



IForUT

Investing for a Sustainable Future

Irish Forestry Unit Trust

Monbay MU
Gorey, Co. Wexford
MANAGEMENT PLAN
2024 – 2043 (Period 1: 2024 -2028)

GENERAL INTRODUCTION, OWNERSHIP AND LANDUSE HISTORY.

Monbay Forest MU comprises of 2 separate forest blocks totalling 72.3ha.

Forest properties being reviewed:

1. Monbay, 31.9ha. The first plantings were in 1963, of which 21.7 ha have been felled and restocked to date. The initial planting was primarily SS with areas of GF, which has now been replaced with an SS/JL mix. Before establishment, initial planting was primarily SS with areas of GF which has now been replaced with a SS/JL mix. Prior to establishment the land was poor pasture. This was initially established by Smurfit Natural Resources Ltd and then acquired by IForUT in early 1999.
2. Monbay 2, 3.21ha. Established circa 1992 with mostly SS. This site was acquired by IForUT in 2011.
3. Monaleehill, 37.95ha. Planted in 1995 with mostly SS and a small area of NS. This site was acquired by IForUT in 2018.

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 Monbay and Monbay 2 is between 200m and 267m. Monaleehill elevation is between 353m and 375m.

Statutory Land Designations

SPA's within the MU are Cahore Marshes - Site code 004143 and Blackstairs Mountains - Site code 000770.

Water/Fisheries Sensitivities:

Part of Monbay is within the Slaney sub catchment while the rest and Monbay 2 is within Bann (Wexford) sub catchment. Monaleehill falls within both Bann (Wexford) and DerryWater sub catchments.

Margaritifera (Fresh Water Pearl Mussel)

All properties within the Monbay MU are in Margaritifera sensitive areas: Catchments of other extant populations.

Old Woodland Sites (OWS):

There are no OWS/potential OWS in Monbay MU.

Archaeology/Historical/Cultural:

There are four non-recorded monuments mapped within Monbay consisting of two stone ditches, a stone wall, and a ROW, however, there are no features of archaeological, historical, and cultural significance situated within the Monbay 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 carry out 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.

- Monbay and Monbay 2 soil - podzol with varying depths of peat. Well drained.
- Monaleehill Shallow well drained mineral. Derived from non-calcareous parent materials – Soil group: Lithosols, Regosols.

SUMMARY OF THE LANDSCAPE VALUE OF THE FOREST.

Moderate to High Felling Impact with Moderate to High Afforestation Sensitivity -
Although in sparsely populated areas, both forests are prominent within a 4km radius. The neighbouring farmland and the Moderate to High Afforestation impact relate to a change of land use. The felling plan aims to reduce future coupe size and create greater separation. The planting of Douglas fir (DF) will further help mitigate the visual impact of the forest on the surrounding landscape.

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. **Monbay MU**

	Objective	Was it achieved?	How was this information applied to 5-year Management Plan review?
1	Economic Return	Property is fully roaded and last clearfell provided a good return on investment (2014)	No significant changes to plan for next five-year period.
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	Clearfell on eastern side of the property in 2014.	Clear-fells will not be scheduled until 2030 in the stronger sections of the property and thereafter no further clearfells will be taking place in the MU within the planning period.
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.	A new landscape layer was added to the 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.	<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 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.