



## Irish Forestry Unit Trust

<b>Knockvicar MU</b>
By Knockvicar, Co. Roscommon
<b>MANAGEMENT PLAN</b>
<b>2022 – 2041</b>
<b>(Plan Period: 2022 -2026)</b>

## **2. GENERAL INTRODUCTION, OWNERSHIP AND LANDUSE HISTORY.**

Knockvicar Management Unit (MU) comprises 40 properties totalling 773.2ha. This MU is based on geographical location as all blocks are in the same locality of north County Roscommon, mostly on the drumlin lakelands area in the vicinity of Lough Key with several other properties situated in the river corridor area along the Roscommon/Leitrim County boundary west of Leitrim Village. There are three properties in the hills and uplands areas, two of which are situated to the northeast of Ballyfarnon, and one situated approximately five kilometres west of Boyle. The sites within the MU were previously a mix of historical land use from unenclosed hill to bog. Present neighbouring landuse comprises enclosed marginal grazing and similar age forestry. Minor road frontage.

### **Forest properties being reviewed:**

1. Barcullin – 65.50ha. Established circa 1985.
2. Clerragh 1 – 17.60ha. Established circa 1986.
3. Derreenine – 9.63ha. Established circa 1986.
4. Clerragh 2 – 16.86ha. Established circa 1987.
5. Aghrafinnigan – 12.70ha. Established circa 1985.
6. Ballyformoyle 1 – 11.18ha. Established circa 1986.
7. Drumanilra – 27.36ha. Established circa 1986.
8. Ballyformoyle 2 – 44.95ha. Established circa 1988.
9. Clerragh 3 – 8.10ha. Established circa 1987/2011.

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

### **New properties to be added to the MU:**

10. Aghnasuran – 12.61ha. Established circa 1986.
11. Clerragh 4 – 3.29ha. Established circa 2011.
12. Behy – 12.71ha. Established circa 1980.
13. Cloongreagan – 31.93ha. Established circa 1994.
14. Tumna North – 47.74ha. Established circa 1989/1990.
15. Doogary 2 – 12.62ha. Established circa 1995/1997.
16. Glooria – 12.95ha. Established circa 1989.
17. Derreenagan – 22.56ha. Established circa 1996/2002.
18. Derreenadouglas – 25.05ha. Established circa 1993.
19. Bodorragha – 20.69ha. Established circa 1990.

20. Glooria 2 – 6.91ha. Established circa 1999.
21. Aghagowla – 8.70ha. Established circa 2003.
22. Breanletter 1 – 14.55ha. Established circa 2003.
23. Drumboylan – 9.01ha. Established circa 2003.
24. Drumshannagh – 25.26ha. Established circa 2003.
25. Greaghnageeragh – 10.12ha. Established circa 2006.
26. Lustia – 7.06ha. Established circa 2007.
27. Woodfield – 6.51ha. Established circa 2006.
28. Tullytawen – 11.11ha. Established circa 2001.
29. Doogary – 17.43ha. Established circa 1997.
30. Drumbrick – 11.78ha. Established circa 1997.
31. Cuiltaboolia – 9.43ha. Established circa 1997.
32. Behy 2 – 21.19ha. Established circa 1988.
33. Aghagowla Cornacarta – 26.57ha. Established circa 1993.
34. Ballyformoyle 3 – 19.57ha. Established circa 1993.
35. Deereenannagh – 15.76ha. Established circa 1993.
36. Derreenargan – 10.81ha. Established circa 1992.
37. Drumboylan Derreen – 14.15ha. Established circa 1992.
38. Shanballybaun 1 – 70.62ha. Established circa 1991/1993/1994.
39. Shanballybaun 2 – 22.87ha. Established circa 1991.
40. Breanletter 2 – 17.85ha. Established circa 1996/2002.

### **Elevation**

- Barcullin – 135 metres to 50 metres
- Clerragh 1 – 150 metres to 120 metres
- Derreenine – 60 metres to 50 metres
- Clerragh 2 – 150 metres to 120 metres
- Aghrafinnigan – 100 metres to 75 metres
- Ballyformoyle 1 – 130 metres to 75 metres
- Drumanilra – 70 metres to 50 metres
- Ballyformoyle 2 – 153 metres to 60 metres
- Clerragh 3 – 150 metres to 120 metres
- Aghnasuran – 100 metres to 80 metres
- Clerragh 4 – 130 metres to 90 metres
- Behy – 80 metres to 60 metres
- Cloongreagan – 70 metres to 50 metres
- Tumna North – 60 metres to 50 metres

- Doogary 2 – 80 metres to 60 metres
- Glooria – 60 metres to 50 metres
- Derreenagan – 100 metres to 60 metres
- Derreenadouglass – 60 metres to 50 metres
- Bodorragha – 110 metres to 80 metres
- Glooria 2 – 60 metres to 50 metres
- Aghagowla – 107 metres to 70 metres
- Breanletter 1 – 130 metres to 65 metres
- Drumboylan – 80 metres to 40 metres
- Drumshannagh – 130 metres – 90 metres
- Greaghnageeragh – 180 metres to 120 metres
- Lustia – 60 metres to 50 metres
- Woodfield – 110 metres to 90 metres
- Tullytawen – 210 metres to 125 metres
- Doogary – 80 metres to 60 metres
- Drumbrick – 70 metres to 50 metres
- Cuiltaboolia – 111 metres to 80
- Behy 2 – 80 metres to 60 metres
- Aghagowla Cornacarta – 111 metres to 70 metres
- Ballyformoyle 3 – 120 metres to 80 metres
- Deereenannagh – 60 metres to 50 metres
- Derreenargan – 76 metres to 50 metres
- Drumboylan Derreen – 80 metres to 40 metres
- Shanballybaun 1 – 70 metres to 40 metres
- Shanballybaun 2 – 70 metres to 40 metres
- Breanletter 2 – 130 metres to 65 metres

### **Statutory Land Designations**

There is one forest site situated in NPWS (National Parks & Wildlife Service) designated area with protected status.

### **Lough Drumharlow pNHA (001643)**

- Deereenannagh Forest is situated in the pNHA.

**Water/Fisheries Sensitivities:**

The forest sites within the Knockvicar MU are in the following catchments and sub catchments:

- Upper Shannon Catchment
  - Boyle\_SC\_020 sub catchment
  - Boyle\_SC\_030 sub catchment
  - Feorish [Ballyfarnon]\_SC\_010 sub catchment
  - Shannon [Upper]\_SC\_020 sub catchment
  - Shannon [Upper]\_SC\_030 sub catchment
  
- Sligo Bay Catchment
  - Unshin\_SC\_010 sub catchment

**See Map 9 – Water Catchments within Knockvicar MU.**

**Old Woodland Sites (OWS):**

There are no OWS/potential OWS in Knockvicar MU.

**Archaeology/Historical/Cultural:**

There are 15 features of archaeological, historical and cultural significance across the Knockvicar MU which are marked on all operational maps and will be protected as such. These features are recorded on the 'Sites and Monuments Record' (<https://maps.archaeology.ie/HistoricEnvironment/>). Refer to Map 4.

The Forest Service give advice on protection and outline mitigation measures when IForUT apply for a licence to carry out 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.

**4. SOIL TYPES.**

There are three soil types across the Knockvicar MU Forest sites.

- Surface-water gley is the primary soil type within the MU with peats, and luvisols also distributed across the forest sites.

## **5. SUMMARY OF THE LANDSCAPE VALUE OF THE FOREST.**

**Low Felling Impact with High Afforestation Sensitivity** - Refer to Map 3. All forest blocks are classed as low felling impact on the IForUT system due partly to the extensive 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 Forest Service Moderate Landscape Sensitivity class, as defined for afforestation planning covers the three upland properties 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 (Map 6) has applied a significant coupe restructuring plan to reduce clearfell size and introduce coupe separation. Long-term restructuring plan (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. 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®) 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.**

<b>System</b>	<b>Conifers</b>	<b>Broadleaves</b>
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. Knockvicar MU**

	Objective	Was it achieved?	How was this information applied to 5-year Management Plan review?
--	-----------	------------------	--



1	Economic Return	<p>Generally speaking this is a very productive MU in a heavily forested area. Some of the older properties have already entered a cycle of felling and replanting. Thinnings have been carried out in a light fashion to maintain crop stability.</p>	<p>Forests in the FMU are generally productive and have produced timber of decent quality. Most crops are thinnable though thinning operations have been focused on the new additions as these are of a younger age class. Doogary, Glooria, Derreenadouglas and Drumboylan have all been thinned in the recent past. Some crops such as Cuiltaboolia, Derreenanagh and Drumboylan Derreen have all been previously thinned but due to stability concerns it has been decided that these crops would not be served well by subsequent thinning. There are several crops in the FMU which need some work on access issues before they can have any thinning intervention. Tullytawan and Aghagowla are examples of this. Most of the older properties have seen felling commence. In fact, many properties such as Ballyformoyle and Barcollin have had several clearfells taking place over the last number of years. In general clearfells have made an acceptable rate of return. Windblow has been an issue in this FMU lately. There was minimal damage following storm Darwin, Cleeragh was the main property that was damaged in that storm. However subsequent winter storms have created creeping windblow in many properties, even some of the newer acquisitions. Drumbrick, Derreenargan and Tumna North are just some examples of properties where windblow clearance had to be carried out. Windblow inevitably decreases the value of the crops.</p>
2	Certification Standards	<p>Certification standards and IForUT systems applied over plan period. Managers working off FMM</p>	<p>Continue as before and update FMM as required.</p>

3	Timber production	Timber production had been maximised through thinning where possible.	Strong DBH growth in thinned crops and significant volume increment. There will be clearfelling over the next 5-year period and beyond. Felling coupes have been designed to be as small as possible to minimise any potential landscape impacts and to keep a steady flow of timber production rather than a glut in any given year. With the exception of 2036, 2041, 2042, there are planned clearfells each year across the management unit. Some felling years have been brought forward due to windblow. As mentioned above, many properties have already been thinned and it is not currently planned to do subsequent thinning. The only two properties which are deemed fit to be thinned in the next five years are Breanletter and Glooria. These types of decisions will be reviewed on a continuous basis.
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 layer added to Sensitivities Map in MP. All properties classified as having Low sensitivity according to LU classification. A small number of upland properties were classed as being moderately sensitive in terms of afforestation.

5	Biodiversity Enhancement	Biodiversity enhancement has been limited as little thinning has been done so opportunities to thin out by ditches etc have been limited. As crops are entering stages of felling and restocking, increased broadleaves and open spaces are being created.	Main opportunities for biodiversity enhancement will occur at second rotations. Many of the older crops and those forests badly affected by windblow have already had clearfells commencing. Generally speaking there have been opportunities to increase biodiversity areas in these forests. In Barcollin, increased broadleaves and open spaces have been introduced by the county road, by adjacent houses and broadleaves have been planted in boundary areas also. Setbacks from the road have been put in place along with several rows of broadleaves at Cleeragh, Drumbrick and Agnasuran. Setbacks from various ruins have been put in place also at properties such as Aghrafinnigan, Ballyformoyle and Tumna North. This has increased biodiversity areas in these properties. There have been changes to the national standards and this will mean that going forward there will be increased setbacks and broadleaves required in certain areas such as alongside county roads, dwelling houses and aquatic zones. This has been reflected in long term restructuring plans for the FMU In terms of species of note in the FMU, these have been several records and sightings of red squirrel being present across several properties. Red deer and badger have also been noted as being present over the last number of years.
6	Stakeholder	General quiet locality. Main interaction has been around timber haulage. Increased interest in forestry in this area of the country.	During plan review a more comprehensive stakeholder consultation has been conducted. See Stakeholder files.

7	Professional Development	<p>██████████ and ██████████ company managed. Forest Managers are members of SIF and attend lectures and field days as part of continuous professional development.</p>	<p>Retendering of whole portfolio into regional management units in 2010 to simplify overall forest level management and Certification compliance. New centralised network server (██████████) has been introduced for managing FMM and IForUT database.</p>
8	Forward Planning	<p>Continue with current standards and work practices and review on a continuous basis to implement industry best practice.</p>	<p>Carry out reviews of Forest Management Manual and introduce manager training and updating of best practice.</p>