



# IForUT

Investing for a Sustainable Future

## Irish Forestry Unit Trust

<b>New Sligo West MU</b>
By Culleens, Co. Sligo
<b>MANAGEMENT PLAN</b>
<b>2025 – 2044</b> <b>(Plan Period: 2025 -2029)</b>

## GENERAL INTRODUCTION, OWNERSHIP AND LANDUSE HISTORY.

New Sligo West Management Unit (MU) comprises 1 property totalling 18.8ha. This MU is based on geographical location. Prior to forest establishment, the primary land use was unimproved grassland and rough grazing. The properties are adjoined by commercial forest plantations and agricultural holdings comprised of improved grassland and rough grazing.

### **New properties to be added to the MU:**

1. Carns – 18.82. Established 1992. Acquired by IForUT 2017.

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

**Elevation** is 90m.

### **Statutory Land Designations**

There are no designations within the Carns property and it is 1.5km to the Ox Mountains Bog SAC.

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

This MU lies within Moy and Owenmore water catchments. Refer to Map 9.

### **Margaritifera**

There are no properties in the New Sligo West MU within Margaritifera areas.

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

There is no OWS in the Carns property.

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

There are no features of archaeological, historical and cultural significance situated within the properties in the New Sligo West MU. Refer to Map 4.

The Forest Service give advice on protection and outline mitigation measures when IForUT apply for a licence to carry out any harvesting operation in the vicinity of any monument. Also, as standard procedure, any old farmhouse/cottage or other buildings and stone walls/significant ditches are considered as more recent cultural heritage and are protected during harvesting and roading operations

## SOIL TYPES.

Brown earth and organic gley soils.

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

**Low Felling Impact with Moderate Afforestation Sensitivity - Refer to Map 3.** This forest block is classed as low felling impact on the IForUT system due partly to the extensive forested landscape and small size of the IForUT holdings. Whenever felling licences are submitted the Forest Service will correspond with relevant local and statutory bodies to investigate any potential landscape sensitivities.

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.

(IForUT's FSC licence code : FSC-C003194)

**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. **New Sligo West MU**

	Objective	Was it achieved?	How was this information applied to 5-year Management Plan review?
1	Economic Return	Parts of Carns have been thinned previously before IForUT purchased. It is possible to have a thin in the next few years within the more productive areas. The Northern part of the site is poor ground and the trees are struggling.	Continue with current caretaking work and monitor illegal dumping/trespass. Some economic return generated through thinning of properties. Thinning will improve the crop quality and growth going forward which will improve economic return in the future.
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	Decent quality crops. Timber production had been maximised through thinning where possible. There may be further thinning works subject to crop stability. Some clearfell planned in the next 4 years.	Continue with current approach. Review crop stability on ongoing basis, especially in relation to thinning. There have been no significant windblow events that have created significant damage in any of the crops thus far but this will continue to be monitored.
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.	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. 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.
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.