



IForUT

Investing for a Sustainable Future

Irish Forestry Unit Trust

Stacks Mountains MU
Abbeyfeale/Stacks Mountains, Co Kerry
MANAGEMENT PLAN
2025 – 2044
(Plan Period: 2025 – 2029)

GENERAL INTRODUCTION, OWNERSHIP AND LANDUSE HISTORY.

Stack Mountains Management Unit (MU) comprises thirty-nine properties totalling approximately 1,154.60 Hectares. This MU is based on geographical location as all blocks are in the same locality of North County Kerry, mostly on the upland area of the Stack Mountains, to the north of the town of Stacks Mountains, and to the north/northeast of Tralee. Several properties are at lower elevations on the western edge of the Stacks such as Derryvrin and Cahercullenagh Lower. There are three properties located to the east and north of the town of Listowel. In general, most of these properties were previously a mixture of rough grazing land and upland bog, with some sections of former cutaway blanket bog.

Forest properties being reviewed:

1. Pilgrim Hill – 27.18ha. Established circa 1995.
2. Cahercullenagh Lower 1 – 57.93ha. Established circa 1990.
3. Carrigcannon – 39.66ha. Established circa 1990.
4. Glashanacree – 39.94ha. Established circa 1990.
5. Rylane – 23.09ha. Established circa 1989.
6. Tooreen Duagh – 33.83ha. Established circa 1989.
7. Lyracrumpane – 60.98ha. Established circa 1991/1996.
8. Tooreen Kilflynn – 36.23ha. Established circa 1992/1993.
9. Tooreen Kilflynn 2 – 29.46ha. Established circa 1992/1993.
10. Tooreen Kilflynn 3 – 71.45ha. Established circa 1990.
11. Derryvrin – 31.34ha. Established circa 1986.
12. Dromada Mor – 42.23. Established circa 1987/1989.
13. Knockmeal – 20.61ha. Established circa 1986.
14. Gortclohy – 94.68ha. Established circa 1987.
15. Knockalougha – 20.82ha. Established circa 1986.
16. Cappagh – 17.60ha. Established circa 1995.
17. Knockmeal 2 – 12.38ha. Established circa 1989.
18. Knockalougha 2 – 21.40ha. Established circa 1989.
19. Glashananooon – 20.11ha. Established circa 1989.
20. Glantaunyalkeen – 19.11ha. Established circa 1994.
21. Knockalougha 3 – 156.52ha. Established circa 1995/1999.
22. Tooreen – 40.86ha. Established circa 1992.
23. Banemore – 13.86ha. Established circa 1999
24. Cloghanenagleragh – 25.61ha. Established circa 1998.
25. Feavautia – 5.74ha. Established circa 1996.

26. Gortclohy 2 – 26.03ha. Established circa 1998.
27. Knocknagashel West – 19.98ha. Established circa 1997.
28. Knocknaglogh – 5.93ha. Established circa 1994.
29. Leath East – 36.18ha. Established circa 1994.
30. Tooreen 2 – 10.80ha. Established circa 1995/1997.
31. Bunnaruddee – 22.74ha. Established circa 2015.
32. Meenbannivane – 14.67ha. Established in 2020.
33. Knocknagashel West 3 – 7.60ha. Established circa 2010.
34. Knockmeal 3 – 4.42ha. Established in 2021.
35. Ballygarrett – 12.11ha. Established in 2021.
36. Tooreen Duagh 2 – 7.40ha. Established circa 1993/1995.
37. Cahercullenagh Lower 2 – 2.94ha. Established circa 1990.

New property to be added to the MU:

38. Gortagurrane East – 14.93ha. Established circa 1998.
39. Knocknagashel West 2 – 6.23ha. Established in 2025.

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

Elevation

- Pilgrim Hill – 110 metres to 90 metres.
- Cahercullenagh Lower 1 – 150 metres to 110 metres.
- Carriggannon – 130 metres to 90 metres.
- Glashanacree – 150 metres to 100 metres.
- Rylane – 170 metres to 140 metres.
- Tooreen Duagh – 180 metres to 140 metres.
- Lyracrumpane – 195 metres to 140 metres.
- Tooreen Kilflynn – 310 metres to 120 metres.
- Tooreen Kilflynn 2 – 310 metres to 120 metres.
- Tooreen Kilflynn 3 – 310 metres to 120 metres.
- Derryvrin – 10 metres to 5 metres.
- Dromada Mor – 180 metres to 140 metres.
- Knockmeal – 170 metres to 140 metres.
- Gortclohy – 295 metres to 110 metres.
- Knockalougha – 200 metres to 145 metres.
- Cappagh – 180 metres to 115 metres.

- Knockmeal 2 – 170 metres to 140 metres.
- Knockalougha 2 – 200 metres to 145 metres.
- Glashananoon – 210 metres to 150 metres.
- Glantaunyalkeen – 225 metres to 160 metres.
- Knockalougha 3 – 220 metres to 140 metres.
- Tooreen – 160 metres to 125 metres.
- Banemore – 210 metres to 190 metres.
- Cloghanenagleragh – 175 metres to 130 metres.
- Feavautia – 175 metres to 165 metres.
- Gortclohy 2 – 295 metres to 110 metres.
- Knocknagashel West – 160 metres to 110 metres.
- Knocknaglogh – 280 metres to 240 metres.
- Leath East – 290 metres to 165 metres.
- Tooreen 2 – 150 metres to 130 metres.
- Bunnaruddee – 35 metres to 25 metres.
- Meenbannivane – 110 metres to 95 metres.
- Knocknagashel West 3 – 150 metres to 110 metres.
- Knockmeal 3 – 170 metres to 160 metres.
- Ballygarrett – 95 metres to 35 metres.
- Tooreen Duagh 2 – 180 metres to 160 metres.
- Cahercullenagh Lower 2 – 150 metres to 95 metres.
- Gortagurrane East – 20 metres to 10 metres
- Knocknagashel West 2 – 145 metres to 110 metres

Statutory Land Designations

There are twenty-nine forest sites situated in or adjoining three NPWS designated areas with protected status.

Stacks's to Mullaghareirk Mountains, West Limerick Hills and Mount Eagle SPA (004161)

- Banemore, Cappagh, Carrigcannon, Cloghanenagleragh, Dromada Mor, Feavautia, Glantaunyalkeen, Glashanacree, Glashananoon, Gortclohy, Gortclohy 2, Knockalougha, Knockalougha 3, Knocknagashel West, Knocknagashel West 3, Knocknaglogh, Leath East, Lyracrumpane, Meenbannivane, Tooreen, Tooreen 2, Tooreen Duagh, Tooreen Kilflynn, Tooreen Kilflynn 2, and Tooreen Kilflynn 3 are situated in or adjoin the SPA.

A European designated protection area for Hen Harriers. This is especially important for site operations where potential disturbance during the breeding season is a factor, and location in relation to the nesting site (red zone) is advised by the NPWS. All significant operations are not permitted during the breeding season from 1st April to 15th August. All licenced/grant operations are subject to statutory consultation with the NPWS, and any other significant operations will involve consultation with the local wildlife ranger. IForUT's current forest area along with surrounding grazing land, open bog, and moorland, provides optimum habitat conditions for this protected bird.

Lower River Shannon SAC (002165)

- Ballygarrett, Carrigcannon, Cloghanenagleragh, Dromada Mor, Glashanacree, Meenbannivane and Knocknagashel West 2 are situated in or adjoin the SAC.

Bunnaruddee Bog NHA (001352)

- Bunnaruddee adjoins this NHA along the southern boundary.

Water/Fisheries Sensitivities:

The Stack Mountains MU is within the Feale River Catchment in the Shannon River Basin District. The Feale is an important salmon and sea trout river downstream; it is designated as a SAC in the lower sections and is a valuable resource for local anglers. The forest sites within the Stacks Mountains MU are in the following catchments and sub-catchments:

- Tralee Bay-Feale Catchment
 - Brick_SC_010 sub catchment
 - Brick_SC_020 sub catchment
 - Feale_SC_030 sub catchment
 - Feale_SC_040 sub catchment
 - Galey_SC_020 sub catchment
 - Lee [Tralee]_SC_010 sub catchment
 - Maine_SC_030 sub catchment
- Laune-Maine-Dingle Bay Catchment
 - Maine_SC_030 sub catchment

Margaritifera (Fresh Water Pearl Mussel)

- Ballygarrett, Banemore, Carrigcannon, Cloghanenagleragh, Dromada Mor, Feavautia, Glantaunyalkeen, Glashanacree, Glashananoon, Knockalougha, Knockalougha 2, Knockalougha 3, Knockmeal, Knockmeal 2, Knockmeal 3, Knocknagashel West, Knocknagashel West 2, Knocknagashel West 3,

Knocknaglogh, Lyracrumpane, Meenbannivane, Pilgrim Hill, Rylane, Tooreen, Tooreen Duagh, Tooreen Duagh 2 are situated in the Feale FWPM zone.

Feale FWPM is a catchment of extant populations of Fresh Water Pearl. 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 situated in the Stacks Mountains MU.

Archaeology/Historical/Cultural:

There are two recorded and protected structures/monuments in the Stack Mountains MU. Features are recorded on the 'Sites and Monuments Record' (<https://maps.archaeology.ie/HistoricEnvironment/>).

There is a hut site/ringfort, and a general enclosure in the Cahercullenagh Lower property, and this is marked on all operational maps and will be protected as such. and this is marked on all operational maps and will be protected.

Regarding cultural heritage there is an old Mass Path in the Carrigcannon property near the village of Lyracrumpane – this is marked as a feature on all operation maps and operators are instructed not to hinder use of this route as much as is safe and practicable. Local representatives have been consulted to discuss any impact of forestry operations.

The Forest Service advises on protection and outlines mitigation measures when IForUT applies for a license to conduct any harvesting operation in the vicinity of any monument. Also, 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.

SOIL TYPES.

There are three soil types across the Stacks Mountains MU Forest sites.

- The main soil types in the Stack Mountains MU are surface water gley and peat on the lower-lying properties with a limited cut over blanket peat on the slightly higher-lying areas. Alluvial gleys are found where sites are situated or adjoin watercourses.

SUMMARY OF THE LANDSCAPE VALUE OF THE FOREST.

Low Felling Impact with High Afforestation Sensitivity

Most forest blocks are classed as low felling impact on the IForUT system due partly to the extensively forested landscape and small size of the IForUT holdings. Whenever felling licences are submitted, the Forest Service will correspond with relevant local and statutory bodies to investigate any potential landscape sensitivities. The moderate classification covers the following upland properties, Tooreen Kilflynn, Cappagh, Tooreen 2, Leath East, and Gortclohy 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 has applied a significant coupe restructuring plan to reduce clearfell size and introduce coupe separation. Long-term restructuring plan outlines future restructuring species, which are limited to Sitka spruce and Norway spruce based on soil types and management objectives. Biodiversity enhancement is focused on the creation of additional open ground and the expansion of broadleaved woodland. Species choice is specifically matched to soil type and exposure.

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.

(IForUT's FSC licence code : FSC-C003194)

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		

5 Year Monitoring Report Summary. **Stacks Mountains 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 has been carried out in the older properties in the MU as the risk of windblow is then higher and harvesting of windblown timber will diminish economic return. Significant windblow following storm Darwin in 2014 had diminished economic return regarding Timber Revenue in those sites that were affected. Sites that were blown were typically the most productive areas. That storm event significantly disrupted the timber production and economic return that should have been occurring over the subsequent years. In the period 2023 to 2025 Derryvrin, Glashanacree, Gortclohy, Pilgrimhill, Rylane, Tooreen Duagh and Tooreen Kilflynn were clearfelled. The planned 2023 clearfells in Carrigcannon and Leath East were pushed back to the late 2020's. Two of the newer sites have been possible to thin which will improve the economic prospects in the future.
2	Certification Standards	Certification standards and IForUT systems applied over the plan period. Managers working off FMM	Continue as before and update FMM as required.

3	Timber production	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. Since the last plan review in 2022, there have been clearfells in seven sites across the MU.	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 only a small clearfell in Rylane in the subsequent years and only one property which is a new acquisition has been thinned. Productivity is very mixed in the MU with yield class for spruce ranging between 8 and 24. As mentioned above, there was a lull in timber production in the years since the major storm event. In the period 2023 to 2025 Derryvrin, Glashanacree, Gortclohy, Pilgrimhill, Rylane, Tooreen Duagh and Tooreen Kilflynn were clearfelled. The planned 2023 clearfells in Carrigcannon and Leath East were pushed back to the late 2020's. Coupes have been spread out as much as possible to facilitate restructuring and to have a more steady and consistent flow of timber. Felling coupes have also been separated out as much as possible to allow for time delays between felling coupes and to try to ensure that there is not a glut of felling in any five year period. However, delaying felling or bringing felling forward any further would result in severe economic losses from either a too small tree size or wind-damage because of delaying felling beyond a critical top height.
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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. All properties classified as having Low sensitivity according to LU classification apart from Gortclohy, Cappagh, Tooreen 2, Leath East, and Tooreen Kilflynn which were classified as moderate. All were classified as low in FS classification, due partly to the extensively forested landscape and small size of the IForUT holdings.
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5	Biodiversity Enhancement	Biodiversity areas have been identified and classified across the FMU on IForUT's GIS system. Good site knowledge gained from forest operations and improved management planning with aerial imagery and drone surveys. Due to the clearfell and reforestation operations, and afforestation operations in the past five years, there have been opportunities across several properties in the MU to restructure crop boundaries adjacent to watercourses, roads, neighbouring dwellings and archaeological features and create new forests to current Irish forestry standards. .	Opportunities for biodiversity enhancement will continue at the reforestation phase following the periodic felling of first rotation crops. Native broadleaves will be planted, and specific areas will be left unplanted to create a mixture of native woodland and open habitat. IForUT have given access to Lyracrumpane community development group to carry out some work along the riverbed of the Smearlagh river. This has stabilised the riverbank and prevented erosion. Mulching behind houses and removal of some trees in Pilgrim Hill has improved some open space habitat. There are significant areas of broadleaves in some of the newly afforested properties such as Meenbannivane and Ballygarrett with a full conversion in Knocknagashel West 2 from conifer plantation to a native wood comprising oak, birch, Scots pine etc. Bunnaruddee also has large area of broadleaves adjacent to the neighbouring dwelling. There is also a section of bog which has been retained as a bog habitat. There is also an area of cutaway bog in Leath East which provides some habitat diversity. In accordance with the standard for Felling and Reforestation (2019), there will be uninterrupted water/aquatic zone, habitat, archaeological, public road, and utilised building (i.e. dwelling houses) setbacks created where required, and native broadleaves and Scots pine planted where practicable.
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			The enhancement and/or creation of biodiversity features will continue with all replanting operations as illustrated in the Long-Term Restructuring Plan for the Stacks Mountains FMU. Species recorded in the MU include Hen Harrier, Buzzard, Hare, Badger and Otter. Areas of ash in the FMU have been affected by Ash Dieback. In general it is planned to remove these areas over time though some areas may be suitable for retention. The current plan is to restock with native broadleaves and in some cases in this FMU where Ash plots are adjacent to roads – there areas will be left as open space.
6	Stakeholder	General quiet locality. In the past there was little interaction from neighbours but that has changed with more interaction with neighbours and community groups.	During the plan review, a comprehensive stakeholder consultation has been conducted. Some ongoing cooperation between IForUT and Lyracrumpane Community Development about work on the mass path walk going through Carrigcannon. Some interaction from neighbours in Pilgrim Hill following a fire in a private plantation several kilometres away. IForUT mulched the area behind the neighbouring houses. The planted area adjacent to the mulched area behind the houses has since been felled with 60m unplanted setbacks installed during the reforestation operation.
7	Professional Development	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 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 introduce manager training and updating of best practice.
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