



Irish Forestry Unit Trust

Ballynultagh MU
By Shillelagh, Co Wicklow
MANAGEMENT PLAN
2009 – 2028 (Period 4: 2021 -2025)

2. GENERAL INTRODUCTION, OWNERSHIP AND LANDUSE HISTORY.

Ballynultagh Forest MU comprises of 2 separate forest blocks totalling 46.93ha.

Forest properties being reviewed:

1. Ballynultagh, 41.81ha. The first plantings were in 1961, all of which has been felled and restocked. Prior to establishment the land was poor pasture.

New property being added to the MU:

2. Coolkenno, 5.12ha. Established circa 1990 and replanted in 2021 with SS.

Statutory Land Designations

Within this management unit lies pNHA Tomnafinnoge Wood which lies 1.8km to the East of the Ballynultagh property.

as mosses and polypody fern growing on the branches of the trees. Clean air has also encouraged the growth of lichens such as Usnea and Evernia'. ([Ask About Ireland](#))

Slaney River Valley (SAC 000781 [Slaney River Valley SAC | National Parks & Wildlife Service \(npws.ie\)](#)) runs through the MU approximately 700m from Ballynultagh.

'This site comprises the freshwater stretches of the River Slaney as far as the Wicklow Mountains; a number of tributaries, the larger of which include the Bann, Boro, Glasha, Clody, Derry, Derreen, Douglas and Carrigower Rivers; the estuary at Ferrycarrig; and Wexford Harbour. The site flows through the Counties of Wicklow, Wexford and Carlow.

The site is a Special Area of Conservation (SAC) selected for the following habitats and/or species listed on Annex I / II of the E.U. Habitats Directive (= priority; numbers in brackets are Natura 2000 codes): Estuaries [1140] Tidal Mudflats and Sandflats [1330] Atlantic salt meadows (Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritima) [1410] Mediterranean salt meadows (Juncetalia maritimi) [3260] Floating River Vegetation [91A0] Old Oak Woodlands [91E0] Alluvial Forests* [1029] Freshwater Pearl Mussel (Margaritifera margaritifera) [1095] Sea Lamprey (Petromyzon marinus) [1096] Brook Lamprey (Lampetra planeri) [1099] River Lamprey (Lampetra fluviatilis) [1103] Twaite Shad (Alosa fallax) [1106] Atlantic Salmon (Salmo salar) [1355] Otter (Lutra lutra) [1365] Common (Harbour) Seal (Phoca vitulina). ([npws](#))*

Water/Fisheries Sensitivities:

Coolkenno is with the Slaney sub catchment while Ballynultagh is within the Derry (Slaney) sub catchment. IForUT follow the Forest and Water Quality Guidelines at all

times - all ground operations will take all precautions and mitigation to avoid ground damage, siltation, or any pollution entering watercourses.

Margaritifera

Both sites are in Margaritifera sensitive areas:

Ballynultagh: Catchments of other extant populations.

Coolkenno: Catchments of SAC populations listed in S.I. 296 of 2009. This is especially important for site operations planning where potential adverse impacts on these QI's is possible. Appropriate Assessment (Article 6 (3), Habitats Directive) screening and mitigation measures will need to be implemented for future felling and roading applications. (Refer to Water Catchments and quality Map 9)

Old Woodland Sites (OWS):

There are no OWS/potential OWS in the Ballynultagh MU.

Archaeology/Historical/Cultural:

There is a recorded monument mapped at the Northern part of Ballynultagh directly outside of the boundary defined by an earth and gravel bank.

4. SOIL TYPES.

The main areas of Ballynultagh FMU are predominantly shallow soils derived from non-calcareous rock or gravels

Coolkenno has deep well drained mineral soil derived from mainly non-calcareous parent materials

5. SUMMARY OF THE LANDSCAPE VALUE OF THE FOREST.

Low Felling Impact with High Afforestation Sensitivity. Low landscape value. The properties are on an elevated position with a South aspect. The forest isn't visible within the local landscape but is visible from a greater distance. No significant viewpoints exist of the forests due to their rural, low population density and rounded/ hilly topography. Surrounding landscape is poor pasture and isolated forestry blocks.

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.

(IForUTs FSC licence code: FSC-C003194)

14. Summary of silvicultural systems to be used.

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

20. 5 Year Monitoring Report Summary. Ballynultagh

	Objective	Was it achieved?	How this information was applied to 5 year Management Plan review?
1	Economic Return	Property is fully roaded and last clearfell was completed in 2016	No significant changes to plan for next five-year period. No timber to be extracted from MU in the next planning period
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	1 st thinning in sub 7 in 2014 and clear-felling at front of the property in 2016	No further clearfells will be taking place in the MU within the planning period
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 Map added to MP. New felling coupe design added to MP which keeps coupes separated. Classified as having medium landscape sensitivity according to IForUT LU's and low according to FS classification. DF added in for species diversity, mature beech retained and Coupes separated as well as possible. Oak Planted at the front of the property.
5	Biodiversity Enhancement	Limited opportunities to enhance biodiversity	Restructuring plan Map5 and 7 addresses biodiversity requirements. Main opportunities to enhance biodiversity occurring after clearfell with replanting. Species diversity enhanced through using DF/SS and NS/SS mix and retaining broadleaves along boundaries. LTR created in the 1996 SS planting
6	Stakeholder	Forest has low level local stakeholder relationships.	During plan review, conducted a more comprehensive stakeholder consultation has been completed. Regional press/ forest notices/ local community groups and local statutory bodies consulted. See stakeholder folder.
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 is being used 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.

20. 5 Year Monitoring Report Summary. Coolkenno (Not applicable – New property – Will be included in the next review)

	Objective	Was it achieved?	How this information was applied to 5 year Management Plan review?
1	Economic Return		
2	FSC Standards		
3	Timber production		
4	Landscape		
5	Biodiversity Enhancement		
6	Stakeholder		
7	Professional Development		
8	Forward Planning		