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Merlin Park Stakeholder Presentation

15th July 2026



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Who We Are

Forestry Services Ltd

- Forest establishment and management including ecology
- Reforestation
- Ash dieback approvals and replanting
- NeighbourWood Scheme
- Valuations for sale and probate
- Licence and scheme applications
- Dual certification
- Advice

Euroforest Ireland

- Independent timber harvesting and marketing specialists
- Act for forest owners
- Forest road approvals and construction
- Dedicated licensing team
- ISO 14001 and 45001
- Chain of Custody certification for timber sales
- Local harvesting foresters



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Certification



The mark of
responsible forestry



Leading the Way in Sustainable Forestry
Management



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Ecological Clerk of Works

- North-West Ecology Ltd. is an independent ecological consultancy with over 25 years' experience providing ecological services to the forestry, public and private sectors throughout Ireland.
- The consultancy specialises in woodland ecology, protected habitats and species, Appropriate Assessment, ecological impact assessment and forestry-related ecological surveys. The practice is led by [REDACTED], an ecologist with extensive experience across the Irish forestry sector, including previous roles as an Ecologist with the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine (DAFM) and the delivery of ecological training for forestry professionals and Forest Service inspectors.
- For the Merlin Park project, North-West Ecology Ltd. is providing ecological advice in relation to the proposed harvesting operations, with a focus on identifying ecological constraints, ensuring compliance with environmental legislation and supporting the protection of the site's ecological features throughout the planning process.



Storm Éowyn





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Harvesting Trees





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Harvesting Trees

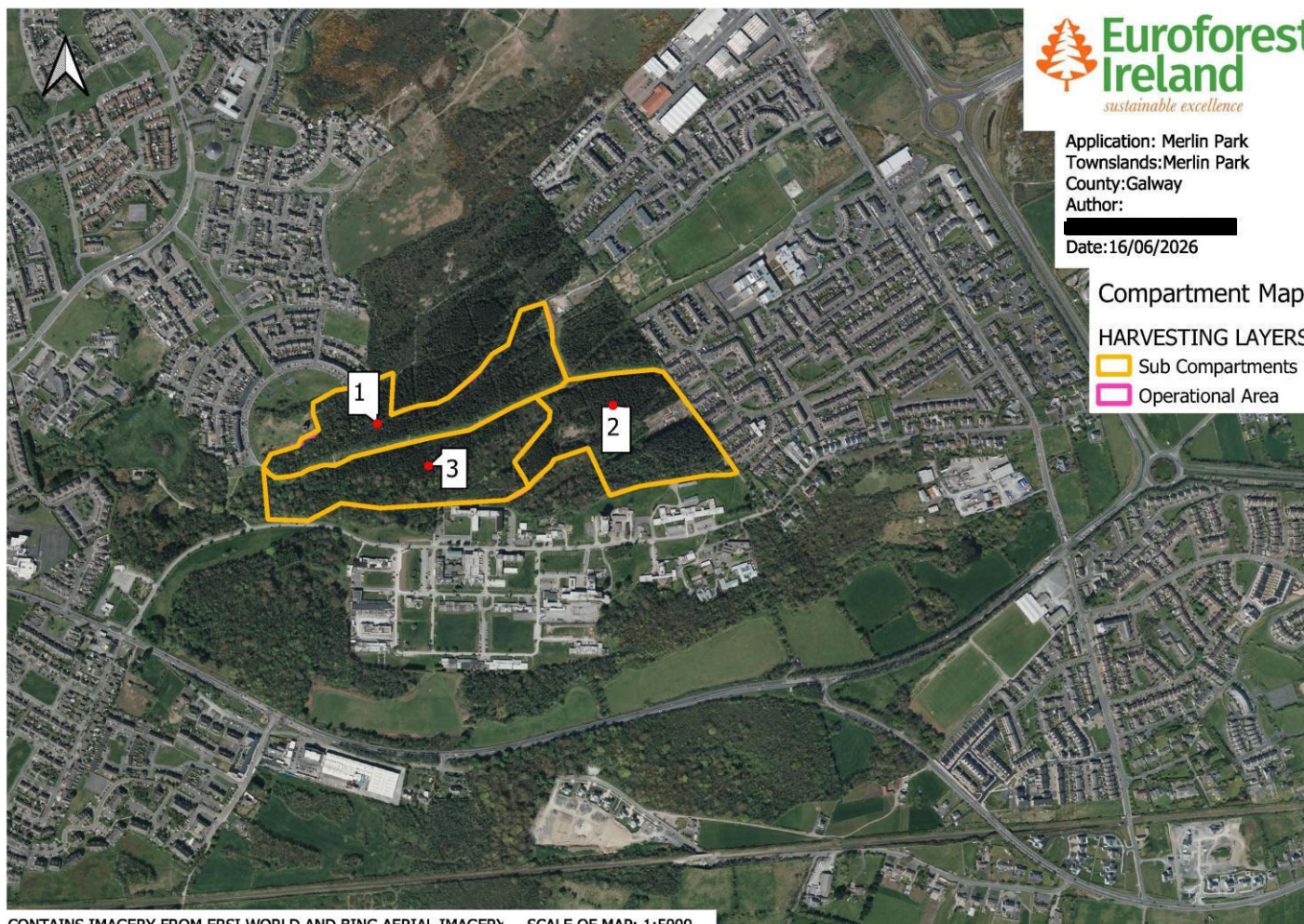




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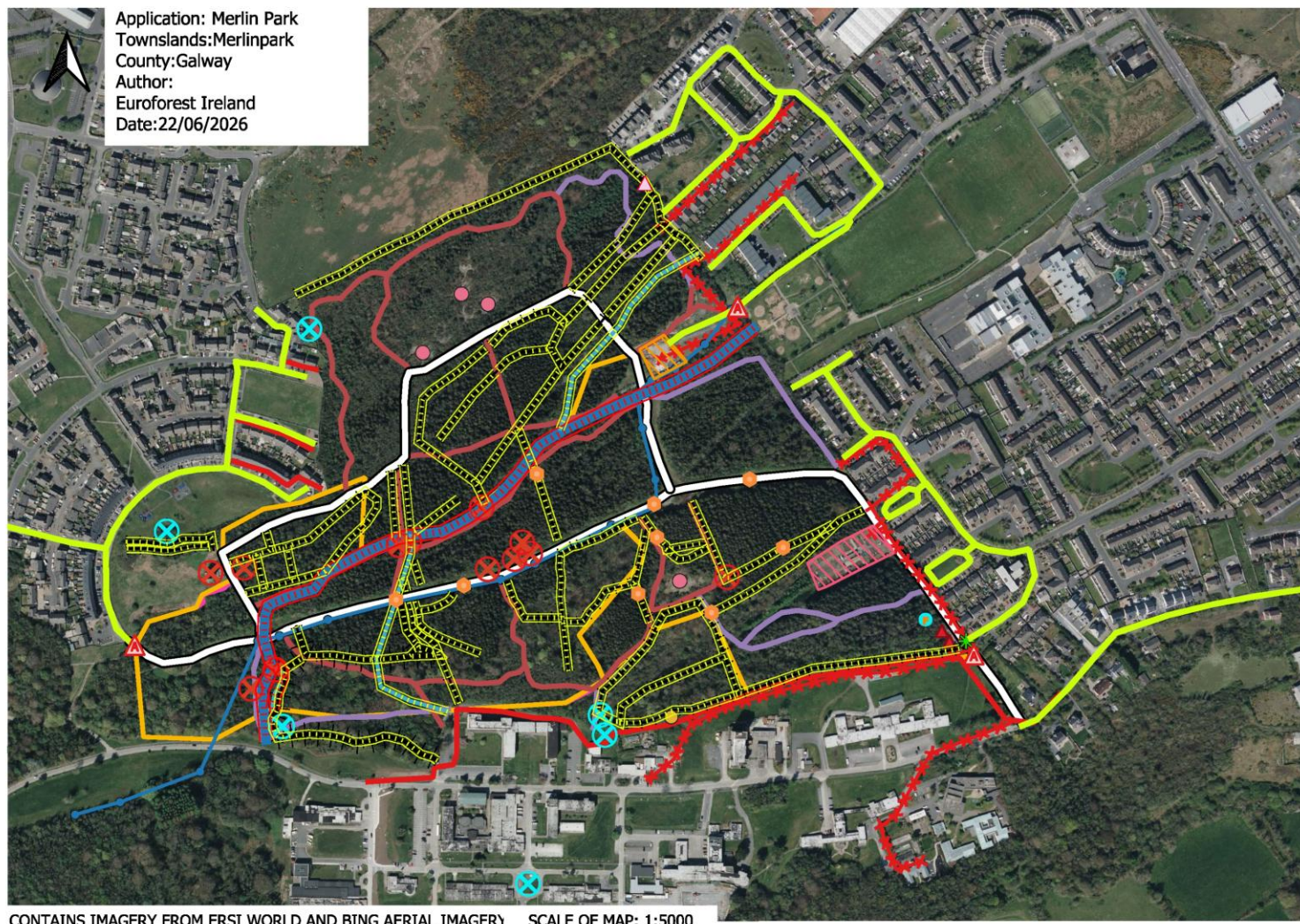


Harvest Area





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Harvesting Specifics

- Access route and turning area
- Path at entrance
- Pathways closed
 - Post harvesting pathways not blocked
- Stone walls
- Archaeology
- Dry stone walled water course
- Limestone pavement
- Squirrels
- Broadleaf trees
 - Ash trees



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Brash





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Timeline

- September to December
- Schools
- Open day to be arranged
- Allotments



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Danger

We need you help



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Dunmore East



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Dual Certified to
Forest Management Standards.



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NeighbourWood

Forestry Services Limited role

DAFM scheme

Application process

Approx timeline for decision 3-12 months



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NeighbourWood

Creating woodland amenities for local people

- Supports the development of forests as accessible community and recreational spaces.
- Promotes sustainable woodland management that balances recreation, biodiversity, and environmental benefits.
- Improved access through walking trails, seating, signage, boardwalks, and picnic areas.
- Encourages outdoor recreation, health, and wellbeing.
- Supports environmental education and community engagement



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Elements

NeighbourWood Enhancement

Improving the woodland

- Planting native trees
- Habitat enhancement
- Improving the woodland's resilience
- Up to €6,000/ha in funding

NeighbourWood Facilities

Recreational infrastructure

- Walking trails
- Seating and picnic areas
- Car parks and cycle parking
- Up to €4,200/ha in funding



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Replanting Native Trees

- Oak
- Birch
- Alder
- Rowen
- Hazel
- Hawthorn
- Scots Pine
- Cherry
- Holly





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Community Engagement

- Host open days for local schools.
- Facilitate outdoor learning through forest classroom activities.
- Offer guided site walks with community groups, including Friends of Merlin Woods, to discuss the project and gather feedback.





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Feedback/Ideas for NeighbourWood



Euroforest
Ireland



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Questions and Answers

Next stakeholder meeting – Wednesday 22nd July

Ard Family Resources Centre
55 Doughiska Road, Galway

15:00 – 17:00



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Contact Us

Forestry Services Ltd

**Cillín Hill Business Park
Kilkenny**

056 7702242
info@forestryservices.ie
www.forestryservices.ie

Euroforest Ireland

**Arklow Business Enterprise Centre
Wicklow**

0402 26500
info@euroforestireland.ie
www.euroforestireland.ie