



Irish Forestry Unit Trust

Drumcong MU
By Drumshanbo, Co Leitrim
MANAGEMENT PLAN
2022 – 2041 (Period 2022-2026)

2. GENERAL INTRODUCTION, OWNERSHIP AND LANDUSE HISTORY.

Drumcong MU contains fourteen forest properties totalling 212.8ha. 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. Neighbouring landuse is a mix of enclosed/ unenclosed marginal grazing and mature forestry.

Forest properties being reviewed:

1. Drumcroman 10.2ha. Established in 1986.
2. Drumcroman 19.4ha. Established in 1986/05.
3. Roscunnish 17.1ha. Established in 1987 and replanted 2019.
4. Drumcong 16.5ha. Established in 1986 with sub 2 replanted 2021.

New property being added to the MU:

1. Bellanaboy 19.3ha. Established in 2019.
2. Deffier 9.7ha. Established in 1992 while sub 1 was replanted in 2019.
3. Deffier 2 9.9ha. Established in 1997.
4. Derrintonny 16.3ha. Established in 1997.
5. Drumcroman 3 8.8ha. Established in 1998.
6. Drumcroman 4 6.1ha. Established in 2000.
7. Drumderg 8.4ha. Established in 2009.
8. Liscarban 9.9ha. Established in 1993.
9. Mahanagh 16ha. Established in 1986 and restocked 2020 and 2021.
10. Mullaghycullen 37.7ha. Established in 1991 with some areas replanted 2019 and 2021.

11. Roscunnish 2 7.2ha. Established in 2002.

Elevation

Ranges between 60m and 115m

Statutory Land Designations

pNHA Carrickaport Lough SITECODE 001920 bounds Mullaghycullen and Drumcong.

Water/Fisheries Sensitivities:

This MU lies within Shannon[Upper]_SC_020, Yellow[Ballinamore]_SC_010 and Yellow[Ballinaglera]_SC_010.

4. SOIL TYPES.

Drumlin landscape consisting of poorly drained sloping gleys with unflushed hollows forming deep peat. Most of planting on mounded ground.

5. SUMMARY OF THE LANDSCAPE VALUE OF THE FOREST.

Low Felling Impact with Mod. Afforestation Sensitivity in many properties - Refer to Map 3. From a felling perspective the local landscape is closed in drumlin with short views. The MU is only visible from distance high ground and would undistinguishable from the surrounding landscape/ land uses. Some blocks are more visible from county roads. The R208 with Drumcong having the most significant views off the R210 on the

southern approach into Drumcong village. The area is moderately populated in a rural context. No significant areas of natural woodland exist within the landscape other than hedgerow trees which are a dominant feature of small field units. Riparian scrub of willow and alder is present along Lough boundaries in Drumcong and Drumcroman 1. To mitigate potential felling impacts, the felling plan (Map 6) has applied a coupe restructuring sequence to diversify crop age structure for each property. Sitka spruce is the preferred species to meet economic objectives. Restock design in Map 7 focuses MB and UP areas around lough shorelines and public road edges. SP is used to replant some 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.

(IfForUTs FSC licence code: FSC-C003194)

16. Felling.

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.

	Objective	Was it achieved?	How this information was applied to 5 year Management Plan review?
1	Economic Return	All forests have grown well and it is a generally productive MU.	Roscunnish has been clearfelled in 2018 in its entirety and just about made the valuation price despite good quality. Drumcong was initially planned for Clearfell in 2019 however due to poor timber market in 2019 it was not done until 2020. These clearfells made generally a good rate of return. Many of the other properties have also had clearfells such as Deffier, Mullaghycullen and Mahanagh and some of these were felled due to creeping windblow coming into the crop. Windblow lessens the economic value of the crop.
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	Crops are entering into a cycle of clearfelling and restocking.	No further thinning to be scheduled apart from at Roscunnish 2. Other crops are either gone beyond thinning or are at restocking stage. There has been windblow creeping into some crops such as Deffier and Mullaghycullen and felling was and will be required to tidy that up. There will be upcoming clearfells in several properties e.g. Dromcroman, Mullaghycullen and Liscarbon, some of which is mitigating windblow damage. There are younger properties planted in the mid 90's and 00's such as Drumderg and Derrintonny which will not be felled until later in the planning period. This difference in age profile from some of the older crops is positive in terms of timber production as a more steady and even flow of timber removal is better than a glut in any given year
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 to a highly forested surrounding landscape. Many properties are classed as moderate sensitivity for afforestation. No afforestation has taken place in the MU to date but any future afforestation will be done only with forest service approval.

5	Biodiversity Enhancement	Existing biodiversity regarded as sensitive as Drumcong borders Carrickaport Lough NHA.	Main oppourtunites to enhance biodiversity are taking place after clearfells. Extended buffer zones have been created in Drumcong for example along the lake shore for example. Further remedial works had to be carried out here in 2021 to prevent siltation of the lake and some broadleaves were also planted around the settling ponds here. Also increased broadleaves and unplanted area have been created along the county road in particular in Roscunnish. At Mahanagh broadleaves have been planted where the property bounds the River Shannon. More significant areas of broadleaves have been planted here between the forest road and Western boundary and Unplanted ground has been created around the homes which are bounding the forest. 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. Biggest issue will be timber haulage and trying to find an alternative access routes or else tractor and trailer working. Stakeholder 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	████████████████████ 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