



Irish Forestry Unit Trust

Kilmaley MU
Kilmaley, Co. Clare
MANAGEMENT PLAN
2022 – 2041 (Plan Period 2022 -2026)

2. GENERAL INTRODUCTION, OWNERSHIP AND LANDUSE HISTORY.

Kilmaley Forest MU comprises of six separate forest blocks totalling 153.4ha. This forest MU is based on geographical location and forest type. Legal folios are held on file. Prior to forest establishment land use was impoverish/ marginal grass land. Present neighbouring land uses mainly improved grazing with private forestry specifically around Sheeaun Kilmaley.

Forest properties being reviewed:

1. Sheeaun 15.8ha. Established in 1990 by [REDACTED]
2. Knockatunna 27.0ha. Established early 1990s by [REDACTED]
3. Lismorris 24.3ha. Established 1990/95 by [REDACTED]
4. Ballymacoda 37.1ha. Established 1992/97 by [REDACTED].
5. Sheeaun Kilmaley 37.3ha. Established late 70s/80s by [REDACTED]

New property being added to the MU:

6. Kilcolumb 11.90ha. Established in 1991 while sub compartment 4 has been replanted in 2016. Purchased by IForUT in 2018.

Elevation

Sheeaun - 72m to 84m

Knockatunna – 119m to 128m

Lismorris – 72m to 99m

Ballymacoda – 46m to 72m

Sheeaun Kilmaley – 88m to 133m

Kilcolumb – 67m to 71m

Statutory Land Designations

There are no statutory designations on any property in the Management Unit.

Water/Fisheries Sensitivities:

See map 9 for Water Catchments within the MU. Not sensitive to fisheries.

Sheeaun, Sheeaun Kilmaley, Knockatunna and Kilcolumb lie within Fergus_SC_050.

Ballymacoda is within Fergus_SC_050 and Owenslieve_SC_010.

Lismorris is within Owenslieve_SC_010.

Margaritifera

None of the sites are in the catchment of FWPM areas.

Old Woodland Sites (OWS):

There is no OWS/potential OWS in the Kilmaley MU.

Archaeology/Historical/Cultural:

There is a recorded ring fort/ rath within Ballymacoda.

4. SOIL TYPES.

Two soil types are present following closely to topography. Surface water gleys on sloping topography and peaty gleys on flats leading to deep peats in unflushed hallows.

5. SUMMARY OF THE LANDSCAPE VALUE OF THE FOREST.

Low Felling Impact with Low Afforestation Sensitivity - From a felling perspective none of the forest blocks are on elevated locations or highly visible from distant views. Each block is relatively small within the visual landscapes and of similar size to surrounding forestry blocks.

The general Ennis to Kilrush N68 valley is generally sparsely populated except along the N68. Lismorris is the only forest with significant landscape views from a major transport corridor. The MU is characterised by open topography with improved pasture on lower elevations adjacent to the N68 and impoverished grassland and forestry on the higher elevations. The landscape is historically heavily grazed with very little natural woodland cover or even individual specimen/ hedgerow trees. The opportunity to incorporate natural features like these into the restructuring process is therefore limited.

To address the potential landscape impact issues caused by future clearfelling, the felling plan (Map 6) has applied a significant coupe restructuring plan to reduce clearfell size and introduce coupe separation.

Map 7 outlines future restructuring species which is limited to Sitka spruce based on soil types and management objectives. Biodiversity enhancement in Map 7 is focused on the creation of additional open ground and expansion of broadleaf planting. Future LTR of Scots pine will play a role in habitat linkage and age structure diversity. Species choice being specifically matched to soil type and exposure.

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®) FSC-STD-IRL-012012-Irish Forest Stewardship Standard-EN and PEFC™ Ireland ISCS 2nd edition(Jan 2014).
- 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	✓	
Line thinning only		
Non thin regime	✓	
Non intervention		✓
Natural regeneration		✓
Replanting	✓	✓
Other		

22. 5 Year Monitoring Report Summary. 2022

	Objective	Was it achieved?	How this information was applied to 5 year Management Plan review?
1	Economic Return	All properties within the MU have been thinned at least in parts. All but one property was damaged by windblow in 2014 which diminished economic return	Thinning volumes removed were below production forecasting to maintain crop stability but crops were still damaged by storm Darwin in 2014. Felling in this management unit in recent years was mostly due to storm damage. Windblown timber due to storm damage, somewhat diminished the expected return on investment for properties within the MU. The decision was made to not carry out further thinning on the mature crops in this management unit as a result. Young crops have suffered from a season of drought in 2018 and two consecutive years of late spring frost in 2020 and 2021. This has left these crops requiring additional works which will affect the overall economic picture in the management unit.
2	Certification Standards	Certification standards and IForUT systems applied over plan period. Managers working off FMM. Continue as before and update FMM as required.	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 drastically altered when compared with previous plans	Timber production ramped up in this MU since 2014 due to Storm Darwin in 2014. All properties were affected apart from Ballymacoda. As such the forecast for timber production in the MU as changed. Some further blocks were brought forward as there was evidence of further blow in them. There will be a series of felling in the management unit owing to crops coming to maturity. Knockatunna, Lismorris have upcoming felling in 2022 and all other properties will have some element of clearfelling within the plan period.
4	Landscape	Two landscape layer added to ■■■ layer and presented in ■■■ of MP. Forest Service layer taken off National Development plan for new planting and Landscape Unit appraisals based on Coillte LUs.	New landscape map added to MU at 1st 5year review. New Felling Plan Map6 and Long-term Restructuring Plan Map7 have also been prepared and added to reviewed MP. All forest landscapes characterised as LOW according to LU classification and FS land sensitivity layer

5	Biodiversity Enhancement	Greatly improved management planning with aerial photography. Good opportunities to create biodiversity after storm Darwin felling was completed. Detailed biodiversity mapping has been prepared from aerial photography and now forms an important part of MP. Hazards & Sensitivities Maps now include these areas. Continue to protect and enhance these areas and positively incorporate in the future restock plans.	Good site knowledge gained from felling operations. Greatly improved management planning with aerial photography. Restocking operations gave the opportunities to create new biodiversity areas through the creation of new unplanted areas and broadleaved areas for example Sheeaun Kilmaley where areas of broadleaves have been replanted. Due to changes in standards and guidelines, there will be increased broadleaves and openspace alongside country roads and dwelling houses in the future.
6	Stakeholder	Main Stakeholder issue was with Sheeaun Kilmaley.	During plan review a more comprehensive stakeholder consultation has been conducted. Stakeholder issue with Sheeaun Kilmaley was resolved through negotiating a new ROW over [REDACTED] land. Good relationships with neighbours in Kilcolumb and Ballymacoda where we have shared access.
7	Professional Development	Managed direct by [REDACTED].	New centralised network server ([REDACTED]) us 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.	Good site knowledge has been gained over the first plan period and has been transferred and incorporated in new 5 Year Plan. This is particularly evident in the amendment of the Felling Plan Map6 and the Long-Term Restructuring Plan Map 7 into the revised MP. Increases in biodiversity areas are further envisioned from feedback in Tree Felling Licences and the new Standards for felling and reforestation.