ITGA Field day invitation
Planning and Managing for Forest Certification

Date: Wednesday 12th April 2017
Meeting Time: 10.00 am
Meeting Point: Meet at Newport GAA Club, Newport, Co. Tipperary.
Directions: Newport is easily accessible from the M7 Motorway, take Exit 28 (Limerick/Castletroy). The GAA Club is 800 metres to the east of Newport, on the Rearcross road (R503) and car-parking and toilet facilities are available. A shuttle bus service will transport attendees to the forest site. GPS Coordinates of GAA carpark 52.708660, -8.394557

Participants are advised to bring suitable clothing and footwear and a picnic lunch

Outline Itinerary

10.15 am Travel to forest site. Welcome by Brendan Lacey, ITGA Chairman and MD IFoUT Forestry Management Ltd.
- Introduction to Toorlougher Forest Management Unit by Darryn McDowell, Oisin Meagher and Stacey Bradley of the Irish Forestry Unit Trust.

In Oct 2016 IFoUT successfully completed its 10 year FSC Certification re-evaluation audit, and remain the only large scale private forest owner in Ireland to be FSC certified. The IFoUT management team will give a presentation on its experience with FSC certification and the management challenges it raises. Presentations and discussion points will include: Stakeholder consultation, Management Plan preparation, recorded features, watercourse management, old woodland sites, chemical use and harvesting site management.

Toorlougher Management Unit straddles the Tipperary/Limerick border, and consists of over 100 Hectares, with a further 127 Ha currently being added to the FSC Management Plan. Water is a vital component in the management planning for this forest as it is in the upper catchment of the Mulkear River, just 2km upstream of a protected Special Area of Conservation (SAC). The entire management unit is also within a Hen Harrier Special Protection Area (SPA). The day will highlight the various steps in preparing a privately owned forest for certification with a description of the strict audit process involved in gaining certification.

Lunch –Participants are advised to take along a picnic lunch

After lunch we will get the opportunity to observe a live harvesting demonstration in order to highlight the importance of monitoring all activities and recording operational issues for certification. Harvesting and related operations will be outlined and discussed.

ITGA would like to acknowledge and thank the Irish Forestry Unit Trust for hosting this field day.

The Irish Forestry Unit Trust (IFoUT) is a forest investment fund facilitating forestry investment as retirement savings for employees of Irish companies and charities. Current investment is over €220m of forest assets in Ireland & the UK and a further $50m of timberland assets in North America. IFoUT is regulated by the Central Bank of Ireland.