



Irish Forestry Unit Trust

Stonehouse Forest

Dunleer, Co. Louth

MANAGEMENT PLAN

2023 – 2042

(Period 2023-2027)

1st Plan Review Date:	2022	Prepared by:	Claire Howlin
---	------	---------------------	---------------

GENERAL INTRODUCTION, OWNERSHIP AND LANDUSE HISTORY.

Stonehouse consists of one forestry block established in 1991 amounting to 25.9ha. Due to the property being located on free gleys and located close to the coast, a wider selection of conifer species has been planted.

Stonehouse was acquired from [REDACTED] Ltd in early 1999.

Elevation

Ranges between 70m and 100cm

Statutory Land Designations

There are no Statutory Land Designations in the Stonehouse MU (refer to Map4).

Water/Fisheries Sensitivities:

Stonehouse MU lies within the water catchments of Baltray, Dee and Matlock.

Margaritifera

Stonehouse is not within any Margaritifera catchments.

Old Woodland Sites (OWS):

There is potential OWS in the Stonehouse MU. An old woodland report conducted in 2023 determined; Given the lack of ancient woodland indicators and the recording of 'cropping rock' on the site in the 6 Inch Map First Edition Black & White, it would appear that this is a relatively recent woodland site.

Archaeology/Historical/Cultural:

There are no archaeology features in properties within the Stonehouse MU.

SOIL TYPES.

Mainly gley with a small amount of brown earth on eastern edge.

SUMMARY OF THE LANDSCAPE VALUE OF THE FOREST.

The landscape value of Stonehouse is considered low due to low lying topography and lack of significant viewpoints. The locality is also sparsely populated areas.

Neighbouring land use comprise of arable, improved pasture, wetland scrub and old estate woodland.

Low Landscape and Afforestation Sensitivity. Topography low lying. Locality sparsely populated surrounded by poor pasture. Forest not visible from any roads or built up dwelling area.

Felling plan based on three future felling coupes separation. Restocking plan has continued diversify species mix to maintenance low landscape impact.

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. **Stonehouse**

	Objective	Was it achieved?	How this information was applied to 5 year Management Plan review?
1	Economic Return	Second rotation, thinned twice, 1 st thin 2010 and second in 2015.	No significant changes to plan for next five year period. Thinning was previously planned for 2019. This did not go ahead and is planned for a cosmetic thin in 2023. TFL is approved.
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	Has yielded two thinnings.	<p>Thinning cycles and crop stability were reviewed. Clearfelling will commence in 2032 after being pushed out a number of years and thereafter in 36, 38 and LTR for 2045. Felling coupes have been kept as small as possible whilst taking windblow risk, site topography and logistics into account.</p> <p>Felling coupes have also 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 winddamage as a result of delaying felling beyond a critical top height.</p>
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. New felling coupe design added to MP which keeps coupes separated. Classified as having low landscape sensitivity.

5	Biodiversity Enhancement	Existing biodiversity on site includes pockets of NRB. Limited hedgerows present that could be thinned out along.	Restructuring plan Map7 addresses species diversity requirements. Further broadleaf planting planned for coupe separation. This site is dominated by Douglas Fir and the plan is for that to continue going forward. Ancient woodland vascular plant (AWVP) indicator species were recorded within the site when an old woodland assessment was carried out Jan 2023. These included wood speedwell (Veronica montana), lesser celandine (Ficaria verna), wood sorrel (Oxalis acetosella) and pignut (Conopodium majus). However, Given the lack of ancient woodland indicators and the recording of 'cropping rock' on the entire site in the 6 Inch Map First Edition Black & White, it would appear that this is a relatively recent woodland.
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 files. Some contact with neighbours who live on the lane on the approach to the forest.
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 ██████████ is being used 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. There have been changes to national standards.