



IForUT

Investing for a Sustainable Future

Irish Forestry Unit Trust

Kilmihil MU
Corraclare, Kilmihil, Co. Clare
MANAGEMENT PLAN
2013 – 2032 (Period 4: 2024 -2028)

GENERAL INTRODUCTION, OWNERSHIP AND LANDUSE HISTORY.

Kilmihil MU comprises of eleven separate forest blocks totalling 245ha. This forest MU is based on geographical location in South West County Clare. Legal folios are held on file. Prior to forest establishment area provided marginal farm land. Neighbouring landuse - marginal grazing, rough pasture, bog, cutover blanket bog, limited young/semi mature forestry.

Forest properties being reviewed:

1. Kilmihil 33.2ha. Established 1988.
2. Dangananella 26.4ha. Established 1990.
3. Derrynalecka 7.53ha. Established in 1994. This site was acquired by IForUT in 2020.
4. Drumdigus 8.8ha. Established in 1993 & 2007. This site was acquired by IForUT in 2018
5. Lack West 11.65ha. Established in 1992. This site was acquired by IForUT in 2015.
6. Bolooghra 13.57ha This site was acquired by IForUT in 2018
7. Lacken 19.26ha This site was acquired by IForUT in 2018
8. Erribul 20.86ha This site was acquired by IForUT in 2018
9. Slievedooley 28.77ha This site was acquired by IForUT in 2018
10. Cooga 35.8ha This site was acquired by IForUT in 2016
11. Moanmore South 38.78ha This site was acquired by IForUT in 2017

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

Elevation

Kilmihil - 96m to 135m

Dangananella – 9m to 20m

Derrynalecka – 37m to 49m

Drumdigus – 15m to 31m

Lack West – 37m to 58m

Bolooghra – 64m to 80m

Lacken – 82m to 95m

Erribul – 28m to 54m

Slievedooley – 38m to 57m

Cooga – 64m to 71m

Moanmore South- 19m to 26m

Statutory Land Designations

There are no IForUT properties situated in a NPWS (National Parks & Wildlife Service) designated area with protected status. The following designated areas are within the Kilmihil MU.

- Lower River Shannon SAC Site code 002165
- Tullaheer Lough And Bog SAC Site code 002343
- River Shannon and River Fergus Estuaries SPA Site code 004077
- Cragnashingaun Bogs NHA Site code 002400
- Lough Acrow Bogs NHA Site code 002421
- pNHA's include Derrygeeha Lough Site code 000050
- Clonderalaw Bay Site code 000027
- Poulnasherry Bay Site code 000065
- Tullaheer Lough And Bog Site code 000070
- Farrihy Lough Site code 000200
- Cloonsnaghta Lough Site code 001004
- Gortglass Lough Site code 001015

Water/Fisheries Sensitivities:

The forest sites within the Kilmihil MU are in the following catchment(s) and sub-catchment(s):

- Dangananella, Lack West, Lacken, Kilmihil – Mal Bay catchment
 - Doonbeg_SC_010 sub-catchment
 - KiltumperStream_SC_010 sub-catchment
- Cooga, Slievedooley, Erribul, Drumdigus, Bolooghra, Moanmore South, Derrynalecka – Shannon Estuary North catchment
 - Cloon [Clare]_SC_010 sub-catchment
 - Killadysertstream_SC_010 sub-catchment
 - Wood_SC_010 sub-catchment

Margaritifera (Fresh Water Pearl Mussel)

Kilmihil, Lacken and Dangananella are within Margaritifera sensitive areas: Catchments of other extant populations. Moanmore South and Lack West partially fall into this catchment.

Bolooghra is within Catchments of SAC populations listed in S.I. 296 of 2009

Old Woodland Sites (OWS):

There is no OWS in the Kilmihil MU.

Archaeology/Historical/Cultural:

There is a recorded enclosure within Erribul which scheduled for inclusion in the next revision of the RMP.

There are no features of archaeological, historical, or cultural significance situated within the Kilmihil MU. Any such features are marked on all operational maps and will be protected. These features are recorded on the 'Sites and Monuments Record' (<https://maps.archaeology.ie/HistoricEnvironment/>).

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.

Surface water gleys/ peaty gleys, quite flat sites but with localised areas of deeper peat in unflushed hollows, especially in Kilmihil.

SUMMARY OF THE LANDSCAPE VALUE OF THE FOREST.

Low Felling Impact with Low Afforestation Sensitivity Refer - The general locality is sparsely populated with no significant transport routes adjacent. Minor county roads (not R roads) so local traffic only. The MU is characterised by flat exposed topography as found in this part of southwest Clare close to the Atlantic Ocean (wind turbines visible from Dangananella). The landscape is historically heavily grazed with very little natural woodland cover or even individual specimen/ hedgerow trees. The emphasis on natural features in the restructuring process is therefore limited.

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. The long-term restructuring plan outlines future restructuring species which is limited to Sitka spruce based on soil types and management objectives. Biodiversity enhancement is focused on the creation of additional open ground and the expansion of broadleaf planting. 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. **Kilmihil MU**

	Objective	Was it achieved?	How was this information applied to 5-year Management Plan review?
1	Economic Return	A second thinning was carried out in Kilmihil in 2013. In 2014 this property was damaged by storm Darwin. Some WB clearing was done in 2015. 1 sub clearfelled in 2020/2021. A first thin was done in Dangananella in 2013 with some windblow clearance in 2015. Moanmore 1 st & 2 nd thin 2019 & small section 2 nd thin 2024. Tending of Oak 2022 Erribul & Slievedooley. Lacken 2 nd thin 2019.	Kilmihil has been storm damaged and there are still small pockets of windblow throughout the site. The decision was made that no further thinning to be carried out in this property as crop stability is a concern. Some of the other properties will not receive any further thinnings due to crop stability.
2	Certification Standards	Certification standards and IForUT systems were applied over the plan period. Managers working off FMM	Certification standards and IForUT systems were applied over the plan period. Managers working off FMM. Continue as before and update FMM as required.
3	Timber production	In Kilmihil in 2013 a thinning was carried out but in 2014 there was windblow caused by storm Darwin. The areas of windblow were felled in 2015. No further thinning to be carried out here in this rotation. Some of the other properties will not receive any further thinnings.	In Kilmihil there are some pockets of windblow throughout this property. The worst affected areas have been brought forward for clearfell.
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.	A new landscape layer was added to the Sensitivities Map in MP. Landscape character classified as LOW. Felling Plan and Restructuring Plan designed to mitigate future felling impacts. Coupes have been kept as small as possible.

5	Biodiversity Enhancement	Biodiversity areas have been identified and classified across the FMU on IForUT's GIS system. As crops are entering stages of felling and restocking, increased broadleaves and open spaces are being created.	<p>Opportunities for biodiversity enhancement will continue to occur at the reforestation phase following the felling of the first rotation crops. Native broadleaves will be planted, and specific areas left unplanted to create a mixture of native woodland and open habitat.</p> <p>As per 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.</p>
6	Stakeholder	General a quiet locality. Little interaction with neighbours.	Comprehensive stakeholder consultation has been conducted.
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.