



Irish Forestry Unit Trust

Trooperstown
Laragh, Co. Wicklow
MANAGEMENT PLAN
2023 – 2042 (Period 2023-2027)

GENERAL INTRODUCTION, OWNERSHIP AND LANDUSE HISTORY.

Trooperstown Forest comprises of a single block amounting to 32.1 ha. It's located in a headwater valley of the Avonmore river, on the south side of Trooperstown Hill.

The initial planting was mainly SS but with several Subs of pure JL. The property is typical of the Wicklow mountains forestry on peaty podzol soils, being wind firm and thinned to MAI.

This was initially established by [REDACTED] and then acquired by IForUT in early 1999.

Elevation

Ranges between 390m and 430m

Statutory Land Designations

There are no Statutory Land Designations in the Trooperstown MU.

Water/Fisheries Sensitivities:

Trooperstown MU lies within the water catchments of Avoca, Balytunny, Derry, Potters, Rathnew, Tempelrainy and Vartry.

Margaritifera

Trooperstown is within Catchments of other extant populations.

Old Woodland Sites (OWS):

There is no OWS/potential OWS in the Trooperstown MU.

Archaeology/Historical/Cultural:

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

SOIL TYPES.

Podzol on lower elevation running up onto blanket peat.

SUMMARY OF THE LANDSCAPE VALUE OF THE FOREST.

Landscape Classification. The lower eastern slopes of Trooperstown are visible (mid distance) from the R763 and the forest has adjacent public road frontage onto a single track minor road servicing local dwelling.

Both the landscape character and afforestation classifications are moderate indicating that consideration must be given. The topography of the headwater valley within which Trooperstown lies is hidden from most distance views other than due east on the lower

subs. Local views of the forest area attractive due to a small 2007 felling coupe along the public road opening up views into the headwater valley and the mature larches stands directly behind. The general locality is sparsely populated.

Due to the hidden topography felling coupe size is of less significant and has been designed sympathetically to address coupe separation, but also taking account of the age structure of the 1st rotation. The water course running up through the forest is a significant landform feature and has been designed positively into the felling and long term restructuring of the forest. There is little scope to retain specimen trees/ are mature broadleaf's for structure diversity.

Surrounding landscape is poor pasture, unenclosed hill and isolated forestry blocks.

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. Trooperstown

	Objective	Was it achieved?	How this information was applied to 5 year Management Plan review?
1	Economic Return	Property is fully roaded and clearfelling has commenced.	No significant changes to plan for next five-year period. No timber to be extracted from MU until 2020 when the next clearfell is due.
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	No thinnings planned at present. Next clearfell in 2022	No thinnings planned at present. Next clearfells are currently planned for 2023.
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 medium landscape sensitivity according to IForUT LU's and moderate according to FS classification. Property split into 5 felling coupes as this is practical and lends best to maintaining stability which is a management objective.
5	Biodiversity Enhancement	Limited opportunities to enhance biodiversity thus far	Restructuring plan addresses biodiversity requirements. Main opportunities to enhance biodiversity have occurred after clearfell with replanting. Species diversity enhanced through DF planting, open spaces beside watercourses and retaining broadleaves along the watercourse. Further broadleaves and open spaces planned at next rotations. Some ongoing deer browsing occurring here, particularly on the Douglas Fir. A deer stalker is in place for the property. Beat Up ongoing.
6	Stakeholder	Forest has low level local stakeholder relationships.	During plan review, conducted a more comprehensive stakeholder consultation has been completed. Regional press/ local community groups and local statutory bodies consulted. See stakeholder folder.
7	Professional Development	████████ managed.	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	Property is fully roaded and has been thinned twice, the latest being carried out in 2013. Mixed crop. Poor sections at the northeast of the property in particular.	No significant changes to plan for next five-year period.

