

GREEN SOD LAND TRUST - AN FÓIDÍN GLAS



www.greensodlandtrust.ie

CHY 16961

LAND MANAGEMENT POLICY

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Introduction

Vision

The Green Sod Land Trust-An Foidin Glas is established as a Trust whereby land can be respected in its own right and conserved and protected for its own sake and for the sake of present and future indigenous members of the whole earth community: micro-organisms, plants, animals, rocks, water and soil as well as humans for whom it is a source of sustenance, inspiration and spiritual nourishment. By holding land in trust we believe that it can be respected for its own sake regardless of any value it may have for particular human interests at any specific time.

We believe that the Earth is alive and that all life is nourished and sustained in relationship to the Earth. We value the interconnectedness and interdependence of the whole of life and our privilege and responsibility as humans, the self-reflective consciousness of the universe/earth, to live in harmony with Earth's processes.

Mission:

To operate as a countrywide, non-profit land trust in facilitating the conservation and protection of land for its own sake in every region (bio-region) in Ireland thus ensuring that a greenways system enables indigenous populations to live in safety and security in their natural habitats. In so doing we respect, value and enhance the rich biodiversity that is ours as a whole community of life.

Goals & Objectives:

- ❖ To protect and conserve land by bringing stretches of land into stable long term ownership and to manage said land in accordance with Sustainable Land Management Practices
- ❖ To educate ourselves and others in the process of valuing land for its own sake and working to conserve and protect it into the future for the good of the whole community of life
- ❖ To raise awareness of the interconnectedness of the entire web of life and grow in sensitivity to and in harmony with the living earth/universe
- ❖ To acknowledge the mutual dependence between the land and ourselves by encouraging its natural processes and working to renew land where it has been damaged
- ❖ To live more sustainably and stimulate both local participation and public corporate support to protect land including water, air, trees, hedgerows and the like from being treated as commodities

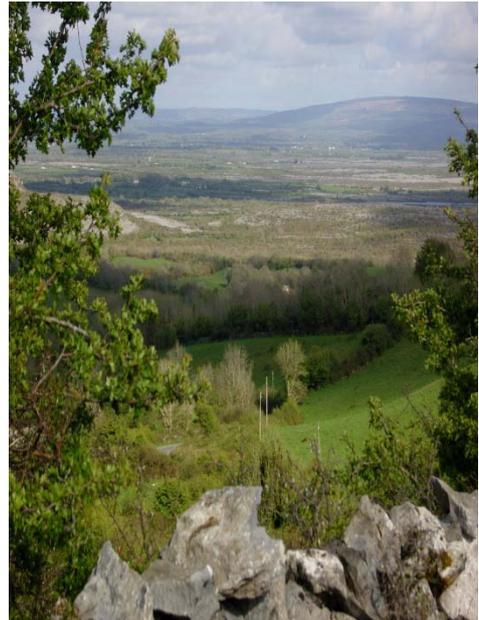
Land Management Guidelines



The primary aim of the Trust is to protect and conserve Irish land by bringing stretches of land into stable long term ownership.

Striking a balance between the idea of natural ecosystems evolving unmanaged and the reality of land use and ownership in Ireland, as has been the case for a very long time, presents a core problem. Land has in the past and is presently suffering much ecological deterioration to the detriment of the communities who depend on it. Therefore:

- The Trust focuses on promoting mutually beneficial partnerships with local communities and individuals who have an interest in land taking into account ecological, social, cultural and historical aspects of the land.
- The Trust supports and promotes sustainable land management practices in compliance with internationally acknowledged standards in order to protect natural processes and where feasible restore natural processes to increase biodiversity and indigenous populations.
- The Trust aims to set high standards in management of land both for the sake of the land and its communities and also to influence and direct the management of all land in Ireland.
- Aware of the value of land to human beings for both physical and spiritual nourishment and well-being, the Trust promotes explained limited access to certain areas to safeguard conservation interests or for essential management. However, informal access is open to people who wish to avail of it in other limited areas.
- The Trust aims to build a body of knowledge for each of its land lots through collaboration with relevant professionals. Land management plans will be regularly reviewed in the light of professional advice.
- The Trust values collaborative management of land and is happy to work with other land owners to this end.



Building public support is crucial to the work of protecting and conserving land for future generations and so the Trust values highly the participation of members and volunteers in its work and encourages people to help in whatever way they can. For further information please contact:

info@greensodlandtrust.ie

A Land Management Plan will include:

1. A description of the specific location of the land, its acreage etc., including descriptions of boundary structures; hedgerows, walls, fences or other.
2. A description of any adjacent neighbouring land and its use (public/private).
3. Legal descriptions including maps and folio numbers, photographs, access roads, paths, hedges, or other features such as buildings, walls, gates etc.
4. A description of any particular scenic or recreational qualities on the land.
5. A description of prior management methods/land use – wetlands, grazing lands, tillage, hill farm, fallow land etc.
6. A description of the impact on land of:
 - reclamation, run-off, over-grazing, erosion, mining, quarrying, farming, tourism etc.
7. A quantitative and qualitative inventory of:
 - soil types;
 - wildlife and wildlife habitats (flora and fauna populations and health)
 - threatened and endangered species
 - watersheds
 - vegetation to include wooded areas
 - historical/archaeological features
8. A description of local community.
9. Long/short-term work plans with varying objectives and measurable outcomes which will depend on the specific needs of a particular piece of land. Each land lot will be individually assessed and planned for in compliance with internationally acknowledged standards of sustainable land management to ensure the protection of natural processes and where feasible the restoration of natural processes in order to increase biodiversity and indigenous populations.
10. A record of work practices and outcomes including dates, costs and photographs. Evaluation of plan and its implementation and recommendations from resource professionals for necessary adjustments.