

APPENDIX 1: TREES AND THE LAW

Tree felling licence

Under the 1946 Forestry Act it is illegal to uproot or cut down any tree over 10 years of age without receiving (OR being in possession of) a felling licence. While there are some exceptions to this act, advice should be sought prior to cutting down any mature trees. Contact the Forest Service for more information. An application form for a tree felling license can be obtained from your local Garda station.

Tree Preservation Orders

Another legal mechanism to protect trees, under Irish planning legislation, is to make a Tree Preservation Order (TPO). Planning permission is required to fell a tree with a TPO and the decision can be appealed to An Bord Pleanála. A TPO can be made on a single tree, group of trees or woodland. Tree Preservation Orders are granted to protect trees of special amenity value and ecological value is not considered. There are no TPOs in Galway but a Significant Tree Survey was conducted for the east of the county to identify important trees (www.galway.ie/gis/gmaps).

Galway County Development Plan and Local Area Plans

These plans include objectives and policies that aim to protect important trees, groups of trees, woodland and hedgerows in the county.

AGUISÍN 1: CRAINN AGUS AN DLÍ

Ceadúnas leagtha crann

Faoin Acht Foraoiseachta 1946 tá sé in aghaidh an dlí crann ar bith os cionn 10 mbliana d'aois a dhífhreamhú nó a ghearradh anuas gan cheadúnas leagtha. Cé go bhfuil eisceachtaí ón acht seo ann, ba cheart comhairle a fháil sular ngearrtar síos aon chrann aibí. Déan teagmháil leis an tSeirbhís Foraoiseachta chun tuilleadh eolais a fháil. Is féidir foirm iarratais ar cheadúnas leagtha a fháil ó stáisiún áitiúil an Gharda Síochána.

Orduithe Caomhnaithe Crann

Is bealach eile dlíthiúil chun crainn a chaomhnú, faoi reachtaíocht na hÉireann, Ordú Caomhnaithe Crann (OCC) a dhéanamh. Ní mór cead pleanála a fháil chun crann a bhfuil OCC air a leagan agus is féidir achomharc a dhéanamh chuig An mBord Pleanála faoin gcinneadh. Is féidir OCC a dhéanamh maidir le crann singil, grúpa crann nó coillearnach. Deonaítear Orduithe Caomhnaithe Crann chun crainn a bhfuil luach taitneamhachta speisialta orthu a chosaint agus ní chuirtear luach éiceolaíochta san áireamh. Níl aon OCC i nGaillimh ach cuireadh suirbhé ar chrainn shuntasacha ar bun in oirthear an chontae chun crainn thábhachtacha a aithint (www.galway.ie/gis/gmaps).

Plean Forbartha Chontae na Gaillimhe agus Pleananna Ceantair Áitiúil

Cuimsítear cuspóirí agus beartais sna pleananna seo a bhfuil sé mar aidhm acu crainn thábhachtacha, grúpaí crann, coillearnacha agus fála sreach sa chontae a chosaint.

Hedgerow cutting

The best time to cut hedgerows is in winter when the plants are dormant and the bird-nesting season is over. Hedges provide the ideal nesting habitat for many of our countryside birds. In spring and summer hedgerows are bustling with activity as a myriad of wildlife utilise hedges because of the wide range of food and shelter that hedges provide.

The Wildlife (Amendment) Act 2000 actually does not allow the cutting of hedgerows during the critical bird-nesting period in spring and summer (1st March to 31st August) because of the devastating impact on nesting birds and other wildlife. Hedges have little other legislative protection and therefore it is important that the hedge cutting restrictions are adhered to as hedgerows are such an incredibly important resource for wildlife. Contact your local conservation ranger if you have concerns about hedgerow cutting, especially mechanical cutting, in your area.

Nature conservation designations

The main mechanism for protecting native woodlands in Ireland is nature conservation designation. The main designations include Natural Heritage Areas (NHA), Special Areas of Conservation (SAC), National Parks and National Nature Reserves. In Galway there are several Special Areas of Conservation and National Nature Reserves that include woodland habitats (Appendix 2).

Special Areas of Conservation

Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) are our premier sites designated for nature conservation. They are considered to be sites of high conservation value in a European context and are designated on the basis of the habitats and species they contain. The legal basis for selecting and designating SACs is the European Union Habitats Directive, transposed into Irish Law under the European Union (Natural Habitats) Regulations 1997 (National Parks and Wildlife Service website). The Directive lists certain habitats (including some woodland habitats such as Sessile Oak- Holly woodland) a representative sample of which must be protected within SACs. SACs in Galway that contain woodland are listed in Appendix 2.

Bearradh Fálta Sceach

Is é an geimhreadh an t-am is fearr le fálta sceach a bhearradh, nuair a bhíonn na plandaí suanach agus séasúr neadaithe na n-éan caite. Is gnáthóg neadaithe den scoth do chuid mhaith dár n-éin na fálta sceach. San earrach agus sa samhradh bíonn fuadar sna fálta sceach agus fiadhúlra as cuimse ag baint úsáide astu mar gheall ar an raon leathan bia agus foscaidh a bhíonn á sholáthar acu.

Ní cheadaítear bearradh fálta sceach le linn na tréimhse tábhachtaí neadaithe san earrach agus sa samhradh (1 Márta go 31 Lúnasa) faoin Acht um Fhiadhúlra (Leasú), 2000, mar gheall ar an díobháil threascrach a dhéanfaí ar an éanlaith neadaithe agus ar fhiadhúlra eile. Is beag eile cosaint reachtaíochta atá ag fálta agus dá bhri sin tá sé tábhachtach go gcloífi leis na srianta bearrtha mar gur acmhainn ríthábhachtach don fhiadhúlra atá sna fálta sceach. Déan teagmháil le do mhaor caomhantais áitiúil má tá ceisteanna agat faoi bhearradh fáil i do cheantar, go háirithe más bearradh meicniúil atá i gceist.

Ainmniúcháin chaomhantais dúlra

Is é an t-ainmniúchán caomhantais dúlra an príomh-mhodh chun coillearnacha a chosaint in Éirinn. I measc na bpríomhainmniúchán tá an Limistéar Oidhreacht Nádúrtha (LON), an Limistéar Caomhantais Speisialta (LCS), an Pháirc Náisiúnta agus an Anaclann Dúlra Náisiúnta. I nGaillimh tá roinnt Limistéar Caomhantais Speisialta agus Anaclann Dúlra Náisiúnta, a bhfuil gnáthóga coillearnaí ina measc (Aguisín 2).

Limistéir Chaomhantais Speisialta

Is iad na Limistéir Chaomhantais Speisialta ár bpríomhláithreacha ainmnithe i gcomhair chaomhnú an dúlra. Meastar iad a bheith ina láithreacha caomhantais ar ardluach i gcomhthéacs na hEorpa agus ainmníodh iad ar bhonn na ngnáthóg agus na speiceas atá iontu. Is é Treoir an Aontais Eorpaigh maidir le Gnáthóga atá mar bhonn le roghnú agus ainmiú LCSanna, agus tá sé trasuite i nDlí na hÉireann faoi Rialacháin an Aontais Eorpaigh (Gnáthóga Nádúrtha) 1997 (súiomh gréasáin na Seirbhíse Páirceanna Náisiúnta agus Fiadhúlra). Liostaítear gnáthóga áirithe sa Treoir (agus roinnt gnáthóg coillearnaí, amhail an choillearnach darach gaelaí – cuilinn, ina measc) ar cheart eiseamláir ionadaíoch díobh a chosaint istigh in LCSanna. Tá liosta de na LCSanna i nGaillimh a bhfuil coillearnacha iontu in Aguisín 2.

APPENDIX 2: PROTECTED WOODLANDS IN GALWAY

(www.npws.ie)

Special Areas of Conservation

Coole-Garryland Complex
Derrycrag Wood Nature Reserve
Pollnaknockaun Wood Nature Reserve
Rosturra Wood
Gortnacarnaun Wood
Drummin Wood
Ross Lake and Woods

Nature Reserves

Ballynastaig Wood Nature Reserve
Coole Park and Garryland Nature Reserves
Derrycrag Wood Nature Reserve
Poulnaknockaun Wood Nature Reserve
Rosturra Wood Nature Reserve
Richmond Esker Nature Reserve

AGUISÍN 2: COILLEARNACHA FAOI CHOSAINN I NGAILLIMH

(www.npws.ie)

Limistéir Chaomhantais Speisialta

Coimpléacs na Cúile-Ghairealáin
Anaclann Dúlra Choill Dhoire Chraige
Anaclann Dúlra Choill Pholl na gCnocán
Coill Ros Dora
Coill Ghort an Charnáin
Coill na Dromainne
Loch an Rois agus an Choill

Anaclanna Dúlra

Anaclann Dúlra Choill Bhaile na Stéige
Anaclanna Dúlra Pháirc na Cúile agus Ghairealáin
Anaclann Dúlra Choill Dhoire Chraige
Anaclann Dúlra Choill Pholl na gCnocán
Anaclann Dúlra Choill Ros Dora
Anaclann Dúlra Eiscir Richmond



GALWAY'S LIVING LANDSCAPES PART 2: TREES AND WOODLAND

TÍRDHREACHA BEO NA GAILLIMHE CUID 2: CRAINN AGUS COILLEARNACH

This project has been part-funded by Galway Rural Development under the European Agriculture Fund for Rural Development: Europe Investing in Rural Areas. GRD can not accept responsibility for omissions or inaccuracies contained herein

Páirt-mhaoiníodh an Tionscadal seo le Forbairt Tuaithe na Gaillimhe faoi Chiste Talmhaíochta na hEorpa maidir le Tuathfhorbairt; an Eoraip ag Infheistiú sa Tuath.

