



## Irish Forestry Unit Trust

<b>NF Meath MU</b>
By Kilmainham, Co. Meath
<b>MANAGEMENT PLAN</b>
<b>2023 – 2042</b>
<b>(Plan Period: 2023 -2027)</b>

## GENERAL INTRODUCTION, OWNERSHIP AND LANDUSE HISTORY.

NF Meath MU comprises of two forest blocks totalling 25ha. Prior to forest establishment land was enclosed marginal grazing. Neighbouring landuse private forestry and enclosed marginal grazing. This MU is based on geographical location.

### **New properties to be added to the MU:**

1. Ardmaghbreague 3.4ha. Established in 2022. [REDACTED].
2. Newtown 21.7ha. Established in 2022. [REDACTED].

### **Elevation**

- Ranges between 130m to 155m

### **Statutory Land Designations**

N/A

### **Water/Fisheries Sensitivities:**

This forest lies within the Blackwater North water catchment. Refer to Map 9.

### **Margaritifera (Fresh Water Pearl Mussel)**

There are no properties in the NF Meath MU within Margaritifera areas. IForUT will adhere to the Forest and Water Quality Guidelines - all ground operations are to take all precautions and mitigation to avoid ground damage, siltation, or any pollution entering watercourses.

### **Old Woodland Sites (OWS):**

There are no OWS/potential OWS situated in the NF Meath MU.

### **Archaeology/Historical/Cultural:**

There is one feature of archaeological, historical, and cultural significance situated in within the NF Meath MU which is 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 gives advice 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.**

There are three soil types across the NF Meath MU Forest sites.

- Brown earth is the primary soil type within the MU with peat and peaty gley also distributed across the forest sites.

## **SUMMARY OF THE LANDSCAPE VALUE OF THE FOREST.**

**Low Felling Impact with High Afforestation Sensitivity** All forest blocks are classed as low to moderate felling impact on the IForUT system due partly to the extensive forested landscape and small size of the IForUT holdings. Whenever felling licences are submitted the Forest Service will correspond with relevant local and statutory bodies to investigate any potential landscape sensitivities. The Forest Service Moderate Landscape Sensitivity class, as defined for afforestation planning covers the three upland properties which will require some sensitivity given to the restocking planning in this MU.

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 and Norway spruce based on soil types and management objectives. Biodiversity enhancement in 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.**

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

### 5 Year Monitoring Report Summary. **NF Meath MU**

	Objective	Was it achieved?	How was this information applied to 5-year Management Plan review?
1	Economic Return	This is new planting in 2022. Hope to thin in 2038.	1 <sup>st</sup> thin may happen in 2038. Clearfell planned for 2067.
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	N/A	Current clearfell date 2067.
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 (Map6) and Restructuring Plan (Map7) designed to mitigate future felling impacts. In as far as possible, felling coupes have been designed to be as small as possible to mitigate the impact of felling on the landscape.
5	Biodiversity Enhancement	There is a lot of biodiversity on this site by leaving the peaty ground unplanted.	Retain and enhance during clearfell as many broadleaf seed trees as possible for next rotation broadleaf enhancement.
6	Stakeholder	N/A	There are no issues here with stakeholders.
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 Certification 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.
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