



Irish Forestry Unit Trust

Knockbrack
Mallow, Co. Cork
Plan 2022-2041
MANAGEMENT PLAN PERIOD
2022 – 2026

2. GENERAL INTRODUCTION, OWNERSHIP AND LANDUSE HISTORY.

Knockbrack FMU now comprises of 3 forests amounting to 38Ha.

The forest is now mainly 2nd rotation crop (planted 1991) with a large section now moving into 3rd rotation. Site was difficult to drain at time of restocking.

This was initially established by [REDACTED] and then acquired by IForUT in early 1999. Two new properties are being added to the MU. These have been acquired by IForUT in 2021. This MU is based on geographical location as all blocks are in the same locality of North County Cork and in the drainage catchment of the Blackwater River.

Forest properties being reviewed:

Knockbrack - 20.4ha

New properties to be added to the MU:

Coolaneague – 5.1ha. Reforested in 2016 and acquired in 2021

Kilclogh – 12.5. Reforested in 2016

Landuse prior to forestry was agricultural with lands being primarily suitable for grazing. Surrounding lands include forestry but agriculture and grazing being primary land uses. All forested land is owned by freehold title by the Irish Forestry Unit Trust (IForUT). Legal folios are held on file.

Elevation:

Knockbrack - 243m

Kilclogh – 172m

Coolaneague – 187m

Statutory Land Designations:

There are no statutory designations on any of the sites. The Blackwater River SAC (sitecode 002170) is nearby all three sites however the only one with clear aquatic connection is Knockbrack and the aquatic zone only concerns a very small section of the site. Increased setbacks will be applied to this area when Knockbrack is replanted.

Water/Fisheries Sensitivities:

The Knockbrack FMU is within the Blackwater River Catchment which is an important river for many species including Fresh Water Pearl Mussel, Lampreys and Salmon amongst many others. Knockbrack falls into the Blackwater Sub-catchment(SC-110) and the remaining two properties fall into the Crinnaghtane SC 010 Sub Catchment. According to the latest data available, both of these sub catchments are classed as having an ecological status as good with Macroinvertebrates being the main driver behind this classification.

Margaritifera (Fresh Water Pearl Mussel):

All properties fall within Catchments of SAC populations of Fresh Water Pearl Mussel. Knockbrack is the only property of the three with clear aquatic connection to the river concerned. IForUT will adhere to the Forest and Water Quality Guidelines - all ground operations are to take all precautions and mitigation to avoid ground damage, siltation, or any pollution entering watercourses.

Old Woodland Sites (OWS):

There are no OWS/potential OWS in this FMU.

Archaeology/Historical/Cultural:

There are no recorded monuments/protected structure in any of the three properties in the FMU.

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.

4. SOIL TYPES.

Peats/ Peaty gleys.

5. SUMMARY OF THE LANDSCAPE VALUE OF THE FOREST.

Low Felling Impact Low potential landscape impact. General locality sparsely populated area and felling coupes generally small. Moderate forest cover forest cover on raised plateau area. Moderation impact for afforestation.

Felling Plan allows for greater felling coupe diversify for rotation felling. The long-term restructuring plan outlines future restructuring species which is limited to Sitka spruce based on soil types and management objectives.

6. MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES.

- 1) To maximise economic output from the forest at local and national level.
- 2) To manage FMU (Forest Management Unit) 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.

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

20. 5 Year Monitoring Report Summary.

	Objective	Was it achieved?	How this information was applied to 5 year Management Plan review?
1	Economic Return	All blocks are fully roaded. Knockbrack is going into its third rotation. New properties are very high Yield Class.	Some pockets of Windblow evident in Knockbrack over the last number of years. Therefore sub one was clearfelled in 2021. This delivered a decent return. The new acquisitions are on good ground and both have a very high Yield Class. Both are provisionally down to be thinned in the future. Knockbrack has not yet been planted and it is currently planned to be planted in the 2022/2023 planting season
2	Certification Standards	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 timber to come out of the MU in the next five year Planning Period.	No further thinning in the MU until young crops have reached maturity. Decision made to bring fell years forward and fell some of sub 1 in 2021. The remainder of the crops in the FMU are younger age classes. Further timber production will not occur until the 2030's. Very productive MU.
4	Landscape	Two new landscape layers added to designations [REDACTED]. 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. By and large the MU is surrounded by farmed land but a lot of forestry in the areas where the properties are situated.
5	Biodiversity Enhancement	Biodiversity enhancement has been limited apart from leaving Unplanted areas	Some areas of UP in Knockbrack and wayleaves in the two new acquisitions provide similar habitats. The main opportunity to enhance biodiversity will be at restocking stage in Knockbrack. There are further broadleaves planned around property boundaries and the TFL state that open space is required by the watercourse. Due to changes in standards and guidelines, there will be increased broadleaves and openspace alongside country roads and dwelling houses in the future. This is reflected in long term restructuring plans.
6	Stakeholder	No Stakeholder issues	During plan review a more comprehensive stakeholder consultation has been conducted. See stakeholder files on system

7	Professional Development	████████ managed All managers are MSIF and members of various other forestry interest organisations	Previously ██████████ managed until 2011, ██████████ took over management. 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 carry out manager training where required and updating of best practice.