



Irish Forestry Unit Trust

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| New Borrisnafarney MU |
| Borrisoleigh/Templemore, Co. Tipperary |
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| MANAGEMENT PLAN |
| 2022 – 2041 |
| (Plan Period: 2022 -2026) |

2. GENERAL INTRODUCTION, OWNERSHIP AND LANDUSE HISTORY.

New Borrisnafarney Management Unit (MU) comprises two properties totalling 100.20ha. This MU is based on geographical location as both blocks are in the foothills of the Devilsbit Mountains in north Co. Tipperary. The mountain summits are covered with large tracts of coniferous forestry, scrub, and some blanket bog. Upper slopes, or the upland fringe, contain coniferous forestry and upland grazing. In lower lying areas and in the foothills of the Devilsbit Mountains, pasture is dominant with some arable land. The sites within the MU were previously upland grazing land and pasture.

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

New properties to be added to the MU:

1. Borrisnafarney – 72.00ha. Established circa 1991.
2. Gortagarry – 28.26ha. Established circa 2004/2010/2015.

Elevation

- Borrisnafarney – 350 metres to 180 metres.
- Gortagarry – 300 metres to 200 metres.

Statutory Land Designations

Gortagarry and Borrisnafarney are not situated in or adjoin any NPWS (National Parks & Wildlife Service) designated areas with protected status.

Water/Fisheries Sensitivities:

The forest sites within the New Borrisnafarney MU are in the following catchments and sub catchments:

- Suir Catchment
 - Fishmoyne_SC_010 sub catchment
- Lower Shannon
 - Ollatrim_SC_010 sub catchment
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Margaritifera (Fresh Water Pearl Mussel)

- Gortagarry is situated in the Suir - Clodiagh Tipperary FWPM zone.

This is a catchment of extant populations of Fresh Water Pearl Mussel.

The New Borrisnafarney MU properties are situated within the Suir and Lower Shannon River Catchments in the South-eastern and Shannon River Basin Districts. 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 in New Borrisnafarney MU.

Archaeology/Historical/Cultural:

There are no recorded and/or protected structure/monuments in the New Borrisnafarney MU. The Forest Service give advice on protection and outline mitigation measures when IForUT apply for a licence 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.

4. SOIL TYPES.

There are two soil types across the New Borrisnafarney MU Forest sites.

- Stagnic iron-pan podzol is the primary soil type within the MU with brown earth soil also distributed across the forest sites.

5. SUMMARY OF THE LANDSCAPE VALUE OF THE FOREST.

Moderate to High Felling Impact with High Afforestation Sensitivity - Borrisnafarney is classed as having a high felling impact while Gortagarry is classed as having a moderate felling impact on the IForUT system. Whenever felling licences are submitted to the Forest Service will correspond with relevant local and statutory bodies to investigate any potential landscape sensitivities. The Forest Service High Landscape Sensitivity class, as defined for afforestation planning covers the two 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 (Map 6) has applied a significant coupe restructuring plan to reduce clearfell size and introduce coupe separation. The long-term restructuring plan (Map 7) outlines future restructuring species which is limited to Sitka spruce based on soil types and management

objectives. Biodiversity enhancement in Map 7 is focused on the creation of additional open ground and expansion of broadleaf planting. Species choice is specifically matched to soil type and exposure.

6. MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES.

- 1) To maximise economic output from the forest at local and national level.
- 2) To manage FMU (Forest Management Unit) 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.

14. 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 | | |

20. 5 Year Monitoring Report Summary. New Borrisnafarney MU

| | Objective | Was it achieved? | How was this information applied to 5-year Management Plan review? |
|---|-------------------------|---|---|
| 1 | Economic Return | Borrisnafarney has been thinned. Productivity is slightly mixed within each property in the MU | Thinning volumes removed have been below production forecasting to maintain crop stability. No further thinning expected for the moment as risk of windblow is high and harvesting of windblown timber will diminish economic return. This decision may be reviewed. Gortagarry is probably fit to thin but thinning this crop will depend if access can be achieved. At this stage it is looking unlikely that access will be arranged to facilitate this operation. |
| 2 | Certification Standards | Certification standards and IForUT systems applied over plan period. Managers working off FMM | Continue as before and update FMM as required. |
| 3 | Timber production | Timber production had been maximised through thinning where possible. Sharp falloff in timber production due to no thin policy for the current rotation. This is a precautionary measure which may be reviewed. | Strong DBH growth in thinned crops and significant volume increment. However, due to the increasing amount of winter storms, at present it has been decided that there would be no further thinning in current rotation crops in this Management Unit. There will be some felling over the next 5-year period in Borrisnafarney. There have been attempts to break up the felling coupes in this property given its landscape category. All of this property was planted in 1991. Gortagarry is approaching fitness for thinning but access and roading will be difficult in the site due to topography so it is most likely this site will forego a thinning |

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| 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. Borrisnafarney is classed as having a high felling impact while Gortagarry is classed as having a moderate felling impact on the IForUT system. Both sites are quite visible. The properties in the MU both have uniform plant years. With that taken into account Map 6 illustrates the planned felling coupes for each property which aims at minimising coupe size and thus landscape impact. |
| 5 | Biodiversity Enhancement | Biodiversity enhancement has been limited as little operations to intervene in crops | Main opportunities for biodiversity enhancement will occur at next rotations. There is an area of Ash in Borrisnafarney, however it is infected with Chalara and will have to be removed and replaced. Future plans incorporate increased open spaces and broadleaves along riparian areas. Open space and biodiversity will increase over the next rotation also due to changes in the required national standards. These standards will require increased broadleaves and openspace alongside county roads and dwelling houses at restocking stage. Some very old sightings of deer and badger on the site but nothing recent. |
| 6 | Stakeholder | General quiet locality. Little interaction with neighbours up until now. | During plan review a more comprehensive stakeholder consultation has been conducted. See Stakeholder files. |
| 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. |

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| 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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