



Irish Forestry Unit Trust

Lough Arrow MU
By Lough Arrow, Co. Sligo
MANAGEMENT PLAN
2022 – 2041 (Period 2022-2026)

2. GENERAL INTRODUCTION, OWNERSHIP AND LANDUSE HISTORY.

Lough Arrow MU comprises nine forest blocks. Total MU area amounts to 115.4ha. 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 enclosed marginal grazing. Annaghagowan bounds onto Lough Arrow with has SAC and NHA designations.

Forest properties being reviewed:

1. Annaghagowan 20.2ha. Established by [REDACTED] in 1987. Sub 2 replanted 2018. Sub 3 replanted 2020.
2. Cuilnagleeragh 14.8ha. Established by [REDACTED] in 1987.

New property being added to the MU:

3. Ardline 7.64ha. Established in 1997. This site was acquired by IForUT in 2016.
4. Bullaun 11.3ha. Established in 1992. This site was acquired by IForUT in 2018.
5. Crawhill 7.6ha. Established in 2000. This site was acquired by IForUT in 2016.
6. Dromore 7.6ha. Established in 1999. This site was acquired by IForUT in 2016.
7. Foyoges 20.8ha, Established in 1997. This site was acquired by IForUT in 2016.
8. Magheralackagh 12.6ha, Established in 1990 with the whole area replanted in 2022. Acquired by IForUT in 2015.
9. Tap 12.7ha. Originally established in 1980 with sub 4 replanted 2016 and the rest was replanted 2022. This site was acquired by IForUT in ?.

Elevation

All sites range between 75m to 210m.

Water/Fisheries Sensitivities:

Most properties are in the Feorish[Ballyfarnon]_SC_010 while Annaghagowan and Cuilnagleeragh are in Unshin_SC_010. Lough Arrow is an important fishing Lough. The water course bounding many properties is regarded as important spawning habitat for Lough Arrow.

Margaritifera

There are no properties in the Lough Arrow MU within Margaritifera areas.

Old Woodland Sites (OWS):

There is no OWS/potential OWS in the Lough Arrow MU.

Archaeology/Historical/Cultural:

There is a ringfort and an enclosure within Magheralackagh. There is an enclosure in Annaghgowan. [Historic Environment Viewer \(archaeology.ie\)](http://archaeology.ie)

4. SOIL TYPES.

Drumlin landscape on mineral gleys. Mixture of mounding and ploughing site preparation.

5. SUMMARY OF THE LANDSCAPE VALUE OF THE FOREST.

Mod. Felling Impact for Annaghagowan due to shoreline position although no prominent views of the forest exist. Mod. Afforestation Sensitivity - Refer to Map 3. Both forests are partly visible from minor public roads. But neither is visible from the N4 which runs to the west of Lough Arrow. General locality rural and sparsely populated.

Good natural scrub cover of exists in much of the forests which can be positively incorporated into the restructuring process. Cuilnagleeragh is hidden within a drumlin landscape and posses little landscape impact.

Lough Arrow MU felling plan (Map 6) has applied a coupe restructuring sequence to diversify crop age structure. Sitka spruce is still the preferred species to meet economic objectives. Coupe separation and smaller size is used to mitigate felling impacts. Restock design in Map 7 focuses further MB and UP areas around public roads and watercourse. SP is used to replant the LTR in Annaghagowan which over the longer term will develop into non intervention 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.

System	Conifers	Broadleaves
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. Annaghgowan, Cuilnagleeragh

	Objective	Was it achieved?	How this information was applied to 5 year Management Plan review?
1	Economic Return	Both of the old properties were thinned twice over the first plan period. Thinning volumes removed have been below production forecasting to maintain crop stability, but crops are carrying higher standing volume. Cuilnagleeragh also utilised granting funding for high pruning work.	Clearfells have been carried out in Annaghgowan, Tap and Cuilnagleeragh over the last five years. Cuilnagleeragh in general is a weaker crop and there was a small clearfell in 2019 but a larger clearfell is currently planned for 2023. Both of these sites just made their valuation price. There was also a Clearfell at one of the new properties(Magheralackagh) which was primarily due to windblow which diminished the economic return. A few of the newer properties such as Ardline and Dromore have been thinned which will improve the economic prospects of the crop.
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	Good crops with high YC. Both properties have been thinned. Crop developing very well.	Crop stability is reviewed on an annual basis. The next clearfells are currently planned for 2022 and 2023 – there are pockets of windblow occurring in most of these crops as was the case with the clearfells in 2019. The bulk of the felling in the MU is currently planned for 2031. This will be reviewed again at the end of the next five year period to see if some of that can be spread out. Felling coupes have been planned to be as small as possible while taking practicalities and site logistics into account.
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.	Coupes are designed to limit impact on the landscape. Landscape sensitivity classified as low but moderate in Annaghgowan. All properties fall into either Moderate or high sensitivity for afforestation. Rotation lengths have been shortened and lengthened where possible to facilitate restructuring.

5	Biodiversity Enhancement	Hedgerows on both older properties have previously been opened up along with roadside edges for timber stacking. Soil types will facilitate nat. regen. of broadleaves particularly. Significant area of existing both natural and planted broadleaves in forests.	Monitor nat. regen. along shoreline, roadways and ESB. Shoreline in Annaghgowan is being kept as a buffer/retention area and has been planted with broadleaves. This area has been supplemented with broadleaf planting in 2022 to maintain a good stocking level. As properties are coming into a cycle of felling and restocking this is giving further opportunities to enhance biodiversity for the next rotation. At Magheralackagh there were significant setbacks from both ringforts at replanting stage and some minor broadleaf replanting in association with those setbacks. There are also setbacks and broadleaves now in place by the aquatic zones and relevant watercourses on the site. In Tap, broadleaf replanting has been focused along the site boundaries and by watercourses on site. A setback from a neighbouring dwelling in Tap has increased open space in the MU. 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 open-space alongside county roads and dwelling houses at restocking stage. In terms of species of note, Buzzards and Hare have been noted on sites over the past 5 years.
6	Stakeholder	Generally good stakeholder relationships in the FMU.	During plan review a more comprehensive stakeholder consultation has been conducted compared to the 1 st plan preparation process. Local community groups, and local based statutory bodies aswell as national stakeholders consulted. Miners Trail is on Foyoges site and being maintained by Leader. Agreement signed with them for its maintenance.
7	Professional Development	managed. 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 and FSC compliance. New centralised network server () has been introduced for managing FMM and IForUT database. Forest managers are MSIF
8	Forward Planning	Retain existing MU.	Continue with current standards and work practices and review on a continuous basis to implement industry best practice.