



Coillte Teoranta

# Forest Management Plan

Downs

WH03

2006 to 2010

District Manager

District

PJ Fitzpatrick

N3



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# Introduction

Forest: WH03 Downs  
District: N3 District Manager PJ Fitzpatrick

Downs forest is situated in east Co. Westmeath. The topography is mainly low lying. The main N6 road passes through this forest. The Royal Canal flows through this forest.

The main soil type in Downs are raised peat and brown earths.

The main towns and villages located in the catchment area of Downs forest are Delvin, Kilucan, Raharney, Rochfortbridge.

The management focus for the forest is concerned with timber production and biodiversity management primarily. Farm partnerships account for almost 7%, or 82 ha, of Downs forest. The long term aim of the forest is to continue with timber production, manage farm partnerships efficiently, and follow ecological plans for selected sites.

Over 138 ha is due for clearfell with an annual average of 35 ha over the plan period.

The expected timber production is estimated to be 68,312 m<sup>3</sup> over the plan period with an annual average of 13,662 m<sup>3</sup>.

Over 95% of the 'conifer high forest' in Ballynafid forest is due to be thinned. The majority of the forest will receive at least three thinnings.

The forest contains 0 and 1 experiment plots. Proposed SPs (if any) containing either seedstands or experiment plots will be marked SD or EX as appropriate in tables 2.6 and 2.7

**Table 1 Area by Objective**

Forest:	WH03	Downs	
<u>OBJECTIVE</u>		<u>AREA (ha)</u>	<u>%</u>
Timber Production		1,004.4	82.4%
Biodiversity		86.0	7.1%
Conservation		111.9	9.2%
Non-forest Commercial		0.6	0.0%
Recreation		1.2	0.1%
No active management		15.1	1.2%
<b>Total</b>		<b>1,219.3</b>	<b>100.0%</b>





**Table 2 Area by Special Consideration**

<b>Forest:</b>	<b>WH03</b>	<b>Downs</b>	
<b><u>SPECIAL CONSIDERATION</u></b>		<b><u>AREA (ha)</u></b>	<b><u>%</u></b>
Access - Other		6.4	0.5%
Access County Road		31.1	2.6%
Farm Partnership		82.3	6.7%
Fisheries Protection		6.1	0.5%
IFUT		44.0	3.6%
Legal		14.9	1.2%
NWS		29.9	2.5%
None		880.7	72.2%
Potential Sale		15.8	1.3%
Statutory Designation		81.3	6.7%
Water Supply		7.8	0.6%
Wildlife		19.0	1.6%
<b>Total</b>		<b>1,219.3</b>	<b>100.0%</b>



**Table 3 Area by Fell Year**

**Forest:** WH03

Downs

<u>FELL YEAR</u>	<u>AREA (ha)</u>	<u>ANNUAL AVERAGE</u>
2006	35.3	
2007	29.9	
2008	51.7	
2009	51.2	
<b><u>5 Year Total and Average</u></b>	<b><u>168.1</u></b>	<b><u>21.01</u></b>
2010	36.4	
2011	27.9	
2012	25.9	
2013	68.2	
2014	13.6	
<b><u>5 Year Total and Average</u></b>	<b><u>172.0</u></b>	<b><u>17.20</u></b>
2015	5.3	
2016	6.4	



	<u>FELL YEAR</u>	<u>AREA (ha)</u>	<u>ANNUAL AVERAGE</u>
	2017	21.1	
	2018	7.5	
	2019	0.0	
<u>5 Year Total and Average</u>		<u>40.3</u>	<u>4.48</u>
	2020	14.7	
	2021	0.0	
	2022	0.0	
	2023	0.0	
	2024	30.6	
<u>5 Year Total and Average</u>		<u>45.3</u>	<u>7.55</u>

**Table 4 Area by Species Group**

Forest:	WH03	Downs	
	<u>SPECIES GROUP</u>	<u>AREA (ha)</u>	<u>%</u>
	ALD	0.8	0.1
	ASH	19.2	1.7
	BE	2.2	0.2
	BI	83.1	7.4
	DF	1.2	0.1
	LAR	4.0	0.4
	LP	344.1	30.8
	NS	233.7	20.9
	OB	13.2	1.2
	OC	0.2	0.0
	OP	17.6	1.6
	SS	397.1	35.6
		<b>1,116.5</b>	<b>100.0</b>





66	WH03-11	Timber Production	None	7.9	0.4	6.7	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.7	0.0	0.0
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105	WH03-15	Timber Production	Access County R	16.2	1.6	11.6	2.9	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
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**Total MU Area 51.7**

**2009**

MU	Map Cutting	Objective	Special Considerations	MU Area (ha)	Open	Spruce	LP	SP	Area (ha)									
									LAR	FIR	OC	Oak	BE	Ash	BI	Ald	OB	
117	WH03-2	Conservation	Statutory Designat	17.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
119	WH03-2	Conservation	Statutory Designat	6.9	0.7	0.0	3.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	3.1	0.0	0.0	
62	WH03-12	Timber Production	None	6.4	0.6	5.8	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	
84	WH03-17	Timber Production	None	20.9	2.1	18.8	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	

**Total MU Area 51.2**

**2010**

MU	Map Cutting	Objective	Special Considerations	MU Area (ha)	Open	Spruce	LP	SP	Area (ha)								
									LAR	FIR	OC	Oak	BE	Ash	BI	Ald	OB
17	WH03-3	Timber Production	None	14.2	0.7	12.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	1.3	0.0	0.0
76	WH03-17	Timber Production	IFUT	21.0	3.1	17.8	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
80	WH03-17	Biodiversity	IFUT	1.2	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

**Total MU Area 36.4**

