



Irish Forestry Unit Trust

Knockacrin MU
Timahoe, Co. Laois
<b>MANAGEMENT PLAN</b>
2009 – 2028 (Period 4: 2021 -2025)



## 2. GENERAL INTRODUCTION, OWNERSHIP AND LANDUSE HISTORY.

Knockacrin Forest MU comprises of 6 separate forest blocks totalling 87.97ha.

### **Forest properties being reviewed:**

1. Knockacrin 27.90ha. Established in 1991 by [REDACTED] & acquired by IForUT in early 1999.

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

2. Brennanshill 14.28ha. Established in 1996.
3. Monavea 4.47ha. Established in 1989, reforested in 2018.
4. Kilcruise North and South block 16.31ha. Established in 1996.
5. Knocklead 17.54ha. Established in 1999.
6. Ashfield 7.47ha. Established in 2003.

## 4. SOIL TYPES.

Knocklead has mainly non-calcareous parent materials. Soil group: Lithosols, Regosols with a smaller area of the site containing the soil group Surface water Gleys, Ground water Gleys.

All other forest blocks contain the soil group Surface water Gleys, Ground water Gleys except for Monavea where the soil group is a Peaty Gley.

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

**Low Felling Impact** Refer to Map 3.

Low landscape value because of potential low impact on landscape. General locality sparsely populated area. High forest cover on large plateau area. Felling plan in Map6 is designed to reduce coupe size and diversify age class to mitigate impact on the landscape. Restock plan further mitigates by larch planting and riparian area adjacent to public road. The forest blocks within Knockacrin MU all fall into the Laois CDP 2017-2023 as 'Hills and Upland areas'.

## **6. 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.

**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. Knockacrin**

	Objective	Was it achieved?	How this information was applied to 5 year Management Plan review?
1	Economic Return	The MU has been thinned three times, last thin was a subsequent thin in 2015. Good crop, uniform and productive. Entire block has been thinned	Thinning volumes removed have been below production forecasting to maintain crop stability but crops are carrying higher standing volumes. Review the crop in 2018 to see if fit for a fourth thinning
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	Timber production has been maximised through 3 thinnings and possibly a fourth	Strong DBH growth and significant volume increment. Productive MU. Monitor crop stability as a management priority, no signs of wind damage post storm in 2014. Site was reviewed in 2018 to see if a fourth thinning is possible. This was decided against due to stability concerns. Instead a clearfell is to commence in 2019. Shortly followed by an adjacent block in 2021

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.classified as having low landscape sensitivity
5	Biodiversity Enhancement	Biodiversity limited to hedgerows, ravine and open spaces at present. Thinned out by hedgerows and by ravine/stream	%of MB to be planted has been increased and NS % will be increased also for species diversity. Buffer zone by ravine to be expanded after Clearfell stage.
6	Stakeholder	General quiet locality. Very little interactions with neighbours.	During plan review a more comprehensive stakeholder consultation has been conducted. See Stakeholder files
7	Professional Development	Managed.	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 annual reviews of Forest Management Manual and introduce annual manager training and updating of best practice.