation measures and fill knowledge gaps, by reviewing environmental monitoring, and identifying any instances of mitigation failure, to inform remedial actions and/or revisions to future mitigation specifications.

Continue to maintain a Spatial Data Infrastructure (SDI) of forestry activities as well as existing and proposed developments to support cumulative and transboundary environmental impact assessment. Continue to utilise SDI to optimise delivery of Coillte goals, activities and projects, and environmental objectives generally

Ensure all Coillte’s operations, projects and activities fully comply with all applicable environmental legislation, including but not limited to the following:

- Habitats Directive
- Birds Directive
- Wildlife Act 1976 (as amended)
- Flora Protection Order (S.I. no. 235 of 2022)
- European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations 2011 (as amended)
- EIA Directive
- Planning and Development Act
- Planning and Development Regulations
- Water Framework Directive and transposing legislation
- Historic and Archaeological Heritage and Miscellaneous Provisions Act
- Northern Irish Environmental Legislation, as it may apply to projects ad activities with cross-border components.

Archaeological surveying will be carried out to inform Coillte projects in accordance with, and as required by, current DAFM procedures. Archaeological monitoring will be undertaken during works, where necessary or required under DAFM procedures.

Coillte commit to preserving Ireland’s natural heritage and cultural heritage sites (including their settings and amenity value) present within zones of influence of projects and activities supported by the LUSIP, and all UNESCO World Heritage Sites (and tentative sites) in the country. Coillte will also seek opportunities to enhance cultural and natural heritage when designing, planning and delivering its projects and activities.

Coillte commit to continue ensuring its projects and activities do not result in adverse effects on the integrity of European sites (Special Protection Areas and Special Areas of Conservation), considering their conservation objectives, in accordance with the Habitats Directive (92/43/EEC) and Birds Directive (2009/147/EC).

Coillte will continue to proactively support the achievement of Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emission reductions required for the Land Use, Land Use Change and Forestry (LULUCF) sector under the Climate Action and Low Carbon Development (Amendment) Act 2021 and the national Climate Action Plan 2025 (and future iterations).

Coillte will continue to undertake forestry in accordance with Sustainable Forestry Management principles and in accordance with relevant Forest Stewardship Council® (FSC® C005714) and the Programme for Endorsement of Forest Certification (PEFC/17-23-042) standards.

Coillte will conduct its operations in accordance with an Environmental Management System certified to the ISO 14001 standard.

Coillte will continue to implement an Environmental Risk Assessment (ERA) process to ensure potential environmental impacts of operations are systematically assessed, managed, and mitigated ‘on the ground’. Coillte aim to review, monitor, and enhance this ERA process in accordance with the principle of continual improvement and in light of emerging and future legislative requirements and research.

Coillte will continue to proactively enable and support access to cultural and natural heritage features, where safe and feasible, collaborating with the National Monument Services, as required.

Coillte will seek to ensure forestry planning process and forest management practices are carried out having appropriate regard to the unique environmental, geographic, meteorological, social, and cultural characteristics of its six Business Area Units (BAUs). Project-level mitigation will be shaped, adjusted and honed as appropriate to ensure Coillte’s projects and activities do not adversely affect special environmental sensitivities associated with individual BAUs.

Coillte commit to continuing to prevent the introduction and spread of invasive species in accordance with the European Union (Invasive Alien Species) Regulations 2024 and in support of Outcome 2H of the 4th National Biodiversity Action Plan (and future iterations, as appropriate).

Coillte commit to proactively managing the risk of storm damage across its forestry sites, with the aim of minimising potential impacts on commercial operations and the environment. The following mitigation measures will be implemented to reduce the vulnerability of forests to storm events:

- Thinning: Wind risk considered into thinning planning at Strategic level.
- Clearfelling: Consideration of forest opening size into Tactical planning to avoid creating unstable edges.
- Roading: Consideration of windthrow risk in the design and construction of new roads.
- Species Selection: Establish mixed species and spacing to creation windfirm edges, e.g. riparian zones, external boundaries, road lines.
- Normalisation of Forest Age Structure: Over multiple rotations smooth out the forest age distribution, so the age profile of the forest is even. This reduces the proportion of the forest at risk of windthrow at any one time.

Coillte commit to proactively managing the risk of wildfire across its forestry sites, with the aim of minimising potential impacts on commercial operations and the environment. The following mitigation measures will be implemented to reduce the vulnerability of forests to wildfire events:

- Collaborate at a national level with the National Emergency Directorate and County Fire Chiefs.
- Fire Management:
 - Share digital Fire Plans with each of the county emergency services.
 - Roll out the National Fire Awareness and Training Days.
 - Coillte support the Interagency European Forest Fire MODEX Simulation exercise.
- Estates Emergency Plan: Develop an operational emergency plan for the Estate.

