



Irish Forestry Unit Trust

Castleisland MU
Castleisland, Co Kerry
MANAGEMENT PLAN
2022 – 2041 (Plan Period: 2022 -2026)

2. GENERAL INTRODUCTION, OWNERSHIP AND LANDUSE HISTORY.

Castleisland Management Unit (MU) comprises nine properties totalling 475.22ha. This MU is based on geographical location as all blocks are in the same locality of mid county Kerry, mostly on the lowlands in the vicinity of the main town of Castleisland with several properties slightly more elevated to the east of Castleisland in the hills that connect to the stack Mountains in the north of the county. The sites within the MU were previously rough grazing land and some are sections of former cutaway blanket bog.

Forest properties being reviewed:

1. Ballynahulla – 14.56ha. Established circa 1990.
2. Cordal East – 37.38ha. Established circa 1990.
3. Scrahanfadda – 42.69ha. Established circa 1990.
4. Leamydoody – 42.03ha. Established circa 1989/1992.
5. Knockaneacoolteen 1 – 44.45ha. Established circa 1986.
6. Knockaneacoolteen 2 – 37.18ha. Established circa 1991/1998.
7. Knocknageeha – 23.38ha. Established circa 1991/1998.
8. Cloontarriv – 32.56ha. Established circa 1990.
9. Glanowen – 89.35ha. Established circa 1988.

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

New properties to be added to the MU:

10. Coollick – 14.05ha. Established circa 1995.
11. Knockaneacoolteen 3 – 3.64ha. Established circa 1986.
12. Anablaha – 4.81ha. Established circa 1995.
13. Barna – 47.49ha. Established circa 1990.
14. Ballyvirrane – 18.90ha. Established circa 2020.
15. Scartaglin – 22.77ha. Established circa 1989.

Margaritifera (Fresh Water Pearl Mussel)

- Barna, Coollick, Cordal East, Glanowen and Scartaglin are situated in the Maine – BrownFlesk FWPM zone.
- Ballynahulla and Knocknageeha are situated in the Munster Blackwater FWPM zone.
- Anablaha and Scrahanfadda are situated in the Laune FWPM zone.

These are all catchments of extant populations of Fresh Water Pearl Mussel

4. SOIL TYPES.

There are three soil types across the Castleisland MU Forest sites.

- Peat is the primary soil type within the MU with humic surface-water gleys, and brown podzols also distributed across the forest sites.

5. SUMMARY OF THE LANDSCAPE VALUE OF THE FOREST.

Low Felling Impact with **High Afforestation Sensitivity** - Refer to Map 3. All forest blocks are 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 to the Forest Service will correspond with relevant local and statutory bodies to investigate any potential landscape sensitivities. The Forest Service Moderate Landscape Sensitivity class, as defined for afforestation planning covers the three upland properties which will require some sensitivity given to the restocking planning in this MU.

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. The 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 is specifically matched to soil type and exposure.

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)

16. Felling.

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

20. 5 Year Monitoring Report Summary. Castleisland MU

	Objective	Was it achieved?	How was this information applied to 5-year Management Plan review?
1	Economic Return	Some properties within the MU have been thinned. As is typical in this part of the country – productivity is mixed within the MU and productivity and quality varies dramatically within the properties.	Thinning volumes removed have been below production forecasting to maintain crop stability. No further thinning expected as risk of windblow is high and harvesting of windblown timber will diminish economic return. Several properties such as Ballynahulla, Cordal East, Cloontarriv and Glanowen have been harvested in the years since the major storm event and these have all achieved the threshold rate required.
2	FSC Standards	FSC standards and IForUT systems applied over plan period. Managers working off FMM	Continue as before and update FMM as required.

3	Timber production	<p>Timber production had been maximised through thinning where possible. Sharp falloff in timber production due to no thin policy for the current rotation which were damaged by 2014 Storm and poorer crops being left following harvesting of storm damage.</p>	<p>Strong DBH growth in thinned crops and significant volume increment. However, the 2014 storm blew over the best crops within this MU. This led to timber production plans being front loaded in 2015 and 2016. Due to the extent of damage in the Management unit it was deemed that there would be no further thinning in current rotation crops in this Management Unit. There was some felling over the interim period. Some felling years were brought forward in Glanowen to facilitate stakeholder requests for tree removal for example and further clearfelling in 2021. Properties such as Ballynahulla, Cordal East and Cloontarriv have also had clearfelling in the last number of years as the crops are reaching maturity. There will be clearfelling in the upcoming five year period in some of the new properties such as Coollick, Barna and Anablaha as the better areas in these crops are reaching maturity. The same is true of some of the older properties such as Cloontarriv, Knockaneacoolteen and Scrahanfadda which will all have clearfelling commencing in the not-too-distant future.</p>
4	Landscape	<p>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.</p>	<p>New landscape layer added to Sensitivities Map in MP. All properties classified as having Low sensitivity according to LU classification. All were classified as low in FS classification apart from Glanowen and Cordal East which fell into the High Sensitivity Category.</p>

5	Biodiversity Enhancement	<p>Biodiversity enhancement has been limited as little thinning has been done so opportunities to thin out by ditches etc have been limited.</p>	<p>Main opportunities for biodiversity enhancement will occur at next rotations. At present the FMU has entered into a cycle of felling and restocking which is giving opportunities to enhance biodiversity. % Of MB planted has been increased marginally. Open space has also been increased marginally and will increase over the next rotation. Examples of this include Glanowen where a larger proportion of open space and broadleaf planting was carried out in the block adjacent to the house and setbacks from the county road meant creation of additional open space and strips of broadleaves. Areas of open ground have been created in Cloontarriv next to relevant watercourses and due to the creation of inspection tracks through the reforestation. Minor amounts of broadleaves have been incorporated in Cordal along the road and Open space has been left for setback for the adjacent household. In Ballynahulla setbacks have been created also beside the house and additional open space has been incorporated in the space between the powerline and the county road. Open space and biodiversity will increase over the next rotation due to changes in the required national standards. These standards will require increased broadleaves and open space alongside county roads and dwelling houses at restocking stage.</p> <p>There are some existing areas of value in the New properties which have been added to the MU. For example, there is a significant area of open space in Ballyvirrane which is newly afforested. There is a significant area of failed crop in Anablaha which is providing some</p>
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			<p>habitat diversity also. Knockaneacoolteen property has large sections of Ash which was important for biodiversity. Unfortunately, this area has Ash Dieback disease and an application is pending for its clearance and replacement with improved birch. In terms of protected species, Hare was noted in Leamydoody in 2018 and red squirrel was recorded in Knocknageeha in 2020.</p>
6	Stakeholder	<p>General quiet locality. Little interaction with neighbours up until lately. Glanowen and Scrahanfadda main properties where stakeholders have gotten in touch.</p>	<p>During plan review a more comprehensive stakeholder consultation has been conducted. See Stakeholder files. Felling was brought forward in Glanowen to facilitate stakeholder requests. As per the new standards for Felling and Reforestation, setbacks of between 30 – 60m have been created by dwelling houses which will improve those stakeholders experience of the forests.</p>
7	Professional Development	<p>████████ managed. All managers are MSIF and members of various other forestry interest organisations. Managers attend lectures and field days as part of continuous professional development.</p>	<p>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.</p>
8	Forward Planning	<p>Continue with current standards and work practices and review on a continuous basis to implement industry best practice.</p>	<p>Carry out reviews of Forest Management Manual and introduce manager training and updating of best practice.</p>