



Irish Forestry Unit Trust

Garvagh MU
By Mohill, Co. Leitrim
MANAGEMENT PLAN
2022 – 2041
(Plan Period: 2022 -2026)

2. GENERAL INTRODUCTION, OWNERSHIP AND LANDUSE HISTORY.

Garvagh Management Unit (MU) comprises 7 properties totalling 102.3ha. This MU is based on geographical location as all blocks are in the same locality between Mohill and Fenagh in south County Leitrim. The sites within the MU were previously enclosed marginal grazing. Neighbouring landuse private forestry and enclosed marginal grazing. Drumlin topography with small loughs. Present neighbouring landuse comprises enclosed marginal grazing and similar age forestry.

Forest properties being reviewed:

1. Garvagh – 22.80ha. Established circa 1985.
2. Drumnid – 30.98ha. Established circa 1989.

All forested land is owned by freehold title by the Irish Forestry Unit Trust (IForUT). Legal folios are held on file.

New properties to be added to the MU:

3. Adoon – 7.86ha. Established circa 1989.
4. Lisomadaun 2 – 10.24ha. Established circa 1995.
5. Drumbeghra – 12.85ha. Established circa 1999.
6. Lisomadaun – 11.57ha. Established circa 1990.
7. Adoon 2 – 5.96ha. Established circa 1998.

Elevation

- Garvagh – 90 metres to 70 metres.
- Drumnid – 85 metres to 65 metres.
- Adoon – 85 metres to 65 metres.
- Lisomadaun 2 – 90 metres to 65 metres.
- Drumbeghra – 90 metres to 60 metres.
- Lisomadaun – 90 metres to 65 metres.
- Adoon 2 – 85 metres to 60 metres.

Statutory Land Designations

There are no forest sites situated in a NPWS (National Parks & Wildlife Service) designated area with protected status.

Water/Fisheries Sensitivities:

The forest sites within the Garvagh MU are in the following catchments and sub catchments:

- Upper Shannon Catchment
 - Cloone [Lough Rinn]_SC_010 sub catchment
 - Eslin_SC_010 sub catchment

See Map 9 – Water Catchments within Garvagh MU.

Old Woodland Sites (OWS):

There are no OWS/potential OWS in Garvagh MU.

Archaeology/Historical/Cultural:

There are no features of archaeological, historical and cultural significance situated within the Garvagh MU but any features in adjoining properties are marked on all which is marked on all operational maps and will be protected as such. These features are recorded on the 'Sites and Monuments Record' (<https://maps.archaeology.ie/HistoricEnvironment/>). Refer to Map 4.

The Forest Service give advice on protection and outline mitigation measures when IForUT apply for a licence to carry out any harvesting operation in the vicinity of any monument. Also, as standard procedure, any old farmhouse/cottage or other buildings and stone walls/significant ditches are considered as more recent cultural heritage and are protected during harvesting and roading operations.

4. SOIL TYPES.

There are two soil types across the Garvagh MU Forest sites.

- Peat is the primary soil type within the MU with surface water gley also distributed across the forest sites.

5. SUMMARY OF THE LANDSCAPE VALUE OF THE FOREST.

Low Felling Impact with Low Afforestation Sensitivity - Refer to Map 3. Closed in drumlin landscape with only local views of forest entrances from the adjacent public roads. Locality is 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.

Whenever felling licences are submitted the Forest Service 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. 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 being 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)

14. Summary of silvicultural systems to be used.

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

20. 5 Year Monitoring Report Summary. Garvagh MU

	Objective	Was it achieved?	How was this information applied to 5-year Management Plan review?
1	Economic Return	Both Garvagh and Drumnid blocks 1st thinned in 2007 and 2nd thin planned in 2010. Thinning removal below forecast volume but crop carried higher volumes. Crops growing very well with no significant windblow. Drumnid high pruned 2008, Garvagh 2009. Thinned again in 2013/2014. Clearfells commenced in both older properties.	Clearfells occurred in both Garvagh and Drumnid properties, and some were unexpected as they were done following wind damage. Drumnid was severely damaged and the windblow diminished economic return. Some standing timber left in Garvagh which will be removed over in two blocks over the next 7 years. Drumbeghra was also felled in 2021 and timber had to be double handled which affected the economic return on that somewhat.
2	Certification Standards	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>Decent quality crops that were thinned in a timely manner.</p> <p>As per thinning, adjustment higher standing volumes are expected at clearfell. Variation in YC should be used to separate the felling coupe sequences with separation to be addressed</p>	<p>There is a 2022 felling done Garvagh and this area has yet to be replanted. in 2023 there is a Clearfell planned in Lisomadaun which has been damaged by windblow. 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 by and large 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 properties which have been added to the MU are generally a younger age class and these have extended out the felling years somewhat. There will be minimal thinning over the next five year period. Most crops have been thinned though there is a significant area in Lisomadaun which is managed as No thin as access issues have been impeded intervention. Difficult access also exists in Acoon.</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>A new landscape layer was added to Sensitivities Map in MP. Landscape character classified as LOW. Closed in Drumlin landscape across forest blocks. No significant landscape impacts are expected.</p>

5	Biodiversity Enhancement	Biodiversity enhancement to date has been thinning out around hedgerows and occasional drains. Little natural regeneration along road lines or rides or rides to date. Poor supply of seed trees and wet/water-logged compacted soils. Pine martin spotted once in forest 2005.	Have removed trees by Stakeholders house in Garvagh in last plan period. This small area is noted as UP habitat now. Some of the new properties already have an element of broadleaf planting, Lisomadaun for example. There have been increased opportunities to enhance biodiversity given that some properties have entered a sequence of felling and restocking. In Adoon, increased open space and broadleaves have been introduced along the county road. In Drumbeghra, there was already broadleaf trees around the boundary of the property which have been retained. Some additional broadleaf replanting has been incorporated in the narrow band by the stakeholders house and at the southern boundary several rows of supplemental trees have been incorporated there. In Drumnid, open spaces and broadleaves have been introduced at the edges of the property where there is a boundary with public roads. In terms of species of note, over the previous plan period, red squirrel was noted in Lisomadaun in 2020. In general, open space and biodiversity will increase even further 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.
6	Stakeholder	Generally good stakeholder relationships. Quiet with neighbours.	Continue to log any stakeholder issues. County council main stakeholder with roading. Have removed trees by Stakeholders house in Garvagh in last plan period. In this region, there is increasing stakeholder interest in forestry in general.

7	Professional Development	<p> 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.</p>	<p>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.</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 introduce manager training and updating of best practice.</p>