

Association of Irish Forestry Consultants

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At a foresters meeting in October 1997 there was unanimous support for the concept of a grouping of professional consultant foresters within the Society of Irish Foresters. This led to the setting up of the Association of Irish Forestry Consultants (AIFC). At that time the Irish forest industry was changing and developing at an unprecedented rate and this rapid growth has continued.

The role of the professional forester is recognised as being critical in the proper management of our growing resource. The independent consultant foresters of the AIFC provide a wide range of services and work directly for farmers and other forest owners.

AIFC foresters are engaged in all aspects of forestry and their normal range of expertise includes:

- Forest management (establishment, roads, thinning, shaping, pruning etc.)
- Processing forestry grant applications
- Native woodland management
- Organisation of timber harvesting and sales
- Valuation of trees and woodlands
- Forest economics and business management
- Preparation of forest inventories
- Woodfuel/biomass consultancy
- Tree surveys and reports
- Litigation - expert witness service

AIFC members Paul Finnegan, Donal Fitzpatrick, Colman Young with Frank Harmen, forest owner and Fergus Moore, Forest Service at the AIFC field day in Castledermot, Co. Kildare which focused on silvicultural issues relating to the Broadleaf Tending Scheme. Cormac O'Flynn (Forest Service) presented an update on ash dieback and sanitary recommendations when visiting forests.



AIFC represents the forest consultancy profession in Ireland, with a membership that has a nationwide presence and a client base of over 1,500 forest owners.

AIFC is formally affiliated to the Society of Irish Foresters, the representative body for the forestry profession in Ireland. Founded in 1942, to promote forestry and represent the forestry profession, the Society maintains a code of ethics and professional conduct to which all AIFC members subscribe.

All members are graduate foresters with a third level qualification. They are holders of professional indemnity insurance and committed to continuous professional development.

The names and contact details of AIFC members in professional consultancy practice are available on our website www.aifc.ie.



Dermot Houlihan, chairman of AIFC with Paelli Breathnach, president of the Society of Irish Foresters at the Irish Forestry Woodland and Bio Energy Show in Stradbally Hall, Co. Laois.