



## Irish Forestry Unit Trust

<b>Maghera MU</b>
Inagh, Co. Clare
<b>MANAGEMENT PLAN</b>
<b>2022 – 2041</b>
<b>(Period 4: 2022 -2026)</b>

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

Maghera MU comprises of six neighbouring forest blocks that have been merged into one MU. Total MU area is 289.9 hectares. MU defined by species type, management objectives and geographical location.

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

1. Maghera 1 – 12.51ha. Established by [REDACTED] in 1987.
2. Maghera 2 – 45.65ha. Established by [REDACTED] in 1989/1997.
3. Garvohill – 18.79ha & Garvillau – 12.34ha. Established 1986/1996 by [REDACTED]
4. Ballyduffmore – 15.79ha. Established by [REDACTED] in 1986.
5. Gortacurka – 62.70ha. Established by [REDACTED] in 1989.
6. Knockreagh – 95.73ha. Established by [REDACTED] in 1988.

Legal folios are held on file. Prior to forest establishment land provided marginal farmland. Neighbouring land use post 1990 is private forestry and permanent grassland, and rough grazing.

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

7. Boolavaun 1 – 11.95ha & Boolavaun 2 – 14.39ha. Established circa 1992 and 2019 with mostly SS. This site was acquired by IForUT (Irish Forestry Unit Trust) in 2018.

### **Elevation**

1. Maghera 1 – 110 metres to 90 metres.
2. Maghera 2 – 150 metres to 100 metres.
3. Garvohill & Garvillau – 90 metres to 70 metres.
4. Ballyduffmore – 158 metres to 140 metres.
5. Gortacurka – 190 metres to 70 metres.
6. Knockreagh – 126 metres to 80 metres.
7. Boolavaun 1 & Boolavaun 2 – 100 metres to 70 metres.

### **Statutory Land Designations**

There are no NPWS designated areas with protected status within the boundary of any forest site and/or adjoining any forest site within the Maghera FMU (Forest Management Unit).

**Water/Fisheries Sensitivities:**

The forest sites within the Maghera MU are in the following catchments and sub catchments:

- Shannon Estuary North Catchment
  - Fergus\_SC\_040 sub catchment
- Mal Bay Catchment
  - Inagh [Ennistymon]\_SC\_020 sub catchment
  - Inagh [Ennistymon]\_SC\_030 sub catchment

**See Map 9 – Water Catchments within Maghera MU.**

**Old Woodland Sites (OWS):**

There are no OWS/potential OWS in Maghera MU.

**Archaeology/Historical/Cultural:**

There are no recorded monuments in the Maghera MU.

**4. SOIL TYPES.**

There are four soil types across the Maghera MU Forest sites. Surface-water gleys are the primary soil type within the MU. Other soil types recorded to a lesser extent are Peats, Brown earths and alluvial soil types associated with river deposits

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

**Low Felling Impact with High Afforestation Sensitivity.** From a felling perspective none of the forest blocks are on elevated locations or highly visible from distant views. Each block is small within the visual landscapes and of comparable size to surrounding forestry blocks.

Surrounding landscapes have a mosaic of land uses mostly marginal and rushy farmland and forestry but areas of improved agricultural uses and wetland are also present within a drumlin landscape.

The forest sites within the Maghera MU are situated in the following landscape areas.

- **Kilnamona High Drumlin Farmland**
  - High drumlins with mosaic of land uses, including improved and rushy farmland, wetland, lough, and forest.

- **Cullenagh River Farmlands**

- Drumlin farmlands drained by Cullenagh river catchment by a series of small loughs.

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.

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. Future LTR of Scots pine will play a role in habitat linkage and age structure diversity. Species choice being specifically matched to soil type and exposure.

## **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®) FSC-STD-IRL-012012-Irish Forest Stewardship Standard-EN and PEFC™ Ireland ISCS 2<sup>nd</sup> edition (Jan 2014).
- 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	✓	
Line thinning only		
Non thin regime	✓	
Non intervention		✓
Natural regeneration		✓
Replanting	✓	✓
Other		

## 20. 5 Year Monitoring Report Summary. Maghera MU

	Objective	Was it achieved?	How was this information applied to 5-year Management Plan review?
1	Economic Return	Within the plan period Maghera 1 & 2, Ballyduffmore and Garvoghil have all been 1st thinned and parts second thinned. Thinned areas were also pruned in 2011 to further improve crop quality and future financial return and utilize grant funding. Thinning volumes removed in general have been below FC marginal thinning intensity to help maintain crop stability but are carrying higher standing volumes as shown through thinning adjustment fieldwork.	All areas 1st thinning has been continued into a 2nd thinning cycle. Due to Storm Darwin in 2014 which resulted in Windblow in this MU there will be no further thinning's in many blocks currently at thinning stage. Only Garvillan and Knockreagh have been thinned for a 2nd time and this was carried out in 2017. Maghera 2 was thinned lightly in 2020 for a third time. Boolavaun has never been thinned and will remain as a no thin property. This was primarily possible because of high stocking density in that crop. Windblow SP's have diminished economic return from this MU somewhat. The majority of the windblow was harvested in 2015 but following clearing that wind damage – creeping windblow occurred in the 2 Maghera properties and these had to be cleared in 2018. Luckily, the strong timber prices in 2018 helped these sites earn a decent return. Further Clearfells were carried out in 2020 in Knockreagh and Gortacurka and Maghera in 2021. These generated a good return
2	Certification Standards	Certification standards and IForUT systems applied over plan period. Managers working off FMM.	Continue as before and update FMM as required.
3	Timber production	Majority of crop have been 1st and 2nd thinned with the correct age and tree size range with will maintain the correct growth characteristics of the crop for long-term timber production.	Crops windblown in 2014 were cleared in 2014 and into 2015 and all areas cleared have since been replanted. Properties affected were Ballyduffmore, Maghera and Gortacurka. Further windblow from 2017 was cleared in 2018. Felling coupes will be determined by crop stability and several properties which are showing signs of creeping windblow or further wind damage are having felling years brought forward. The age profile of the sites means that they are naturally in a cycle of clearfell and restocking. Apart from 2022, there will be further clearfells in 2024 and 2026. Clearfells have been spaced as much as possible to maintain timber production and to break up the canopy structures within the properties in this MU as the standing crops are even aged.

4	Landscape	Two landscape layers added to GIS layer and presented in Map 3 of MP. Forest Service layer taken off National Development plan for new planting and Landscape Unit appraisals based on Coillte LUs.	New landscape map added to MU at 1st 5-year review. New Felling Plan Map6 and Long-term Restructuring Plan Map7 have also been prepared and added to reviewed MP. All forest landscapes characterised as LOW according to LU classification, but some areas are deemed as being in a high afforestation sensitivity area according to FS land sensitivity layer. The only area that afforestation has been done(Boolavaun), does not fall into this high sensitivity area.
5	Biodiversity Enhancement	Good site knowledge gained from thinning operations. Improved management planning with aerial photography. Limited opportunities to open hedgerows or mature broadleaf/ specimen trees.	Detailed biodiversity mapping has been prepared from aerial photography and now forms an important part of MP. Hazards & Sensitivities Maps now include these areas. Continue to protect and enhance these areas and positively incorporate in the future restock plans. Main opportunity for biodiversity enhancement in the MU had been from replanting. An increased number of broadleaves have been introduced into the management unit in Maghera 1 and 2 and Knockreagh.  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 open space alongside county roads and dwelling houses at restocking stage.
6	Stakeholder	Two neighbours within Maghera1. Good relations maintained and notified of all forest works.	During plan review a more local/comprehensive stakeholder consultation has been conducted. Main stakeholders now are in Gortacurka and Knockreagh – see forest and stakeholder notes. There is a good relationship being formed with neighbours and complaints/issues are being resolved in a positive way
7	Professional Development	Managed direct by [REDACTED].	New centralised network server ([REDACTED]) us being used for managing FMM and IForUT database.
8	Forward Planning	First Plan period completed should have been completed in Aug 2010 but was delayed until Mar 2011.	Good site knowledge has been gained over the first plan period and has been transferred and incorporated in new 5 Year Plan. This is particularly evident in the amendment of the Felling Plan Map 6 and the addition of Long-Term Restructuring Plan Map 7 into the revised MP.