



## Irish Forestry Unit Trust

<b>Ballinameen MU</b>
By Ballinameen, Co. Roscommon
<b>MANAGEMENT PLAN</b>
<b>2022 – 2041</b> <b>(Period 2022-2026)</b>

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

Ballinameen MU comprises of eleven forest blocks in the Ballinameen/ Croaghan locality. Total MU area amounts to 214ha. MU defined by species type, management objectives and geographical location.

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

1. Drumerr 34.7ha. Established by [REDACTED] in 1988. Parts restocked in 2015/2019/2020
2. Ardcolagh 21.3ha. Established by [REDACTED] in 1987.
3. Ballinameen 26.8ha. Established by [REDACTED] in 1988/89/91/96.
4. Tullaghan 30.4ha. Established by [REDACTED] in 1988. Sub 6 replanted in 2020.

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

5. Ardglass 10.7ha. Established in 1999. This site was acquired by IForUT in 2016
6. Ratallen 8.15ha. Established in 2001. Sub 3 restocked in 2020. This site was acquired by IForUT in 2016.
7. Carkfree 13.5ha. Established in 2003. This site was acquired by IForUT in 2016.
8. Clooshaghan 9.7ha. Established in 1999. This site was acquired by IForUT in 2016.
9. Finisclin 29.8ha, Established in 1999. This site was acquired by IForUT in 2016.
10. Tullaghan 2 13.3ha. Established in 2002. This site was acquired by IForUT in 2016.
11. Grange More 16.1ha. Established in 2001. This site was acquired by IForUT in 2016.

Legal folios are held on file. Prior to forest establishment land provided enclosed marginal grazing. Neighbouring landuse enclosed marginal grazing and similar age forestry. R370 runs through the Ballinameen blocks. Minor road frontage at Drumerr and Tullaghan. Two recorded monuments in Drumerr as shown in Map4. Numerous non recorded monuments of historical or cultural interest. No noticeable informal public access in any of the blocks.

### **Elevation**

Ranges between 67m and 114m

### **Statutory Land Designations**

**Tullaghan Bog NHA SITECODE 001652**

**Bella Bridge Bog NHA SITECODE 000591**

Part of Tullaghan 86062P3 lies within the boundaries of the Tullaghan Bog NHA

designation while part of Finisclin lies within Bella Bridge Bog NHA Site Code 000591 . This NHA is of considerable conservation significance as it comprises of raised bog which in an Irish context is scarce and such areas are increasingly under threat from modern land uses.

The area of Tullaghan within the NHA is a mixture of unplanted, poor Sitka spruce and broadleaf scrub (willow & birch). Due to the poor conifer growth and coupe separation, clearfelling is planned for 2024. The restructuring process will involve this area naturally regenerating to mixed woodland scrub. Willow and birch scrub are expected to be the dominant species due to the existing presence of these species within the Sitka spruce crop and on the edges.

The main detrimental impacts from forest operations would relate to impact on the hydrology of the raised bog. Detailed site planning and consultation will be carried out prior to forest operations within the NHA designation.

**Water/Fisheries Sensitivities:**

Most properties are in the Boyle\_SC\_010 and Breedoge\_SC\_010 Drumerr and part of Ardglass are in Shannon[Upper]\_SC\_030. The Breedoge sub catchment is classified as poor with the main driver of this classification being Macroinvertebrates.

**Margaritifera**

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

**Old Woodland Sites (OWS):**

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

**Archaeology/Historical/Cultural:**

One ringfort in Ardglass Site code RO010-022. In Drumerr there are two ringforts: Site code RO011-031

**4. SOIL TYPES.**

Open impoverished landscape on peat and peaty gleys soils. Mounding ground preparation and to lesser extent ploughing.

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

**Low. Felling Impact and Low Afforestation Sensitivity** General localities sparsely populated. The most significant issue is road frontage onto the R370 around Ballinameen village. Very little existing natural scrub or hedgerows trees to incorporate into the restructuring process.

Ballinameen MU felling plan (Map 6) has applied a coupe restructuring sequence to diversify future crop age structure. Sitka spruce is still the preferred species to meet economic objectives and NS will be replanted in frost hollow. Coupe separation and smaller size coupes have been identified to mitigate felling impacts. Restock design in Map 7 focuses further MB planting around neighbouring dwellings and road frontage.

## 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 IFCS 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.

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. Ballinameen MU

	Objective	Was it achieved?	How this information was applied to 5 year Management Plan review?
1	Economic Return	Crops growing well in all properties. Most properties have been thinned which has improved timber quality and proportion of sawlog in the crops.	<p>Most of the older properties within this management unit have been thinned which has improved their quality and this value. The majority of the newly added properties have been thinned at least once and many have future thinnings planned.</p> <p>Clearfelling commenced in Drumerr in 2018 and this was mounded and replanted in 2019 so as to not leave the ground fallow and to prevent Weevil damage and the need for chemical control. There were further small clearfells to tidy up windblow in 2021 and again it was planted straight away. In Tullaghan and Ardcolagh, clearfelling was carried out in 2020 after being delayed for a year due to unfavourable market conditions. All sites achieved good prices.</p>
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	Good crops overall with high YCs. several thinnings carried out and volumes as expected.	No further thinning in the older properties in order to ensure crop maintains its stability. The new properties are of a slightly younger age class and most likely be thinned within this plan period which has the double benefit of improving quality and adding value to the crop. Further Clearfells are planned for within the next 5 year period also but mostly in the older properties such as Ballinameen, Drumerr and Ardcolagh. The new acquisitions will be clearfelled at a later time due to their age profile.
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.	Classified as having low landscape sensitivity. Felling coupes are staggered to maintain as low an impact as possible on landscape.

5	Biodiversity Enhancement	Entering into a cycle of felling and restocking which is giving opportunities to enhance biodiversity.	At restocking stage the opportunity was taken to plant increased amounts of broadleaves at Tullaghan. Drumerr and Ardcolagh. Open space has also been increased through the implementation of setbacks from the house at Ardcolagh for example. Due to changes in guidelines, in the future there will be increased open space along roads and other relevant features. These plans have been illustrated in map 7. Protected species have been also noted in the Management unit in 2018, there are records of kestrels and red squirrel in Ardcolagh property. Part of Tullaghan property has been designated as an NHA. A couple of areas here have been designated as LTR and NRC. In the longterm these will be replanted as broadleaves. Some of the new properties are positively contributing to biodiversity enhancement. Finisclin for example contains a substantial area of open bogland. The area of this property that is overlapped by the NHA will be replanted with broadleaves. Due to changes in national standards and guidelines, there will be increased broadleaves and openspace alongside country roads and dwelling houses in the future and that is reflected in map 7.
6	Stakeholder	Generally decent stakeholder relationships.	During plan review completed full stakeholder consultation - local community groups, forest notice and local based statutory bodies. Good relationships being built with neighbours though the stakeholder landscape in Leitrim can be volatile. There are some trespass issues which are being resolved.
7	Professional Development	████████ managed.	Retendering of whole portfolio into regional management units was completed in late 2010. New centralised network server ██████████ is being used 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 updating of best practice.