



Irish Forestry Unit Trust

Carlow MU
Carlow
MANAGEMENT PLAN
2022 – 2041 (Period 2022-2026)

2. GENERAL INTRODUCTION, OWNERSHIP AND LANDUSE HISTORY.

Carlow MU contains three forest properties totalling 31.9ha. It is defined by species type, management objectives and geographical location.

Legal folios are held on file. Prior to forest establishment the land was enclosed and unenclosed marginal grazing.

New properties being added to the MU:

1. Annagar, 23.69ha. Established in 1999. Acquired by IForUT in 2018.
2. Knocklisheen Beg 1, 2.67ha. Established in 1994. Acquired by IForUT in 2021.
3. Knocklisheen Beg 2, 5.55ha. Established in 1994. Acquired by IForUT in 2021.

Elevation

Ranges between 100m and 300cm

Statutory Land Designations

There are no Statutory Land Designations affecting these properties.

Water/Fisheries Sensitivities:

This MU lies within Barrow Lower and Main, Burren, Derreen, Dinin, Greese Lerr, Slaney Lower and Upper water catchments.

Margaritifera

Knocklisheen Beg 1 & 2 lie within Catchments of SAC populations listed in S.I. 296 of 2009 Margaritifera areas. Annagar is within the category Catchments with previous records of Margaritifera, but current status unknown

Old Woodland Sites (OWS):

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

Archaeology/Historical/Cultural:

There are no archaeology features in properties within the Carlow MU.

4. SOIL TYPES.

Well drained mineral soil derived from mainly non-calcareous parent materials. Brown earths and brown podzolics in both Knocklisheen properties and Lithosols and Regosols in Annagar.

5. SUMMARY OF THE LANDSCAPE VALUE OF THE FOREST.

Low Felling Impact with Low Afforestation Sensitivity Refer to Map 3.

All forest blocks are classed as low felling impact on the IForUT system due partly to the relatively small size of the IForUT holdings. Whenever felling licences are submitted to the Forest Service, they 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. 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 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 (potnl)	✓	
Line thinning only		
Non thin regime	✓	
Non intervention		✓
Natural regeneration		✓
Replanting	✓	✓
Other		

5 Year Monitoring Report Summary. Carlow

	Objective	Was it achieved?	How this information was applied to 5 year Management Plan review?
1	Economic Return	All forests are generally growing well. Good yield classes and all crops are thinned.	Knocklisheen beg was thinned prior to IForUT's ownership. Main economic return in this FMU was generated from the 2 thinnings in Annagar. Thinning these crops will improve the economic potential of the forest going forward. It is expected that these crops will generate a good final crop if timber.
2	Certification Standards	Certification standards and IForUT systems applied over plan period. Managers working off FMM	Certification standards and IForUT systems applied over plan period. Managers working off FMM. Continue as before and update FMM as required.
3	Timber production	Crops are being actively managed. Clearfells have not commenced.	All crops have been thinned and strong growth rates are evident in all stands. It is anticipated that all three stands will be fit to thin again. A good final crop is anticipated from all properties so maintaining crop stability is a top priority. Thinning plans will be reviewed continuously on that basis. The first clearfell in this FMU will take place in 2029. There will be a slight spike in felling in this year. Felling coupes have been kept as small as possible whilst taking windblow risk, site topography and logistics into account. Felling coupes have also been separated out as much as possible to allow for time delays between felling coupes and to try to ensure that there is not a glut of felling in any five year period. However, delaying felling or bringing felling forward any further would result in severe economic losses from either a too small tree size or wind damage as a result of delaying felling beyond a critical top height.
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 have low felling impact due small IForUT holdings.
5	Biodiversity Enhancement	Opportunities to enhance biodiversity are limited to post clearfell works	Main opportunities to enhance biodiversity are taking place after clearfells. Open space and biodiversity will increase even further over the next rotation due to changes in the required national standards. These standards will require increased broadleaves and openspace alongside county roads and dwelling houses at restocking stage.

6	Stakeholder	All forests have previously had low level local stakeholder relationships. Keyholder interest in forestry increasing in this region.	During plan review a more comprehensive stakeholder consultation has been conducted compared to the 1 st plan preparation process.
7	Professional Development	██████████ managed. Ongoing development of the IForUT FMM and database over the period. 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. 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