



Irish Forestry Unit Trust

North Mayo MU
North Mayo, Co. Mayo
MANAGEMENT PLAN
2022 – 2041 (Period 1: 2022-2026)

2. GENERAL INTRODUCTION, OWNERSHIP AND LANDUSE HISTORY.

North Mayo MU comprises nine forest blocks totalling 166.1ha.

Properties:

1. Atticlogh 2 13.5ha. Established in 1994.
2. Atticloghy 25.4ha. Established in 1999.
3. Ballindoo 7.4ha. Established in 1991.
4. Bulcaun 7.7ha. Established in 1999.
5. Carrowntober 73.5ha. Established in 1990/1994/2002/2009.
6. Cloongawnagh 7.1ha. Established in 2003.
7. Cloonierin 9.4ha. Established in 1999.
8. Drumneen 10.3ha. Established in 1998.
9. Urlaur 11.9ha. Established in 1999.

Elevation

Ranges between 60m to 135m.

4. SOIL TYPES.

Mountain landscape on peaty gleys.

5. SUMMARY OF THE LANDSCAPE VALUE OF THE FOREST.

Low Felling Impact with Low Afforestation Sensitivity Refer to Map 3.

All forest blocks are classed as low felling impact on the IForUT system due partly to the extensive forested landscape and small size of the IForUT holdings. Whenever felling licences are submitted to the Forest Service, they will correspond with relevant local and statutory bodies to investigate any potential landscape sensitivities. The Forest Service Moderate Landscape Sensitivity class, as defined for afforestation planning covers the three upland properties which will require some sensitivity given to the restocking planning in this MU.

To address the potential landscape impact issues caused by future clearfelling, the felling plan (Map 6) has applied a significant coupe restructuring plan to reduce clearfell size and introduce coupe separation. The long-term restructuring plan (Map 7) outlines future restructuring species which is limited to Sitka spruce based on soil types and management objectives. Biodiversity enhancement in Map 7 is focused on the creation of additional open ground and expansion of broadleaf planting. Species choice is specifically matched to soil type and exposure.

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)

16. Felling.

System	Conifers	Broadleaves
Clear fell	✓	
Selective fell		
Thinning to MTI	✓	
Line thinning only		
Non thin regime	✓	
Non intervention		✓
Natural regeneration		✓
Replanting	✓	
Other		

5 Year Monitoring Report Summary. **North Mayo**

	Objective	Was it achieved?	How this information was applied to 5 year Management Plan review?
1	Economic Return	Generally decent productivity in the MU though there are some properties with very mixed productivity.	Continue with current caretaking work and monitor illegal dumping/trespass. Some economic return generated through thinning of several properties. Thinning will improve the crop quality and growth going forward which will improve economic return in the future. Each property in the MU has been thinned or there are plans to thin in the future.
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	All crops have been thinned or will be possible to thin in the near future. Some clearfells planned in the next 5 year period	Continue with current approach. Review crop stability on ongoing basis, especially in relation to thinning. There have been no significant windblow events that have created significant damage in any of the crops thus far but this will continue to be monitored. Most clearfells will occur in the latter half of the planning period due to the age profile of the crops.
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. Landscape character classified as LOW. Felling Plan (Map6) and Restructuring Plan (Map7) designed to mitigate future felling impacts. Coupes have been kept as small as possible.

5	Biodiversity Enhancement	Limited opportunities for biodiversity enhancement to date.	<p>The main opportunity to enhance biodiversity will occur post clearfell. There are some positive areas in terms of biodiversity for example there are plots of broadleaves throughout the MU. There are several significant plots of ash, however these are infected with Ash dieback which is widespread in Ireland. The current plan is to remove these and replant with alternative broadleave species. The Ash in Drumneen is planned for removal in 2022.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>There is potential OWS within Ballindoo. An Old Woodland Assessment was carried out March 1, 2020 which deemed the site to be comprised of a small area of old woodland which is now entirely planted with conifers. The surveyed area encompassed approximately 0.5 hectares and contained no indicators of ancient woodland. They concluded that overall, the site is considered poor in terms of biodiversity but it does provide patches of diverse habitat.</p> <p>Several species of note were recorded in the MU. Hare was noted in Atticlogh in 2022 and Kestrel, Pine Marten and Red Squirrel were all recorded between the years of 2020 and 2021.</p>
6	Stakeholder	Generally Quiet locality. Some ongoing issues with trespass in some properties	Comprehensive stakeholder consultation has been conducted.
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 was completed in late 2010. New centralised network ██████████ is being used to coordinate and simplify the storage and access to FMM records.
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.