

What about forest users and local residents?

The aim of the Dublin Mountains Makeover is to improve biodiversity, climate resilience and recreation. To do this, we need to fell some trees and plant new ones. We know that tree felling machinery in forests, timber lorries on local roads and the diversion or temporary closure of trails can be disruptive. That's why we're asking everyone who loves the forests to endure some short term pain for long term gain, so that we can create beautiful, diverse forests for the future.

We are committed to minimising impacts on local residents and engaging with all our stakeholders to ensure that everyone knows what we're doing, how, where, when and why. We'll do our best to keep everyone informed by:

- Making regular updates on our website www.coillte.ie/coillte-nature/
- Posting key dates and locations on Twitter, Facebook and Instagram (search for Coillte on the social media platforms you use)
- Engaging with local and national media (newspapers, radio and TV)
- Putting up signs on-site to show what we're doing, where, when, why and how
- Holding information days, walks, talks and other events (as soon as COVID-19 restrictions allow)

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COILLTE
nature

Coillte Nature is the non-profit branch of Coillte that is dedicated to delivering real impact on the climate and biodiversity crises through innovative projects of scale. Our aims are to create, restore, regenerate and rehabilitate biodiverse habitats across Ireland, to manage those habitats for ecological and recreational value in perpetuity and, in doing so, to maximise the ecosystem services they provide to people for the benefit of everyone, now and into the future. www.coillte.ie/coillte-nature/

 **Dublin Mountains**
Partnership

The Dublin Mountains Partnership aims to improve the recreational experience for users of the Dublin Mountains, while recognising the objectives and constraints of landowners. The partner organisations are Coillte, South Dublin County Council, Dun Laoghaire Rathdown County Council, Dublin City Council, National Parks and Wildlife Service and the Dublin Mountains Initiative. www.dublinmountains.ie

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have you heard...



The Dublin Mountains are getting a Makeover



COILLTE NATURE is putting people and nature first in the Dublin Mountains by transforming an area of forest larger than the Phoenix Park (900 hectares). Starting in June 2020 and continuing over the coming years, we're moving towards a new 'continuous cover' approach to forestry that maintains a permanent forest canopy. In areas where this isn't possible, we're clearfelling small areas of conifer plantations and replanting them with native woodland within the year. This will enhance and create habitats for wildlife, enrich the forests' recreational appeal for people and improve the wider landscape's aesthetic value.

About The Dublin Mountains Makeover

Coillte owns and manages around half of the forests in the Dublin Mountains, with the remainder managed by private forest owners. When this land was first planted with trees between the early 1940s and late 1960s, Dublin was a much smaller city and nobody thought much about outdoor recreation in forests.

Today, these forests are among the most important recreational sites for a growing urban population seeking fresh air and green space: Coillte's most popular forest, Ticknock, sees over 550 visits a day.

Until now, we have managed these areas for commercial purposes first, and for recreational purposes second. But because of their popularity and proximity to the city, it's time to put people's needs much higher up the agenda.

Through the Dublin Mountains Makeover, nine Coillte forests will transition away from the clearfell and replanting cycle towards a different model. Multi-generational forests managed under 'Continuous Cover Forestry' (CCF) principles will maintain their green canopy on a permanent basis, and in areas where this isn't possible, non-native Sitka spruce and lodgepole pine trees will be removed and replanted with native species such as Scots pine, birch, rowan, oak, holly and willow to provide habitat for nature and bring autumn colours to the hills.

Work will start on the Dublin Mountains Makeover in June 2020 and will continue for many years, possibly decades. It will be a slow and careful process, conducted in a way that minimises disruption to local residents and visitors, while locking in benefits for nature, recreation and the landscape that will be enjoyed by generations to come.

What are we doing in 2020?*

PHASE 1 Ticknock and Ballyedmonduff
14 hectares of CCF in Ballyedmonduff, 6 hectares of R&R-mix in Ballyedmonduff, and 3 hectares of R&R in Ticknock (near the car park). A hectare is about the size of a rugby or soccer pitch.

PHASE 2 Cruagh
18 hectares of CCF in Cruagh. This will be followed by a further 7 hectares of CCF and two areas (6 hectares and 2 hectares) of R&R.

PHASE 3 Barnaslingan and Carrickgollogan
29 hectares of CCF in Barnaslingan and 20 hectares of R&R on burnt land in Carrickgollogan.

CCF = Continuous Cover Forestry
CCF involves selecting individual or small groups of trees to cut down in order to create space in the canopy so that light can hit the forest floor. This enables young trees to grow naturally from seed and increases the structural diversity of the stand while maintaining a permanent canopy cover. In some places we will also plant young native trees to increase the number of different species. With more young trees, the forests will be healthier and more climate resilient.

R&R = Remove & Replant
R&R involves Removing the existing trees in the normal clearfell way and Replanting them with native woodland species like Scots pine, oak, birch, rowan and holly. This will improve the landscape value by bringing autumn colour and increase the biodiversity of these stands dramatically. More species equals more wildlife.

MIX R&R-mix = Remove & Replant with a mix of native and non-natives
Some areas are higher up and more exposed to the wind, with wetter soils. This makes it more difficult for native woodlands to grow. In these areas, the replanting will include a mix of Sitka spruce along with the native trees like birch and rowan (R&R-mix).



* Dates may change! Check the website for the most up to date information: www.coillte.ie/coillte-nature/