



Irish Forestry Unit Trust

Knocknagarve MU
Borrisoleigh, Co. Tipperary
MANAGEMENT PLAN
2022 – 2041
(Period 1: 2022 -2026)

2. GENERAL INTRODUCTION, OWNERSHIP AND LANDUSE HISTORY.

Knocknagarve comprises of nine forest properties of 479.5ha. Prior to forestry land-use was poor grazing.

Forest properties being reviewed:

1. Knocknagarve, 11.9ha was established in 1995. This plantation was initially established by [REDACTED] and then acquired by IForUT in early 1999.

New property being added to the MU:

2. Glenfinshinagh, 47.77ha. Established in 1992 and 1998 and acquired by IForUT in 2020.
3. Curreeny, 34.7ha. Established in 1994 and acquired by IForUT in 2016.
4. Foilduff Jackson, 130.57ha. Established in 1989 and 1990 with some areas replanted in 2016 and 2018 and acquired by IForUT in 2019.
5. Foilduff, 77.65ha. Established in 1998 with some areas replanted in 2005. This property was acquired by IForUT in 2017.
6. Knockfune, 143.63ha. Established in 1989 with some areas replanted in 2016 and acquired by IForUT in 2019.
7. Bealaclave, 18.21ha. Established in 2000 and acquired by IForUT in 2017.
8. Killeen, 15.39ha. Established in 1994 and acquired by IForUT in 2017.
9. Muckloonmodderree, 0.92ha. Established in 2015 and acquired by IForUT from Smurfit Natural Resources in 2020.

Elevation

Site elevation in Knocknagarve is between 206m and 336m.

Glenfinshinagh ranges between 207m to 318m.

Curreeny 309m to 322m.

Foilduff Jackson 248m to 322m.

Foilduff 233m to 407m.

Knockfune 312m to 344m.

Bealaclave 201m to 209m.

Killeen 216m.

Muckloonmodderree 44m

Statutory Land Designations

Slievefelim to Silvermines Mountains SPA Site code 004165: Most of the properties within Knocknagarve MU are located within this SPA. The special interest of this SPA is the Hen Harrier. Some areas within the MU may fall within HNLA's (High Likelihood Nesting Areas). If so seasonal restrictions will apply as Forest Service will indicate. Eg: Knockfune. In regard to Glenfinshinnagh, NPWS have noted that the site is outside of the Hen Harrier SPA but Hen Harrier are known to nest in the area.

<https://www.npws.ie/sites/default/files/protected-sites/synopsis/SY004165.pdf>

A part of Lower River Shannon SAC Site code 002165 runs along the N boundary of Knockfune. This site is extensive and has many species and habitats of note, including Fresh Water Pearl Mussel(FWPM)

<https://www.npws.ie/sites/default/files/protected-sites/synopsis/SY002165.pdf>

NHA:

Mauherslieve Bog NHA Site code 002385 bounds the E side of Foilduff Jackson. This is designated because the site is an upland bog.

[Mauherslieve Bog NHA | National Parks & Wildlife Service \(npws.ie\)](#)

Water/Fisheries Sensitivities:

Most sites are within the catchment of the Lower River Shannon which has qualifying interests, including Fresh Water Pearl Mussel(FWPM), see below.

Margaritifera (see all map 4's FWPM)

Knocknagarve and Glenfinshinagh lie within a Fresh Water Peal Mussel catchment zone (Catchments of other extant populations). Curreeny is just outside the same catchment. This is especially important for site operations planning where potential adverse impacts on this species are possible. Best practice and mitigation measures will apply.

Old Woodland Sites (OWS):

There is OWS/potential OWS in the Knocknagarve MU.

OSI Maps indicated that parts of Knockfune were historically forested as far back as the 1830's. This area was assessed by an Ecologist in 2020. It was found that the site was a poor candidate for Old Woodland restoration. However several Old Woodland

features such as woodbanks and veteran trees were identified. These have been plotted on maps and have been positively incorporated into the management plan

Archaeology/Historical/Cultural:

There is an old concrete bridge and old dwelling in Knocknagarve which are non-recorded features. There are many non-recorded features in Knockfune including some veteran trees, a wood back and a private well. These are illustrated on Map 4. There are no recorded features on any of the properties in Knocknagarve.

4. SOIL TYPES.

Peaty gley

5. SUMMARY OF THE LANDSCAPE VALUE OF THE FOREST.

Low and Moderate Felling Impact Refer to Map 3. Properties within the Knocknagarve Management Unit are located within a landscape where forests are in upland areas either side of large valleys. In general these areas are dominated by a mosaic of marginal agricultural land and large forestry plantations which are sparsely populated locality. Afforestation is however high sensitivity which more attributed to species selection than for landscape values. Felling coupes have been staggered across the MU to minimise

impacts on the landscape. This is shown in Map 6. No serious issues to be addressed by either Felling Plan (Map5) or Restock design (Map7).

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.

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	✓	✓
Other		

20. 5 Year Monitoring Report Summary. Knocknagarve MU

	Objective	Was it achieved?	How this information was applied to 5 year Management Plan review?
1	Economic Return	Knocknagarve was previously planned for thinning but crop gone beyond it now. In the new properties being added to the MU some have already entered a sequence of felling and regeneration	Access issue must be addressed before timber extraction can commence in Knocknagarve property and Bealaclave. Clearfells have commenced in the MU, Knockfune being the most recent (2021) which delivered a decent return despite some of the crop having been affected by windblow. Some properties have been thinned which will improve the average tree size for clearfell. This will balance out however as there are some properties (Curreeny and Foilduff for example) where the crops aren't so uniform and contain poorer sections.
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 produced from the MU so far	Knocknagarve property will be managed as no thin as the crop is now at the stage where it is too tall to thin. Access issues hinder development of this plantation. County roads are poor and neighbouring landowners are reluctant to grant ROW's. Current fell year is down for 2027. Bealaclave is in a similar situation, in so far as difficulties getting a forest road into the property has delayed thinning by several years. Other properties within the MU have been thinned previously such as Killeen and Curreeny. Muckloonmodderree was acquired by IForUT as a restocked site and there will be no timber production from that site within the plan period. There will be some significant timber production over the next five years from clearfelling in this FMU and lesser amounts from thinning. Felling coupes have been kept as small as possible whilst taking site constraints into account. A couple of properties will have to be felled in one block due to access issues.

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 Map added to MP. New felling coupe design added to MP which keeps coupes separated. Knocknagarve MU is classified as having a mix of landscape sensitivities with the eastern part of the MU being Low sensitivity and the Western being Moderate Sensitivity. The whole MU is high sensitivity for Afforestation. For practicality, the knocknagarve block will have to be removed all at once. Beaclave will have to be managed in this way also for practicality. Other properties within the MU are larger and will be split up into multiple felling years to facilitate restructuring and to lessen the landscape impact as these fall into a moderately sensitive area.
5	Biodiversity Enhancement	Existing biodiversity very limited due to thinned monoculture. Opportunities to develop biodiversity will depend on restocking operations. Entering into a cycle of felling and restocking which is giving opportunities to enhance biodiversity.	Restructuring plan Map7 addresses biodiversity requirements. Main opportunities for enhancement will occur after clear-fell stage with more Broadleaf planting being planned and increased open spaces being introduced post clear-fell. The next opportunity for enhancing biodiversity in this MU will be in Knockfune where increased areas of openspace and broadleaves will be created post clear-fell. 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 openspace alongside county roads and dwelling houses. In terms of species of note, Hawks and Pine Martin were noted to be present on some sites across this FMU.
6	Stakeholder	Forest has low level local stakeholder relationships.	During plan review, conducted a more comprehensive stakeholder consultation has been completed. Regional press/ local community groups and local statutory bodies consulted. See stakeholder folder. Sparsely populated area. Consultation over access is ongoing in Knocknagarve and Beaclave. Some contact with neighbouring landowners and any issues raised were resolved amicably.
7	Professional Development	[REDACTED] managed. Forest Managers are members of SIF and attend lectures and field days as part of continuous professional development.	Retendering of whole portfolio into regional management units in 2010 to simplify overall forest level management and FSC compliance. New centralised network server [REDACTED] 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 reviews of Forest Management Manual and new manager training and induction is being carried out.
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