



## Irish Forestry Unit Trust

<b>Lavour MU</b>
By Drumshanbo, Co Leitrim
<b>MANAGEMENT PLAN</b>
<b>2022 – 2041</b> <b>(Period 2022-2026)</b>

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

Lavour MU contains nine forest properties totalling 229.2ha. It is defined by species type, management objectives and geographical location.

Legal folios are held on file. Prior to forest establishment the land was enclosed and unenclosed marginal grazing. Neighbouring landuse is a mix of enclosed/ unenclosed marginal grazing and mature forestry.

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

1. Lavour 96.2ha. Originally established by [REDACTED] in 1985/86. 98038D sub 5 was replanted in 2020. Birch inside this need to be replaced as they have been damaged by browsing. 98038D4 is unplanted and lies within the Cuilagh – Anierin Uplands NHA. This area is unenclosed and would be grazed as part of the open hill commonage.

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

2. Larga 8.2ha. Established in 2015. This site was acquired by IForUT in 2018.
3. Murhaun 10.9ha. Established in 1990 with sub 1 restocked in 2018. This site was acquired by IForUT in 2016.
4. Sheskinacurry 19.4ha. Established in 1993. This site was acquired by IForUT in 2018.
5. Corloughlin 36.7ha. Established in 1993. 98357V was established in 1995/1998 acquired by IForUT in 2017 while 98399S was established in 1999 and acquired in 2018.
6. Largan 15ha. Established in 1993. This site was acquired by IForUT in 2018.
7. Mullaghgarve 13.6ha Established in 1998. This site was acquired by IForUT in 2016.
8. Mullaghgarve 2 17.3ha. Established in 2000. This site was acquired by IForUT in 2018.
9. Prabagh 11.8ha Established in 1989. This site was acquired by IForUT in 2018.

### **Elevation**

Ranges between 80m and 374m

### **Statutory Land Designations**

Cuilcagh - Anierin Uplands SAC SITECODE 000584

### **Water/Fisheries Sensitivities:**

This MU lies within Eslin\_SC\_010, Shannon[Upper]\_SC\_020 and 040, Yellow[Ballinamore]\_SC\_010.

**Margaritifera**

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

**Old Woodland Sites (OWS):**

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

**Archaeology/Historical/Cultural:**

There are no archaeological features in the Lavour MU.

**4. SOIL TYPES.**

Mountainous landscape consisting of sloping peaty gleys and localised unflushed hollows of deep peat. Ground preparation has been a mix mounding and ploughing. Drainage generally poor.

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

**Low Felling Impact with Moderate/ High Afforestation Sensitivity** – For all properties. From a felling perspective the forests only have distant views within the landscape, either from Drumshanbo village or from across Lough Allen. Heavily forested locality.

The area is sparsely populated by small holdings and hill farms. The surrounding landscape is historically impoverished and consists of small field units. On the lower slopes, with long narrow field units bounding onto the hill. No significant areas of natural woodland exist within the landscape other than hedgerow trees on the lower slopes. The opportunity to incorporate natural features into the forest the restructuring plan are therefore limited.

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 types. Restock design in Map 7 focuses on increased open ground and broadleaf areas particularly beside watercourses and all dominate forest edges. Significant SP will develop in future LTRs and provide much needed 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. **Lavour MU**

	Objective	Was it achieved?	How this information was applied to 5 year Management Plan review?
1	Economic Return	The Lavour crop has grown well. 1 <sup>st</sup> thinning missed due to access restrictions. A no-thin regime was followed. The new additions to the MU are a mix of thinned and unthinned crops though most are possible to thin and either have been done or plans are in place to do.	The clearfell in 2018 was the first time Lavour forest had produced an economic return. This clearfell generated a generous return on investment due to the strong demand for timber in that year. Some of the new properties have already had Clearfelling carried out, namely Sheskinacurry and Murhaun. Most of this felling was due to Windblow coming into the crops. Several properties such as Mullaghgarve and Corloughlin have been thinned, albeit lightly, which will improve crop quality and therefore hopefully will improve the future economic prospects.
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	Lavour was managed as no-thin due to tree size, spacing and elevation and having missed 1 <sup>st</sup> thinning due to access. The new properties are generally slightly younger which will be positive in terms of timber production as there will be a staggered release of timber from Clearfells and thinning	First Clearfell in Lavour came out in 2018 and provided a good return. There were further Clearfells in several properties. Murhaun had two clearfells in 2018 (mainly for windblow), and in 2022. Sheskinacurry was felled in 2022 and to facilitate the requests of a neighbour, an area was felled around the adjacent dwelling. Mullaghgarve and Corloughlin were both 1 <sup>st</sup> thinned in 2020 but were both given light thinnings. Prabagh and Largan are unthinned properties. There are discussions with the council in Largan in relation to haulage to facilitate clearfell volumes.
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. This FMU is classified as Low sensitivity based on IForUT LU's and a mix of moderate and high based on Forest service classification. Coupes have been carefully thought out to minimise impact on the landscape whilst bearing in mind stability and operational constraints.

5	Biodiversity Enhancement	Biodiversity in FMU is very limited. No scope to enhance existing biodiversity until felling. Planted broadleaves would be expected to do poorly and will require careful site selection based on soil type.	For future restructuring become better accustomed to the biodiversity of the watercourses dissecting the forest and positively incorporated into restructuring plan. The main opportunity to enhance biodiversity will occur following clear felling through restocking and introduction of broadleaves and setbacks. This has occurred in Lavaur property where increased amounts of open space have been introduced along watercourses and where an internal rideline has been created. Broadleaves have been introduced here also, however these have been heavily browsed by deer in places and this will require monitoring going forward. Areas where the heaviest browsing has taken place has been mapped as UP for the moment. These areas will be filled in and it is the intention that these will be broadleaved areas in the future. Open space and biodiversity will 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.
6	Stakeholder	Work ongoing with ROW and land transfers. Generally good relationships with neighbours and no major issues occurred over plan period. Biggest issue will be timber haulage.	During plan review a more comprehensive stakeholder consultation has been conducted compared to the 1 <sup>st</sup> plan preparation process. Some felling work done around Neighbours house in Sheskinacurry. IForUT have contributed to a CIS in Mullaghgarve as a way to contribute to the road. There are discussions ongoing with the Council in relation to timber haulage on several properties.
7	Professional Development	██████ managed. Ongoing development of the IForUT FMM and database over the period.	Retendering of whole portfolio into regional management units in 2010 to simplify overall forest level management and FSC compliance. New centralised network ████████ is being used for managing FMM and IForUT database. Managers are members of MSIF
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 best practice.