



Irish Forestry Unit Trust

Tinoran Hill
Baltinglass, Co. Wicklow
MANAGEMENT PLAN
2023 – 2042 (Period 2023-2027)

GENERAL INTRODUCTION, OWNERSHIP AND LANDUSE HISTORY.

Tinoran Hill Forest comprises of one block amounting to 49.2ha. The 1st plantings were in 1957, of which to date 31.2ha have been felled and restocked. The initial planting was mainly SS with two smaller areas of JL and WH on the northern edge. Prior to establishment the land was poor pasture/ hill grazing.

This was initially established by [REDACTED] and then acquired by IForUT in early 1999.

The most important feature of Tinoran Hill is the ring fort on the hill top. Consultation with the FS Archaeologist is standard practice for all felling licence applications.

Elevation

Ranges between 180m and 312m

Statutory Land Designations

There are no Statutory Land Designations in the Tinoran Hill MU.

Water/Fisheries Sensitivities:

Tinoran Hill MU lies within the water catchments of Greese Lerr, Liffey and Slaney Upper.

Margaritifera

Tinoran Hill lies within both Catchments of other extant populations and Catchments with previous records of Margaritifera, but current status unknown.

Old Woodland Sites (OWS):

There is no OWS/potential OWS in the Tinoran Hill MU.

Archaeology/Historical/Cultural:

There are numerous archaeology features in the Tinoran Hill MU consisting of a hill fort, hut site and a standing stone.

SOIL TYPES.

Shallow podzol with granite bedrock.

SUMMARY OF THE LANDSCAPE VALUE OF THE FOREST.

High Landscape Sensitivity Glenmacnass has high scenic value from a tourism perspective and three national designations relating to wildlife protection exist on the open hill above the form.

Wicklow County Council has characterised the central mountain area as an Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty and rated it Very High. These areas are regarded as being under severe development pressure during the recent economic prosperity.

Glenmacnass is sparsely populated but would receive high tourist traffic during seasonal periods. No direct viewpoints exist of Laragh Forest other than from the forest roads/forest walks in the opposite Coillte forestry.

The surrounding land is plantation forestry and impoverished sheep grazing.

Second rotation restocking was completed in 2008 and FSC requirements on species selection have not been fully met. Species selection at the time was in accordance with Forest Service best practice with consultation to all statutory stakeholders as part of the felling licence approval.

Future restocking species will be readdressed prior to next felling.

MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES.

- 1) To maximise economic output from the forest at local and national level.
- 2) To manage FMU in accordance with the principals of the Forest Stewardship Council® (FSC®) and international benchmarks of the Programme for the Endorsement of Forest Certification Schemes (PEFC).
- 3) To manage timber production in a sustainable way.
- 4) To maintain and enhance the landscape value of the forest.
- 5) To protect existing biodiversity and where opportunities arise enhance and further promote new biodiversity.
- 6) To manage forest activities with due regard to local, regional and national stakeholder interests.
- 7) To promote continuous professional development at management level.

(IForUTs FSC licence code: FSC-C003194)

Summary of silvicultural systems to be used.

System	Conifers	Broadleaves
Clear fell	✓	
Selective fell		
Thinning to MTI (potnl)	✓	
Line thinning only		
Non thin regime	✓	
Non intervention		✓
Natural regeneration		✓
Replanting	✓	✓
Other		

5 Year Monitoring Report Summary. Tinoran Hill

	Objective	Was it achieved?	How this information was applied to 5 year Management Plan review?
1	Economic Return	Mix of age classes and species in this property. Sections have been first thinned in 2014 and Clearfell at the west in 2013 and 2018 in the eastern section.	No significant changes to plan for next five-year period. Two main mature areas of timber remain which will be removed in the 2030's
2	Certification Standards	Certification Standards and IForUT systems applied over plan period. Managers working off FMM	Certification standards and IForUT systems applied over plan period. Managers working off FMM. Continue as before and update FMM as required.
3	Timber production	Sections plant year 1996 have been first thinned in 2014. Clearfelling has commenced in the MU. Further Clearfells in the 2030's planned	Thinning decision is reviewed annually and only proceeds if the crop is stable and ground conditions are good enough for thinning. The decision has been made to hold off on thinning what remains of the crop. The next clearfell is planned for 2036. Some of this area is peculiar in so far as it is naturally regenerated spruce. Felling coupes have been seperated out as much as possible to allow for time delays between felling coupes and to try to ensure that there is not a glut of felling in any five year period. However, delaying felling or bringing felling forward any further would result in severe economic losses from either a too small tree size or winddamage as a result of delaying felling beyond a critical top height.
4	Landscape	Two new landscape layers added to designations GIS layer. Forest Service layer taken off National Development plan for new planting and Landscape Unit appraisals based on Coillte LUs.	New landscape Map added to MP. New felling coupe design added to MP which keeps coupes separated. Classified as having moderate landscape sensitivity according to IForUT LU's and moderate according to FS classification. Remainder of the property is split into 2 main felling coupes as this is practical and lends best to maintaining stability on this exposed site which is a management objective.

5	Biodiversity Enhancement	Limited opportunities to enhance biodiversity thus far apart from creation of open space and UP areas	Restructuring plan Map5 and 7 addresses biodiversity requirements. Site is exposed and quite steep. Most biodiversity coming from OG and UP areas which are a requirement due to the Monument on top of the hill. A significant area of UP has been reclassified as PLA during the previous plan review. This is because the area has been overcome with natural regeneration of spruce. The area is self thinning and is currently down to be cleared again in 2035 and 2026. A new approach will be required for this area. The forest service archaeologist has suggested in the most recent fellings that a managed crop be put in place between the ramparts – He felt this would be preferential to natural regeneration. WedgeTailed Kites were noted to be above the property in 2021.
6	Stakeholder	Forest has low level local stakeholder relationships.	During plan review, a more comprehensive stakeholder consultation has been completed. Regional press/ local community groups and local statutory bodies consulted. See stakeholder folder.
7	Professional Development	████████ managed.	Retendering of whole portfolio into regional management units in 2010 to simplify overall forest level management and Certification compliance. New centralised network server ██████████ is being used for managing FMM and IForUT database.
8	Forward Planning	Continue with current standards and work practices and review on a continuous basis to implement industry best practice.	Carry out reviews of Forest Management Manual and introduce manager training and updating of best practice.