



## Leaving Cert Agricultural Science Ecology and Soil Science Study

### Classroom introduction

Recap terms and information in the context of the day's fieldwork  
Plan fieldwork

### Fieldwork

At each of 2 field sites:

- s Soil sampling
- s Identifying and measuring soil horizons
- s Determining soil texture
- s Determining soil pH
- s Measuring soil temperature
- s Evidence of macro or micro organism activity in the soil
- s Measuring 5 trees (height and DBH)

Discussion of results:

Differences in the properties of the soil in the 2 areas  
How differences in the soil properties have affected tree growth



### Tree and Shelter tour

Observing varieties of planting methods and discussing the advantages and disadvantages of each in relation to farm animals and crops

- s Hedgerows - variety of planting techniques
- s Hedgerows - variety of management techniques (depending on function of the hedge - e.g. stock proof boundary)
- s Tree planting - Shelterwell, continuous cover forestry, coppice, riparian zone, etc.
- s Use of tree guards to prevent damage by pest species