



EDITORIAL

Recent issues of *Irish Forestry* have seen dramatic alterations in layout, content and style – changes which are clear testimony to the initiative and dedication of the journal's previous Editor. It is the intention of this Editor to further consolidate the format of the journal, and to continue to aim towards a balance between academic merit, reader accessibility and relevance to topical issues.

As apparent in this issue, *Irish Forestry* is still undergoing a period of transition in both layout and style, primarily due to our continued experimentation with new publishing technology. It is however envisaged that a standard and economically sustainable format will be reached over the coming issues which will carry the journal through to the 21st century, and we ask for our readership's understanding and patience in this regard. Efforts are being made to speed up and streamline the processing of submitted material, in order to ensure up-to-date publication. Attention is therefore drawn to the revised set of guidelines designed to assist contributors, in particular, the stipulation that all material is to be submitted both as a hard copy and in disc format.

The Society is also introducing a system of peer review in order to raise the status and profile of scientific papers published in the journal, thereby bringing it in line with counterpart publications in other countries. *Irish Forestry* will continue to include a wide variety of material, such as symposia papers, book reviews and reports on Society activities, all of which will receive the same editorial attention. It is the aim of this Editor to reinforce the journal's position as a topical forum on all matters relating to forestry in Ireland, and in this regard, feedback, comments and contributions on all matters are, as always, most welcome. Future issues of *Irish Forestry* will also include short research notes, thereby enabling the submission of brief interim reports on ongoing forest research. This will allow readers to keep abreast with current innovations and developments without the need for full-scale scientific papers, the preparation of which often discourages would-be contributors working to tight deadlines.

It is intended that the above measures, together with the continued interest and input from members and contributors, will reaffirm this journal's position as the leading technical publication on forestry in Ireland.

Submissions to *Irish Forestry* are welcome and will be considered for publication. The attention of contributors is drawn to "Guidelines for Submissions". Submissions to be addressed to:

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