

# **The Society of Irish Foresters**

*in association with*

**VEON Ltd.**

**Date: Friday, 24 February 2017**

**Time: 10.30 am**

**Meeting Point: Swan's Bar, The Square, Clonaslee, Co. Laois.**

*Participants are advised to bring suitable clothing and footwear.  
(The site is an active harvesting site – please bring Hi Vis jackets and helmets)*

Economics plays a key role in deciding whether or not owners will thin their forest. For the majority of owners, unless the operation can be done profitably they will not thin. Bioenergy is an increasingly important product from the forest and one for which demand is rapidly increasing. Traditional harvesting methods leave behind a significant amount of woody biomass which, if extracted, can be sold as part of the energy assortment of the harvesting operation.

This field day aims to demonstrate ‘integrated harvesting’ in Sitka spruce/Japanese larch and Norway spruce stands where, in addition to traditional wood products, a bioenergy assortment is removed. On suitable site types it has been shown that significant additional volume can be safely removed from the forest, thus making the first thinning operation profitable. The event will also look at late thinning in an Oak/Scots pine plot where the Scots pine is removed as a bioenergy assortment.

Finally, the cost of road construction can very often determine whether a particular site is thinned or not. This event will look at the challenges of bridge construction over a significant river and associated harvest road construction.

**3.00pm** – Field day ends.

*Leaders: Daragh Little and Tom O'Dwyer (VEON Ltd).*

*The assistance of VEON Ltd in hosting and organising this field day  
is gratefully acknowledged.*

*This event is worth 30 CPD points to those registered on the  
Society of Irish Foresters' CPD Programme*