



Irish Forestry Unit Trust

Corrofin MU
Corrofin, Co. Clare
MANAGEMENT PLAN
2022 – 2041
(Period 4: 2022 -2026)

2. GENERAL INTRODUCTION, OWNERSHIP AND LANDUSE HISTORY.

Corrofin MU comprises of 16 forest properties that have been merged into one MU. Total MU area is 501.1 hectares. MU defined by species type, management objectives and geographical location.

Forest properties being reviewed:

1. Boghill – 14.16ha. Established circa 1990.
2. Corrofin – 95.36ha. Established circa 1987.
3. Knockroe – 38.75ha. Established circa 1990/1992.
4. Loughnagowan 1 – 63.77ha. Established circa 1986/1987.
5. Loughnagowan 2 – 26.65ha. Established circa 1989.

Boghill, Knockroe, and Loughnagowan were acquired from [REDACTED] in 1998. Corrofin was transferred from [REDACTED] following the establishment of IForUT (Irish Forestry Unit Trust) in 1994. Legal folios are held on file. Prior to forest establishment land provided marginal farmland. Neighbouring land use of historical poor enclosed seasonal grazing land and commercial forestry. Present neighbouring land use enclosed marginal grazing and similar age forestry.

New properties to be added to the MU:

6. Aughiska Beg – 30.49ha. Established circa 1994 & 2004. Acquired by IForUT in 2019.
7. Ballagh – 25.25ha. Established circa 1989. Acquired by IForUT in 2016.
8. Ballygoonaun – 12.52ha. Established circa 1993. Acquired by IForUT in 2016.
9. Boherbullog – 16.58ha. Established circa 1992. Acquired by IForUT in 2018.
10. Carrownagarraun – 21.81ha. Established circa 2000. Acquired by IForUT in 2021.
11. Clooney South – 20.62ha. Established in 2017. Acquired by IForUT in 2020.
12. Derrynaheilla – 26.51ha. Established circa 1990. Acquired by IForUT in 2018.
13. Drumanure – 51.07ha. Established circa 1992. Acquired by IForUT in 2018.
14. Kilmore North – 20.59ha. Established circa 1993. Acquired by IForUT in 2018.
15. Martry 1 – 18.74ha. Established circa 1993. Acquired by IForUT in 2018.
16. Martry 2 – 18.19ha. Established circa 2004. Acquired by IForUT (Irish Forestry Unit Trust) in 2019.

Elevation

1. Boghill – 110 metres to 90 metres.
2. Corrofin – 190 metres to 80 metres.
3. Knockroe – 97 metres to 70 metres.
4. Loughnagowan 1 – 98 metres to 80 metres.
5. Loughnagowan 2 – 90 metres to 70 metres.
6. Aughiska Beg – 100 metres to 80 metres.
7. Ballagh – 90 metres to 80 metres.
8. Ballygoonaun – 120 metres to 110 metres.
9. Boherbullog – 120 metres to 90 metres.
10. Carrownagarraun – 190 metres to 140 metres.
11. Clooney South – 97 metres to 70 metres.
12. Derrynaheilla – 140 metres to 110 metres.
13. Drumanure – 126 metres to 100 metres.
14. Kilmore North – 100 metres to 90 metres.
15. Martry 1 – 110 metres to 80 metres.
16. Martry 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 Corrofin MU. However, the east boundary of Corrofin Forest adjoins the East Burren Complex SAC.

Water/Fisheries Sensitivities:

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

- Shannon Estuary North Catchment
 - Fergus_SC_030 sub catchment
- Mal Bay Catchment
 - Inagh [Ennistymon]_SC_010
 - Inagh[Ennistymon]_SC_020
 - Aille[Clare]_SC_010

See Map 9 – Water Catchments within Corrofin MU.

Old Woodland Sites (OWS):

There are no OWS/potential OWS in Corrofin MU.

Archaeology/Historical/Cultural:

There are several features within the Corrofin MU recorded on the 'Sites and Monuments Record' (<https://maps.archaeology.ie/HistoricEnvironment/>). Refer to Map 4.

4. SOIL TYPES.

There are two soil types across the Corrofin MU forest sites.

- Surface-water gley and peat soils are widely distributed across the forest sites within the MU.

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. The surrounding landscape consists of an undulating drumlin landscape which contains a patchwork of landuses but mostly agricultural, marginal agricultural land and forestry.

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 IFCS 2nd 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	✓	
Line thinning only		
Non thin regime	✓	
Non intervention		✓
Natural regeneration		✓
Replanting	✓	✓
Other		

20. 5 Year Monitoring Report Summary.

	Objective	Was it achieved?	How was this information applied to 5-year Management Plan review?
	Economic Return	Within the plan period Loughnagowan, Corrofin and Knockroe have been thinned to varying degrees. Boghill was never thinned due to exposure, soil types and access constraint making risk and cost benefit of thinning unjustified.	Due to windblow coming in and concerns over stability – there will be no further thinning in Loughnagowan. Knockroe was thinned in 2015 and Corrofin was thinned in 2017 but due to concerns about the crops stability the decision has been made not to thin either property any further and continue to monitor crop growth and condition. Some of the more recently acquired properties are younger in age and several have been thinned such as Ballygoonaun (1 st and 2 nd thinned in 2020), and Derrynaheila (2 nd thinned in 2019). Several of the newer properties such as Aughiska Beg and Martry 2 are being roaded to prepare for thinning operations. Thinning will add value to these crops by improving their quality. Clearfells have commenced in the Management Unit. Boghill was felled in its entirety in 2018 due to the exposure in this area. There was also a clearfell in Loughnagowan in 2018. Both SP's made their threshold rate.
	Certification Standards	Certification standards and IForUT systems applied over plan period. Managers working off FMM	Continue as before and update FMM as required.
	Timber production	Timber quality is good in general, but crop growth is very mixed.	Boghill was felled in one coupe due to windthrow concerns so there will be no further timber available from that property for the foreseeable future. For the remaining standing crops, stability is the main issue of concern. In the properties that have been thinned, volumes/stocking removed were reduced to maintain stability. Some of the newer properties have been thinned and will be thinned again. This will release a little timber from these properties while improving the quality of the timber. Due to the age profile of the crops, there will be an ongoing series of clearfells in the MU during the next plan period.
	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. New felling plan has been prepared for next MP period. Coupe sizes have been reduced and separated to mitigate landscape impact. There is a mix of landscape sensitivities within this MU.

Biodiversity Enhancement	Previously there were limited opportunities for biodiversity enhancement due to the stage of crop rotation. However now the crops are entering a stage of felling and reforestation and that has given opportunities to add in areas for biodiversity.	Detailed biodiversity mapping prepared off aerial photography and site checked for non-recorded feature which are now incorporated into Hazards & Constraints Map of contract documentation. Continue to protect and enhance these areas and positively incorporate in the future restock/restructuring plan. There have been opportunities to enhance biodiversity in the MU as we are entering into a series of felling and restocking. With the replanting in Loughnagowan – a buffer of broadleaves was created on the northern and eastern side of the late [REDACTED] property. In Boghill a Lime Kiln which was discovered on site which has been opened to the public at the request of local stakeholders. Broadleaf planting has been increased around the private dwelling also. At Boghill broadleaf planting has been increased around the private dwelling also. Due to changes in national standards and guidelines, there will be increased broadleaves and open space alongside country roads and dwelling houses in the future.
Stakeholder	Quiet locality. Neighbours fully consulted over all operations. Timber transport main statutory stakeholder issue. Full stakeholder consultation completed for plan review.	Loughnagowan has one neighbouring dwelling situated in forest – the late David Lang. His son owns it now, he is not there all year round. Focused broadleaf replanting around his house. At Boghill the Lime Kiln which was discovered on site which has been opened to the public at the request of local stakeholders. Good relationships with neighbours and building relationships with stakeholders and neighbours in the newer properties like Derryneheila where trees have been cut back from neighbours' house.
Professional Development	[REDACTED] managed.	Retendering of whole portfolio into regional management units was completed in late 2010. New centralised network server being considered for 2011 to coordinate and simplify the storage and access to FMM records.
Forward Planning	Continue with current standards and work practices and review on a continuous basis to implement industry best practice.	Knowledge and site detailed gained over first plan period to be transferred and incorporated in new Plan.