



Irish Forestry Unit Trust

Drumnadobber Forest

By Drumsna, Co Leitrim

MANAGEMENT PLAN

2023 – 2042

(Period 2023-2027)

GENERAL INTRODUCTION, OWNERSHIP AND LANDUSE HISTORY.

Drumnadobber MU comprises of eight forest blocks totalling 127.15ha. Prior to forest establishment land was enclosed marginal grazing. Neighbouring landuse private forestry and enclosed marginal grazing. Drumlin topography neighbouring onto blanket peat peat bogs.

Forest properties being reviewed:

1. Drumnadobber 17.7ha. Established [REDACTED] in 1987 with restocking in 2021.

New property being added to the MU:

2. Annaduff Glebe 20.76ha. Restocked in 2022. Acquired by IForUT in 2018.

3. Annaghduff Glebe 14.63ha. Restocked in 2019 and 2022. Acquired by IForUT in 2018.
4. Bunny Beg 5.92ha. Established in 1991 and 1994. Acquired by IForUT in 2015.
5. Drumnacot 9.58ha. Restocked in 2022. Acquired by IForUT in 2018.
6. Drumnadober 2 18.27ha. Established in 1998 with most restocking done in 2021 and 2023. Acquired by IForUT in 2018.
7. Headford 25.62ha. Established in 1992 with some restocking done in 2023. Acquired by IForUT in 2018.
8. Lisnagea 14.58ha. Established in 1992 with some restocking in 2015. Acquired by IForUT in 2018.

Elevation

Ranges between 70m to 100m

Statutory Land Designations

NA

Water/Fisheries Sensitivities:

This MU lies within the Upper Shannon water catchment. Refer to Map 9.

Margaritifera

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

Old Woodland Sites (OWS):

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

Archaeology/Historical/Cultural:

There is a ringfort in Lisnagea and Headford. Refer to Map 4.

SOIL TYPES.

Drumlin landscape on peaty gleys.

SUMMARY OF THE LANDSCAPE VALUE OF THE FOREST.**Low Felling Impact with no Afforestation Sensitivity**

Closed in drumlin landscape with only local views. Locality sparsely populated. No natural features to incorporate into forest restructuring 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. Two felling coupes are identified based on forest size. 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 will be introduced into the low lying areas for species diversity. Restock plan focuses MB along public road frontage. NS restocking will initially be managed for biodiversity but longer term will produce commercial timber. NS will also provide Red squirrel habitat and habitat linkage.

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 outlines future restructuring species which is limited to Sitka spruce based on soil types and management objectives. Biodiversity enhancement is focused on the creation of additional open ground and expansion of broadleaf planting. Species choice is specifically matched to soil type and exposure.

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.

(IfForUTs FSC licence code: FSC-C003194)

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. Drumnadobber

	Objective	Was it achieved?	How this information was applied to 5 year Management Plan review?
1	Economic Return	All properties have been thinned and some areas are due for clearfell within the next 5 years.	Clearfell planned and carried out in 2018. Felling plans had to be shuffled around due to windblow coming into some of the crops. Despite a proportion of the crop being windblow – a good return was still achieved due to strong demand for timber and good timber prices in 2018.
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	2nd thin late due to locality of forest to work programme areas. 3rd and final thin was in 2014 for Drumnadobber.	Current clearfell date 2020 for the remainder of the crop again due to sweeping windblow. Due to this the MU has exceeded 255 felling in 5 years
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 and Restructuring Plan designed to mitigate future felling impacts. In as far as possible, felling coupes have been designed to be as small as possible to mitigate the impact of felling on the landscape.
5	Biodiversity Enhancement	Biodiversity enhancement to date has been thinning out around hedgerows and occasional drains. Moderate nat. regen along roadlines. Poor supply of seed trees.	Retain and enhance during clearfell as many broadleaf seed trees as possible for next rotation broadleaf enhancement. Significant shortfall in open ground to be addressed after clearfell.
6	Stakeholder	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED] Several complaints by neighbour during clearfell despite actions to resolve issues and constant communications from the Forest Manager. However, this was resolved through open space retained during replanting.
7	Professional Development	[REDACTED] managed. All managers are MSIF and members of various other forestry interest organisations.	Retendering of whole portfolio into regional management units was completed in late 2010. New centralised network [REDACTED] 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.
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