



## Irish Forestry Unit Trust

<b>Ballinamore MU</b>
By Ballinamore, Co Leitrim
<b>MANAGEMENT PLAN</b>
<b>Period 2022-2026</b>

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

Ballinamore MU comprises of 29 forest blocks. Total MU area is 465ha. MU defined by species type, management objectives and geographical location. Legal folios are held on file. Prior to forest establishment land provided marginal farm land. Neighbouring landuse post 1990 state and private forestry and impoverish grazing. A small area of NHA (oak/hazel woodland) marches 98041J. Refer to Map4.

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

1. Kilnamaddyroe 24ha. Established by [REDACTED] in 1981/83 and replanted 2014/2022.
2. Dernasmallen 21.9ha. Established by [REDACTED] in 1973 and replanted in 2011.
3. Cloverhill 22ha. Established by [REDACTED] in 1988/93/95 with 98043W sub 1 & 98042E sub 3 replanted in 2022.

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

4. Aghalough 27.4ha. Established in 1990/1991/1993. Acquired by IForUT in 2018.
5. Arderry 16.1ha. Established in 1990. This site was acquired by IForUT in 2016.
6. Corraleehan 10ha. Established in 1992 with the entire site clearfelled and replanted in 2019. Acquired by IForUT in 2018.
7. Creevy 26.2ha. Established in 1990/1992. Acquired by IForUT in 2018.
8. Curraghatawy 11.2ha. Established in 1989. Acquired by IForUT in 2016.
9. Curragnawall 9.6ha Established in 1998. Acquired by IForUT in 2018.
10. Dernahelty More 18.2ha. Established in 1999. Acquired by IForUT in 2016.
11. Derradda 11.8ha Established in 1990. This site was acquired by IForUT in 2018.
12. Dromcroman 2 16.7ha. Established in 1991/2000 with sub 4 replanted 2020. This site was acquired by IForUT in 2018.
13. Drumcoura 16.8ha. Established in 1993. Entire site felled and restocked in 2022. This site was acquired by IForUT in 2018.
14. Drumcoura 2 6.7ha. Established in 2004. This site was acquired by IForUT in 2016.
15. Drumdiffer 6.1ha. Established in 1997. Acquired by IForUT in 2016.
16. Drumgownagh 2 10ha. Established in 1992 with sub 6 mostly clearfelled. This will be replanted in 2023 when the rest of the sub is felled. This site was acquired by IForUT in 2018.
17. Drumgownagh 3 24ha. Established in 1989/2010. This site was acquired by IForUT in 2018.
18. Greaghrevagh 7.6ha. Established in 1999. This site was acquired by IForUT in 2016.

19. Gubs 22ha Established in 1997/2000. This site was acquired by IForUT in 2016.
20. Gubs 2 10ha Established in 1997. This site was acquired by IForUT in 2018.
21. Gubs 3 13.8ha. Established in 1991/2000. This site was acquired by IForUT in 2018.
22. Gubs 4 9.6ha. Established in 2022. This site was acquired by IForUT in 2018. (FSL managed)
23. Gubs 5 9.3ha. Established in 2005. This site was acquired by IForUT in 2022.
24. Halls 4 10.5ha. Established in 2022. Acquired by IForUT in 2021. (TFC managed)
25. Keelrin 15.1ha. Established in 1991. This site was acquired by IForUT in 2018.
26. Kilnamaddyroe 2 5.1ha Established in 1990. This site was acquired by IForUT in 2017.
27. Lissagarvan 53.6ha Established in 1993/1995. Sub 9 clearfelled in 2018 and replanted in 2019. This site was acquired by IForUT in 2018.
28. Lissagarvan 2 9.5ha. Established in 1999. This site was acquired by IForUT in 2016.
29. Mulnavannoge Stroke 10.8ha Entire site restocked in 2021. This site was acquired by IForUT in 2018.
30. Srandarragh 10.7ha Established in 1992. This site was acquired by IForUT in 2018.

**Elevation**

Ranges between 80m and 200m

**Statutory Land Designations**

pNHA Cromlin Bridge Wood SITECODE 001409 touches the border of Dernasmallen.

**Water/Fisheries Sensitivities:**

This MU lies within Blackwater[Newtowngore]\_SC\_010 and 020, Cullies\_SC\_010 and Yellow[Ballinamore]\_SC\_010.

**Margaritifera**

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

**Old Woodland Sites (OWS):**

There is potential OWS in Keelrin. An assessment was carried out in 2020 on the area. It was determined that overall the site was considered poor overall in terms of biodiversity but it does provide patches of diverse habitat.

**Archaeology/Historical/Cultural:**

There is numerous archaeology features present in Ballinamore MU. Refer to Map 4.

**4. SOIL TYPES.**

Soil types are mainly gley with small localised areas of unflushed peat in hollows.

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

**Low Felling Impact with Med/High Afforestation Sensitivity** - Refer to Map 3. From a felling perspective the local landscape is drumlin in nature with only localised views. 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. Although significant areas of natural woodland exist, hedgerow trees are a dominant feature along with streams, gorges and unflushed bog. Such features can be positively enhanced during the restructuring process.

The surrounding landscape to the west is heavily forested up onto Benbrack Mountain this is reflected on the FS afforestation sensitivity.

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. Restock design in Map 7 is focuses on increases open ground and broadleaf areas particularly beside the watercourse/ public roads and Future LTR of Scots pine will also play an important role particularly for 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. **Ballinamore MU**

	Objective	Was it achieved?	How this information was applied to 5 year Management Plan review?
1	Economic Return	Kilnamaddyroe thinned once 2005 and left as no thin due to sporadic windthrow. Partially clearfelled in 2013/14. Cloverhill 1 <sup>st</sup> thinned 2008 and 2 <sup>nd</sup> thinned in 2011. Dernasmallen clearfell 2010 and within valuation. Thinning volumes removed below forecast but thinned crops carried higher standing volumes. All older properties have had clearfells commence.	Kilnamaddyroe and Dernasmallen have been completely Clearfelled and restocked and the only remaining standing timber within the three older properties is at Cloverhill. In general crops came in within valuation though there have been some wind damaged crops throughout the FMU. Wind-damage inevitably reduced the economic value of these crops. Some of the newer additions such as Corraleehan, Derradda, Drumcoura, Stroke and Lissagarvan for example, have also had clearfells commence. This has generated economic return from the FMU. However, significant clearfells such as in Stroke and Lissagarvan, were primarily windblow clearfells.
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	Dernasmallen produced high standing volumes as it was only thinned twice. Sporadic windthrow brought forward felling dates in many properties and this is expected to be the same going forward.	Many of the properties(as mentioned above) have already commenced a cycle of clearfelling and restocking. In respect of thinning, in Gubs, Drumgownagh 3, Drumdiffer and Curraghawall – no thinning has taken place. Most of the other crops have been thinned once, if not twice. It is anticipated that some of the second rotation crops will be thinned towards the end of this plan period. It is likely that several of the planned 2022 clearfells will roll over into 2023. This is due to poor timber markets in 2023. There will be an unavoidable spike in timber production over the next five year period. This is due to the age profile of crops and sporadic wind-damage which is evident in crops after storm events. Felling coupes have been separated out as much as possible to allow for time delays between felling coupes and to try to ensure that there is not a glut of felling in any five year period. However, delaying felling or bringing felling forward any further would result in severe economic losses from either a too small tree size or wind-damage as a result of delaying felling beyond a critical top height.

4	Landscape	Two new landscape layers added to designations GIS layer. Forest Service layer and Landscape Unit appraisals based on Coillte LUs.	New landscape layer added to Sensitivities Map in MP. Low Felling Impact with Medium/High Afforestation Sensitivity.
5	Biodiversity Enhancement	Existing biodiversity is limited as no local designations. Typical small drains, hedgerows, unplanted rides.	The two afforestation sites (Gubs and Halls) have significant areas of broadleaf planting in them, focused around internal hedgerows, setbacks from houses and buffer ones from watercourses. In terms of already forested sites, there are some opportunities for enhancing biodiversity now that several of these are entering into a cycle of clearfelling and restocking. At Drumcoura for example there are some large areas of open spaces created by adjacent houses and these open space areas are bolstered by broadleaf planting. The stream onsite had previously been edged with broad leaves and this has had some supplemental broadleaf replanting post clearfell – enlarging this area. In Drumcroman, again setbacks were created behind homes and additional broadleaf planting has gone in along the forest road. Another example of increasing biodiversity areas is in Kilnamaddyroe, where additional open spaces and broadleaves have been put in along side the county roads and along where the property meets the stream. Open space and biodiversity is expected to 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. There is some potential old woodland in Keelrin. An ecologist has carried out a survey on this area. 3 AWVP's have been seen on the site. The survey determined that the sites wasn't of much value in terms of Old Woodland but there was a little habitat diversity associated with these areas. These areas have been marked on the biodiversity maps and will be retained. In terms of species of note, over the past 5 years there have been numerous records of Red Squirrel and Badger on several sites in this FMU and Buzzards have also been spotted in Arderry last year.
6	Stakeholder	Generally low level local stakeholder relationships.	During plan review a more comprehensive stakeholder consultation has been conducted compared to the 1 <sup>st</sup> plan preparation process. There has been an increased stakeholder interest in general in forestry in this region.

7	Professional Development	<p>██████████, ██████ and ██████ managed. Ongoing development of the IForUT FMM and database over the period.</p>	<p>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. All managers are members of SIF and attend CPD events on a regular basis</p>
8	Forward Planning	<p>Continue with current standards and work practices and review on a continuous basis to implement industry best practice.</p>	<p>Carry out reviews of Forest Management Manual and updating of best practice.</p>