

# NATFOREX

## Establishing a national resource of field trials and a database for forest research and demonstration

### PROJECT TEAM

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### COMPLETION DATE

October 2013

### OBJECTIVES

To maintain and manage a national network of field trials for the scientific study and demonstration of silvicultural and forest management treatments through:

- evaluating the relevance of existing trials in the Coillte experimental plot network and in the research sections of other organisations (Teagasc, NPWS);
- deciding on the feasibility of the analysis of the existing data and on the benefits of further data collection in the existing experiments, and on the need to establish new trials;
- carrying out necessary maintenance work on key field trials to improve access, signage and labelling, and to update the thinning and management status of the trials and to implement and continue the experimental treatments;
- collecting new data in trials where the development of the stand and the research objectives of the specific trial require this;
- integrating the findings and data from the trials into a publicly accessible database, in which the information from the relevant (active and closed) field trials, consisting of all details of the experimental site, the

experimental design and the treatments and all available collected data and any analysis results that have been produced, is pooled with findings from a wide range of forestry related disciplines.

### ACTIVITIES PLANNED

The project team will start to progress the inventory and evaluation of the first sets of experiments and the associated data. After evaluation decisions will be made on the maintenance and management of experiments. A start will be made on the database design and populating the database with data from approved experiments. Membership of NOLTFOX will be activated and data will be incorporated in the NOLTFOX<sup>1</sup> database.

### OUTPUTS

Nieuwenhuis, M. 2007. NATFOREX – a national database of forest experiments and research. *Irish Timber and Forestry* 16(4): 20 - 24.

<sup>1</sup> [noltfox.metla.fi](http://noltfox.metla.fi)