



## Irish Forestry Unit Trust

<b>Drummacool MU</b>
By Riverstown, Co Sligo
<b>MANAGEMENT PLAN</b>
<b>2022 – 2041</b> <b>(Period 2022-2026)</b>

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

Drummacool MU comprises of 17 forest blocks within the same locality. Total MU area is 288.3ha. MU defined by species type, management objectives and geographical location. Legal folios are held on file. Prior to forest establishment land provided enclosed marginal grazing. Neighbouring landuse enclosed marginal grazing. Drumlin topography over all forests blocks.

### **Forest properties being reviewed:**

1. Tunnagh 18.1ha. Established by [REDACTED] in 1985/91. Sub 5 replanted 2017.
2. Glenn 32.6ha. Established by [REDACTED] in 1981/86. Areas replanted 2011/2015/2020. 98003A & 98005N Subs 1 clearfelled 2022. Will be replanted soon.
3. Carrownagilty 16ha. Established by [REDACTED] in 1985.
4. Drumshinnagh 17.7ha. Established by [REDACTED] in 1986. Sub 1 replanted 2018.

### **New property being added to the MU:**

5. Ardagh 2 14.6ha. Established in 1992. This site was acquired by IForUT in 2018.
6. Ardvarney 18.46ha. Established in 1990 and replanted in 2021/2022. Acquired by IForUT.
7. Cuiltydangan 12.8ha. Established in 1985. Sub 1 replanted 2015. Acquired by IForUT in 2017.
8. Cuiltydangan 2 9.6ha. Established in 1992. Acquired by IForUT in 2018.
9. Drumee 10.9ha. Established in 1992. This site was acquired by IForUT in 2018
10. Fidwog Drumraine 21.9ha, Established in 1991. Sub 4 replanted 2022. Acquired by IForUT in 2018
11. Knockaun 13.5ha. Replanted 2021. Acquired by IForUT.
12. Lavally 10.5ha. Established in 2000. Acquired 2016.
13. Lecarrow 22.4ha. Established in 1999. Acquired by IForUT in 2019.
14. Rathmulpatrick 33.4ha. Established in 1993. Acquired by IForUT in 2018. 98503E sub 6 and 98504W sub 1 have been clearfelled and will be replanted 2022/2023.
15. Rooghan 8.5ha. Established in 1992. This site was acquired by IForUT in 2018
16. Rooghan Tunnagh 19.7ha, Established in 1993/1999. Acquired by IForUT in 2015.
17. Tunnagh 2 7.2ha, Established in 2019. Acquired by IForUT in 2018.

**Elevation**

All sites range between 95m to 175m.

**Statutory Land Designations**

**pNHA** and **SAC Unshin River**, SITECODE 001898 & 001898 respectively falls within Fidwog Drumraine.

**Water/Fisheries Sensitivities:**

Most properties are in the Owenmore water catchment while Garravogue and Upper Shannon also lie within the Drumacool MU. Refer to Map 9.

**Margaritifera**

There are no properties in the Drumacool MU within Margaritifera areas.

**Old Woodland Sites (OWS):**

There is OWS in Lavally in the Drumacool MU. An assessment was completed June 2020. Present canopy is predominantly non-native conifers (mainly Sitka Spruce). However, a line of deciduous trees existed within the plantation, comprised of Willow (*Salix* sp), and Hawthorn *Crataegus monogyna*. At the entrance of the site a handful of large beech trees exist which dominated the canopy in that area.

**Archaeology/Historical/Cultural:**

There are numerous archaeological features within the Drumacool MU including enclosures and ringforts. Refer to Map 4.

**4. SOIL TYPES.**

Drumlin landscape consisting of poorly drained sloping gleys with unflushed hollows forming deep peat. Most of planting on mounded ground. Poor drainage in Glenn specifically with significant windblow. Windblow in Fidwog Drumraine also.

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

**Low and Mod Felling Impact with Mod. Afforestation Sensitivity** - Refer to Map 3. Most forest blocks are classed as low felling impact with several moderately impactful blocks being listed on the IForUT system due partly to the extensive 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 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. 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.

NS & SP will be used to replant LTRs which over the longer term will develop into non intervention areas and provide Red squirrel habitat and habitat linkage.

## **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.**

<b>System</b>	<b>Conifers</b>	<b>Broadleaves</b>
Clear fell	✓	
Selective fell		
Thinning to MTI (potnl)	✓	
Line thinning only		
Non thin regime	✓	
Non intervention		✓
Natural regeneration		✓
Replanting	✓	✓
Other		

## 20. 5 Year Monitoring Report Summary.

	Objective	Was it achieved?	How this information was applied to 5 year Management Plan review?
1	Economic Return	Each of the forest blocks has grown well over the 5year period. Most forests have been thinned which has further improved crop quality and potential future revenues. Windblow is occurring and clearence of same has been carried out.	No significant changes to plan for next five year period. No further thinning in planned in the MU with the exception of Lavally which will hopefully be second thinned. Drumee was never thinned. The main source of economic return from the MU was from clearfells. All of the older properties have had clearfells commenced over the last number of years. The same is true for some of the new properties, for example Ardvarney, Fidwog Drumraine, Knockaun and Rathmulpatrick. In general, these clearfells made a decent rate of return. There has been some minor wind-damage occurring in the MU in most properties. There have been some areas of more significant damage for example in Rathmulpatrick. Wind damage will damage the economic prospects of sales so it is important to remain vigilant of wind damage.
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. Continue as before and update FMM as required.
3	Timber production	Tunnagh, Glenn and Carrownagilty were high pruned. Balance between crop stability and timber revenues. 3 <sup>rd</sup> thinning only in Drumshinnagh, Tunnagh and Carrownagilty.	Reassess crop stability on an annual basis. Thinning will be reviewed on this basis too as crop stability is a key concern. As mentioned above, clearfelling has commenced in the FMU in both older properties and new aquisitions. Clearfelling coupes have been separated as much as possible within the constraints of similar plant years throughout and the threat of windthrow in the MU. The new properties which have been added to the MU have slightly stretched out the felling years as these properties are generally planted in the 90's and 00's as opposed to the 80's. This is an improvement from a timber production point of view as there is more of a sustained yield of timber over a slightly longer period of time rather than a glut in any given year. That said there will be significant clearfelling over the next 5 year period.

4	Landscape	Two new landscape layers added to designations [REDACTED]. Forest Service layer taken off National Development plan for new planting and Landscape Unit appraisals based on Coillte LUs.	New landscape Map added to MP. New felling coupe design added to MP which keeps coupes separated as much as possible. Classified as having low and medium landscape sensitivity and some areas of moderate sensitivity for afforestation.
5	Biodiversity Enhancement	Existing biodiversity very limited to thinned monoculture. This is changing as crops enter a cycle of clearfelling and restocking.	Restructuring plan Map7 addresses species diversity requirements. Some additional broadleaves and open space have been added to sites where clearfelling has taken place. Some examples of this are as follows. At Ardvarney and Knockaun there have been setbacks imposed by dwelling houses and the laneway with broadleaves curtaining these setbacks. There are setbacks implemented by the river which also has small amounts of broadleaves outside of this buffer. At Carrownagilty there has been extra setbacks and broadleaves around the stakeholders home and mixed broadleaves have been introduced behind this setback and at some property boundaries. This will continue going forward. Open space and biodiversity will further increase 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 for example at restocking stage. This has been reflected in the long term restructuring plans. Monitoring of sites has shown that there is some deer browsing ongoing on broadleaves. Sporting licences have been issued for deer control. These sites will remain under monitoring. Lavalley was identified as Old Woodland and a survey was carried out in by an Ecologist in 2020. The ecologist determined that the site was not a valuable site for Old Woodland though there were some features of note which have been incorporated positively into the restock plans. In terms of species of note, Buzzards, Red Squirrel, Badger, Sparrow Hawks and Kestrels have been recorded as being present in various properties in this FMU.
6	Stakeholder	All forests have low level local stakeholder relationships.	During plan review, conducted a more comprehensive stakeholder consultation has been completed. Regional, national and local community groups and local statutory bodies consulted. Generally good relationships with stakeholders developed.

7	Professional Development	managed. All managers are MSIF and members of various other forestry interest organisations.	Retendering of whole portfolio into regional management units in 2010 to simplify overall forest level management and compliance. New centralised network server ( ) 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.