



Irish Forestry Unit Trust

<b>Creggs MU</b>
Creggs, Co. Galway
<b>MANAGEMENT PLAN</b>
<b>2023 – 2042</b> <b>(Plan Period 2023 -2027)</b>



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

Creggs comprises of a single forest block totalling 28.9ha. Transferred from [REDACTED] on the setting up of IForUT in 1994.

Prior to forest establishment land was enclosed marginal grazing and bog.

Neighbouring landuse to the west is enclosed grazing and bog and river on the other boundaries. No recorded monuments exist within close proximity as identified on Map4.

Access is by RoW across neighbouring land at end of public road.

The general locality low lying river basin along the River Suck. Sparsely populated area.

### **Elevation**

Creggs - 60m

### **Statutory Land Designations**

There are no statutory designation on the site. The River Suck is adjacent to the site and the River Suck Callows SPA is several kilometres down stream

### **Margaritifera**

Not in the catchment of FWPM areas.

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

There is no OWS/potential OWS in the MU.

**Archaeology/Historical/Cultural:**

No archaeological features on the site. There is a stone enclosure onsite that would have some value as a cultural feature.

**SOIL TYPES.**

Peaty soils. Peaty gley and deep peat.

**SUMMARY OF THE LANDSCAPE VALUE OF THE FOREST.****Medium Felling Impact with No Afforestation Sensitivity** Refer to Map 3.

This part of the River Suck basis is very open with very little conifer woodland, making the presence of Creggs on the landscape more significant.

No natural landscape/ topography features exist within Creggs. Existing broadleaf cover is also very limited. The only landscape diversity is within the conifer crop itself with the varied growth rates and corresponding felling years. Some turf cutting is active on the adjacent bog. River Suck is flowing adjoining this property also with River Suck SAC, NHA and pNHA approximately a kilometre downstream.

Two main felling coupes have been applied to the restructuring process with a further which represents to two growth rates The design of these coupes balances stability (windfirm edges) with age separation to mitigate potential landscape impacts. Increased open space and broadleaf planting during restructuring process will create an improved biodiversity and landscape value.

**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)

#### 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		

**22. 5 Year Monitoring Report Summary.**

	<b>Objective</b>	<b>Was it achieved?</b>	<b>How this information was applied to 5 year Management Plan review?</b>
1	Economic Return	No thin crop due to poor access and exposure. Two growth rates YC24 & YC10. Forest not roaded due to restricted access.	Continue with current caretaking work. Carry out preventative measures as required. Unthinned crop so standing volume is high. Plans to get the forest roaded in late 2023 or early 2024
2	Certification Standards	Certification standards and IForUT systems applied over plan period. Managers working off [REDACTED]	Continue as before and update FMM as required.
3	Timber production	No thin crop and standing volumes expected to match forecasting models.	Continue with current approach. Review crop stability on ongoing basis with possible earlier clearfell date if markets and stability dictate. Discussions and meetings with neighbours have been ongoing over the last number of years in order to resolve access issues. ROW registration process is underway and neighbours are happy with road plan proposed. Road approval has now been received. There are limited options in this MU to break up the felling any further due to it being such a small site and due to the higher yield class around the edges of the crop. The better part of the crop has to be removed in one go otherwise the crop is at increased risk of windthrow. Delaying felling or bringing felling forward any further would result in severe economic losses from either a too small tree size or wind-damage as a result of delaying felling beyond a critical top height. Felling has been pushed out from 2023 to 2024 due to delays in getting the site roaded.
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. Forest landscape character assessed as Medium for Creggs.	New landscape layer added to Sensitivities Map in MP. Landscape character classified as MEDIUM. Felling Plan and Restructuring Plan designed to mitigate future felling impacts.

5	Biodiversity Enhancement	No biodiversity enhancement to date due to no thin regime.	No meaningful options to date to enhance biodiversity due to a lack of intervention and there have been no major changes since last plan review. Previous area that was recorded as NRC has improved, it hasn't improved enough to be taken as the main crop but we have now designated it LTR. Open space and biodiversity will increase even further over the next rotation, supported by changes in the required national standards. These standards will require increased broadleaves and openspace alongside county roads and dwelling houses etc at restocking stage. Note that river suck is adjacent to this site and there is an associated SAC. There were specific requests on the felling licence in relation to this site, a hotspot to the south of the site was required to be retained. This is south of a deep drain and is the most southerly block of LTR on the site. Hare were spotted on site here in 2022
6	Stakeholder	Quiet locality. Neighbouring dwellings at entrance to RoW. Full stakeholder consultation completed for plan review. No responses to date.	During plan review a more comprehensive stakeholder consultation has been conducted. Refer to stakeholder spreadsheet.
7	Professional Development	██████████ managed. Forest Managers are members of SIF and attend lectures and field days as part of continuous professional development.	Retendering of whole portfolio into regional management units was completed in late 2010. New centralised network ██████████ is being used to 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.