



Irish Forestry Unit Trust

Kenmare MU
Kenmare, Co Kerry
MANAGEMENT PLAN
2022 – 2041
(Period 4: 2022 -2026)

2. GENERAL INTRODUCTION, OWNERSHIP AND LANDUSE HISTORY.

Kenmare Management Unit (MU) comprises four properties totalling 236.40 Hectares. This MU is based on geographical location as all blocks are in the same locality of south County Kerry, in the vicinity of Kenmare Bay and either side of the district's main town of Kenmare. Properties are at various elevations, on hill sides and lower slopes of neighbouring mountains. Most of these sites were previously rough grazing land and some are sections of upland blanket bog.

Forest properties being reviewed:

1. Inchimore 1 – 34.66ha & Inchimore 2 – 39.44ha. Established circa 1991/1996.
2. Letterfinish 1 – 31.69ha & Letterfinish 2 – 33.60ha. Established circa 1990.
3. Gortamullin – 17.16ha. Established circa 1990/1993.
4. Dromagorteen – 22.13ha. Established circa 1992.

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

New property to be added to the MU:

5. Kealariddig – 57.71ha. Established circa 1993. This site was acquired by IForUT (Irish Forestry Unit Trust) in 2016.

Elevation

- Inchimore 1 & Inchimore 2 – 250 metres to 110 metres.
- Letterfinish 1 & Letterfinish 2 – 260 metres to 90 metres.
- Gortamullin – 80 metres to 70 metres.
- Dromagorteen – 120 metres to 60 metres.
- Kealariddig – 310 metres to 80 metres.

Statutory Land Designations

There are no NPWS designated areas with protected status within the boundary of any forest site and/or adjoining any forest site within the Kenmare FMU (Forest Management Unit). However, the eastern boundary of Kealariddig Forest adjoins the Blackwater River SAC.

Water/Fisheries Sensitivities:

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

- Dunmanus-Bantry-Kenmare Catchment
 - Sneem_SC_010 sub catchment
 - Finnihy_SC_010 sub catchment
 - Roughty_SC_020 sub catchment
 - Sheen_SC_010 sub catchment
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Margaritifera (Fresh Water Pearl Mussel)

- Letterfinish 1 & Letterfinish 2 are situated in the Tahilla FWPM zone.
- Gortamullin is situated in the Finnihy FWPM zone.
- Dromagorteen is situated in the Sheen FWPM zone.
- Kealariddig is situated in the Sneem FWPM.

These are all catchments of extant populations of Fresh Water Pearl Mussel (Refer to Map 4).

Old Woodland Sites (OWS):

There are no OWS/potential OWS in Kenmare MU.

Archaeology/Historical/Cultural:

There are several features within the Kenmare MU recorded on the 'Sites and Monuments Record' (<https://maps.archaeology.ie/HistoricEnvironment/>). Refer to Map 4.

4. SOIL TYPES.

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

- Peat is the primary soil type within the MU with humic surface-water gleys, and brown podzols 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. Most forest blocks are classed low sensitivity. Some sections of properties are high felling impact on the IForUT system due to the presence on higher slopes in a very scenic area, frequented by tourists and visitors. Felling coupes have been created to lessen the impact of large felling

blocks and aid the age restructuring of the forests. 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 and High Landscape Sensitivity class, as defined for afforestation planning covers two 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.

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. Kenmare MU

	Objective	Was it achieved?	How was this information applied to 5-year Management Plan review?
1	Economic Return	All properties in the MU are fully roaded. This management unit has suffered from a little windblow since 2014. This has altered the felling plans and diminished the return.	Some felling coupes have had to be brought forward as there is a little windblow coming in in a couple of properties. This and the storm damage from 2014 has lessened the return on investment a little. Replanting of Letterfinish was carried out in 2015. We were able to recover some monies from insurance and the forest service under the reconstitution grant. Further Clearfells were carried out only in Inchimore in 2020 due to creeping windblow. Despite windblow in the crop it still delivered a good return on investment.
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	The best timber in the MU was felled in 2015 as it had blown. The MU will be entering a cycle of felling over the next management plan period.	As mentioned above – timber was produced before originally planned due to windblow. Further windblow has occurred in the MU, namely Inchimore property and this felling coupes which were affected have been felled. Some areas were reviewed in 2018 regarding thinning, but it was determined that thinning would be too risky because of patches of windblow in the crops and due to the wet nature of forests in this Management unit. No thinning will be carried out within the MU for the near future. Some felling coupes have been brought forward during this plan, in most properties. These crops have performed better than expected and need to be cleared before they reach a critical 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. Landscape character classified as LOW in most places. Though some of Inchimore falls into the highly sensitive category. Also, a compartment in Letterfinish falls into the high sensitivity category but this is unplanted mountain.

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. Some enhancement done a restocking stage in Inchimore	<p>Maintain Biodiversity areas as is. Continue with current management practices. Restructuring plan Map5 and 7 addresses biodiversity requirements. Main opportunities to enhance biodiversity occurring after clearfell with replanting but we are limited with species choice. Firelines were maintained in 2018 which opened the forest edges. The main opportunity for enhancing biodiversity has been through the replanting of Inchimore property. Further gaps in the canopy were created by access tracks and setbacks from watercourses and the county road. Additional broadleaf planting was concentrated in these areas also and along the forest road.</p> <p>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.</p>
6	Stakeholder	Forests have low level stakeholder relationships. The main neighbours are at Inchimore and at Letterfinish	During plan review, conducted a more comprehensive stakeholder consultation has been completed. Regional press/ forest notices/ local community groups and local statutory bodies consulted. See stakeholder folder
7	Professional Development	[REDACTED] managed.	Retendering of whole portfolio into regional management units in 2010 to simplify overall forest level management and certification compliance. New centralised network server ([REDACTED]) is being used 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.
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