



## Irish Forestry Unit Trust

<b>Corrard Forest</b>
Dowra, Co. Cavan
<b>MANAGEMENT PLAN</b>
<b>2005 – 2024</b> <b>(Period 2022-2026)</b>

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

Corrard forest comprises of five forest properties amounting to 81.66ha. Neighbouring landuse impoverish grazing and plantation forestry.

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

1. Corrard 26.4ha. Originally established by [REDACTED] before transferring to IForUT in 1994. Comp 98045M Sub 2 was felled in 2019 and replanted with SS and some NS to enhance red squirrel.

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

2. Dowra 22.16ha. Established in 1990/ 1997. Acquired by IForUT in 2018.
3. Monesk 18.86ha. Established in 2000. This site was acquired by IForUT in 2016.
4. Teebane 8ha. Established in 2000. This site was acquired by IForUT in 2016.
5. Tullynamoyle 6.12ha. Established in 2007. Acquired by IForUT in 2016.

### **Elevation**

Ranges between 86m to 210m

### **Statutory Land Designations**

There are no Statutory Land Designations in close proximity to any of the forests in the Corrard MU. Boleybrack Mountain SAC SITECODE 002032 is 750m south of Monesk forest and has water connectivity to the site.

### **Water/Fisheries Sensitivities:**

These properties lie within Shannon Upper\_SC\_010. The status of this waterbody is good according to EPA data, with macroinvertebrates and hydromorphology being the driving force behind this classification.

### **Margaritifera**

There are no properties in the Corrard MU within Margaritifera areas.

### **Old Woodland Sites (OWS):**

There is OWS in the Corrard property of the Corrard MU. An OWS Assessment was carried out in March 2021.

### **Archaeology/Historical/Cultural:**

There is no recorded archaeology within these properties. There are numerous non recorded features.

#### **4. SOIL TYPES.**

Two soil types - surface water gley on elevation ground and peaty gley running to deep peat on lowest lying ground.

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

##### **Low Felling Impact with Low and Moderate Afforestation Sensitivity**

The general locality is sparsely populated. The surrounding landscape is historically impoverished heavily grazed with very little natural woodland cover or even individual specimen/ hedgerow trees.

The significant amount of natural woodland cover and watercourses can be easily incorporated into the restructuring process.

To address the potential landscape impact the felling plan (Map 6) has phased out the felling.

Sitka spruce is viewed as the preferred species on commercial grounds. Restock design in Map 7 is focused on increasing open ground and broadleaf areas particularly beside the watercourse and public road. The 2019 planting of Norway spruce will play an important role red squirrel habitat enhancement in Corrad.

#### **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)

**14. Summary of silvicultural systems to be used.**

<b>System</b>	<b>Conifers</b>	<b>Broadleaves</b>
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. Corrard MU**

	<b>Objective</b>	<b>Was it achieved?</b>	<b>How this information was applied to 5 year Management Plan review?</b>
1	Economic Return	First clearfelling in 2010. New forest road for clearfell built and grant fund.	First clearfell block was in 2010. It was replanted in 2011 with SS/HL mixture. Second Clearfell was completed in 2019 and came in moderately under valuation due to existing windblow in the crop. In the new acquisitions 2 of these properties have been thinned, namely Monesk and Dowra. This will improve the crop condition and value and improve economic prospects into the future
2	Certification Standards	Certification standards and IForUT systems applied over plan period. Manager [REDACTED] working off of FMM	Continue into 2 <sup>nd</sup> plan period.
3	Timber production	Clearfelling was significantly brought forward from 2017 for Corrard. Also needed to clear out windblow below main road to help balance depletion charge.	For Corrard, no further clearfells planned and no further timber to be produced within the planning period. The next thinning is currently planned for 2028.. As is the sale came in under valuation price, to delay felling would have resulted in further economic losses. There will be no clearfelling in the next 5 year period in this MU. A small area in Dowra is planned to be clearfelled in 2030.in terms of timber production, it is anticipated that the two properties which were previously thinned, will be thinned again.
4	Landscape	Two new landscape layers added to designations GIS layer - Forest Service landscape character classification and IForUT Landscape Unit designations based on Coillte LUs.	New landscape layer added to Sensitivities Map in MP. Landscape sensitivity is classified as being low. However part of Corrard and Dowra property are Moderately sensitive for afforestation The felling of 98045M and the retention of mature broadleaf trees will improve the landscape significantly both on main road and back road. Attempts have been made to keep felling coupes as small as possible to lessen landscape impact.

5	Biodiversity Enhancement	Good historic relationship with NPWS and CoCo over bats under bridge issue and red squirrels in Corrad. New deadwood created in clearfells .	First felling in Corrad allowed the development of riparian zones along water course and better species mix for red squirrel food. A block of NS has been planted for species diversity and for habitat diversity and a food source for Red Squirrel. Sub 5 has been retained post clearfell – there is OW in this section being managed as non-intervention. An ecologist visited the site in March 2021 and reviewed the condition of the old woodland. It was noted within the report that the clearfelling had left the site more exposed than it previously was and thus the percentage of standing and fallen deadwood in the area had increased. There were also setbacks in the property in relation to the house and this has had a positive impact on the %of open spaces in the FMU. For the remainder of the properties the main opportunity to enhance biodiversity will occur post clearfelling. However there are areas of broadleaves and retained internal hedges in some of these properties which are of positive for habitat diversity. Open space and biodiversity will increase over the next rotation 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. In terms of species of note in the FMU, squirrel, harrier and bat have all been recorded on Corrad property.
6	Stakeholder	Good relationships overall.	All neighbours consulted over felling. NPWS and other statutory bodies consulted as part of the felling licence process. During plan review more comprehensive stakeholder consultation was carried out. Some work done on request of a stakeholder in Tullynamoyle which is important for local relations.
7	Professional Development	[REDACTED] managed.	Retendering of whole portfolio into regional management units in 2010 to simplify overall forest level management and FSC compliance. New centralised network server [REDACTED] is being used to centralise forest records. Managers and IForUT staff are members of MSIF and are doing professional development courses as part of that membership
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 updating of best practice.