



# IForUT

Investing for a Sustainable Future

## Irish Forestry Unit Trust

<b>Boolavonteen MU</b>
Ballymacarbry, Co. Waterford
<b>MANAGEMENT PLAN</b>
<b>2025 – 2044</b> <b>(Period 1: 2025 -2029)</b>

## GENERAL INTRODUCTION, OWNERSHIP AND LANDUSE HISTORY.

Boolavonteen Forest MU comprises three separate forest blocks totalling 119.32ha.

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

1. Boolavonteen, 43.02ha. First established in 1971, replanted in 2004, 2011 & 2020. This was initially established by Smurfit Natural Resources Ltd and then acquired by IForUT in early 1999.
2. Lyranearla is split into two adjoining compartments totalling 64.08ha. 98152O is 29.38ha while 98153J is 34.70ha. Established between 1956 up to replanting in 2015. This site was acquired by IForUT in 2000 from Smurfit Natural Resources Ltd.

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

3. Boolabrien Lower, 12.16ha. (TFC managed) First established in 1990. Acquired by IForUT in 2023.

All forested land is owned by freehold title by the Irish Forestry Unit Trust (IForUT). Legal folios are held on file.

### **Elevation**

Site elevation is between 203 – 350m

### **Statutory Land Designations**

There are no properties within Statutory Land Designations.

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

Properties lie within the Finisk, Corrigan and Suir sub catchments.

### **Margaritifera**

Lyranearla and Boolabrien Lower lie within catchments with previous records of Margaritifera, but current status unknown.

Boolavonteen is outside of any catchment.

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

There is OWS/potential OWS in the Boolavonteen MU within Lyranearla.

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

Boolavonteen contains a non-recorded feature, a stone wall. Old walls are also non-recorded features throughout Lyranearla along with a badger sett, a deep ravine and a waterfall. Refer to Map 4.

### **SOIL TYPES.**

Surface water gley/ peaty gley/ blanket peat.

Mostly deep well drained mineral soil derived from mainly non-calcareous parent materials.

Acid Brown Earths, Brown Podzolics, Surface water and Ground water Gleys.

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

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

From a felling perspective the elevated flat topography minimises this impact. For new planting the sensitivity is moderate due to the flat open treeless topography. Therefore any new planting would stand out and need to be designed accordingly. No significant viewpoints or transport routes. General locality sparsely populated. Surrounding landscape is poor pasture and isolated forestry blocks. No natural features, mature broadleaves of specimen conifers to introduce diversity at clearfell.

To address the potential landscape impact issues caused by future clearfelling, the felling plan (Map 6) has applied a significant coupe restructuring plan to reduce clearfell size and introduce coupe separation. Long-term restructuring plan (Map 7) outlines future restructuring species which is limited to Sitka spruce based on soil types and management objectives. Biodiversity enhancement in Map 7 is focused on the creation of additional open ground and expansion of broadleaf planting. Species choice being specifically matched to soil type and exposure.

### **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.

**Summary of silvicultural systems to be used.**

<b>System</b>	<b>Conifers</b>	<b>Broadleaves</b>
Clear fell	✓	
Selective fell		
Thinning to MTI	✓	
Line thinning only		
Non thin regime	✓	
Non intervention		✓
Natural regeneration		✓
Replanting	✓	✓
Other		

### 5 Year Monitoring Report Summary. Boolavonteen MU

	Objective	Was it achieved?	How was this information applied to 5-year Management Plan review?
1	Economic Return	Second rotation crop in Boolavonteen. Last clearfell was in 2010/2011/2019. Primarily a young plantation now.	No significant changes to plan for next five-year period. 1 <sup>st</sup> thinning of second rotation was previously planned for 2016 but only 2ha fit for thinning so it was not carried out. May thin some crops in Lyranearla 2025 onwards, road has been upgraded to facilitate same.
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	No thinnings in this period.	1st thinning in parts in 2024 and the remainder will most likely be thinned in 2026.
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. Landscape character classified as LOW. Felling Plan (Map6) and Restructuring Plan (Map7) designed to mitigate future felling impacts. Coupes have been kept as small as possible.

5	Biodiversity Enhancement	Biodiversity areas have been identified and classified across the FMU on IForUT's GIS system. As crops are entering stages of felling and restocking, increased broadleaves and open spaces are being created.	<p>Opportunities for biodiversity enhancement will continue to occur at the reforestation phase following the felling of the first rotation crops. Native broadleaves will be planted, and specific areas left unplanted to create a mixture of native woodland and open habitat.</p> <p>As per the new standard for Felling and Reforestation, there will be uninterrupted water/aquatic zone, habitat, archaeological, public road, and utilised building (i.e., dwelling houses) setbacks created where required, and native broadleaves and Scots pine planted where practicable.</p>
6	Stakeholder	General a quiet locality. Little interaction with neighbours.	Comprehensive stakeholder consultation has been conducted.
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 in 2010 to simplify overall forest level management and FSC compliance. New centralised network server ██████ has been introduced 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.