

Glendun Oak Woodland: Increasing links between ancient woodland fragments.

Why this project is important?

With native woodland circa at 1% of the surface area of Ireland, it has become vitally important not only to create new native woodlands for the future, but also to link existing fragments of native and or ancient planted woodlands as wildlife corridors.

The current project in north Antrim (GPS CO-ORDINATES: 55.12503/-6.080085) will increase the connectivity between two areas of ancient woodlands that were planted in the 1840's.

Creating an increased link between two woodland fragments will create more habitat of the endangered Red Squirrel. Scots Pine, an important food species for Red Squirrels and both species of native Oak, once common in the region, which is hugely important for biodiversity will form the main a species.

Growing trees will sequester large amounts of Co2 and are important in combating climate change.



The site is currently in pasture for sheep. Returning it to woodland will increase linkages between two important ancient woodland fragments



Aims and Actions

Global Aims:

- To increase carbon sequestration for climate change protection
- To increase percentage of predominantly native woodland in Ireland

Specific Aims:

- To protect native Red Squirrels and other woodland species by increasing links between two areas of existing ancient woodland.

Actions:

Site preparation will involve intensive grazing to reduce the grass height, followed by hand planting of trees in the dormant season (Autumn/Winter)

Planting will be at a rate of 2500 whips (trees of 50 to 80cms) per hectare, with 50% Sessile Oak (*Quercus petraea*), 20% Pedunculate Oak (*Quercus robur*) and 20% Scots Pine (*Pinus sylvestris*),

Partners: Emerald Heritage

Project Benefits

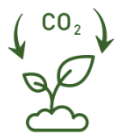
There will be increased connectivity between two areas of ancient woodland, with the total area connected reaching approximately 32 hectares. While small on a global scale, this is a significant woodland in an Irish context. This is one of the largest areas of contiguous deciduous dominated woodland in the Antrim.



This project will link the Ancient Woodland of Creagagh Wood more fully with an outlying woodland fragment. This will increase overall function for a wide range of species including the vulnerable Red Squirrel.



Area planted: 0.5 hectare



Potential Carbon Sequestered: 240 tonnes



Number of trees planted: 1300