



IForUT

Investing for a Sustainable Future

Irish Forestry Unit Trust

Crusheen MU
Tulla to Crusheen, Co. Clare
MANAGEMENT PLAN
2017 – 2036 (Period 4: 2024 -2028)

GENERAL INTRODUCTION, OWNERSHIP AND LANDUSE HISTORY.

Crusheen MU comprises five separate forest blocks totalling 186ha. This forest MU is based on geographical location in central County Clare. Before forest establishment, the landuse was marginal farmland.

Forest properties being reviewed:

1. Cloondanagh (Tulla) 57.8ha. Established in 1970, 2000, 2004, 2011 and 2015.
2. Derrycalliff 40.4ha, Established in 2002.
3. Ballynagranagh 19.9ha. Established 1951, 1957, 1997, 1998 and 2009.
4. Lahardan 58.9ha. Established in 1986, 1991 and 1994.
5. Maghera 3 9ha. Established circa 1999. This site was acquired by IForUT in 2019.

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

Elevation

Lahardan - 17m and 35m.

Ballynagranagh - 41m and 68m.

Derrycalliff - 60m to 126m

Cloondanagh (Tulla) – 55m to 75m

Maghera 3 - 130m to 146m

Statutory Land Designations

All five IForUT properties situated in one or more NPWS (National Parks & Wildlife Service) designated areas with protected status.

- Lahardan
 - Moyree River System SAC (000057)
 - Moyree River System pNHA (000057)
- Ballynagranagh
 - Slieve Aughty Mountains SPA (004168)
- Derrycalliff
 - Slieve Aughty Mountains SPA (004168)
 - Oysterman's Marsh NHA (002439)
- Maghera 3
 - Slieve Aughty Mountains SPA (004168)
- Cloondanagh (Tulla)
 - Slieve Aughty Mountains SPA (004168)

Water/Fisheries Sensitivities:

The forest sites within the Crusheen MU are in the following catchment(s) and sub-catchment(s):

- Lahardan, Ballynagranagh, Derrycalliff – Shannon Estuary North catchment
 - Fergus_SC_020 sub-catchment
- Maghera 3, Cloondanagh (Tulla) – Shannon Estuary North catchment
 - Rine_SC_010
- Cloondanagh (Tulla) – Lower Shannon catchment
 - Graney [Shannon]_SC_010 sub catchment

Margaritifera (Fresh Water Pearl Mussel)

Cloondanagh (Tulla) is within Margaritifera sensitive areas: Catchments with previous records of Margaritifera, but status unknown.

Old Woodland Sites (OWS):

There is a small area of OWS/potential OWS in Ballynagranagh consisting of 0.17ha. A reassessment was conducted in 2020 and is on IForUT's [REDACTED] system.

Archaeology/Historical/Cultural:

There is a recorded monument mapped at the SE boundary of Lahardan which will not be included in the next revision of the RMP.

'Listed as 'Fulacht fiadh' in the RMP (1996) on the basis of an annotated field map (pers. comm. T. Coffey, SMR file). On inspection in 2002, no evidence of a fulacht fia was found. A grass-covered spoil mound from a pond immediately to the S may have been misinterpreted as a fulacht fia. - (<https://maps.archaeology.ie/HistoricEnvironment/>)

On a previous management plan there was a recorded monument (battery) within Ballynagranagh. While assessing the Historic Environment Viewer, it is not present. It has been left mapped on the MP maps.

Features of archaeological, historical, or cultural significance 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.

Two soil types following closely to topography. Surface water gleys/ peaty gleys on any sloping land and intermixed with localised areas of deeper peat in unflushed hollows.

SUMMARY OF THE LANDSCAPE VALUE OF THE FOREST.

Low Felling Impact with Low to High Afforestation Sensitivity Refer - The general locality is sparsely populated with no significant transport routes through the valley. The MU is characterised by open topography which forms the headwaters of the River Inagh catchment. The landscape is historically heavily grazed with little natural woodland cover or even individual specimen/ hedgerow trees. The emphasis of natural features in the restructuring process is therefore limited.

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 being 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. **Ballynagranagh**

	Objective	Was it achieved?	How was this information applied to 5-year Management Plan review?
1	Economic Return	The section in the centre of the property was clearfelled in 2010 and replanted. First and second thinning were carried out in 2012 and 2016, respectively.	The crop that has been thinned (sub 1&5) is holding stable and this is provisionally put down for thinning again in 2020.
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	There will be one further thinning in this property within the next five-year period.	This is a three-thin property. The remaining crop will be split into 2 felling coupes. The first of this timber will be extracted in 2032. The second coupe is planned for 2038
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 Plan 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.	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. As per the 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.
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.

5 Year Monitoring Report Summary. **Lahardan**

	Objective	Was it achieved?	How was this information applied to 5-year Management Plan review?
1	Economic Return	Economic returns from this property were from thinnings. A small thinning was carried out in 2010, Most of the property was thinned in 2012. Sycamore was thinned in 2014, and the woodland improvement grant was drawn down for this	No further thinnings will be carried out here. The next opportunity to make a return on investment will be at clearfell stage.
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	No felling was carried out here so far. Timber production was from thinning.	Felling coupes here are quite small. This is because there are a lot of environmental restrictions here. All felling coupes will be referred to NPWS and felling coupes will have to be discussed with them as it will be necessary to leave bat corridors onsite.
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 Plan designed to mitigate future felling impacts. Coupes have been kept as small as possible.

5	Biodiversity Enhancement	This property has a sufficient area designated to biodiversity areas due to the nature of the landscape.	<p>The plan will be to maintain it as is. Areas of ash in the FMU have been affected by Ash Dieback. In general, is planned to remove these areas over time though some areas may be suitable for retention. The current plan is to restock with broadleaves.</p> <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. As per the 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.

5 Year Monitoring Report Summary. **Derrycalliff**

	Objective	Was it achieved?	How was this information applied to 5-year Management Plan review?
1	Economic Return	No operations have been carried out here.	No operations planned for the next five years so no return will be made. It does not make economic sense to road this property for thinning.
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	This property was originally planned for the first thinning operation in 2017. However, to thin this property a significant roading would be required. As well as roading, several entrances would have to be constructed. Therefore, this thinning would be negative stumpage	We will leave this property as a no thin. It will make better sense to road this when the property is more mature and can cover the roading cost. Extensive work would be required to create several new entrances and roading.
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 Plan designed to mitigate future felling impacts. Coupes have been kept as small as possible.

5	Biodiversity Enhancement	There have been no opportunities for biodiversity enhancement thus far	<p>Areas of ash in the FMU have been affected by Ash Dieback. In general, it is planned to remove these areas over time though some areas may be suitable for retention. The current plan is to restock with broadleaves.</p> <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. As per the 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	<p>██████████ managed. Forest Managers are members of SIF and attend lectures and field days as part of continuous professional development.</p>	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.

5 Year Monitoring Report Summary. Cloondanagh (Tulla)

	Objective	Was it achieved?	How was this information applied to 5-year Management Plan review?
1	Economic Return	There were two clearfells here in the last number of years, one in 2010 and another in 2014/15. Replanted areas were hit bad with weevil and some of it required fertiliser which diminished returns on this property. 1 st thin carried out in parts in 2024	1 st thinned in parts in 2024.
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	No timber to be produced in the next five-year period	Next thinning due in 2027
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 Plan designed to mitigate future felling impacts. Coupes have been kept as small as possible.

5	Biodiversity Enhancement	Areas of UP were left along county roads.	<p>Further enhancement will occur through replanting of SP into LTR areas in the next rotations. Also, increased amounts of broadleaves will be replanted. Areas of ash in the FMU have been affected by Ash Dieback. In general, it is planned to remove these areas over time though some areas may be suitable for retention. The current plan is to restock with broadleaves.</p> <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. As per the 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.

5 Year Monitoring Report Summary. **Maghera 3**

	Objective	Was it achieved?	How was this information applied to 5-year Management Plan review?
1	Economic Return	There will be no economic return until clearfell stage.	There will be no economic return until clearfell stage.
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	There will be no timber production until clearfell stage.	There will be no timber production until clearfell stage.
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 Plan 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.	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. As per the new standard for Felling and Reforestation, 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.
6	Stakeholder	General a quiet locality. Little interaction with neighbours.	Comprehensive stakeholder consultation has been conducted.

7	Professional Development	<p>████████ managed. Forest Managers are members of SIF and attend lectures and field days as part of continuous professional development.</p>	<p>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.</p>
8	Forward Planning	<p>Continue with current standards and work practices and review on a continuous basis to implement industry best practice.</p>	<p>Carry out reviews of Forest Management Manual and introduce manager training and updating of best practice.</p>