



Irish Forestry Unit Trust

Mantua MU
By Mantua, Co. Roscommon
MANAGEMENT PLAN
2022 – 2041 (Period 2022-2026)

2. GENERAL INTRODUCTION, OWNERSHIP AND LANDUSE HISTORY.

Mantua MU comprises of 22 forest properties in the Ballinagare/ Elphin locality. Total MU area amounts to 517.4ha. MU defined by species type, management objectives and geographical location.

Legal folios are held on file. Prior to forest establishment land provided enclosed and unclosed marginal grazing. Neighbouring land use enclosed marginal grazing and similar age forestry. Minor road frontage only. Only one unknown feature exists in Carrigeen which is not recorded and has been notified to the FS. Numerous non recorded features identified. Refer to Map4.

General locality low lying with large drainage scheme cutting through properties. Sink holes identified in Carrigeen.

Forest properties being reviewed:

1. Lissadorn 19.2ha. Established by ██████ in 1987. Sub 1 replanted in 2021.
2. Carrigeen 135.2ha. Established by ██████ in 1985/86/87/89. Parts replanted 2019 & 2020.
3. Ballinagare 72.2ha. Established by ██████ in 1986 with parts replanted in 2019 & 2020.
4. Ardagh 8.5ha. Established by ██████ in 1990/98.
5. Tartan 19.2ha. Established by ██████ in 1987. Sub 5 replanted 2021.
6. Kilvoy 24.3ha. Established by ██████ in 1986. Sub 4 replanted 2019. Sub 1 clearfelled 2022 and will be replanted in 2023.

7. Rathkineely 12.1ha. Established by █████ in 1986. Clearfelled in 2022. This site will be replanted in 2023.

New property being added to the MU:

8. Ballyroddy 5.3ha. Established in 2009. Acquired by IForUT in 2016.
9. Bella 19.6ha. Established in 1997. This site was acquired by IForUT in 2016.
10. Carrowreagh 9.8ha. Established in 2003. This site was acquired by IForUT in 2016.
11. Carrowreagh 2 2.8ha. Established in 1999. This site was acquired by IForUT in 2017.
12. Cartron 2 11.8ha, Established in 2007/2008. This site was acquired by IForUT in 2016.
13. Cloonastiallas 2 17.3ha. Established in 1992. This site was acquired by IForUT in 2018.
14. Doon 7.9ha. Established in 1999. This site was acquired by IForUT in 2016.
15. Dooneen 27.2ha. Established in 1994. Acquired by IForUT in 2018.
16. Gortnacloy 10.6ha. Established in 1995. This site was acquired by IForUT in 2019.
17. Kilnamryall 57.9ha. Established in 2003/2004/2009. This site was acquired by IForUT in 2016.
18. Leggatinty 20.8ha. Established in 1992. This site was acquired by IForUT in 2018.
19. Leggatinty 2 3ha, Established in 1992. This site was acquired by IForUT in 2018.

20. Leggatinty 3 16.5ha. Established in 1987. This site was acquired by IForUT in 2018.

21. Loughbally 8.4ha. Established in 2001. This site was acquired by IForUT in 2019.

22. Mantuar 9.9ha. Established in 2002. 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

Bella touches the outside of pNHA Ardagh Bog SITECODE 001222 on the S boundary of the forest. Mantuar also touches it.

Mantuar borders Cloonshanville Bog SAC SITECODE 000614

Water/Fisheries Sensitivities:

Most properties are in the Breedoge_SC_010. The Breedoge, Hind and Suck_030 sub catchment are classified as poor with the main driver of this classification being Macroinvertebrates.

Margaritifera

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

Old Woodland Sites (OWS):

Kilvoy has potential OWS in the Mantua MU. There was a reassessment carried out on this area in November 2020.

Archaeology/Historical/Cultural:

There is a linear earthwork in Carrowreagh.

4. SOIL TYPES.

Gley and peaty gley soils. Mixture of mounding and ploughing ground prep.

5. SUMMARY OF THE LANDSCAPE VALUE OF THE FOREST.

Low. Felling Impact and Low Afforestation Sensitivity – except for Rathkineely which has a **Med** felling impact due to its raised position above the N5. Refer to Map 3.

The most significant issue from a landscape perspective is coupe size, separation and species restructuring. Very little existing natural scrub or hedgerows trees to incorporate into the restructuring process.

Mantua 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 is best match to soil types. 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, watercourses and road frontages.

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.

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.

	Objective	Was it achieved?	How this information was applied to 5 year Management Plan review?
1	Economic Return	Most of the older properties in the MU have been thinned which improved timber quality and volume increment. These forests have entered into a cycle of clearfelling and regeneration over the last number of years. Many of the new additions are fit to be thinned if not thinned already but not at Clearfell stage yet.	Many of the older properties have had Clearfells commence over the last five years which has been the primary source of economic return in the FMU. These have generally made a decent return on investment and timber quality has been good overall due to crop improvement from thinning. Of the older properties, Ardagh is the only property which has not had any interventions, and this is due to access issues and a weaker crop. Some thinnings have also been done in the newer properties. Bella, Cloonastiallas, Doon and Leggatinty for example have all been thinned at least once if not twice. At present there are only very minor thinning operations planned for the next 5 year period. None of this will be subsequent thinning. Though several crops would be possible to thin for a 3 rd time, it has been decided that it would be better from a crop stability point of view. This will be reviewed on an ongoing basis but due to minor signs of windblow this is unlikely to change.
2	Certification Standards	Certification standards and IForUT systems applied over plan period. Managers working off FMM	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. New acquisitions are at a younger age class.	As mentioned above, most of the older properties (with the exception of Ardagh) have had clearfells take place over the last number of years. Minor amounts of windblow have been coming into the crops over the past number of years. Going forward there will be a slight surge in timber production in the next five year period. We tried to avoid this by moving some coupes out a number of years however the surge in felling is largely unavoidable. The issue is mostly down to the proportion of the crops which were planted in similar years. To delay these areas for longer opens us up to windthrow risk. The new properties are beneficial in terms of timber production as these are generally a younger age (planted in the 90's and 00's as opposed to the older crops which were largely initially planted in the 80's). There will be minimal thinning going forward though this will be reviewed on an ongoing basis.

4	Landscape	Two new landscape layers added to designations [REDACTED]. Forest Service layer taken off National Development plan for new planting and Landscape Unit appraisals based on Coillte LUs. No significant landscape issues present on this FMU.	Landscape impact designated as low in relation to felling for the vast majority of the properties with the exception of Rathkineely. This is due to the largely forested landscape that the properties are in. Rathkineely is in a slightly less forested area. Coupe sizes designed to try to minimise impact of clearfelling on the landscape. FMU is classified as low in relation to afforestation for the FMU.
5	Biodiversity Enhancement	Crops are entering into a cycle of felling and regeneration which will lend opportunities to enhance biodiversity going forward.	Along ESB wayleave in Lissadorn at end of plan period. – This is becoming scrubby so changed the classification from OG to UP at the last plan review. One section of UP along northern boundary has become taken over by conifers so it was changed to PLA. In Kilvoy there were additional bio areas created after the first clearfell. These were created through broadleaf replanting. These are focused on forest edges and around the old ruin. Potential OW area was assessed as not being existing. Only a couple of biodiversity features were identified. These are mapped and the N-S one has had broadleaves planted along it – linear feature(E-W) is still present but seemed to be getting shaded out at the last plan review. This has been opened up post felling and there are plans to bolster this with some supplemental broadleaf replanting when the site is planted in 2023. Some examples of recent enhancements are as follows. Increased broadleaves and open spaces have been created along the forest road, lane and cottage at Lissadorn as well as along some main drains. At Carrigeen there is a setback from the cottage which has been supplemented with broadleaf planting. Again at Ballinagare setbacks from the cottage there have been applied as well as some more substantial planting of blocks of broadleaves. Open space and biodiversity will further increase over the next rotation due to changes in the required national standards. These standards will require increased broadleaves and open-space alongside for example county roads and dwelling houses at restocking stage. There have been ample sightings of species of note across the FMU over the last number of years. Buzzards, Harriers, Hawks, Badgers, Squirrel, and Hare have all been noted as present on several properties across this FMU.

6	Stakeholder	Good relationship with neighbour over which RoW runs. Road repairs carried out promptly and on shared basis with neighbouring forestry company.	During plan review completed full stakeholder consultation – national stakeholders, local community groups, and local based statutory bodies. More stakeholder interest in forestry in general in this region.
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 server () is being used to coordinate and simplify the storage and access to FMM records. Managers and IForUT Staff MSIF and on the professional development scheme
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 introduce manager training and updating of best practice.