

# The Evolution of Forestry Owner Groups in Ireland - facilitated by Teagasc

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# Teagasc

To support science-based innovation in the agri-food sector and wider bioeconomy, so as to underpin

- profitability
- competitiveness
- sustainability

## Forestry Development Dept.

To drive and to guide the development of farm forestry, in consultation with its stakeholders, to optimise its potential

# Teagasc Forestry KT Resources



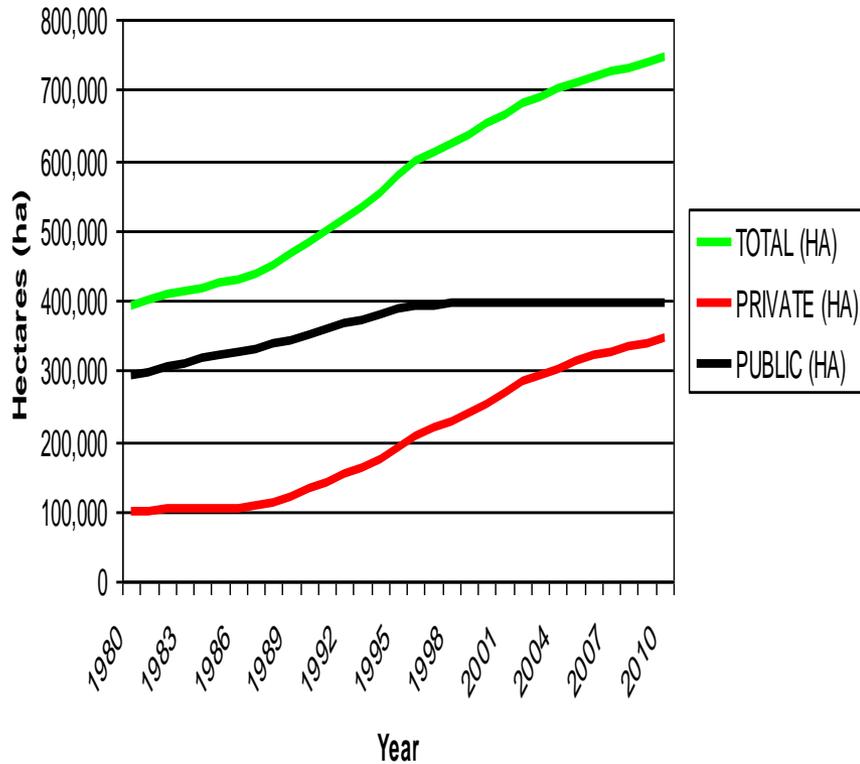
**8 Forestry Advisers –  
7 FTE's**

in conjunction with:

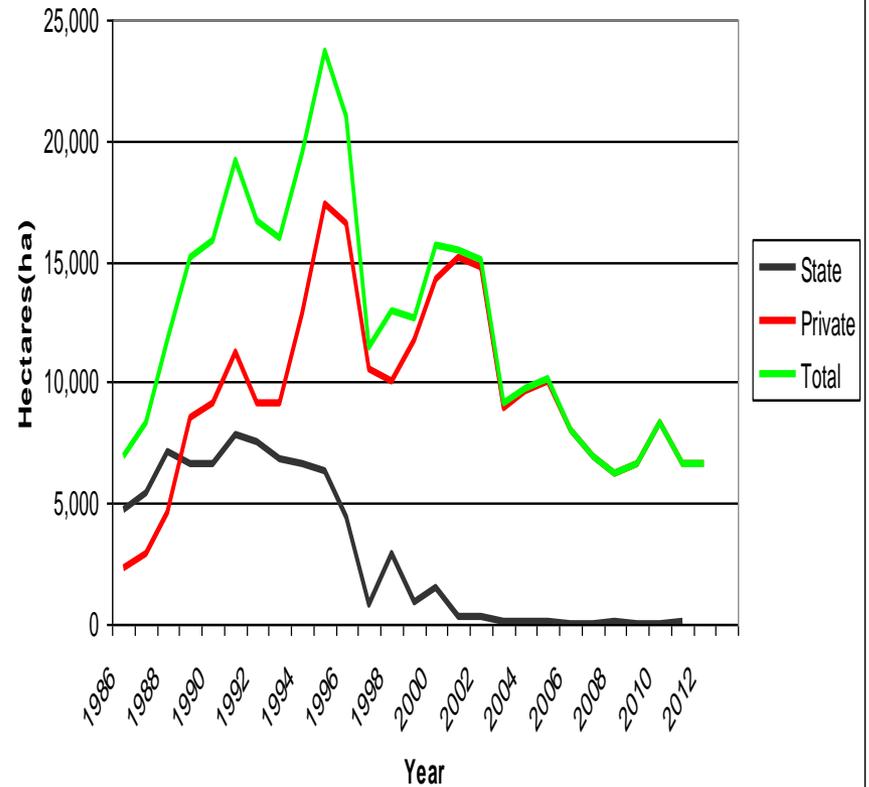
- **Research**  
**4 Researchers**  
**3 Technicians**
- **Enterprise Advisers**  
**19 Land Use Advisers**
- **External linkages**

# Background- Forestry expansion in Ireland

Cumulative forest cover by sector 1980- 2012

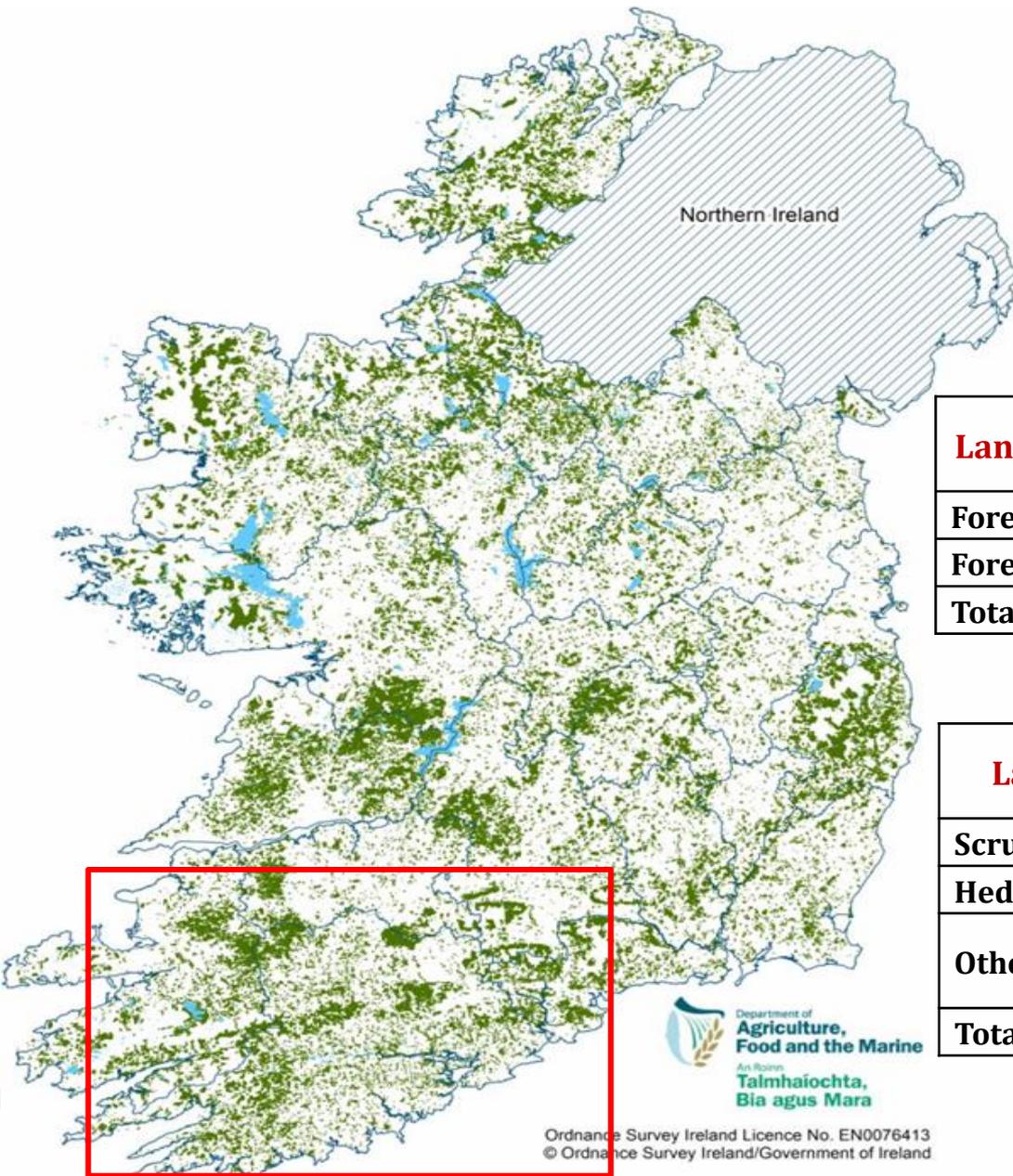


Annual afforestation levels by sector 1986- 2012



Source: Forest Service (Various Years)

# Forest Cover 2014

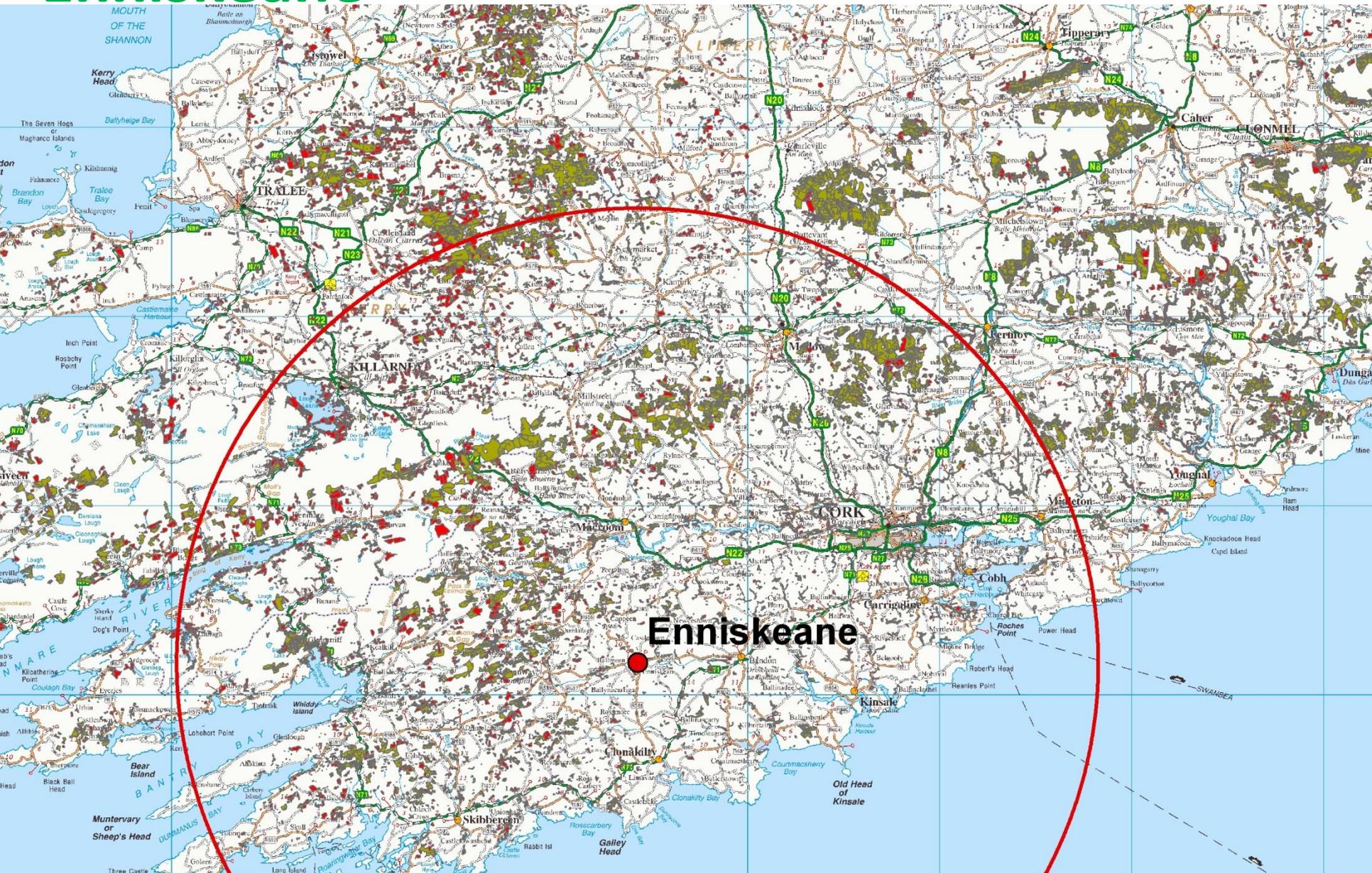


Land use category	Area (ha)	% of total land area
Forest	653,980	9.5
Forest open area	77,672	1.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>731,652</b>	<b>10.5</b>

Land use type	Area (Ha)	% of total land area
Scrub	82,606	1.2
Hedgerow	271,912	3.9
Other wooded land	47,681	0.7
<b>Total</b>	<b>402,199</b>	<b>5.8</b>



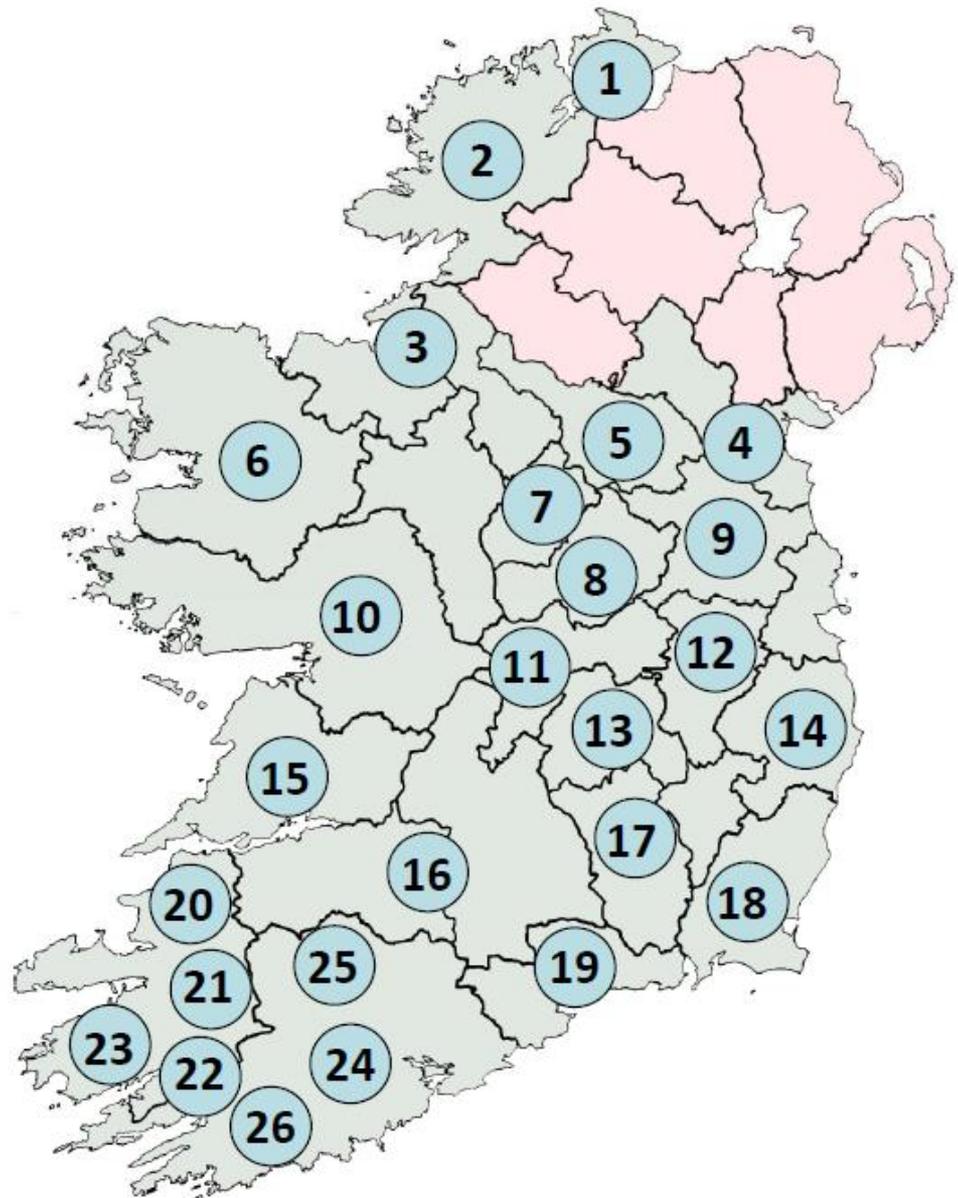
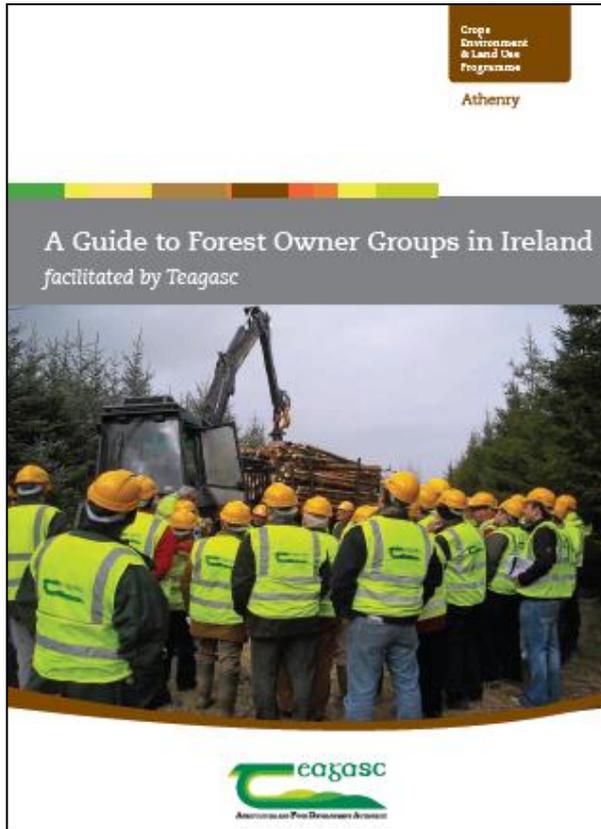
# Private & Coillte forests within 60km, Enniskeane



# Private forests within 60 km, Enniskeane



# Forestry Owner Groups (FOGs)

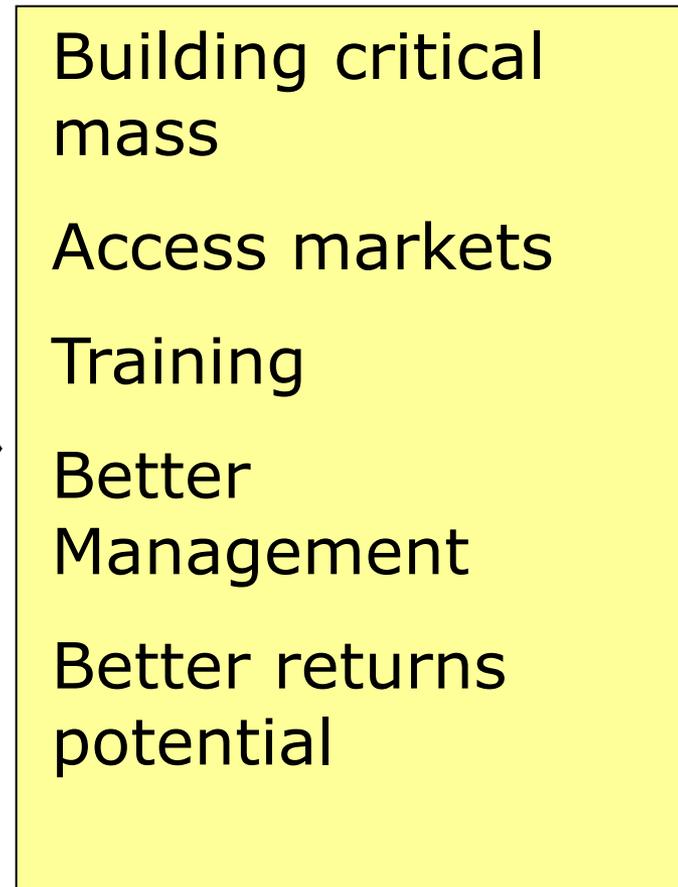


# Common Ground

## Concept

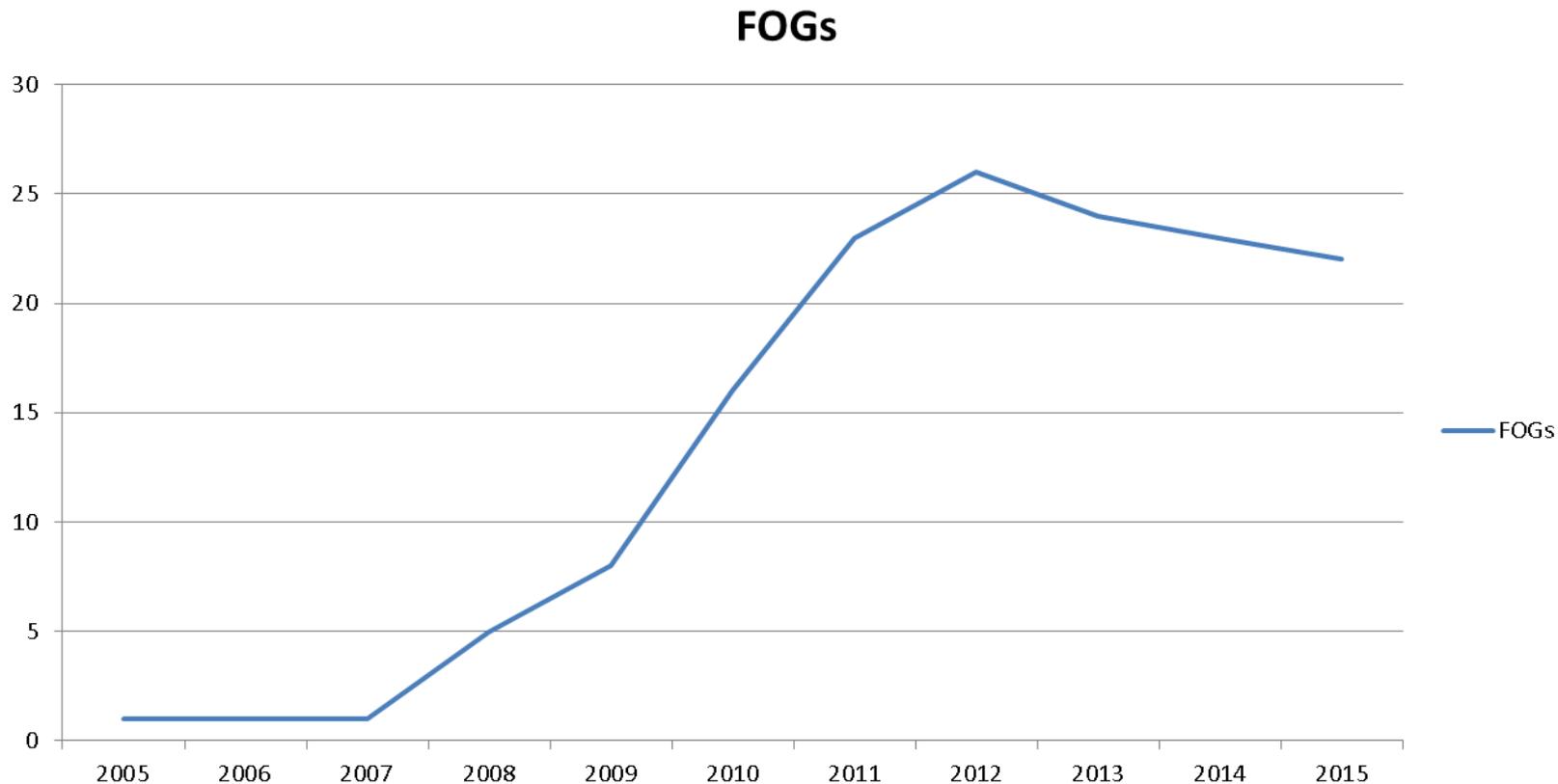


## Results



# Timeline of FOG Establishments

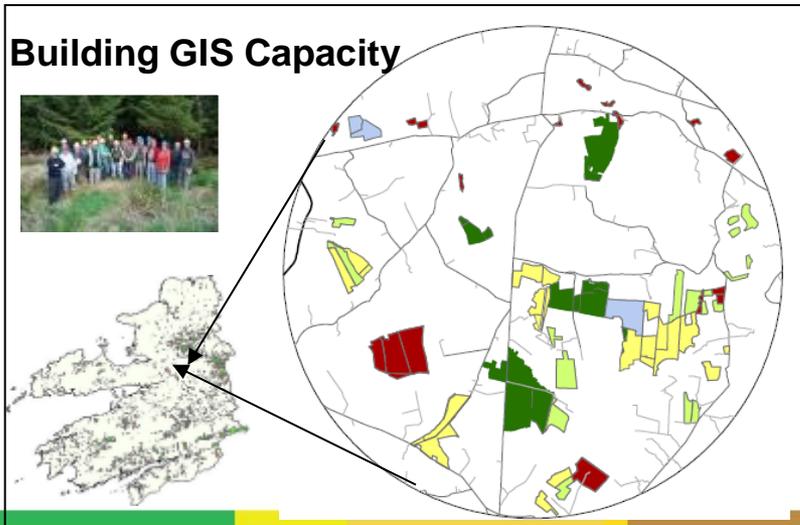
## - facilitated by Teagasc



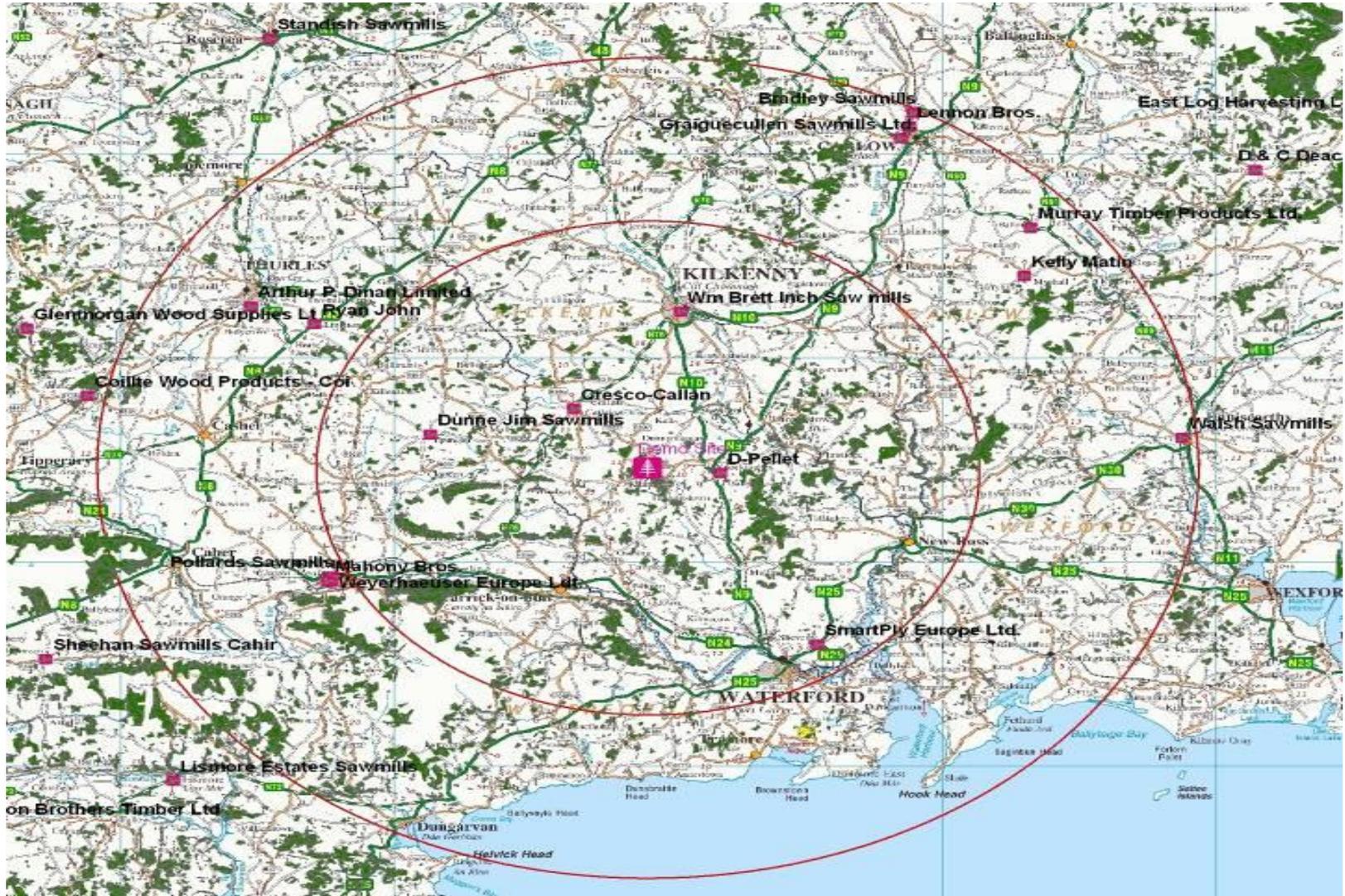
# Group Types and Structures

Group Type	No of Groups	Activity
		Awareness and knowledge building common to all
Informal Discussion	6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•No committee in place –</li> <li>•Future objectives <b>may be</b> steering committee, cluster formation and group harvesting</li> </ul>
Formal Discussion	6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Steering Committee in place</li> <li>•Cluster formation in progress, Individual harvesting Significant group thinning yet to commence</li> </ul>
Producer	8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Group thinning in progress / completed at least for some owners within group</li> </ul>
Business Development	2/3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Co-op development</li> <li>•ESCO markets</li> <li>•Organise and carry out forestry operations/ marketing/processing</li> </ul>

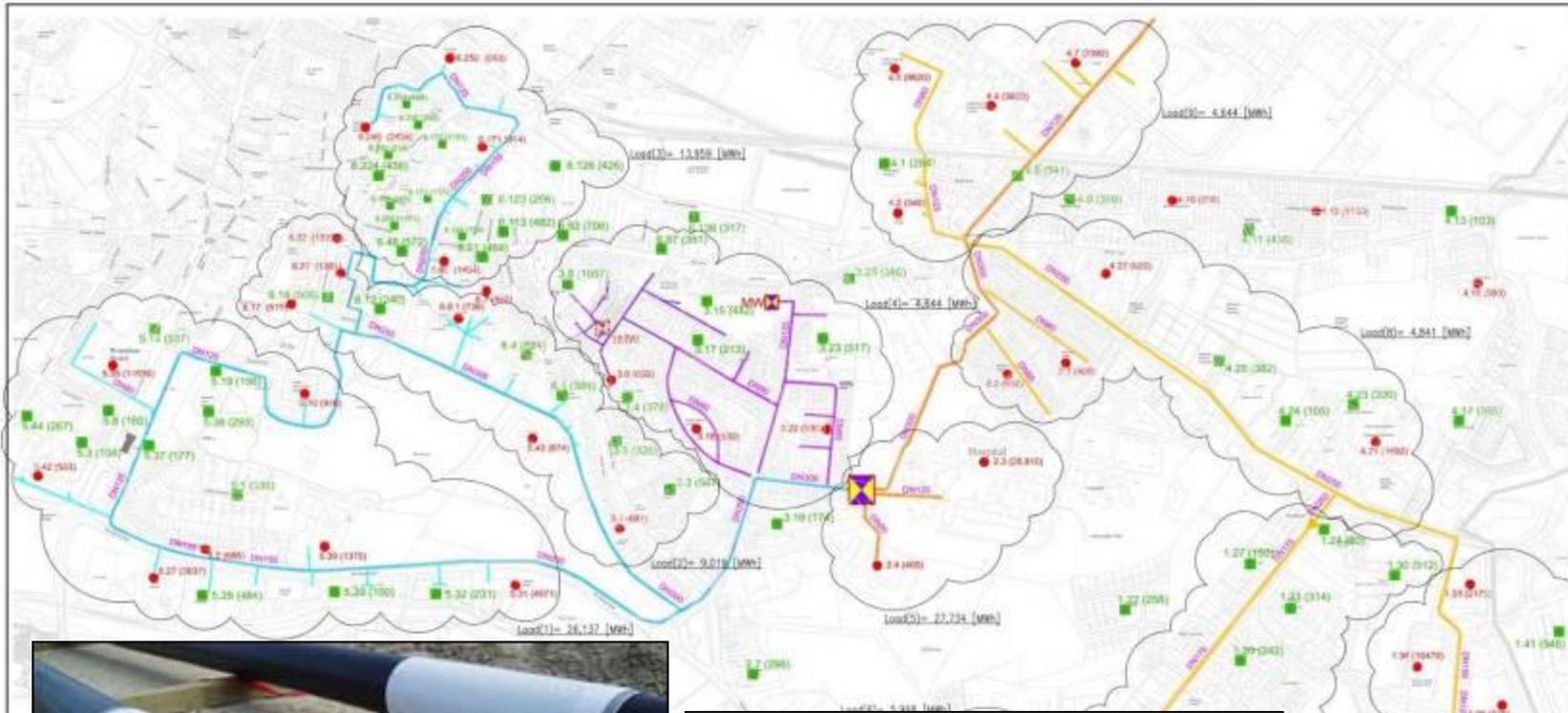
# Teagasc Support to Groups



# Potential Markets & Resources



# Tralee District Heat Plan



- Notes:**
1. All drawings are to be read in conjunction with all relevant Specifications, Bills of Materials, Billings of Materials and all drawings covering.
  2. All dimensions shown on these drawings shall be brought to the attention of the Engineer.
  3. All dimensions are in millimeters, unless stated otherwise.
  4. All works are to comply with the relevant Standards.
  5. Drawings are not to be scaled.

Year	Thermal Energy Demand (MWh)
2012	14500
2013	14500
2014	14500
2015	14500
2016	14500
2017	14500
2018	14500
2019	14500
2020	14500
2021	14500
2022	14500
2023	14500
2024	14500
2025	14500
2026	14500
2027	14500
2028	14500
2029	14500
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2039	14500
2040	14500
2041	14500
2042	14500
2043	14500
2044	14500
2045	14500
2046	14500
2047	14500
2048	14500
2049	14500
2050	14500



District Heat Pipe Laying



Integrated Services Building Development

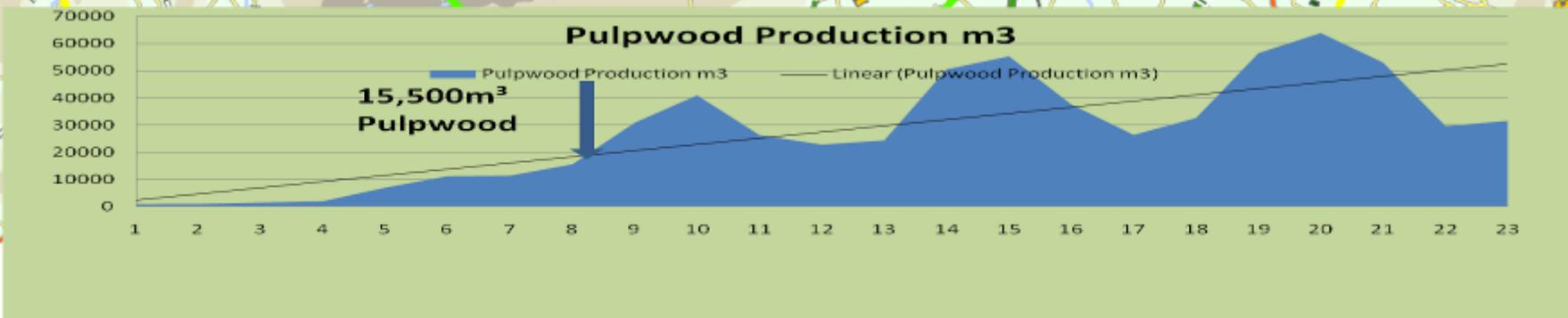
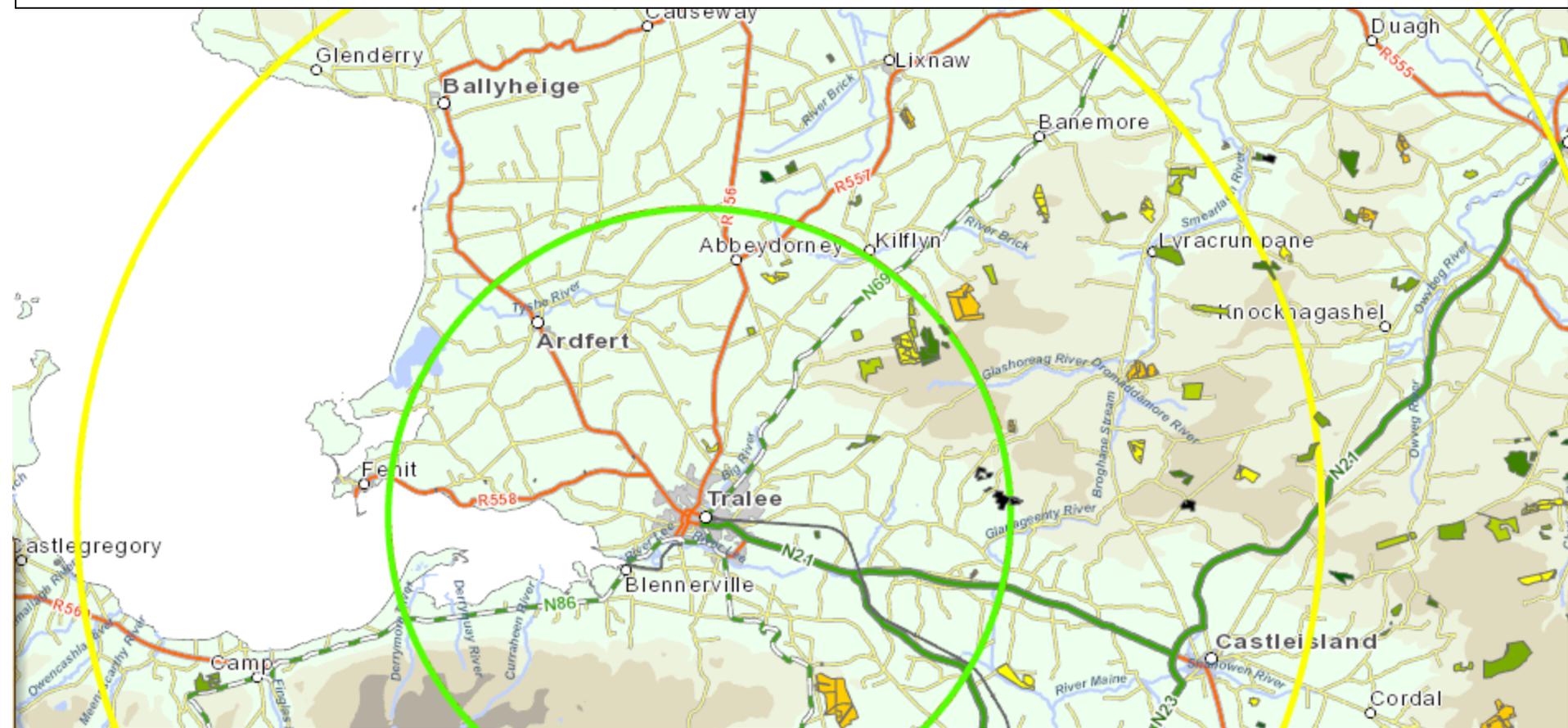
**LEGEND:**

- 3.5 (2173) LARGE ENERGY USERS  
ANNUAL THERMAL DEMAND = >= 500 [MWh]
- 1.3 (3714) MEDIUM ENERGY USERS  
ANNUAL THERMAL DEMAND = (500-250) [MWh]
- 1MW ENERGY POWER STATION, 1MW ANNUAL THERMAL SUPPLY = 2(200)

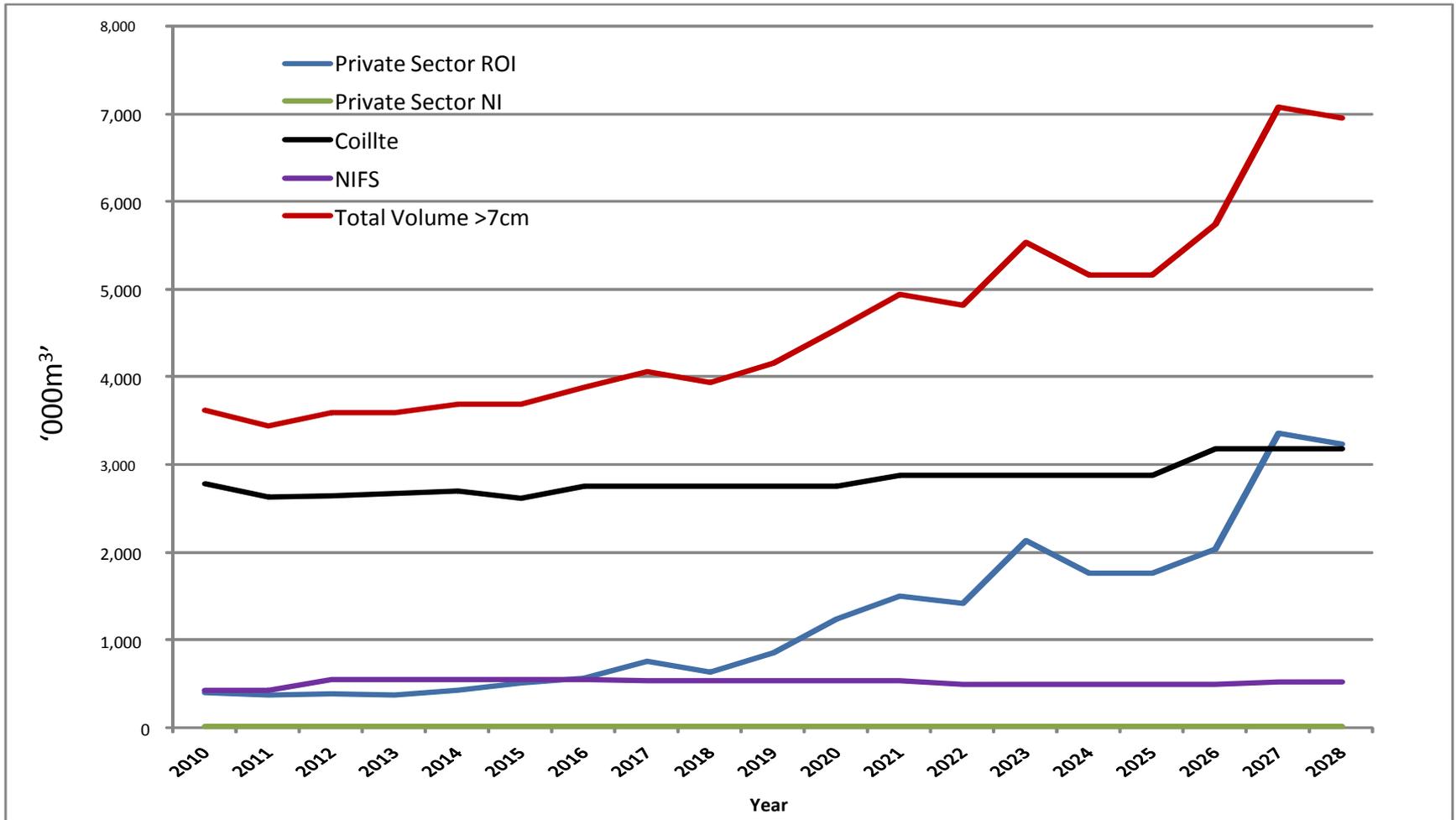
**REFERENCE:**  
 1.4 REPRESENT REFERENCE NUMBER (230) REPRESENT  
 120MWh thermal energy demand (based on SCAL-DMP)

Project	Energy Mapping 2012	Rev. No.	01
Client	Tralee Co. Kerry	Date	14/01/2012
Drawn by	Distribution layout option 1	Scale	As per plan
Checked by		Author	
Approved by		Project No.	14686-08002
Issue No.	11	Issue Date	14/01/2012
Issue Description		Issue By	
Issue Reason		Issue To	
Issue Status		Issue For	
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# All private forest owners selected for sampling within 20 km of Tralee



# Forecast of Net Realisable Volume to 2028



Source: All-Ireland Roundwood Production Forecast 2011-2028 (COFORD, 2011)

# Renewable Energy

- After wind energy, wood fuels are the largest contributor to renewable energy generation in Ireland.
- The EU Renewable Energy Directive requires the EU to produce 20% of its energy from renewable sources by 2020.
- Even if planting levels reach 15,000 ha/annum there will still be a wood energy supply gap of 1-1.25million cubic metres per annum.
- This shortfall could be addressed, in part, by short rotation forestry, short rotation coppice and imports
- Opportunities exist to develop localised supply chains for wood energy, incl. ESCOs
- However, increased use of biomass-based energy needs to be achieved sustainably, in a way that is economically efficient and is compatible with food security and environmental objectives.

# Challenge to Teagasc in achieving State Goals

Mobilising the current & future private timber resource is critical and will require sustained advisory & technical support

Providing assistance to farmers to meet standards re-

- environment and plant health issues
- cross compliance issues
- certification issues, etc.

# Challenge to Forest Owners

- Do forest owners want a passive or active involvement-  
Price taker or price maker?



- Consider joining existing groups, co-operatives and companies
- Start from new?
- A partnership arrangement between a company and a co-operative may be an option
- Local, Regional and National Public Bodies may be more attracted to a formal group structure when seeking energy supply arrangements & providing development funding.

# Conclusions

To do nothing and take what the market is willing to pay on their terms and conditions

or

To increase the viability of harvesting private plantations, esp. smaller ones, through information & organisation

**and**

To become actively involved in the marketplace and have some influence over what the forest owner is going to be paid and the terms and conditions that should apply





For further info- [www.teagasc.ie/forestry](http://www.teagasc.ie/forestry)

