



## Irish Forestry Unit Trust

<b>Leugh MU</b>
Cappawhite, Co. Tipperary
<b>MANAGEMENT PLAN</b>
<b>2022 – 2041</b> <b>(Period 1 2022-2026)</b>

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

Leugh Forest MU comprises of three separate forest blocks totalling 97.4ha.

### **Forest properties being reviewed:**

1. Leugh, 26.8ha was established in 1990 with sub compartments 5 & 6 having been replanted in 2016 & 2019 respectively. This site was acquired by IForUT in 2003 by private treaty. Originally marginal upland grazing land. No public access due to remote location and limited features of interest within the forest.

### **New property being added to the MU:**

2. Ballyholahan East, 55.7ha. Established in 1999 and acquired by IForUT in 2018.
3. Doon 2, 14.8ha. Established in 2022 and acquired by IForUT in 2021.

### **Elevation**

108m to 500m

### **Statutory Land Designations**

SPA's

Leugh forest lies 800m to the East of Lower River Shannon SAC Site code 002165.

### **Water/Fisheries Sensitivities:**

Leugh lies within Mulkear\_SC\_010

Ballyholahan East is within Drumcomoge\_SC\_010

Doon 2 is situated within Crinnaghtane\_SC\_010

### **Margaritifera (see map 4 for FWPM)**

Doon 2 lies within a FWPM area – Fresh Water Peal Mussel catchment zone:

Catchments of SAC populations listed in S.I. 296 of 2009. This is especially important for site operations planning where potential adverse impacts on these QI's is possible. Appropriate Assessment (Article 6 (3), Habitats Directive) screening and mitigation measures will need to be implemented for future felling and roading applications. (Refer to Water Catchments and quality Map 9)

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

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

#### **Archaeology/Historical/Cultural:**

There are 3 non recorded features in Leugh consisting of 2 ravines and a waymarked way - Losset Walk Diversion.

Ballyholahan East has 4 recorded monuments. In subcompartment 2 there is a ditch barrow. A ring barrow is located in subcompartment 5. In subcompartment 7 where it borders sub compartment 8 there is an enclosure. Also in subcompartment 7 there is a recorded field system.

#### **4. SOIL TYPES.**

Leugh: Surface water gley on lower slopes with blanket bog on upper elevations.

Ballyholahan East: Typical luvisols: Fine loamy drift with limestone. Improved grassland in the surrounding areas.

Doon 2: Loamy drift with siliceous stones. Landuse: Heath/scrub

#### **5. SUMMARY OF THE LANDSCAPE VALUE OF THE FOREST.**

**Low Felling Impact with Low Afforestation Sensitivity** - Refer to Map 3.

Low Felling Impact with Low Afforestation Sensitivity - Refer to Map 3. Low landscape value due to remote location and sparsely populated area. Surrounding landscape poor grazing, open hill and mature forestry.

#### **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.**

<b>System</b>	<b>Conifers</b>	<b>Broadleaves</b>
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. Leugh**

	<b>Objective</b>	<b>Was it achieved?</b>	<b>How this information was applied to 5 year Management Plan review?</b>
1	Economic Return	The majority of the property in Leugh has been thinned. Generally a productive MU. New properties added	Thinning volumes removed have been below production forecasting to maintain crop stability. No further thinning in Leugh as risk of windblow is high and harvesting of windblown timber will diminish economic return. There was damage here following Storm Darwin. Clearfelling has taken place in Leugh with the last one being carried out in 2017. Ballyholahan has been thinned in 2020 and this has improved the crop greatly. Leugh will have to have another clearfell over the coming years as windblow is starting to creep into the crop which will diminish economic return.
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	Timber production has been maximised through thinnings	Strong DBH growth in thinned crops and significant volume increment. Productive MU. Clearfells have commenced which is primarily due to windblow. Next clearfells were planned for 2022 but due to a poor timber market this will most likely be felled in 2023. Crop should be monitored closely for further signs of windblow. Ballyholahan has responded extremely well to the thinning in 2020 and due to its high productivity it is planned that it will be thinned again in 2023. Felling coupes have also been separated out as much as possible to allow for time delays between felling coupes and to try to ensure that there is not a glut of felling in any five year period. However, 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.
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. Leugh classified as Moderate under the IForUT LU classification and other properties classified as Low. Low to moderate afforestation sensitivity.

5	Biodiversity Enhancement	Biodiversity limited in this MU and opportunities to enhance have been limited.	Some minor areas of biodiversity enhancement have been introduced, primarily the small amount of broadleaves introduced alongside the county road in Leugh. After the next clearfell more broadleaves will be introduced along the county road again. In Ballyholohan there is an area of Ash either side of the road but this has now been affected by dieback. This will be cleared at some point in the future and replanted with broadleaves again. In Doon there are significant areas of unplanted ground in the area of the water abstraction point and the heath habitat at the North of the property. There are some areas of broadleaf scrub retained here also. Open space and biodiversity will likely increase over the next rotation due to changes in the required national standards. These standards will require increased broadleaves and openspace alongside county roads and dwelling houses at restocking stage.
6	Stakeholder	General quiet locality. Very little interactions with neighbours. Timber haulage route at Leugh has specifically minimised local conflict.	During plan review a more comprehensive stakeholder consultation has been conducted. See Stakeholder files. On going trespass issues at Ballyholohan.
7	Professional Development	██████████ and ██████████ managed. Retendering of whole portfolio into regional management units in 2010 to simplify overall forest level management and FSC compliance.	██████████ and ██████████ 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. Forest Managers are members of SIF and attend lectures and field days as part of continuous professional development.
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 annual manager training and updating of best practice.