



Irish Forestry Unit Trust

Stacks Mountains MU
Abbeyfeale/Stacks Mountains, Co Kerry
MANAGEMENT PLAN
2022 – 2041 (Plan Period: 2022 -2026)

2. GENERAL INTRODUCTION, OWNERSHIP AND LANDUSE HISTORY.

Stack Mountains Management Unit (MU) comprises thirty-seven properties totalling approximately 1,133.40 Hectares. This MU is based on geographical location as all blocks are in the same locality of North County Kerry, mostly on the upland area of the Stack Mountains, to the north of the town of Stacks Mountains, and to the north/northeast of Tralee. Several properties are at lower elevations on the western edge of the Stacks such as Derryvrin and Cahercullenagh Lower. There are three properties located to the east and north of the town of Listowel. In general, most of these properties were previously a mixture of rough grazing land and upland bog, with some sections of former cutaway blanket bog.

Forest properties being reviewed:

1. Pilgrim Hill – 27.18ha. Established circa 1995.
2. Cahercullenagh Lower 1 – 57.93ha. Established circa 1990.
3. Carrigcannon – 39.66ha. Established circa 1990.
4. Glashanacree – 39.94ha. Established circa 1990.
5. Rylane – 23.09ha. Established circa 1989.
6. Tooreen Duagh – 33.83ha. Established circa 1989.
7. Lyracrumpane – 60.98ha. Established circa 1991/1996.
8. Tooreen Kilflynn – 36.23ha. Established circa 1992/1993.
9. Tooreen Kilflynn 2 – 29.46ha. Established circa 1992/1993.
10. Tooreen Kilflynn 3 – 71.45ha. Established circa 1990.
11. Derryvrin – 31.34ha. Established circa 1986.
12. Dromada Mor – 42.23. Established circa 1987/1989.
13. Knockmeal – 20.61ha. Established circa 1986.
14. Gortclohy – 94.68ha. Established circa 1987.
15. Knockalougha – 20.82ha. Established circa 1986.

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:

16. Cappagh – 17.60ha. Established circa 1995.
17. Knockmeal 2 – 12.38ha. Established circa 1989.
18. Knockalougha 2 – 21.40ha. Established circa 1989.
19. Glashananon – 20.11ha. Established circa 1989.

20. Glantaunyalkeen – 19.11ha. Established circa 1994.
21. Knockalougha 3 – 156.52ha. Established circa 1995/1999.
22. Tooreen – 40.86ha. Established circa 1992.
23. Banemore – 13.86ha. Established circa 1999
24. Cloghanenagleragh – 25.61ha. Established circa 1998.
25. Feavautia – 5.74ha. Established circa 1996.
26. Gortclohy 2 – 26.03ha. Established circa 1998.
27. Knocknagashel West – 19.98ha. Established circa 1997.
28. Knocknaglogh – 5.93ha. Established circa 1994.
29. Leath East – 36.18ha. Established circa 1994.
30. Tooreen 2 – 10.80ha. Established circa 1995/1997.
31. Bunnaruddee – 22.74ha. Established circa 2015.
32. Meenbannivane – 14.67ha. Established circa 2020.
33. Knocknagashel West 3 – 7.60ha. Established circa 2010.
34. Knockmeal 3 – 4.42ha. Established circa 2021.
35. Ballygarrett – 12.11ha. Established circa 2021.
36. Tooreen Duagh 2 – 7.40ha. Established circa 1993/1995.
37. Cahercullenagh Lower 2 – 2.94ha. Established circa 1990.

Elevation

- Pilgrim Hill – 110 metres to 90 metres.
- Cahercullenagh Lower 1 – 150 metres to 110 metres.
- Carriggannon – 130 metres to 90 metres.
- Glashanacree – 150 metres to 100 metres.
- Rylane – 170 metres to 140 metres.
- Tooreen Duagh – 180 metres to 140 metres.
- Lyracrumpane – 195 metres to 140 metres.
- Tooreen Kilflynn – 310 metres to 120 metres.
- Tooreen Kilflynn 2 – 310 metres to 120 metres.
- Tooreen Kilflynn 3 – 310 metres to 120 metres.
- Derryvrin – 10 metres to 5 metres.
- Dromada Mor – 180 metres to 140 metres.
- Knockmeal – 170 metres to 140 metres.
- Gortclohy – 295 metres to 110 metres.
- Knockalougha – 200 metres to 145 metres.
- Cappagh – 180 metres to 115 metres.
- Knockmeal 2 – 170 metres to 140 metres.

- Knockalougha 2 – 200 metres to 145 metres.
- Glashananoon – 210 metres to 150 metres.
- Glantaunyalkeen – 225 metres to 160 metres.
- Knockalougha 3 – 220 metres to 140 metres.
- Tooreen – 160 metres to 125 metres.
- Banemore – 210 metres to 190 metres.
- Cloghanenagleragh – 175 metres to 130 metres.
- Feavautia – 175 metres to 165 metres.
- Gortclohy 2 – 295 metres to 110 metres.
- Knocknagashel West – 160 metres to 110 metres.
- Knocknaglogh – 280 metres to 240 metres.
- Leath East – 290 metres to 165 metres.
- Tooreen 2 – 150 metres to 130 metres.
- Bunnaruddee – 35 metres to 25 metres.
- Meenbannivane – 110 metres to 95 metres.
- Knocknagashel West 3 – 150 metres to 110 metres.
- Knockmeal 3 – 170 metres to 160 metres.
- Ballygarrett – 95 metres to 35 metres.
- Tooreen Duagh 2 – 180 metres to 160 metres.
- Cahercullenagh Lower 2 – 150 metres to 95 metres.

Statutory Land Designations

There are twenty-nine forest sites situated in or adjoining three NPWS designated areas with protected status.

Stacks's to Mullaghareirk Mountains, West Limerick Hills and Mount Eagle SPA (004161)

- Banemore, Cappagh, Carriggannon, Cloghanenagleragh, Dromada Mor, Feavautia, Glantaunyalkeen, Glashanacree, Glashananoon, Gortclohy, Gortclohy 2, Knockalougha, Knockalougha 3, Knocknagashel West, Knocknagashel West 3, Knocknaglogh, Leath East, Lyracrumpane, Meenbannivane, Tooreen, Tooreen 2, Tooreen Duagh, Tooreen Kilflynn, Tooreen Kilflynn 2, and Tooreen Kilflynn 3 are situated in or adjoin the SPA.

A European designated protection area for Hen Harriers. This is especially important for site operations where potential disturbance during the breeding season is a factor, and location in relation to the nesting site (red zone) is advised by the NPWS. All significant operations

are not permitted during the breeding season from 1st April to 15th August. All licenced/grant operations are subject to statutory consultation with the NPWS, and any other significant operations will involve consultation with the local wildlife ranger. IForUT's current forest area along with surrounding grazing land, open bog, and moorland, provides optimum habitat conditions for this protected bird.

Lower River Shannon SAC (002165)

- Ballygarrett, Carrigcannon, Cloghanenagleragh, Dromada Mor, Glashanacree, and Meenbannivane are situated in or adjoin the SAC.

Bunnaruddee Bog NHA (001352)

- Bunnaruddee adjoins this NHA along the southern boundary.

Water/Fisheries Sensitivities:

The Stack Mountains MU is within the Feale River Catchment in the Shannon River Basin District. The Feale is an important salmon and sea trout river downstream, it is designated as a SAC in the lower sections and is a valuable resource for local anglers. The forest sites within the Stacks Mountains MU are in the following catchments and sub-catchments:

- Tralee Bay-Feale Catchment
 - Brick_SC_010 sub catchment
 - Brick_SC_020 sub catchment
 - Feale_SC_030 sub catchment
 - Feale_SC_040 sub catchment
 - Galey_SC_020 sub catchment
 - Lee [Tralee]_SC_010 sub catchment
 - Maine_SC_030 sub catchment
- Laune-Maine-Dingle Bay Catchment
 - Maine_SC_030 sub catchment

Margaritifera (Fresh Water Pearl Mussel)

- Ballygarrett, Banemore, Carrigcannon, Cloghanenagleragh, Dromada Mor, Feavautia, Glantaunyalkeen, Glashanacree, Glashananoon, Knockalougha, Knockalougha 2, Knockalougha 3, Knockmeal, Knockmeal 2, Knockmeal 3, Knocknagashel West, Knocknagashel West 3, Knocknaglogh, Lyracrumpane, Meenbannivane, Pilgrim Hill, Rylane, Tooreen, Tooreen Duagh, Tooreen Duagh 2 are situated in the Feale FWPM zone.

Feale FWPM is a catchment of extant populations of Fresh Water Pearl Mussel. 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 are no OWS/potential OWS in Stacks Mountains MU.

Archaeology/Historical/Cultural:

There are two recorded and protected structures/monuments in the Stack Mountains MU. There is a hut site/ringfort, and a general enclosure in the Cahercullenagh Lower property, and this is marked on all operational maps and will be protected as such. and this is marked on all operational maps and will be protected. The Forest Service gives advice on protection and outlines mitigation measures when IForUT applies for a licence to carry out any harvesting operation in the vicinity of any monument.

Regarding cultural heritage there is an old Mass Path in the Carrigcannon property near the village of Lyracrumpane – this is marked as a feature on all operation maps and operators are instructed not to hinder use of this route as much as is safe and practicable. Local representatives have been consulted to discuss any impact of forestry operations.

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.

5. SUMMARY OF THE LANDSCAPE VALUE OF THE FOREST.

Low Felling Impact with High Afforestation Sensitivity - Most forest blocks are classed as low felling impact on the IForUT system due partly to the extensively 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 moderate classification covers the following upland properties, Tooreen Kilflynn, Cappagh, Tooreen 2, Leath East, and Gortclohy 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.

(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		

20. 5 Year Monitoring Report Summary. Stacks Mountains MU

	Objective	Was it achieved?	How was this information applied to 5-year Management Plan review?
1	Economic Return	Some properties within the MU have been thinned. As is typical in this part of the country – productivity is mixed within the MU and productivity and quality varies dramatically within the properties.	Thinning volumes removed have been below production forecasting to maintain crop stability. No further thinning has been carried out in the older properties in the MU as the risk of windblow is then higher and harvesting of windblown timber will diminish economic return. Significant windblow following storm Darwin in 2014 had diminished economic return regarding Timber Revenue in those sites that were affected. Sites that were blown were typically the most productive areas. That storm event significantly disrupted the timber production and economic return that should have been occurring over the subsequent years. Only one property since has had a clearfell (Rylane) which delivered a decent rate of return. Two of the newer sites have been possible to thin which will improve the economic prospects in the future.
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 had been maximised through thinning where possible. Sharp falloff in timber production due to no thin policy for the current rotation which were damaged by 2014 Storm and poorer crops being left following harvesting of storm damage.	Strong DBH growth in thinned crops and significant volume increment. However, the 2014 storm blew over the best crops within this MU. This led to timber production plans being front-loaded in 2015 and 2016. Due to the extent of damage in the Management unit, it was deemed that there would be no further thinning in current rotation crops in this Management Unit. There was only a small clearfell in Rylane in the subsequent years and only one property which is a new acquisition has been thinned. Productivity is very mixed in the MU with yield class for spruce ranging between 8 and 24. As mentioned above, there was a lull in timber production in the years since the major storm event. There will however be upcoming clearfells in the coming five year period after this time of relative inactivity. For example Glashanacree, Tooreen Kilflynn and Tooreen Duagh have upcoming clearfells in 2022 and there are further clearfells in 2023 in Carrigannon and Leath East with further planned for subsequent years. Coupes have been spread out as much as possible to facilitate restructuring and to have a more steady and consistent flow of timber.
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. All properties classified as having Low sensitivity according to LU classification apart from Gortclohy, Cappagh, Tooreen 2, Leath East, and Tooreen Kilflynn which were classified as moderate. All were classified as low in FS classification, due partly to the extensively forested landscape and small size of the IForUT holdings.

5	Biodiversity Enhancement	Biodiversity limited in this MU and opportunities to enhance have been limited.	<p>Main opportunities for biodiversity enhancement will occur at the next rotations after upcoming clearfells. % MB to be planted has been increased marginally. Open space has also been increased marginally and will increase over the next rotation. IForUT have given access to Lyracrumpane community development carry out some work along the riverbed of the Smearlagh river. This has stabilised the riverbank and prevented erosion. Mulching behind houses and removal of some trees in Pilgrim Hill has improved some open space habitat. There are significant areas of broadleaves in some of the newly afforested properties such as Meenbannivane and Ballygarrett. Bunnaruddee also has significant proportion of broadleaves by the adjacent dwelling as well as a significant ESB wayleave. There is also a section of bog which has been retained as a bog habitat. There is also an area of cutaway bog in Leath East which provides some habitat diversity. Over the next number of years we will be entering into a cycle of felling and restocking which will be giving opportunities to enhance biodiversity. Due to changes in National standards and guidelines, there will be increased broadleaves and open space required alongside country roads and dwelling houses in the future. A number of species of noted were recorded in the MU across 6 properties. Species recorded included Hen Harrier, Buzzard, Hare, Badger and Otter.</p>
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6	Stakeholder	General quiet locality. In the past there was little interaction from neighbours but that seems to have changed.	During the plan review, a more comprehensive stakeholder consultation has been conducted. See Stakeholder files. Some ongoing cooperation between IForUT and Lyracrumpane Community Development about work on the mass path walk going through Carrigcannon. Some interaction from neighbours in Pilgrim Hill following a fire in a private plantation some kilometers away. We mulched the area behind their houses.
7	Professional Development	██████ and █████ 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 Certification 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.