



For further advice and information on creating a woodland contact:

**Forest Service**

Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine  
[www.agriculture.gov.ie](http://www.agriculture.gov.ie)

**Woodland for Water**

[www.agriculture.gov.ie/media/migration/forestry/grantandpremiumschemes/2018/WoodlandWaterLoRes06June18270618.pdf](http://www.agriculture.gov.ie/media/migration/forestry/grantandpremiumschemes/2018/WoodlandWaterLoRes06June18270618.pdf)

**Coillte**

[www.coillte.ie](http://www.coillte.ie)

**Teagasc**

[www.teagasc.ie](http://www.teagasc.ie)

**Woodlands of Ireland**

[www.WoodlandsofIreland.com](http://www.WoodlandsofIreland.com)

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# Woodlands & Water

*The use of trees and riparian planting  
in flood management*



Loughs Agency



[www.inishowenriverstrust.com](http://www.inishowenriverstrust.com)

Woodland planting provides a wide range of ecosystem services for water quality, biodiversity, landscape, carbon sequestration and amenity value.

Trees can be used to alleviate flooding and slow the flow in a catchment. Smaller catchments (up to 100km<sup>2</sup>) are likely to present the greatest opportunity for woodland to influence flood flows.

Woodlands should be sited appropriately and considered in the context of the entire catchment. The use of native woodland species is encouraged - alder, oak, birch, holly, ash. Small areas can be effective in reducing flows and a well sited 20m strip of woodland can have a significant impact on flood waters and run-off.

Riparian (riverbank) planting using species such as willow and alder which help to stabilise banks, preventing erosion and improving water

### Types of Woodlands:

- Catchment Woodland
- Cross-slope Woodland
- Floodplain Woodland
- Riparian Woodland



### Benefits of Woodlands:

- Capture water and slow the flow
- Reduce run-off
- Reduce sedimentation
- Increase carbon sequestration
- Increase biodiversity
- Improve habitats
- Increase recreational facilities
- Increase health and well-being
- Decrease air pollution
- Decrease noise pollution



There are a large number of studies that show the multiple benefits of planting trees and riverbank vegetation. In addition to these benefits the woodlands can be managed to provide economic returns and the timber used for further river enhancement such as bank restoration projects and leaky dams.

