



Irish Forestry Unit Trust

Broadford MU
Broadford, Co. Clare Sixmilebridge, Co. Clare
MANAGEMENT PLAN
2013 – 2032 (Period 3: 2021 -2025)

2. GENERAL INTRODUCTION, OWNERSHIP AND LANDUSE HISTORY.

Broadford MU comprises nine forest properties totalling **342.90ha**. This forest MU is based largely on geographical location as well as forest type and river catchment: all properties are in the area of South East Clare north of Limerick City and between the towns of Sixmilebridge and Broadford. They are at similar elevations and consist of similar aged plantations of mostly Sitka Spruce planted between 1987 and 1991. The main access is from regional county road R471 for majority of sites with the exception of Gartatrassa which is accessible from the regional County road R465.

Forest Properties are as follows:

1. Knockshanvo 70.24ha. Established 1990
2. Cloontra 37.81ha. Established 1987
3. Glenagross 51.84ha. Established 1991
4. Oatfield 36.31ha. Established 1987
5. Gartatrassa 33.38ha. Established 1991
6. Cloontra West 45.88ha. Established 1988
7. Cloghoolia 40.81ha. Established 2000
8. Ballynevan 26.62ha. Established 1992

Legal folios are held on file. Prior to forest establishment land provided marginal farm land, with better land parcels such as Knockshanvo most likely heavily grazed. All properties are marked as enclosed fields except upland/rough grazing/heath areas in Glenagross and Gartatrassa. Neighbouring landuse is agricultural (grazing) and forestry (private and Coillte).

4. SOIL TYPES.

Soils follow topography and elevation and are typical for this part of County Clare; mixture of 'Shallow poorly drained mineral soils. Derived from mainly non-calcareous parent material with Surface water Gleys (Shallow), Ground water Gleys, (Shallow) Podzols and peat soils on the more upland and marginal land.

5. SUMMARY OF THE LANDSCAPE VALUE OF THE FOREST.

**Low Felling Impact with Moderate to High Afforestation Sensitivity
Broadford MU is within Clare CDP 2017-2023 Western Corridor
Working Landscape .**

Low Felling Impact is due to the forest blocks limited visibility, and location in sparsely populated areas. Sections of Glenagross and Gartatrasa are visible from local viewpoints, and the larger block of Cloontra & Wetern block of Cloontra West is visible from the county road R471 from Cloontra to Sixmilebridge. Most of these blocks are a small component of a more extensive forested landscape of private and state forestry.

Any potential visual impacts are mitigated by careful restructuring and breaking these very even aged blocks into smaller felling coupes, separated by several years to allow establishment of successive crops of a greater age structure. Limited broadleaf and natural woodland cover in this landscape but any natural features and hedgerow or roadside trees will be retained where possible to enhance the landscape.

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.

System	Conifers	Broadleaves
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. Gartatrassa – April 2021

	Objective	Was it achieved?	How this information was applied to 5 year Management Plan review?
1	Economic Return	No work was planned in the last plan review and that has been the case. No operations have been carried out in this property. This property is deemed too tall to thin and the decision has been made that this property will be designated as a no thin.	Access issue to be resolved and ROW to be negotiated and this is underway. First clearfell is to be carried out in 2025.
2	FSC Standards	FSC standards and IForUT systems applied over plan period. Managers working off FMM V6.	Continue as before and update FMM as required.
3	Timber production	N/A	N/A
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. Broadford MU, is within the Clare CPD 2017 - 2023, Western Corridor Working Landscape.
5	Biodiversity Enhancement	There have been no opportunities to enhance biodiversity as no operations have taken place in this property	Biodiversity features in this property consist mainly on NRC and LTR. The next opportunity for biodiversity enhancement will be after clearfell when NRB will be increased marginally. Increase setbacks from streams with riparian broadleaf trees established parallel to this zone. Increase setbacks from drains at restocking. Introduce 10% Additional Broadleaves ADB appropriately to enhance landscape ecosystems.
6	Stakeholder	No issues with stakeholders however negotiations are ongoing regarding the ROW required to access the site.	During plan review completed full stakeholder consultation - informed local community groups, forest notice and local based statutory bodies. Alternative access being investigated from existing neighbouring forest owners [REDACTED]

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. **Knockshanvo – April 2021**

	Objective	Was it achieved?	How this information was applied to 5 year Management Plan review?
1	Economic Return	Last operations that were carried out here was a subsequent thinning in 2012/2013.	While this property has by and large escaped storm damage there are small pockets of windblow throughout the site. The decision was made that no further thinning to be carried out in this property as crop stability is a concern.
2	FSC Standards	FSC standards and IForUT systems applied over plan period. Managers working off FMM V6.	Continue as before and update FMM as required.
3	Timber production	In 2012/2013 a thinning was carried out. No further thinnings to be carried out here in this rotation	No further timber will be harvested until the first planned clearfell from this forest which is in October 2021
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. Broadford MU, is within the Clare CPD 2017 - 2023, Western Corridor Working 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. NS will be planted back into sub 2 after clearfell. Increase setbacks from streams with riparian broadleaf trees established parallel to this zone. Increase setbacks from drains at restocking. Introduce 10% Additional Broadleaf's ADB appropriately to enhance landscape ecosystems.
6	Stakeholder	No issues with stakeholders.	During plan review completed full stakeholder consultation - informed local community groups, 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. Cloontra - August 2017

	Objective	Was it achieved?	How this information was applied to 5 year Management Plan review?
1	Economic Return	Cloontra has been the most active forest in this Management Unit. In 2012 the crop was high pruned which was grant aided. In 2013 the crop was thinned for a third time. In 2014 this property was damaged by storm Darwin.	This property will no longer be thinned as it has been struck by windblow. Cloontra has been mostly clearfelled to clear windblow. Windblow clearfell was done in 2015 and this area was replanted in 2016. Sections of the remaining crop were affected by windblow creep and these sections will be harvested in 2017
2	FSC Standards	FSC standards and IForUT systems applied over plan period. Managers working off FMM V6.	Continue as before and update FMM as required.
3	Timber production	No further thinning will take place in this property	7ha remain standing in this property and this is currently planned for felling in 2025. If further damage occurs this will be harvested sooner.
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.
5	Biodiversity Enhancement	Biodiversity areas were marginally increased since 2014 due to clearfelling and restocking.	This was primarily due to open space being created along the county road and strips of broadleaves Increase setbacks from streams with riparian broadleaf trees established parallel to this zone. Increase setbacks from drains at restocking. Introduce 10% Additional Broadleaves ADB appropriately to enhance landscape ecosystems.
6	Stakeholder	No issues with stakeholders.	During plan review completed full stakeholder consultation – informed local community groups, 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. **Glenagross - August 2017**

	Objective	Was it achieved?	How this information was applied to 5 year Management Plan review?
1	Economic Return	Glenagross property was 1 st thinned in 2010 and second thinned in 2016. All subs were thinned apart from sub 7 and 8.	There are pockets of windblow in this crop and where pockets were small, these were tidied up during thinning. There will be no further thinning in this property due to concerns that further thinning would cause stability issues.
2	FSC Standards	FSC standards and IForUT systems applied over plan period. Managers working off FMM V6.	Continue as before and update FMM as required.
3	Timber production	2 thinnings have been carried out in this property and that will be all.	No timber will be extracted from this property until 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.
5	Biodiversity Enhancement	Opportunities to enhance biodiversity have been limited to occasional thinning along internal ditches etc. There is already a considerable biodiversity area in this property due to open ground underneath powerlines in this property.	Biodiversity plan for this forest by and large will not change going forward into the next rotation apart from small number of extra broadleaves to be planted.
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. Oatfield - August 2017

	Objective	Was it achieved?	How this information was applied to 5 year Management Plan review?
1	Economic Return	The last thinning in Oatfield was in 2011. This was a second thinning there will be no further thinning in this property going forward.	The county road in this townland is in extremely poor condition. This had to be repaired after the thinning in 2011.
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	This site was difficult to thin and to thin again may make the crop instable and prone to windblow. This site will not be thinned any further	No further thinning will be carried out in this property in this rotation. There are already pockets of windblow in the property and the area most affected will be felling 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.
5	Biodiversity Enhancement	Opportunities to enhance biodiversity have been limited to occasional thinning along internal ditches etc.	The main opportunity to enhance biodiversity in this property will be through replanting at the start of the next rotation. Areas of mixed broadleaves and Scots pine will be planted and small areas of open ground will also be created.
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.