



Irish Forestry Unit Trust

Mosstown
Keenagh, Co. Longford
MANAGEMENT PLAN
2023 – 2042 (Period 1: 2023 -2027)

GENERAL INTRODUCTION, OWNERSHIP AND LANDUSE HISTORY.

Mosstown comprises of 41.3 ha. Historically the current IForUT land holding was part of the Mosstown Demesne. The forest was acquired by [REDACTED] from the [REDACTED]

This plantation was originally acquired by [REDACTED] and then transferred to IForUT in early 1999.

Elevation

Elevation ranges from 66m to 77m

Statutory Land Designations

The Royal Canal which forms the western boundary is a designated NHA. The canal is currently over grown but is being brought into management for navigation purposes.

The forest has parts of an old estate wall, lime kiln, and folly and drained pond.

Water/Fisheries Sensitivities:

The Mosstown MU is within the Camlin/Rinn, Hind/Lough Ree and Inny subcatchments.

Margaritifera

There are no sites within Margaritifera sensitive areas in the Mosstown MU.

Old Woodland Sites (OWS):

16.8ha (41%) of the forest area is plantation on old woodland site (OWS), based on the presence of large hardwood stumps and OSI map features. Most of this OWS was established with Norway Spruce in 1967. It is unknown at what time the mature hardwoods were felled.

Archaeology/Historical/Cultural:

A significant feature of the forest is the lime tree avenue. Although not a listed monument it is a listed heritage feature in the Local Development Plan. Significant public recreation along the lime tree avenue and public roads occurs and regular communication with local community group takes place.

SOIL TYPES.

Soil types vary from blanket bog, peaty gleys and brown earths with high humus content on OWS.

SUMMARY OF THE LANDSCAPE VALUE OF THE FOREST.

Landscape Classification. Mosstown is located on the edge of Keenagh village and the eastern boundary is visible from the R379. Minor single track public roads run adjacent to the forest boundaries. There are also numerous private dwellings along these roads.

The landscape character is classified as low due to the flat topography. Afforestation classification is high along the canal due to the NHA designation.

The Felling Plan has reduced coupe size and created coupe separation to mitigate felling impact. Numerous mature broadleaf's are present within the mature conifer crops which will be retained to further mitigate felling impact.

There is little scope to retain specimen trees/ mature broadleaf's for structure diversity.

Surrounding landscape is poor pasture, unenclosed hill and isolated forestry blocks.

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		

5 Year Monitoring Report Summary. **Mosstown**

	Objective	Was it achieved?	How this information was applied to 5 year Management Plan review?
1	Economic Return	Mix of age classes and species in this property. Sections have been clearfelled in 2012, 2014, 2017 and 2020	No significant changes to plan for next five-year period. Next clearfell is scheduled for 2020. 2012 Clearfell was replanted with mostly Norway Spruce. 2013 clearfell was mostly replanted again with Sitka. The 2017 section was replanted with NS. A section of this site will be left as NRB for Old Woodland regeneration and will not be put back into timber production.
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	Clearfelling has commenced in the MU. Majority of the MU is used for timber production with sections that are reserved for Old woodland regeneration	There will be no further thinnings carried out until approximately 2023 when the next rotation is fit. This is a productive MU and it is expected that it will be possible to yield 4 thinnings from the crop. Thinnings, as always, to be reviewed each year, being mindful of stability being a management priority.
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 Map added to MP. New felling coupe design added to MP which keeps coupes separated. Classified as having low landscape sensitivity. Property split into several main felling coupes. This is practical and lends best to maintaining stability on this exposed site which is a management objective. Felling coupes are also well spaced out and species are diverse across the site
5	Biodiversity Enhancement	Opportunities to enhance biodiversity thus far have been focused on clearing conifers for regeneration of Old woodland.	Restructuring plan addresses biodiversity requirements. The main biodiversity feature in the MU is around the OWS. Old woodland assessment was carried out in 2011 and there were some areas of good quality biodiversity. A reassessment was carried out in 2021. Some of the areas of scrub have matured to such an extent that it has prevented access for the survey in some areas. 6 AWVP species were noted during the reassessment vs 7 in 2011.
6	Stakeholder	Considerable stakeholder relationships in the area.	During plan review, a more comprehensive stakeholder consultation has been completed. Regional press/local community groups and local statutory bodies consulted. See stakeholder folder.

7	Professional Development	Managed	Retendering of whole portfolio into regional management units in 2010 to simplify overall forest level management and Certification 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 reviews of Forest Management Manual and introduce manager training and updating of best practice.