



**Irish Forestry Unit Trust**

<b>Scarriff MU</b>
Flagmount to Mountshannon, Co. Clare
<b>MANAGEMENT PLAN</b>
<b>2013 – 2032</b> <b>(Period 3 2021 -2025)</b>



## **2. GENERAL INTRODUCTION, OWNERSHIP AND LANDUSE HISTORY.**

Scarriff MU comprises of seven separate forest blocks totalling 321ha. This forest MU is based on geographical location in East County Clare. Prior to forest establishment land provided marginal farm land. Neighbouring landuse - marginal grazing and blanket bog in uplands near Flagmount, and similar in lower section near Mountshannon, incl. rough pasture.

### **Forest properties being reviewed:**

1. Cappacannaun 87ha. Established 1991 & 1992.
2. Curragkyle 1 15.9ha. Established 1991.
3. Curragkyle 2 43ha. Established 1991.
4. Mountshannon 36.4ha. Established 1970 Restocked 2011.

### **New property being added to the MU:**

5. Corlea More 9.6ha. Established 1994.
6. Gortnascreeny 110ha. Established in 1993 & 2007.
7. Derrycon Upper 18.77ha. Established in 1992.

#### 4. SOIL TYPES.

Two soil types following closely to topography. The upper section contains a mixture of peaty podsols and blanket peat. Surface water gleys/ peaty gleys are found in the lower section and on any sloping land and with intermixed localised areas of deeper peat in unflushed hollows.

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

**Low Felling Impact with Moderate Afforestation Sensitivity** - Refer to Map 3.

The general locality is sparsely populated with no significant transport routes through the area. The MU is characterised by open topography and bogland with considerable forest cover in the upper sections with rolling lowland closer to Lough Derg. There is good existing scrub woodland cover in the Mountshannon property which will be incorporated into the plan, along with scattered hardwoods and hedgerow trees.

#### 6. 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)

#### 16. **Felling.**

<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		

**20. 5 Year Monitoring Report Summary. Curraghkyle 1&2**

	<b>Objective</b>	<b>Was it achieved?</b>	<b>How this information was applied to 5 year Management Plan review?</b>
1	Economic Return	This is a productive property that has received 3 thinnings. The most recent being in 2012 and 2016 with yields as expected. Not all the property was fit for thinning but as much was done as was possible.	No intervention until clearfell.
2	FSC Standards	FSC standards and IForUT systems applied over plan period. Managers working off FMM	Continue as before and update FMM as required.
3	Timber production	As mentioned above this property has already received 3 thinning's. There will be no further thinning in either Curraghkyle 1 or 2 due to concerns over crop stability.	Designated as no further thinning. The first run of clearfells will begin in 2024 and 2025 with the most vulnerable areas being removed first.
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 but borderline high on Forest service layer. The greater Lough Atorick/Slieve Aughty area is predominantly forestry so IForUT properties have little impact on the landscape
5	Biodiversity Enhancement	Opportunities to enhance biodiversity have been limited to occasional thinning along internal ditches etc.	Biodiversity plan for this forest by and large will not change much going forward into the next rotation as there is a lot of NRR in this forest. In the next rotation, some open space and broadleaf areas will be created along county roads
6	Stakeholder	No issues with stakeholders.	During plan review completed full stakeholder consultation - advert in Clare Champion, local community group, forest notice and local based statutory bodies.
7	Professional Development	██████████ managed. Ongoing development of the IForUT FMM and database over the period.	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 annual reviews of Forest Management Manual and annual reviews with forest managers.

## 5 Year Monitoring Report Summary. Cappacannaun

	Objective	Was it achieved?	How this information was applied to 5 year Management Plan review?
1	Economic Return	Cappacannaun was thinned in 2012. There were some issues on the ground due to a drainage issue from neighbouring forestry.	This property will be limited to two thinning's. A very small SP is due to be thinned in 2017.
2	FSC Standards	FSC standards and IForUT systems applied over plan period. Managers working off FMM	Continue as before and update FMM as required.
3	Timber production	Cappacannaun will be thinned again in 2017 but only a small area. It is very unlikely that this property will be thinned again.	Small pockets were windblown here in 2014 but not enough to warrant a windblow SP. The area most damaged will be removed in 2022
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 but borderline high on Forest service layer. The greater Lough Atorick/Slieve Aughty area is predominantly forestry so IForUT properties have little impact on the landscape
5	Biodiversity Enhancement	Opportunities to enhance biodiversity have been limited to occasional thinning along internal ditches etc.	Biodiversity plan for this forest by and large will not change going forward into the next rotation.
6	Stakeholder	No issues with stakeholders.	During plan review completed full stakeholder consultation - advert in Clare Champion, local community group, forest notice and local based statutory bodies.
7	Professional Development	████████ managed. Ongoing development of the IForUT FMM and database over the period.	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 annual reviews of Forest Management Manual and annual reviews with forest managers.

## 5 Year Monitoring Report Summary. **Mountshannon**

	Objective	Was it achieved?	How this information was applied to 5 year Management Plan review?
1	Economic Return	This site was clearfelled in 2010. Therefore there has not been any return on investment since. Site was fertilised in 2016 to increase productivity in the second rotation.	No operations in the next 5 years that will generate return.
2	FSC Standards	FSC 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 for a number of years until the site is fit for thinning. Site has been fertilised	No operations planned apart from monitoring the site and determining if fertiliser application has been beneficial.
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 but borderline high on Forest service layer. The greater Lough Atorick/Slieve Aughty area is predominantly forestry so IForUT properties have little impact on the landscape.
5	Biodiversity Enhancement	Opportunities to enhance biodiversity have been taken during replanting in 2010	Broadleaf areas have been increased. Sub 3 is primarily mixed broadleaves. Some open ground has been created along the stream
6	Stakeholder	No issues with stakeholders.	During plan review completed full stakeholder consultation - advert in Clare Champion, local community group, forest notice and local based statutory bodies.
7	Professional Development	████████ managed. Ongoing development of the IForUT FMM and database over the period.	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 annual reviews of Forest Management Manual and annual reviews with forest managers.