



Irish Forestry Unit Trust

New Longford North MU
By Longford Town, Co. Longford
MANAGEMENT PLAN
2023 – 2042
(Plan Period: 2023 -2027)

GENERAL INTRODUCTION, OWNERSHIP AND LANDUSE HISTORY.

New Longford North MU comprises six forest blocks totalling 75.5ha.

New properties to be added to the MU:

1. Aghaboy 13.22ha. Established in 1994. [REDACTED]
2. Aghadowry 6.3ha. Established in 2000. [REDACTED]
3. Cartroncar 17.9ha. Established in 1994. [REDACTED]
4. Cloonagh North 13ha. Established in 1999. [REDACTED]
5. Dooroc 11.2ha. Established in 1991/1998. [REDACTED]
6. Glenoghill1 13.8ha. Established in 1992. [REDACTED]

Elevation

- Ranges between 65m to 160m

Statutory Land Designations

N/A

Water/Fisheries Sensitivities:

This MU lies within Camlin/Rinn, Erne West, Hind/Lough Ree, Inny and Upper Shannon water catchments. Refer to Map 9.

Margaritifera (Fresh Water Pearl Mussel)

There are no properties in the New Longford 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 is potential OWS/ OWS Glenoghill1. An OWS report has been ordered in 2023.

Archaeology/Historical/Cultural:

There is no feature of archaeological, historical, and cultural significance situated within the New Longford North 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 four soil types across the New Longford North MU Forest sites.

- Peat is the primary soil type within the MU with surface water gley, brown podzol and stagnic luvisol 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 felling impact on the IForUT system with the exception of Dooroc which is moderate due partly to the extensive forested landscape and small size of the IForUT holdings. Whenever felling licences are submitted to the Forest Service, they 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 (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.

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.

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

5 Year Monitoring Report Summary. **New Longford North MU**

	Objective	Was it achieved?	How was this information applied to 5-year Management Plan review?
1	Economic Return	Generally decent productivity in the MU though there are some properties with mixed productivity.	Continue with current caretaking work and monitor illegal dumping/trespass. Some economic return generated through thinning of properties. Thinning will improve the crop quality and growth going forward which will improve economic return in the future. Each property in the MU has been thinned or there are plans to thin in the future.
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	All crops have been thinned. Some clearfells planned in the next 5 year period.	Continue with current approach. Review crop stability on ongoing basis, especially in relation to thinning. There have been no significant windblow events that have created significant damage in any of the crops thus far but this will continue to be monitored. Most clearfells will occur in the latter half of the planning period due to the age profile of the crops.
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. Coupes have been kept as small as possible.

5	Biodiversity Enhancement	Biodiversity areas have been identified and classified across the FMU on IForUT's GIS system. Thinning operations have been carried. The first phase of felling and reforestation operations within the FMU are planned for the next 5-year plan period.	<p>The main opportunity to enhance biodiversity will occur post clearfell. There are some positive areas in terms of biodiversity for example there are plots of broadleaves throughout the MU. There are some plots of ash, however these are infected with Ash dieback which is widespread in Ireland. The current plan is to remove these and replant with alternative broadleaved species.</p> <p>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 open space alongside county roads and dwelling houses at restocking stage.</p> <p>There is potential OWS within Glenoghill1. An Old Woodland Assessment has been ordered in 2023.</p> <p>Areas of ash in the FMU have been affected by Ash Dieback. In general, it is planned to remove these areas over time though some areas may be suitable for retention. The current plan is to restock with broadleaves.</p> <p>Red Squirrel spotted in Clonagh North in 2020 by the forest manager.</p>
6	Stakeholder	Generally Quiet locality. Some ongoing issues with trespass in some properties	Comprehensive stakeholder consultation has been conducted.
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 was completed in late 2010. New centralised network ██████████ is being used to coordinate and simplify the storage and access to FMM records.

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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