



## Irish Forestry Unit Trust

<b>New South Kildare MU</b>
Castledermot, Co Kildare
<b>MANAGEMENT PLAN</b>
<b>2022 – 2041</b>
<b>(Plan Period: 2022 -2026)</b>

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

New South Kildare Management Unit (MU) comprises two properties totalling 50.9ha. This MU is based on geographical location as both blocks are in the south-eastern uplands in south Co. Kildare. The sites within the MU were previously rough grazing land, upland grazing, and pasture.

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:**

1. Corballis – 7.21ha. Established circa 1960.
2. Corballis – 14.39ha. Established circa 1960.
3. Corballis – 18.04ha. Established circa 1960.
4. Moatavanny – 11.27ha. Established circa 1995.

### **Elevation**

- Corballis – 250 metres to 170 metres.
- Moatavanny – 110 metres to 110 metres.

### **Statutory Land Designations**

Corballis adjoins a NPWS (National Parks & Wildlife Service) designated area pNHA.

### **Corballis Hill PNHA (001389)**

- Corballis (98052I) adjoins Corballis Hill pNHA along its southern boundary.

### **Water/Fisheries Sensitivities:**

The forest sites within the New South Kildare MU are in the following catchments and sub catchments:

- Barrow Catchment
  - Lerr\_SC\_010 sub catchment

### **Margaritifera (Fresh Water Pearl Mussel)**

- Corballis and Moatavanny are situated within the Barrow FWPM zone.

These are all catchments with previous records of Margaritifera, but status is currently unknown.

The New South Kildare MU is within the Barrow River Catchment in the South-eastern River Basin District. 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 is an OWS/potential OWS in Corballis (98033F) within the New South Kildare MU.

**Archaeology/Historical/Cultural:**

There are no recorded and protected structure/monument in the New South Kildare MU. 'Giant's Chair' is situated on the upper slopes of Corballis (98050I) and this is marked on all operational maps and will be protected as such. 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 New South Kildare MU Forest sites.

- Luvisol is the primary soil type within the MU with brown earth, and peat also distributed across the forest sites.

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

**Medium to High Felling Impact with High Afforestation Sensitivity** - Both forest blocks are classed as medium to high felling impact on the IForUT system due to the openness of the surrounding agricultural landscape and small size of the IForUT holdings. Whenever felling licences are submitted to the Forest Service will correspond with relevant local and statutory bodies to investigate any potential landscape sensitivities. The Forest Service High Landscape Sensitivity class, as defined for afforestation planning covers the two 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. The 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 is 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 (Forest Management Unit) 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. New South Kildare MU**

	<b>Objective</b>	<b>Was it achieved?</b>	<b>How was this information applied to 5-year Management Plan review?</b>
1	Economic Return	Both properties within the MU have been thinned. As is typical in this part of the country – productivity is generally good	Thinning volumes removed have been slightly below production forecasting to maintain crop stability. No further thinning expected for the moment as risk of windblow is high and harvesting of windblown timber will diminish economic return. This may change if the crop responds well and if ground conditions are favourable in the future. No clearfelling planned within the next 5 year period
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	Future timber production had been maximised through thinning where possible.	Strong DBH growth in thinned crops and significant volume increment. No current plan to thin any further but the site will be monitored to see how the crop responds to the last thinning and how it holds up against any further winter storms. If conditions are favourable we may thin the properties a further time. Some second rotation crops here and generally a younger age profile. No clearfelling in the next 5 year period due to the crop age profile. Felling coupes have been dissected and kept small where possible to achieve a more even flow of timber production and to mitigate against negative landscape impact.

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. Medium to High Felling Impact with High Afforestation Sensitivity. Properties are in a relatively prominent position in the locality and the surrounding landscape is largely good agricultural land. Felling coupes have been designed to try to minimise visual impact through felling of smaller coupes and retaining of some mature forest.
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5	Biodiversity Enhancement	Biodiversity enhancement has been limited and enhancement will mostly take place post clearfell.	<p>Main opportunities for biodiversity enhancement will occur at next rotations. At present the FMU has not entered a cycle of felling and restocking yet. Open space and biodiversity will increase over the next rotation. There have been changes in the required national standards. These standards will require increased broadleaves and open space alongside county roads and dwelling houses at restocking stage. Future plan positively incorporates features such as the giants chair and adjacent dwellings into restocking plan. There is currently some nice commercial species diversity in this property and this will continue into future rotations.</p> <p>There is some old woodland in Corballis and an ecologist was hired to carry out an analysis of this. Their findings were that it was generally of poor quality in terms of Old woodland and biodiversity and lacked any old woodland features of note. Only 2 AWVP species were noted but this could be due to the winter survey time and the conifer plantation being quite dense. In terms of fauna, evidence of Pine Martins using Corballis property have been recorded.</p>
6	Stakeholder	General quiet locality.	During plan review a more comprehensive stakeholder consultation has been conducted. See Stakeholder files. Some minor trespassing and Neighbours are being helpful in tackling this issue.

7	Professional Development	<p> managed. All managers are MSIF and members of various other forestry interest organisations. Managers 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>