



## Irish Forestry Unit Trust

<b>North Cork MU</b>
Co Cork
<b>MANAGEMENT PLAN</b>
<b>2022 – 2041</b> <b>(Period 1: 2022 -2026)</b>



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

North Cork Management Unit (MU) comprises nine properties totalling 150.6ha. This MU is based on geographical location as all blocks are in the same region. Some of the properties are located on the uplands and slopes of Mullagareirk mountains and most are in the catchment of the Blackwater river and to a lesser extent the Shannon and river Lee. Most of this FMU was previous upland marginal land and marginal agricultural ground used for grazing.

### **Properties in the MU:**

1. Glennakeel South, 16.3ha.
2. Cummery Connell, 21.1ha.
3. Foilogohig, 13.0ha.
4. Ferryfort, 14.8ha.
5. Knocknanagh, 11.8ha.
6. Annagh Bogs, 24.1ha.
7. Raheen, 15.1ha.
8. Annagannihy, 27.3ha.
9. Clashykinleen West 1, 6.85 ha.

### **Elevation**

Elevation ranges from 91m in the lower lying areas of the FMU to 344m in the more mountainous/hilly areas.

## 4. SOIL TYPES.

The main soil types in the North Cork MU blanket peat and cut over blanket peat, with some pockets of gleys and and luvisols on the more low lying areas.

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

**Low and moderate Felling Impact with Moderate Afforestation Sensitivity** - Refer to Map 3.

Most forest blocks are classed as low felling impact on the IForUT system due partly to the extensive forested landscape and relatively small size of the IForUT holdings. The exception to this is Annagh Bogs and Raheen which are classed as moderately sensitive due to the surrounding landscape being lesser forested. 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 Cummery Connell and Annagannihy property. Annagannihy has been afforested and work has been carried out as per approvals.

## 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)

## 16. Felling.

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. North Cork**

	<b>Objective</b>	<b>Was it achieved?</b>	<b>How this information was applied to 5 year Management Plan review?</b>
1	Economic Return	Mixed productivity in the MU. Clearfelling has already commenced in some properties, initially due to storm damage.	There has been some economic return generated from these properties. Glennakeel South experienced significant damage in 2014 after storm Darwin. Timber was recovered from the site but wind damage lessened the economic return somewhat. The remainder of the property was clearfelled in 2021. Of the remainder of the more mature forests in the MU, about half are thinned. Thinning will improve the crop quality before final clearfell. Foilogohig and Knocknanagh are unthinned crops, these were too tall for thinning at the time they were acquired. To thin these would lead to wind damage and it was deemed too risky to intervene in these crops as a result.
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	Timber production in this MU has occurred in respect of thinnings and clearfells.	Cummery Connell and Ferry fort have been thinned though some parts of the crop were not suitable to thin at the time of operations. The most mature crop, Glennakeel, has been felled in sections since 2016 and now all of the crop apart from the long term retention has been replanted. The two unthinned crops are currently planned for clearfell within the next 5 year period. Both of these will be removed in on operation. The remainder of the sites will be felled further on in the planning period and felling couples have been separated to allow for a more even flow of timber production and to lessen landscape impact. It is envisioned that Ferryfort and Cummery Connell will be thinned again in the next five year period. Annagannihy, Raheen and Clashykinleen have recently been afforested and will not see any timber production for some time.

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. Low and moderate Felling Impact with Moderate Afforestation Sensitivity for properties and Annagannihy and Cummery Connell are classed as having Moderate Landscape Sensitivity for afforestation. Annagannihy was afforested over the last number of years but was done so according to approvals. Attempts have been made to split felling coupes as much as possible to lessen the impact of forest operations on the landscape.
5	Biodiversity Enhancement	Biodiversity has been enhanced post clearfell and some additional areas of value in the FMU.	Additional openspaces and some broadleaves have been added along the watercourse and county roads in Glennakeel South in the last replanting operations. IForUT have identified a failed crop in Annaghbogs which restoration to heath would be a more beneficial approach. The site is adjacent to the SAC for the Blackwater River. There are significant amounts of broadleaves and unplanted areas in each of the afforestation sites and it is not anticipated that they will require further enhancement apart from routine filling in etc.  Open space and biodiversity will increase over the next rotation due to changes in the required national standards. These standards will require increased broadleaves and open space alongside county roads and dwelling houses at restocking stage.
6	Stakeholder	General quiet locality. Very little interactions with neighbours.	During plan review a more comprehensive stakeholder consultation has been conducted. See Stakeholder files. New access routes have been negotiated
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 updating of best practice.