



Irish Forestry Unit Trust

Drumgownagh MU
By Mohill, Co Leitrim
MANAGEMENT PLAN
2022 – 2041 (Period 2022-2026)

2. GENERAL INTRODUCTION, OWNERSHIP AND LANDUSE HISTORY.

Drumgownagh MU comprises of 5 forest blocks totalling 153.3ha. MU is defined by species type, management objectives and geographical location.

Forest properties being reviewed:

1. Drumgownagh 60.0ha. Originally established by [REDACTED] in 1985/86. 6.11 ha in 82002Q is left to be felled while all other areas of Drumgownagh have been clearfelled and replanted in 2018/2020. Restocking will take place in 82004G in 2022.
2. Greenaun 38.5ha. Established by [REDACTED] in 1986/87. Sub 5 replanted in 2020.

New property being added to the MU:

3. Corderry 21.8ha. Established in 2003/2004. This site was acquired by IForUT in 2016
4. Lisdromafarna 11.57ha. Established in 1997. This site was acquired by IForUT in 2016.
5. Gortnagullion 20.2ha. Established in 1996. This site was acquired by IForUT in 2018.

Prior to forest establishment land was enclosed marginal grazing. Neighbouring landuse private forestry and enclosed marginal grazing. Drumlin topography with small loughs or peat banks in hollows. There are no statutory land designation in Drumgownagh MU.

Elevation

Ranges between 75m and 120m

Water/Fisheries Sensitivities:

This MU lies within Eslin_SC_010, Shannon[Upper]_SC_020 and 040, Yellow[Ballinamore]_SC_010. IForUT follow the Forest and Water Quality Guidelines at all times - all ground operations will take all precautions and mitigation to avoid ground damage, siltation, or any pollution entering watercourses.

Margaritifera

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

Old Woodland Sites (OWS):

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

Archaeology/Historical/Cultural:

There is an enclosure and a ringfort in Corderry. There is a ringfort in Gortnagullion and another in ringfort is present in Drumgownagh. Refer to Map 4.

4. SOIL TYPES.

Drumlin landscape on surface water gleys. Low lying hollows run into unflushed peats and deep peat. All planting on mounded ground.

5. SUMMARY OF THE LANDSCAPE VALUE OF THE FOREST.

Low. Felling Impact and Low Afforestation Sensitivity - Refer to Map 3. Closed in drumlin landscape with only local views. Locality sparsely populated.

No significant areas of natural woodland exist within the landscape other than hedgerow trees which are a dominant feature of small field units. All existing hedgerow trees have been protected and cleared back from during thinning operations and are viewed as future seed sources.

A coupe restructuring sequence is detailed in Map 6. This is designed to diversify crop age structure and spread out timber production. Sitka spruce remains the preferred species to meet economic objectives. NS spruce has been introduced into low lying areas of that suffered frost damage during the first rotation. Restock plan (Map7) focuses MB along watercourse and public road frontage. NS restocking will initially be managed for biodiversity but longer term will produce commercial timber. The NS restocking will 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		

5 Year Monitoring Report Summary. **Drumgownagh**

	Objective	Was it achieved?	How this information was applied to 5 year Management Plan review?
1	Economic Return	Main block of Drumgownagh 2 nd thinned and high pruned 2009. Put on significant log volume. Smaller block was 2 nd thinned 2012 along with main block of Greenaun. Greenaun also pruned. The smaller block in Greenaun was thinned again in 2014. Clearfells have commenced.	Previously planned 4 thinning's in this FMU in Drumgownagh but this was left at three thinnings. This was due to concerns about resistance to windthrow. Some felling years have been brought forward. In addition, the average tree size was getting big so it was necessary to bring forward some felling to mitigate the risk of timber becoming oversized. There has been ongoing windblow in the older crops which has affected the economic return on these somewhat. The last of the standing timber in Greenaun has been planned for removal in 2022. Clearfells have also been planned in Gortnagullion. Corderry and Lisdromafarna have been thinned which will improve the economic prospects of those crops as the average tree and timber quality has been improved. It is planned at present to thin Corderry again in 2023. This crop will be monitored for stability on an ongoing basis and thinning will depend on this.
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	<p>Timber quality very good and all crops now high pruned. Final 3rd thin will significantly raise DBH and bring spread much tighter. Clearfell years have changed, some being brought forward as mentioned above</p>	<p>First clearfell was carried out in 2017 in Compartments 82003L and 82004G. Average tree size was significant. The clearfell in the smaller block in Drumgownagh was carried out in 2019 and made a good return on stumpage. Further coupes have been taken out of the two older properties and over the last plan period. Further felling is planned in Gortnagullion and Greenaun in 2022. There is a slight spike in felling in 2022 but this is unavoidable due to concerns over windthrow and crop and stability. Felling coupes have been kept as small as possible whilst taking windblow risk, site topography and logistics into account. Felling coupes have also 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. The new acquisitions have had a positive impact on timber production period as they are planted in the 90's and 00's where as the two older properties would have been planted in the 80's.</p>
4	Landscape	<p>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.</p>	<p>New landscape layer added to Sensitivities Map in MP. Landscape character classified as LOW. Closed in Drumlin landscape.</p>

5	Biodiversity Enhancement	Biodiversity enhancement to date has been thinning out around hedgerows and occasional drains. Very good nat. regen along roadlines. Some broadleaf planting has been done post clearfell.	At clearfell stage, as many broadleaf trees as possible were retained for next rotation broadleaf enhancement. Broadleaf planting was carried out along existing hedgerows withing properties eg in Drumgownaghs main block. Open spaces and broadleaves have also been incorporated around the house and monument here. In Drumgownaghs smaller block, setbacks from aquatic zones have been put in place and some significant broadleaf replanting has been done around the house and along the Eastern boundary. In Greenaun, by the county road, setbacks and broadleaf planting have been put in place. Buffers and broadleaf planting has also been carried out by the stream on this site. Open space and biodiversity will likely 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 regards to species of note, badger and red squirrel were noted to be present on Drumgownagh in 2020.
6	Stakeholder	Both forests very quiet with neighbours. No responses to forest notices.	During plan review a more comprehensive stakeholder consultation has been conducted. There is increased interest in forestry in general in this region over the last number of years.
7	Professional Development	managed. 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 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 when appropriate