



Irish Forestry Unit Trust

Garryglass MU
Timahoe, Co. Laois
MANAGEMENT PLAN
2009 – 2028 (Period 4: 2021 -2025)

2. GENERAL INTRODUCTION, OWNERSHIP AND LANDUSE HISTORY.

Garryglass Forest MU comprises of 2 separate forest blocks totalling 49.54ha.

Forest properties being reviewed:

1. Garryglass 21.86ha. Established in 1992

New properties being added to the MU:

2. Gorreelagh 27.68ha. Established in 1997

Elevation

Site elevation is between 181m and 185m in Garryglass while Gorreelagh ranges between 210m to 290m. The majority of the species in this management unit is Sitka spruce with a small amount of Japanese Larch.

Statutory Land Designations

Within this management unit lies pNHA Ridge of Portlaoise, Timahoe Esker, Clopook Wood, Stradbally Hill, Kilteale Hill, Dunamase Woods, Rock Of Dunamase, The Great Heath Of Portlaoise and Derries Wood.

Ballyprior Grassland SAC ([npws sac 002256](#)) 4.5km to the N of Gorreelagh. It is located at the north end of the Castlecomer Plateau on largely limestone bedrock. The soils of the area are generally thin and well drained, varying from a deeper sandy loam in lower places (10-20 cm depth), to thin or stony soil over local drift (5-10 cm depth) on the elevated plateau.

River Barrow And River Nore SAC ([npws sac 002162](#)) is 2.75km to the S of Garryglass and also runs along the NE boundary of the MU. This site consists of the freshwater stretches of the Barrow and Nore River catchments as far upstream as the Slieve Bloom Mountains, and it also includes the tidal elements and estuary as far downstream as Creadun Head in Waterford

Water/Fisheries Sensitivities:

Both properties are within the Barrow SC. IForUT follow the Forest and Water Quality Guidelines at all times - all ground operations will take all precautions and mitigation to avoid ground damage, siltation, or any pollution entering watercourses.

Margaritifera (see map 4c FWPM)

Both properties lie within catchments with previous records of Margaritifera, but current status unknown

Old Woodland Sites (OWS):

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

Archaeology/Historical/Cultural:

Garryglass has non recorded old field boundaries and a right of way. There is an enclosure 50 meters outside of the property on the E side.

'Cropmark of subcircular enclosure visible on aerial photographs (GSI, S 143-4). No visible surface remains' (<https://maps.archaeology.ie/HistoricEnvironment/>)

4. SOIL TYPES.

Gorreelagh has shallow well drained mineral derived mainly from non-calcareous parent materials.

Garryglass soil is composed of Surface water Gleys, Ground water Gleys.

5. SUMMARY OF THE LANDSCAPE VALUE OF THE FOREST.

Low Felling Impact with High Afforestation Sensitivity. Felling plan in Map 6 is designed to reduce coupe size and diversify age class to mitigate impact on 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)

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		

20. 5 Year Monitoring Report Summary. Garryglass

	Objective	Was it achieved?	How this information was applied to 5 year Management Plan review?
1	Economic Return	The MU has been thinned three times, 1st thin in 2009, second thin in 2013. Good crop, uniform and productive. Entire block has been thinned	Thinning volumes removed have been below production forecasting to maintain crop stability but crops are carrying higher standing volumes. This property was thinned for a third time in 2017. It will not be thinned for a 4 th time even though it is productive enough to do so. This is to maintain crop stability. As of 2018 there is about 850 stems/ha which will be maintained as same until clearfell.
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	Timber production has been maximised through thinning regime	Strong DBH growth and significant volume increment. Productive MU. Monitor crop stability as a management priority. There were no signs of wind damage post storm in 2014. It also held up after storm Ophelia in 2017. Clearfells to commence in 2024
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. Classified as having Low landscape sensitivity.
5	Biodiversity Enhancement	Biodiversity limited to hedgerows and open spaces at present. Thinned out by hedgerows.	Percentage of MB to be planted has been increased and NS % will be increased also for species diversity. UP areas will also be increased along the boundary
6	Stakeholder	General quiet locality. Very little interactions with neighbours. Timber haulage route has specifically minimised local conflict.	During plan review a more comprehensive stakeholder consultation has been conducted. See Stakeholder files
7	Professional Development	████████ managed	Retendering of whole portfolio into regional management units in 2010 to simplify overall forest level management and FSC compliance. New centralised network server ██████████ is being used 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 introduce manager training and updating of best practice.
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20. 5 Year Monitoring Report Summary. Gorreelagh (Not applicable – New property – Will be included in the next review)