



IForUT

Investing for a Sustainable Future

Irish Forestry Unit Trust

Coolydoodu MU
Tallow, Co. Waterford
MANAGEMENT PLAN
2024 – 2043 (Period 1: 2024 -2028)

GENERAL INTRODUCTION, OWNERSHIP AND LANDUSE HISTORY.

Coolydoody Forest MU comprises three separate forest blocks totalling 93ha.

Forest properties being reviewed:

1. Coolydoody, 66.4ha. The first plantings were in 1962/1963/1964 of which much of it has been felled and restocked. The forest has a diverse range of conifer species and planting mixtures. Historically the forest would have formed part of the Duke of Devonshire's estate up to 1800. Coppicing for iron smelting would have been a significant industry during this time within any woodland cover. The forest was acquired by Smurfit Natural Resources from the Forest and Wildlife Service (date unknown). IForUT acquired it from Smurfit in early 1999.
2. Faha, 16.26ha. Established in 1995. This site was acquired by IForUT in 2017.
3. Glennafallia, 10.32ha. Established in 2014 and acquired by IForUT in 2014.

All forested land is owned by freehold title by the Irish Forestry Unit Trust (IForUT). Legal folios are held on file.

Elevation

Site elevation in Coolydoody is between 57m and 134m while Glennafallia ranges between 235m to 350m. Faha is between 166m and 190m.

Statutory Land Designations

There are no IForUT properties situated within a NPWS (National Parks & Wildlife Service) designated area with protected status, however, Coolydoody does adjoin along its southern boundary the Blackwater River (Cork/Waterford) SAC (002170). The following designated areas are within the Coolydoody MU.

- Blackwater Callows SPA Site code 004032
- Blackwater Estuary SPA Site code 004028
- Dungarvan Harbour SPA Site code 004032
- Blackwater River (Cork/Waterford) SAC Site code 002170
- pNHA's within this MU
 - Blackwater River Callows Site code 000073,
 - Blackwater River and Estuary Site code 000072,
 - Lismore Woods Site code 000667,
 - Glenmore Wood Site code 001933,

- Glencairn Site code 002095
- Dungarvan Harbour Site code 000663

Water/Fisheries Sensitivities:

The forest sites within the Coolydoody MU are in the following catchments and sub-catchments:

- Glennafallia - Blackwater (Munster) catchment
 - Blackwater [Munster]_SC_140 sub-catchment
- Coolydoody - Blackwater (Munster) catchment
 - Blackwater [Munster]_SC_130 sub-catchment
 - Bride [Waterford]_SC_030 sub-catchment
- Faha - Blackwater (Munster) catchment
 - Goish_SC_010 sub-catchment

Margaritifera (Fresh Water Pearl Mussel)

Faha: Catchments of SAC populations listed in S.I. 296 of 2009. Coolydoody and Glennafallia are not within these catchments.

Old Woodland Sites (OWS):

Coolydoody - 3rd edition OS maps show historical woodland cover over the whole forest. 1st edition OS maps show woodland cover on the southern half. The southern half shows compelling evidence of semi-natural woodland characteristics such as coppiced stumps and soil type well matched to semi-natural woodland. Of the total forest area, 32.9ha (53%) are identified as LEW (long-established woodland) and 29.7ha (47%) as RW (recent woodland).

Archaeology/Historical/Cultural:

No recorded monuments exist in the forest. Of the two non-recorded features the county boundary is an earth ditch running through 27008A. The River Bride valley directly bounding Coolydoody is a designated SAC. This is a floodplain/ meadow habitat. There are no features of archaeological, historical, or cultural significance situated within the Coolydoody MU which are marked on all operational maps and will be protected. These features are recorded on the 'Sites and Monuments Record' (<https://maps.archaeology.ie/HistoricEnvironment/>).

The Forest Service advises on protection and outlines mitigation measures when IForUT applies for a license to conduct any harvesting operation in the vicinity of any monument. Also, as standard procedure, any old farmhouse/cottage or other buildings and stone

walls/significant ditches are considered as more recent cultural heritage and are protected during harvesting and roading operations.

SOIL TYPES.

Soil types vary from mineral gley on upper slopes to brown earth with high humus content on the lower slopes, particularly in the LEW OWS areas

SUMMARY OF THE LANDSCAPE VALUE OF THE FOREST.

Low Felling Impact with High Afforestation Sensitivity - The landscape character is classified as medium due its raised aspect overlooking the River Bride valley and due to the mix of mature broadleaf trees along the boundaries and within the forest which are of high landscape value. Afforestation classification is low for new planting. Coolydoody is in a low-lying rural area. The surrounding landscape is typical of a productive agricultural area with most fields dedicated to either tillage or livestock grazing. The River Bride is a main landscape feature within the valley landscape. The field system is demarcated by a series of mature natural hedgerows typical of the Irish countryside. Coolydoody is located close to Tallow village and adjacent to the N72 on the southern boundary. The visual backdrop to Coolydoody is the Knockmealdown Mountains. The surrounding hills are covered by a mix of deciduous and coniferous woodland. A minor single-track public road runs adjacent to the northern boundary and there are numerous private dwellings along these roads. The Felling Plan has reduced coupe size and created coupe separation to mitigate felling impact. Numerous mature broadleaved species are present within the mature conifer crops which will be retained to further mitigate felling impact. The conversion/ reinstatement of OWS will further enhance the forest landscape value. The retention of all broadleaf trees and specimen conifer trees will significantly add to the landscape and structure diversity of the Long-term Restructuring Plan.

To address the potential landscape impact issues caused by future clearfelling, the felling plan has applied a significant coupe restructuring plan to reduce clearfell size and introduce coupe separation. Long-term restructuring plan outlines future restructuring species which is limited to Sitka spruce based on soil types and management objectives. Biodiversity enhancement is focused on the creation of additional open ground and expansion of broadleaf planting. Species choice is specifically matched to soil type and exposure.

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.

(IForUT's FSC licence code : FSC-C003194)

Summary of silvicultural systems to be used.

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

5 Year Monitoring Report Summary. **Coolydoody MU**

	Objective	Was it achieved?	How was this information applied to 5-year Management Plan review?
1	Economic Return	A mix of age classes and species in Coolydoody. Sections of clearfell in 2020. 2 nd thin in Faha 2019 and was cleared in a small section in 2023.	No significant changes to plan for the next five-year period. There is a clearfell sold and scheduled for 2024. 2020 Clearfell in Coolydoody was replanted in February 2021.
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	Clearfelling has commenced in the MU. Majority of the MU is used for timber production with sections that are reserved for old woodland regeneration	This is a productive MU, and it is expected that it will be possible to yield at least three thinnings from the crop. Thinning to be reviewed each year, being mindful of stability being a management priority. Clearfell of DF is sold and planned for 2024. This felling coupe has been downsized. The SP is a mixed bag quality wise, and a lot of broadleaves are throughout it.
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 layer added to Sensitivities Map in MP. Landscape character classified as LOW. Felling Plan and Restructuring Plans are designed to mitigate future felling impacts. Coupes have been kept as small as possible.

5	Biodiversity Enhancement	Biodiversity areas have been identified and classified across the FMU on IForUT's GIS system. As crops are entering stages of felling and restocking, increased broadleaves and open spaces are being created.	<p>Opportunities for biodiversity enhancement will continue to occur at the reforestation phase following the felling of the first rotation crops. Native broadleaves will be planted, and specific areas left unplanted to create a mixture of native woodland and open habitat.</p> <p>As per the new standard for Felling and Reforestation (2019), there will be uninterrupted water/aquatic zone, habitat, archaeological, public road, and utilised building (i.e., dwelling houses) setbacks created where required, and native broadleaves and Scots pine planted where practicable.</p>
6	Stakeholder	General a quiet locality. Little interaction with neighbours.	Comprehensive stakeholder consultation has been conducted.
7	Professional Development	██████████ managed. Forest Managers are members of SIF and attend lectures and field days as part of continuous professional development.	Retendering of whole portfolio into regional management units in 2010 to simplify overall forest level management and FSC compliance. New centralised network server ██████████ has been introduced 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.