



Irish Forestry Unit Trust

Foxfield MU
By Fenagh, Co Leitrim
MANAGEMENT PLAN
2022-2041 (Period 2022-2026)

2. GENERAL INTRODUCTION, OWNERSHIP AND LANDUSE HISTORY.

Foxfield MU comprises of 12 forest blocks within the same locality. Total MU area is 235.4ha. 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 post enclosed marginal grazing. The Erne Waterway is a key feature of Muckross and watercourses also in Annaghderg and Drumlaheen. No designations are present within the MU.

Forest properties being reviewed:

1. Annaghderg 27.4ha. Established by [REDACTED] in 1985/87. Sub 3 replanted 2016. Sub 2 replanted in 2021.
2. Muckcross 39.0ha. Established by [REDACTED] in 1981/86/89 with parts replanted 2001/2016/2021.
3. Drumlaheen 31.8ha. Established by [REDACTED] in 1987. Sub 9 replanted 2018.

New property being added to the MU:

4. Aghacashel 14ha. Established in 1998. Acquired by IForUT in 2016.
5. Crummy 24ha. Established in 1999. This site was acquired by IForUT in 2016.
6. Derreen (Johnston) 10.7ha. Established in 1994. Acquired by IForUT in 2018.
7. Drumaragh 13ha. Established in 1998/1999. Acquired by IForUT in 2016.
8. Garadice 18.6ha. Established in 1997. Acquired by IForUT in 2016.
9. Kiltyfinnan 7.9ha Established in 2000. Acquired by IForUT in 2016.
10. Leamanash 14.7ha. Established in 2000. Acquired by IForUT in 2016.
11. Scardaun 14.3ha. Established in 1998. This site was acquired by IForUT in 2016.
12. Scardaun Derreen 20.9ha. Established in 1992/1994/1995. This site was acquired by IForUT in 2018.

Elevation

Ranges between 80m and 200m

Statutory Land Designations

There are no Statutory Land Designations affecting properties in the Foxfield MU.

Water/Fisheries Sensitivities:

Foxfield MU lies within the Upper Shannon, Camlin/Rinn and Erne Mid water catchments.

Margaritifera

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

Old Woodland Sites (OWS):

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

Archaeology/Historical/Cultural:

There are no recorded archaeology features present in Foxfield MU. There are some non recorded features present including stone ruins in Drumlaheen. Refer to Map 4.

4. SOIL TYPES.

Drumlin landscape consisting of sloping gleys with some peaty gley on lower level ground, particularly around lough edges. Most of planting on ripped ground with good drainage through to sub soil.

5. SUMMARY OF THE LANDSCAPE VALUE OF THE FOREST.

Low Felling Impact with Mod. Afforestation Sensitivity - 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 undistinguishable from surrounding landscape/ land uses. Blocks are visible from the R209 with Annaghderg having the greatest felling impact to mitigate.

The area is moderately populated in a rural context due to the number of small holdings. The surrounding landscape is historically impoverished and consists of small field units. No significant areas of natural woodland exist within the landscape other than hedgerow trees which are a dominant feature of small field units. The Erne waterway and neighbouring lakes are important landscape features and need to be sensitively incorporated in the restructuring plan.

To mitigate potential felling impacts the felling plan (Map 6) has applied a coupe restructuring sequence to diversify crop age structure. Sitka spruce is the preferred species to meet economic objectives and to match soils types. Restock design in Map 7 is focuses on increased open ground and broadleaf areas particularly beside watercourses and all dominate forest edges. Significant SP will develop in future LTRs and provide much needed Red squirrel habitat.

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. Foxfield MU

	Objective	Was it achieved?	How this information was applied to 5 year Management Plan review?
1	Economic Return	Annaghderg roaded and 1st thinned 05 and 2 nd thinned 09. High pruned 08. Drumlaheen roaded and 1 st thinned 2005 and 2 nd thinned 2010. Not all crop accessible. Pruned 09. Muckcross partly 1 st thinned 2003 and remainder 2005, 2 nd thinned 2009. All crop progressing very well and putting on significant log volume. YCs > 24. Three properties received a 3 rd thinning in 2013. Clearfelling commenced in all three of these older properties. New properties added to the FMU.	Clearfells in Annaghderg, Drumlaheen and Muckcross properties have commenced and all have made an acceptable rate of return. Several new properties have been added to the FMU. These properties are of a younger age class compared to the older properties (90's and 00's plant years as opposed to 80's). All of these new properties have been thinned at least once, with the exception of Derreen Johnson which is designated as a no thin forest. Some properties such as Leamanash and parts of Crummy have been thinned a second time. Subsequent thinning is currently planned for some of the properties but this will be subject to review. Thinning these forests will have a positive impact on the timber quality for these forests into the future. This will enable more of the crop to be utilised as construction grade timber. There has been some minor frost damage on some restock areas but nothing of significance.
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	Timber quality very good and generally a productive FMU	Felling plan has achieved a general good spread of felling which can be staggered out for coupe separation. New properties being added to this FMU also helps with a continuous flow of timber production due to their age classes being more extended. Felling planned for the rest of the 2020's as well as into the 2030's Felling coupe sequence and separation to be addressed again at end of next 5 year plan period. Good selection of windfirm edges and crops are windfirm. Clearfells have had to be brought forward particularly in the older crops, because of wind damage. The properties will be monitored consistently each year to see how they are coping in regard to wind damage. Planned thinnings may be suspended or clearfell dates may have to be reviewed if wind-damage is occurring. There are some clearfells planned for 2022 but it seems increasingly unlikely that these will be rolled over into 2023 due to difficulties in the timber market in the latter half of 2022.

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 layer added to Sensitivities Map in MP. Landscape character classified as LOW. Closed in Drumlin landscape on all blocks. The Erne waterway runs past Muckcross which has been positively incorporated into restock planning. Increased broadleaves planted into second rotation for example in Drumlaheen along the shoreline. Some properties fall into areas which would be classes as having moderate afforestation sensitivity.
5	Biodiversity Enhancement	Older properties are going through a sequence of felling and restocking which is giving opportunities to enhance biodiversity.	Continue with current management practices over next plan period. Retain as many broadleaf seed trees as possible for next rotation broadleaf enhancement. Significant shortfall in open ground to be addressed during restock plans in next plan period. Any open ground will nat. regen. quickly. Riparian habitat is a key feature of several of the older forest blocks. Broadleaf replanting has been concentrated in riparian areas. In Annaghderg and Drumlaheen for example, increased broadleaves have been planted by the lakeshore, as well as along internal hedgerows in some cases. In Muckcross, broadleaves have been planted into areas adjacent to the canal. Some of these biodiversity areas have needed some work in terms of filling in and maintenance. Muckcross required some work on biodiversity areas where plants became overrun with woody weeds. These areas will continue to be monitored going forward. Several of the new properties also are adjacent to lakes and will be restocked in a similar fashion. Open space and biodiversity will increase over the next rotation also 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. In terms of species of note both Hare and Red squirrel were noted as being present is some properties in the MU over the past number of years.
6	Stakeholder	Good relations with neighbours on all three forests. Biggest issue has been public road use and consultation with council has always been pre-emptive. Increased stakeholder interest in forestry in this region.	During plan review a more comprehensive stakeholder consultation has been conducted compared to the 1 st plan preparation process. Statutory consultation has been more local based.

7	Professional Development	managed. Ongoing development of the IForUT FMM and database over the period. 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 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 updating of best practice.