



A Quick Guide to **Continuous Cover Forestry Practice** in Ireland

# 10 Supports for CCF



[www.prosilvairland.com](http://www.prosilvairland.com)

# Managing your forest under Continuous Cover Forestry

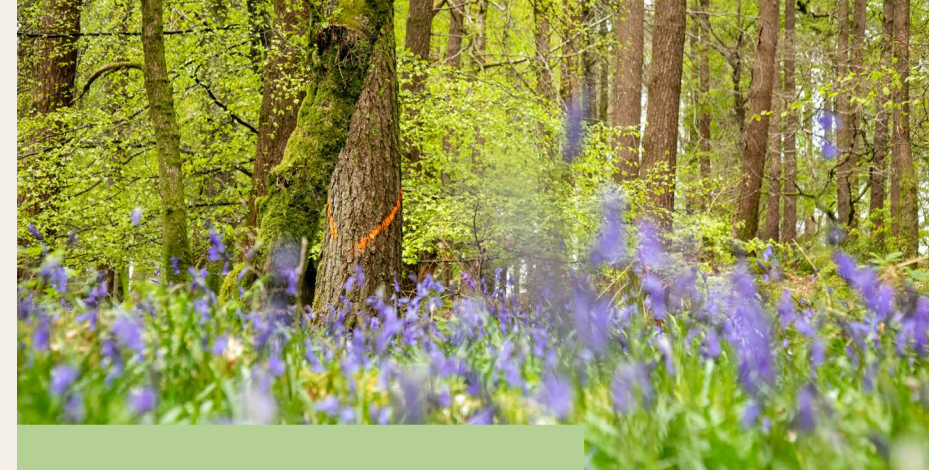
More forest owners are looking for ways to manage their forests to produce timber while supporting forest resilience, biodiversity and environmental protection.

**Continuous Cover Forestry (CCF) offers that option.**

Through CCF management, the forest and its ecosystem are maintained permanently. Timber production is based on regular felling interventions that remove selected trees, allowing natural regeneration to establish beneath the canopy and gradually replace older trees.

Over time, a mix of tree sizes and species develops, while soils and biodiversity are protected under a permanent forest canopy.

Income comes from regular thinnings and selective harvesting. With CCF management, the forest develops to a point where the growth increment can be harvested at regular intervals on an ongoing basis. This provides regular income from timber sales without the need for restocking costs, while the principal asset (the baseline standing volume of timber) is maintained.



## Financial support for CCF



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

The Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine (DAFM) provides support for CCF under the Forestry Programme 2023–2027.

Your situation	Scheme
I want to plant a new forest	Afforestation – forest type 10 (FT10-CCF)
I am approaching clear-fell	Climate Resilient Reforestation Scheme
I have an existing plantation	Woodland Improvement Scheme (WIS-CCF)

Each option supports the development of forests that align with the CCF principles:

- Conservation of the forest ecosystem
- Protection of soil and climate
- Production of timber and other forest products
- Provision of cultural, recreation and amenity services

# Planting a new forest

## Forest type 10 (FT10) – continuous cover forestry

Forest type 10 (FT10) supports the establishment of productive forests designed from the outset for CCF management.

It facilitates structurally diverse, mixed-species stands that can be managed for timber production without clear-felling, while maintaining forest cover and supporting biodiversity.

Forests with greater species diversity are:

- More resilient to climate change
- More resistant to pests and diseases
- More adaptable to changing markets
- Capable of producing a continuous supply of diverse timber

## Grant and Premium

Support	Rate
Grant (excluding fencing)	€5,421/Ha
Annual Premium	€912/Ha
Duration	20 years (farmers) 15 years (non-farmers)

**This option suits landowners who want to establish a productive forest that can be managed permanently under CCF principles.**

Other forest types, which emphasise longer-term, high-quality hardwood timber production and/or biodiversity gains can also be suitable for CCF management, especially if designed with this in mind at establishment. These include FT1 Native Forests, FT2 Forests for Water and FT6/FT7 Broadleaves, along with small native forests created under the Native Tree Area scheme.



# After clear-fell

## Climate Resilient Reforestation Pilot Scheme

### Element 1: Reforestation for Continuous Cover Forestry

Following clear-fell, forests must be replanted at the owner's expense.

This pilot scheme supports owners who choose to move to a permanent CCF system at the replanting stage. Written approval for the scheme must be received from the Department prior to commencing clear-fell.

Species diversity is introduced at establishment, and the forest can be managed under CCF principles from the beginning. Rather than returning to an even-aged monoculture, the new mixed forest is structured to support long-term resilience and continuous timber production.

## Grant and Annual Payment

Support	Rate
Replanting Grant	€2,200/Ha
Annual Payment	€150/Ha
Duration of annual payments	7 years

**This option is particularly relevant for owners reconsidering their management approach after first rotation clear-fell.**

# Transforming an existing forest

## Woodland Improvement Scheme – Continuous Cover Forestry (WIS–CCF)

If you already have a plantation, it may be suitable for transformation to CCF.

Transformation in CCF is the gradual process of converting an existing even-aged plantation of one species, or a limited species mix, into a more diverse, irregular forest.

Rather than removing the forest and starting again, CCF transformation builds on the existing stand: protecting soil, maintaining carbon storage and using the current timber asset as a foundation for future development.

Funding is available for up to 20 hectares.

A CCF Transformation Management Plan, prepared by a registered forester, is required.

## Financial Support

Support	Rate
Grant per intervention*	€1,200/Ha
Annual PES payment	€150/Ha
Duration of PES payment	7 years

\*The grant covers three separate interventions over a 12-year period.

## PES: Payment for ecosystem services

The PES payment recognises the broader environmental and societal benefits provided by forests managed under CCF principles.

## What activities are supported?

Support under WIS–CCF includes:

- Preparation of a site-specific CCF Transformation Management Plan
- Tree marking for thinning and selective felling
- Felling of trees to release Q (quality) trees
- High pruning
- Management of natural regeneration
- Deer management and Deer Management Plans
- Enrichment planting where necessary
- Ground preparation to encourage regeneration
- Forest protection measures (fencing, tree guards, etc)
- Control of invasive species
- Non-commercial tree felling in sensitive areas
- Woodland rejuvenation and understorey development
- Direct seeding
- Ring barking and chemical thinning
- Other related operations (subject to DAFM approval).

These operations support the gradual development of structural and species diversity, stand stability and natural regeneration.



## First Step

Speak to a registered forester or Teagasc forestry advisor about whether your land or forest is suitable for CCF.

For more information on these schemes, go to [gov.ie/forestry](https://gov.ie/forestry)



Pro Silva Ireland is a registered charity founded in 2000 to advocate for, and educate on, continuous cover forestry. Part of the wider Pro Silva Europe network, Pro Silva Ireland is an all-Ireland organisation, embracing membership from both Northern Ireland and the Irish Republic.

This guide was produced by Pro Silva Ireland in 2026 with support from the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine



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

Other guides in this series:

- What is CCF?
- Benefits of CCF
- CCF and biodiversity
- CCF forests for water
- Understanding CCF transformation
- Tree selection and marking in CCF
- Enrichment planting in CCF
- Light forest operations
- Guidelines for CCF harvest operations

Photo credits


Cover: **Aidona Photography & Crannóg Media**

Page 2, 3 & 5: **Aidona Photography**

Page 7: **O. Leavy**



Registered charity 20060770

 [prosilvairland@gmail.com](mailto:prosilvairland@gmail.com)

 /ProSilvaIreland

 @prosilvairland

