



Irish Forestry Unit Trust

Laragh East
Laragh, Co. Wicklow
MANAGEMENT PLAN
2023 – 2042 (Period 1: 2023-2027)

GENERAL INTRODUCTION, OWNERSHIP AND LANDUSE HISTORY.

Laragh East consists of one forestry block established in 1962 comprising of 38.7ha. All of the first rotation has been felled in years 2003 and 2007 and is now restocked except for two small blocks designated as LTR. The original planting was mainly SS and square blocks of JL. This has been replaced with a SS/JL 80:20 mix to provide a softer landscape. A small strip of broadleaves were planted along the public road edge. All operations to date have been in compliance with Forest Service standards.

Laragh East were acquired from [REDACTED] in early 1999. The neighbouring land use is plantation forestry and hill grazing in equal proportions.

Elevation

Ranges between 420m and 580m

Statutory Land Designations

The forest is located in at the bottom of Glenmacnass which is a highly scenic area within the Wicklow mountains SAC. The R115 minor public road runs up the Glen to the Glenmacnass Waterfall at the head of the glen. History implies this is an old military road. Glenmacnass river runs the length of the Glen.

Water/Fisheries Sensitivities:

Laragh East MU lies within the water catchments of Avoca, Dargle, Newcastle and Vartry.

Margaritifera

Laragh East is within Catchments of other extant populations.

Old Woodland Sites (OWS):

There is no OWS/potential OWS in the Laragh East MU.

Archaeology/Historical/Cultural:

There are no archaeology features in properties within the Laragh East MU.

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 received high tourist traffic during seasonal periods. No direct viewpoints exists 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. 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. Laragh East

	Objective	Was it achieved?	How this information was applied to 5 year Management Plan review?
1	Economic Return	The MU has been clearfelled and planted back in 2004/2008 so a lack of age/species diversity here.	No changes to plan for next five-year period. No return expected until 2024 when next rotation is fit to thin again
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	The whole MU has been replanted between 2004 and 2008 and no timber has been produced since then	1st thinning of second rotation is planned in 2024. No clearfells are planned in the planning period. First clearfell is expected in 2044
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. High elevation and site is classified as having a high landscape sensitivity. Wicklow County Council has characterised the central mountain area as an Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty and rated it Very High. Property split into 3 main felling coupes as this is practical and lends best to maintaining stability on this exposed site which is a management objective. Felling coupes have been separated 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 wind damage because of delaying felling beyond a critical top height.
5	Biodiversity Enhancement	Limited opportunities to enhance biodiversity thus far.	Restructuring plan Map5 and 7 addresses biodiversity requirements. Site is exposed and quite steep and MB planting not suitable. Most biodiversity coming from OG and UP areas. Open space and biodiversity will increase over the next rotation due to changes in the required national standards. These standards will require increased broadleaves and open space alongside county roads and dwelling houses at restocking stage.
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. Neighbours have been mindful of the property in keeping IForUT agents informed of fires and dumping and have been generally very helpful.

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 Certification compliance. New centralised network server (████████) is being used 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>