



West Fermanagh Plan 2016



For the management of DAERA forests in:

West Fermanagh Landscape Unit (including Ballintempo, Belmore, Big Dog, Carrigan, Conagher, Florencecourt, Garrison, Lough Navar and Marlbank areas)

Lough Erne Landscape Unit (Including Castle Archdale, Castlecaldwell, Derrylin & Naan Island, Ely Lodge, Necarne, Riversdale, Sillees and Tullychurry forest areas)

Date of review – November 2016



An Agency within the Department of
**Agriculture, Environment
and Rural Affairs**

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The mark of
responsible forestry.



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Glossary of Terms

1: INTRODUCTION

1.1: The Policy context for Forestry in Northern Ireland

From a base of only 1.4% of land area at the end of the First World War, forest and woodlands have expanded to cover 8% of the land area of Northern Ireland. This is still less than the 10% cover in the Republic of Ireland, 12% cover in Great Britain and 33% cover in Europe.

Historically, the restoration of forestry was first driven by a need to develop a strategic reserve of timber for use in a time of national emergency. Later the drive was the need to promote economic development through the supply of raw material to sawmills and other industrial applications. During the 1950's, 60's and 70's, these policies resulted in the planting of conifers within large areas of uplands considered too poor for agriculture.

By the 1980's, an improved awareness and understanding of the environmental impacts of planting and felling large upland areas led to Forest Service publishing our own environmental guidelines. During this same period, global research had heightened international concerns regarding the destruction of irreplaceable natural resources and pollution of the planet. This growing international awareness resulted in the Earth Summit in 1992 where the international community adopted Agenda 21, an unprecedented global plan of action for sustainable development.

Today, the policy approach Forest Service takes in managing our forests is based on our publication "*NI Forestry – A Strategy for Sustainability and Growth*", published in March 2006. This takes forward the sustainable management of existing woods and forests, coupled with a steady expansion of forest cover to increase the many diverse benefits that forests provide. It includes a specific aim to maintain access arrangements and to realise the outdoor recreation potential of public forests.

Of the 106,500 hectares of forests in Northern Ireland today, slightly less than 60% are publicly owned and managed by the Forest Service, an executive Agency of the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development. It is forest policy to increase the area of forest in Northern Ireland by offering incentives to private landowners to plant their land.

This plan contributes to the Forest Service key targets that are included in the DAERA Business plan and is reported to DAERA for onward reporting to the Departmental Board, Minister and Departmental Assembly Committee.

We are proud to state that since May 2000 all our public forests have been externally certified as being sustainably managed.

During the period of the preparation of this plan the Department name was changed from Department of Rural Development (DARD) to The Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (DAERA).

1.2 Sustainable Forest Management

As part of the implementation of Agenda 21, in 1998 European Ministers jointly adopted a common framework of recommendations to promote sustainable forest management at field level in European forests. Under this framework, the UK Government requirements are expressed in the UK Forestry Standard (UKFS). The UKFS, supported by its series of Guidelines, outlines the context for forestry in the UK, sets out the approach of the UK governments to sustainable forest management, defines standards and requirements, and provides a basis for regulation and monitoring.

Practising sustainable forestry means managing our forests in a way that meets our needs at present but that does not compromise the ability of future generations to meet their needs. They will rightly expect that their forests and woodlands offer at least the same benefits and opportunities as we enjoy today.

At the heart of the UKFS approach is the importance of balancing the environmental, economic and social benefits of forests and the recognition that our forests serve a wide range of objectives.

While the statutory requirements for the sustainable management of our forests are set out in the UKFS, Forest Service is committed to maintaining compliance under the UK Woodland Assurance Standard (UKWAS). This is the Programme for the Endorsement of Forest Certification (PEFC) and Forest Stewardship Council® (FSC®) endorsed forest management standard for the UK and places an obligation on us to manage our lands in a sustainable way.

The advantage to Forest Service from holding the FSC and PEFC certificates is that it enables us to certify the timber we produce as coming from responsibly managed forests. Our certified status retention of internationally recognised certification schemes remains vital to our timber buyers, who are competing to sell their products within an international market.

As the endorsed FSC-UK and PEFC-UK forest management standard, it is currently the UKWAS which guides our forest management decisions, and against which an annual surveillance takes place by external independent auditors to ensure our compliance.

The meeting of the UKWAS standard requirements are demonstrated in our Forest Management Plans.

1.3 Forest Management Plans

Forest Management Plans set out the management objectives for the forests and woodlands we look after. They aim to fulfil a number of requirements:

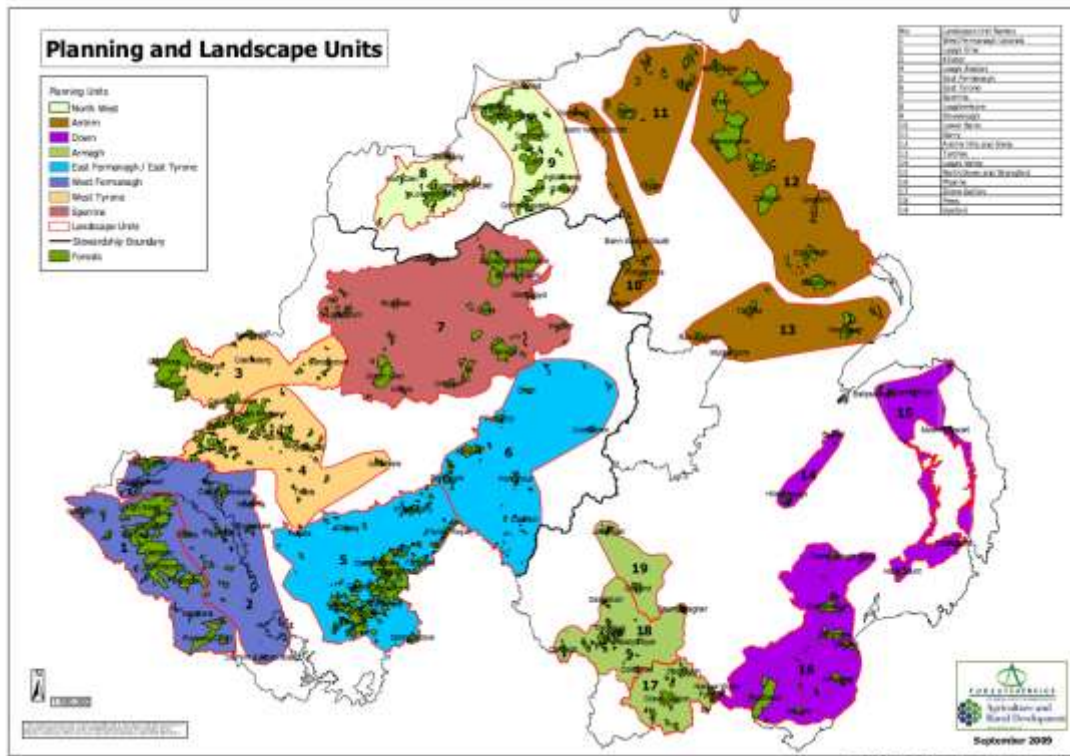
- They provide descriptions of our forests to show what they are like now
- They enable us to allocate management objectives for each part of the forest thus ensuring strategic goals are met
- They show our management intentions, in some detail for the first five years and in outline for the longer term
- They provide a means of assessing if our objectives are being met
- They show what we would like the forests to look like in many years time

Forest management plans are reviewed periodically (currently every 5 years) to ensure they continue to meet Forest Service objectives.

The review of these plans provides an opportunity for those outside Forest Service to get involved in the reassessment of the plan, whether as a user, a neighbour or a member of one of the many statutory agencies that has an interest in the woodlands.

Our aim is to produce forest management plans that sustainably meet society's needs for a particular forest area and meets the needs of the plants and animals that live there. Sometimes there are compromises to be made but we hope that these are explained within the plan or have been explained during the planning review consultation process.

The map below illustrates how the public forests in Northern Ireland are divided into eight forest planning units and their associated landscapes. Each of these forest planning units has a Forest Plan.



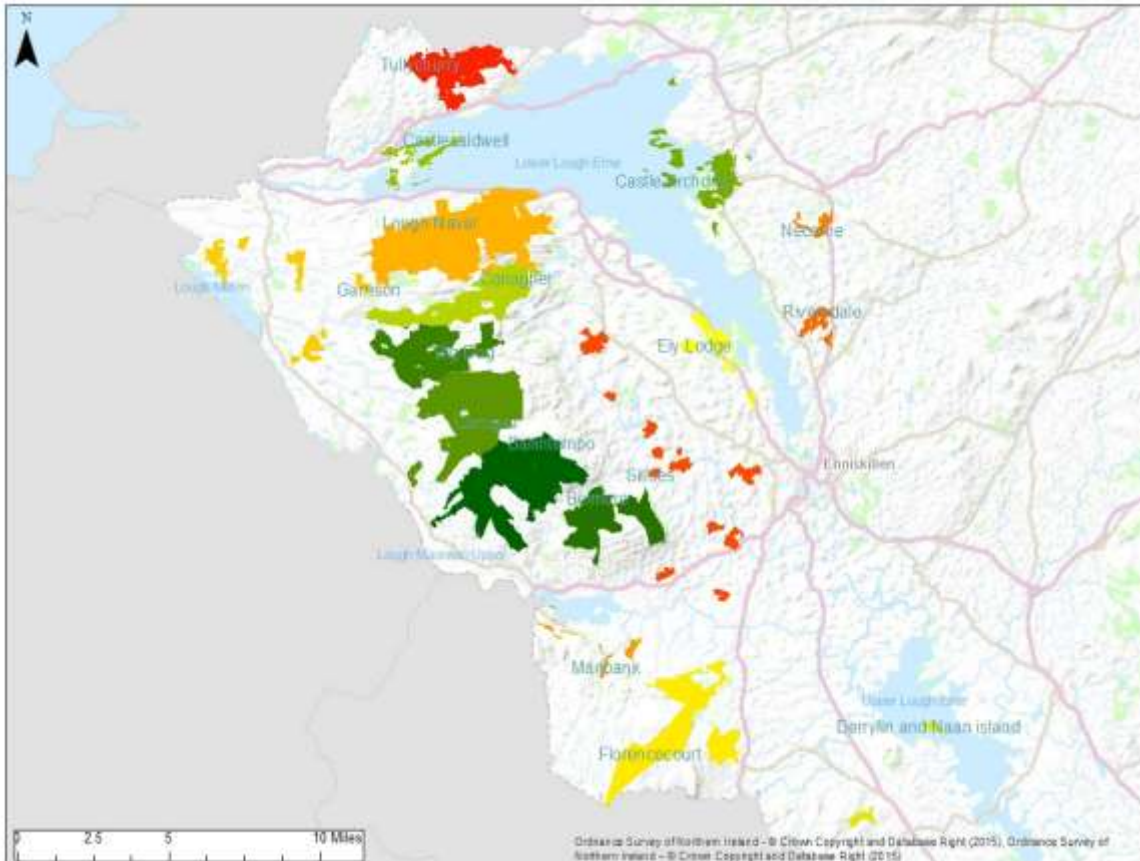
Forest Plans do not set out the detailed yearly management operations for each small piece of a forest, known as a compartment. These detailed site plans are prepared for each operation and their timing and scale is taken from the Plan. It is not always possible to say which year every operation will take place, but we can say in which five-year period it will happen. Further details on timing can be obtained from the local Forest Service office.

The following pages consider the main issues arising from the review of the Forest Plan for forests within the **West Fermanagh Uplands and Lough Erne Planning Units**.

2: PLANNING UNIT: West Fermanagh

2.1 General Description of Area

This Planning Unit encompasses 13,953 hectares of forest and unplanted lands in County Fermanagh. These include the West Fermanagh Uplands and Lough Erne Landscape Units. Allocating forests that have similar management characteristics to a Landscape Unit within a geographical area enables us to assess and monitor performance at a relatively local level.



Within each Landscape Unit there are a number of Forests. These Forest names are those traditionally used and would have been historically managed by individual forest teams. Block names identify fragmented plantations within Forests. West Fermanagh planning unit also contains 1,136 hectares of private woodland with 639 hectares falling within the Lough Erne landscape unit and 497 hectares within the West Fermanagh Uplands.

Landscape unit	Forest Name	Area	Assoc. Blocks
West Fermanagh Uplands	Ballintempo	1,946	
	Belmore	865	
	Big Dog	1,102	
	Carrigan	1,763	Tullyrossmearan
	Conagher	1,064	
	Florencecourt	1,346	Doohatty Glebe
	Garrison	427	Gorteen, Meenacloybane, Corgary, Derrynameeo, Drumnasareen, Muckenagh
	Lough Navar	2,627	
	Marlbank	98	Corrypoint wood, Marlbank wood, Rossaa, Killesher, Cladagh Glen, Calkill
	TOTAL	11,238	

Landscape unit	Forest Name	Area	Associated block names
Lough Erne	Castle Archdale	517	Gay Island, Inishmakill Island, Cleenishgarve Island, Crevinishaughy Island, Davys Island, Glenross, Gubaroo point, Muckcross point
	Castlecaldwell	206	
	Derrylin & Naan Island	104	
	Ely Lodge	251	Cullen, Ballynakill, Drumberny, Roosky
	Necarne	89	Cassidy's wood, Drumsara wood, Cloughs wood
	Riversdale	143	Tullyavy
	Sillees	572	Drumhirk, Kilnamadoo, Kilmore, Portmush, Lenaghan, Coolyermer, Glencunny, Corryglass, Drumharriff, Muckinagh, Ross, Tullycarbry
	Tullychurry	833	
	TOTAL	2,716	

The two forest landscape units reviewed in this plan are different in character in terms of landscape, habitats, and the type of trees that predominate. This strongly influences how we intend to manage them over the long term.

Many of the West Fermanagh blocks were developed primarily as coniferous forests in the 50's and 60's and are associated with upland peat soils with high rainfall and good commercial growth rates. Some areas may require additional nutrient inputs during the growing rotation. The upland forest areas can only accommodate a limited range of tree species, with the conifers, Sitka spruce and Lodgepole pine being predominant. There is opportunity to develop native woodlands and biodiversity in

riparian areas and on lower ground, particularly in forests such as Florencecourt, Sillees and Garrison.

The Lough Erne forests are generally more diverse in nature with their fertile soils and more sheltered conditions with some having a history of plantation going back to the 1600's. . There is much more opportunity in these lower altitude forests to develop native woodlands and to consider lower impact management systems.

2.2 Key Objectives for West Fermanagh and Lough Erne forests

In reviewing the Forest Plan we considered what contribution these forests make and should continue to make in promoting Forest Service business objectives. In no particular order of rank, these are as follows:

1. To ensure the sustainability of forests as an invaluable heritage, expansion of tree cover, management of forests in a way that increases biodiversity, enhances the landscape and assists in improving water quality.
2. To demonstrate sustainable use of the woodlands and manage them in accordance with the UK Forest Standard (UKFS) and maintain compliance under the UK Woodland Assurance Standard (UKWAS)
3. To support and enhance biological diversity within the woodlands and protect / enhance special sites for conservation within the forests
4. To help identify opportunities to develop partnerships with operational providers to improve the quality and range of services and visitor experiences, consistent with our Recreation and Social Use Strategy and our aim to improve forestry performance in the marketplace
5. To develop forests, where appropriate for generation of renewable energy.

Before finalising our considerations we consulted with a wide range of stakeholders and members of the public. This process consisted of providing information and facilitating feedback via: individual meetings with stakeholders focused on single issues or locations; a group meeting with previously identified stakeholders interested in all aspects of forest management and, two public consultations where we invited members of the public to find out more and discuss their views with us.

A summary of these views and our response to them is given in the following section.

2.3 Summary of Issues arising from Consultation Process.

Introduction; During the period February 2016 and March 2016 stakeholders were consulted through focused group meetings, public meetings in Derrygonnelly, Florencecourt and Enniskillen and the presentation of planning proposals on the DARD website.

Stakeholders generally felt that the information presented on-line formed a sound basis for consultation and gave a good insight in to the planning issues that affect the forests in the West Fermanagh forest charge. The main points raised during this process are summarised below.

Overall there was a generally favourable response to Forest Service and to the way they were managing their forest in West Fermanagh charge.

Attendee	Issue, Action and Consideration
Local Representative from Boho Community Association	Interest in how the surrounding Forests including Belmore and Ballintempo can be used by members of the public. Informed regarding pedestrian right of access and walking trails managed by local Council. Copy of plan sent out.
Local Business Owner, Derrygonnelly	Would wish to see more recreational activities in Tullycarbary Forest. Forest Service (FS) advised that the council manage recreational facilities in the majority of forests in West Fermanagh. They would be best placed to provide such a facility. Enquired if scrub could be cut along roadside at Lough Navar (Magho, shore road) to enhance the visual aspect to passing traffic. FS to check if this area is ancient woodland and to investigate if this is possible.
Local Representative from Derrygonnelly Partnership	Suggested that Cable Cars in Lough Navar would open the area to tourists. FS advised of the approach followed by FS which would require the development of partnership arrangements to allow this to happen. Expressed concerns about Anti social behaviour in Lough Navar. FS advised they are in regular contact with PSNI & the Council on this issue. Expressed an interest to bring the 'Wild Atlantic Way' to the Fermanagh area to bring people North and to build on local tourism.
Resident in Forestry House in Lough Navar	Interested in the walking, cycling and running trails around Lough Navar and Big Dog. Expressed concern that the Waterfall in Lough Navar (Blackslee) is not well sign posted – visitors cannot

<p>Resident of Letter, Tullychurry</p>	<p>find the location. FS to speak to the council regarding improved signage. Impressed with Sculptures in Lough Navar Forest, queried if there is further scope for such activities. FS to speak to the council regarding this.</p> <p>Expressed a concern with the trees surrounding his property affecting his wind turbine and solar panels. Area is due to be felled in 2026, asked if there was any possibility that this could be brought forward. FS advised to send query into office in writing and this would be investigated.</p>
<p>Resident near Ballintempo Forest</p>	<p>Expressed a concern over fracking in the area in the current plan. FS advised that they do not make any decisions regarding this issue.</p>
<p>Resident at Ely Lodge Forest</p>	<p>Interested in the felling dates in Ely Lodge Forest. FS provided a map of the area and resident was content there would be no invasion to his property.</p>
<p>Resident near Florencecourt Forest</p>	<p>Expressed concerns about the trees felled on the Marlbank Rd. at the boundary of the Florencecourt. FS stated that these trees were cleared to a safe distance as there would have been a risk of trees blowing down. Asked if the area will be replanted. FS confirmed that conifer would be replanted but that hedgerow would be regenerated e.g. like Ely Lodge. Concerned about EU grants for private planting – that this planting will not be taken care of.</p>
<p>Resident near Florencecourt Forest</p>	<p>Expressed concern for imminent changes in Florencecourt Forest and was interested in the long term plans for the Forest. FS displayed a map outlining the long term felling and redesign plans for the Forest.</p>
<p>Resident near Florencecourt Forest</p>	<p>Expressed an interest in planting of 3 acres of unused land and queried if there were any grants available. FS advised that he should call the Grants section for further information and provided contact details.</p>
<p>National Trust Employee in Florencecourt Estate</p>	<p>Enquired about ash dieback in the Florencecourt area. FS confirmed that there was no confirmed cases in Florencecourt forest.</p>

3. KEY OUTCOMES OF REVIEW OF WEST FERMANAGH AND LOUGH ERNE FORESTS

3.1 Overview

These forests continue to make significant contributions to the well being of our citizens and economy. They also contain a wide variety of priority species & habitats and cultural heritage features. They are being sustainably managed.

In addition to issues raised by those outside Forest Service, in reviewing the management of these forests, we identified a number of key areas that required amendment to the existing Forest Plan. The following pages provide a summary of this information, most of which is provided by Landscape Unit. This is the forest level that many UKWAS compliances are measured against.

This summary uses some 'forestry' words and phrases in the text because they best describe what we are doing. There is a glossary at the back that will help you to understand these.

3.2 Outcomes for Environment and Timber Objectives 2016-2020 – West Fermanagh Uplands Landscape Unit

Land Use:

There are no significant changes in land use

Low Impact Silvicultural Systems

During the planning period to promote the development of LISS as a major management technique in the more stable forests such as Florencecourt and Marlbank. Many mature conifer coupes in these forests are not currently suitable for full transition at this time and LISS will be favoured in the next rotation.

Clearfelling:

During the five year period 2016 to 2020 Forest Service plan to fell 1,073 hectares of forest with an expected output of 439,930 tonnes of commercial timber at an average output of 87,986 tonnes per year.

Over the period 2016-2020 felling will be programmed to deliver strategic timber needs, to react to instability issues and to deliver wider plans such as the development of renewable energy. An indicative programme has been prepared and is listed below.

Fell Year (Ha's)						
Forest	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Grand Total
Ballintempo	45.56	30.16	58.4	42.88	60.17	237.17
Belmore	12.31	31.01	3.21	33.44		79.97
Big Dog	27.71	15.12		21.33	14.9	79.06
Carrigan	43.6	40.67	23.99	57.01	26.23	191.5
Conagher	9.38		15.07	17.15	31.28	72.88
Florencecourt	15.04	1.02	14.27	9.06	1.29	40.68
Garrison			2.84	9.76		12.6
Lough Navar	63.39	61.15	145.29	5.45	72.15	347.43
Marlbank				12.2		12.2
Grand Total	216.99	179.13	263.07	208.28	206.02	1073.49

Thinning:

We intend to increase the level of thinning in line with our objective to move towards low impact silvicultural systems where it is practical to do so and also to retain mature crops of Norway spruce and Scots Pine in areas with identified populations of Red Squirrels.

During the five year period 2016 to 2020 170 hectares have been identified as suitable for thinning and this is expected to yield outputs of 8,430 tonnes of timber. The table below shows locations and potential outputs for thinning for the seven year period 2016-2022.

FOREST	THINNING (TONNES)
Ballintempo	700
Belmore	1,000
Big Dog	
Carrigan	
Conagher	
Florencecourt	5,830
Garrison	450
Lough Navar	450
Marlbank	

Regeneration

To re-generate conifer species on clearfell sites by planting as per redesign map.
To re-generate broadleaf species by natural regeneration with supplementary enrichment planting as required.

Environmental outcomes for West Fermanagh Uplands

<p>Current designations</p>	
<p>ASSI/SAC</p>	<p>There are four Special Areas of Conservation designated within this Landscape unit: West Fermanagh Scarplands (483.1Ha), Largalinny (186.8Ha), Cuilcagh Mountain (686.2Ha) and Lough Melvin (1.7Ha) a total of 1357.8Ha.</p>
<p>ASSI's</p>	<p>There are several ASSI's within or immediately adjacent to forests in West Fermanagh: Ballintempo – Lough Alaban, West Fermanagh Scarplands (WFS) (8.8Ha), Belmore-Boho (5.2Ha), Big Dog – Big Dog Scarps & Lakes, WFS (233.7Ha), Carrigan – Big Dog Scarps & Lakes, Lough Formal, WFS (56.5Ha), Conagher – Big Dog Scarps & Lakes, Conagher, Largalinny, Lough Naman Bog & lakes, Mullynaskeagh (61.3Ha), Florencecourt – Cuilcagh mountain Florencecourt (53.7Ha), Garrison – Ground Bridge, Lough Melvin (0.3Ha), Lough Navar – Braade, Blackslee, Cliffs of Magho, Glennasahver, Lough Navar Scarps & Lakes (638.8Ha), Marlbank – Marlbank (30.8Ha)</p>
<p>Built Heritage</p>	<p>There are 62 Built Heritage monuments listed for the forests in this area.</p>
<p>NNR's</p>	<p>There are three designated National Nature Reserves located at Correll Glen, Marble Arch and Rossa Wood. We will continue to seek advice from NIEA when we are carrying out operations adjacent to these reserves.</p>
<p>HAPS/BAPS</p>	<p>Strong population of Red Squirrels present throughout Landscape Unit. We will continue to involve and work with Fermanagh Red Squirrel Group who have a licence to carry out monitoring and culling in local forests.</p>
<p>AONB</p>	<p>No AONB</p>
<p>Historic Parks & Gardens</p>	<p>Florencecourt is listed in the Register of Parks, Gardens and Demesnes</p>
<p>Open Habitat Restoration</p>	<p>An area within Conagher forest is listed to become an OHR.</p>

PAWS and AWIW	There are 200.95Ha of Ancient Woodland sites in West Fermanagh Uplands in Conagher 14.21Ha, Florencecourt 121.75 Ha, Lough Navar 47.78Ha and Marlbank 17.21Ha. These were all surveyed in 2015 and no critical threats identified. Other threats were identified and control measures have been programmed.
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Environmental summary: West Fermanagh

Site Designation	Forest	Area		% Area of LU %Planted area	Relevant details
ASSI/SAC ASSI	Ballintempo	119.2		12.08% 16.89% 9.69% 13.55%	
	Big Dog	7.8			
	Carrigan	356.1			
	Conagher	186.8			
	Florencecourt	686.2			
	Garrison	<u>1.7</u>			
		<u>1357.8</u>			
	Belmore	5.2			
	Big Dog	233.7			
	Carrigan	56.7			
	Conagher	61.3			
	Florencecourt	53.7			
	Garrison	0.3			
	Lough Navar	638.8			
Marlbank	<u>30.8</u>				
	1089.3				
Natural Reserves	Ballintempo	16.1		0.88% 1.22%	
	Belmore	11.0			
	Big Dog	17.6			
	Conagher	1.9			
	Florencecourt	13.8			
	Garrison	5.0			
	Lough Navar	14.7			
	Marlbank	<u>3.1</u>			
	83.2				
Extended Rotation	Ballintempo	38.4		1.13% 1.58%	
	Belmore	12.0			
	Big Dog	7.6			
	Carrigan	16.2			
	Conagher	10.9			
	Florencecourt	6.1			
	Garrison	4.2			
	Lough Navar	30.2			
Marlbank	<u>1.3</u>				
	126.9				
Deadwood	See table below				
TOTALS	11,238	2657.2		23.64%	

WEST FERMANAGH LU DEADWOOD ESTIMATE
FOR FOREST AREAS

Crop description	Area (Ha's)	Deadwood estimate (M3)	Total
		per Ha	
Natural reserves	83	50-100	7,350
All crops: new-plant	0	0.00	0
All crops: restock 0-10 years old	1,181	30-50	47,240
All crops: 11-30	1,716	20-40	51,480
Conifer: unthinned 31-50	2,674	30-80	147,070
Conifer: Thinned 31-50	256	5-15	2,560
Conifer: Unthinned 50+	1,318	40-100	92,260
Conifer: Thinned 50+	424	5-15	4,240
BI & Con/BI: 31-60	160	25-65	7,200
BI & Con/BI: 61+	316	30-70	15,800
TOTAL	8,143		375,200
Average per Hectare			46.1

3.3 Outcomes for Environment and Timber Objectives 2016-2020 – Lough Erne Landscape Unit

Land Use:

There are no significant changes in land use

Low Impact Silvicultural Systems

During the planning period we intend to favour the development of LISS as a major management technique in the more stable forest of Castle Archdale, Castle Caldwell, Ely Lodge and Riversdale and will explore the possibility of extending the technique to areas within other forests where soil conditions allow.

Clearfelling:

During the five year period 2016 to 2020 Forest Service plan to fell 100 hectares of forest with an expected output of 43,000 tonnes of commercial timber. This equates to an average of 8,600 tonnes per year.

Over the period 2016-2020 felling will be programmed to deliver strategic timber needs, to react to instability issues and to deliver wider plans such as the development of renewable energy. An indicative programme has prepared and is listed below.

Fell Year (Ha's)						
Forest	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Grand Total
Castle Archdale		2.66			1.57	4.23
Castle Caldwell	9.03			4.2		13.23
Derrylin & Naan		11.76				11.76
Ely Lodge	5.7		2.4			8.1
Riversdale	2.94					2.94
Sillees	20.83			6.04	0.12	26.99
Tullychurry		32.66				32.66
Grand Total	38.5	47.08	2.4	10.24	1.69	99.91

Thinning:

We intend to increase the level of thinning in line with our objective to move towards low impact silvicultural systems where it is practical to do so and also to retain mature crops of Norway spruce in areas with identified populations of Red Squirrels. During the five year period 2016 to 2020 260 hectares have been identified as suitable for thinning and this is expected to yield outputs of 18,080 tonnes of timber.

The table below shows locations and potential outputs for thinning for the five year period 2016-2020

FOREST	THINNING (TONNES)
Castle Archdale	3,040
Castle Caldwell	1,890
Derrylin & Naan	450
Ely Lodge	4,850
Necarne	2,600
Riversdale	2,350
Sillees	1,400
Tullychurry	1,500

Regeneration

To re-generate conifer species on clearfell sites by planting as per redesign map.
To re-generate broadleaf species by natural regeneration with supplementary enrichment planting as required.

Environmental outcomes for Lough Erne

Current designations	
SAC/SPA/ASSI	There are two Special Areas of Conservation within this landscape unit: Pettigo plateau (298.5Ha) and Upper Lough Erne (10.4Ha) a total of 308.9Ha..
Built Heritage	There are 32 Built Heritage monuments listed for the forests in this area.
NNR's	There are two designated National Nature Reserves located at Castle Archdale and Castlecaldwell. We will continue to seek advice from NIEA when we are carrying out operations adjacent to these reserves.
HAPS/BAPS	Low levels of grey squirrels – reds present in most forests. We will continue to work with Fermanagh Red Squirrel group who have a licence to carry out monitoring and culling in local forests.
AONB	No AONB
Historic Parks & Gardens	Castle Archdale, Castlecaldwell, Necarne and Ely Lodge are listed in the Register of Parks gardens and Domains.
Open Habitat Restoration	An area within Tullychurry forest is listed to become an OHR, felling is due to commence within the period.
PAWS and AWIW	There are 149.87Ha of Ancient Woodland Sites in Lough Erne LU in Castle Archdale 19.75Ha, Castlecaldwell 56.91 Ha and Ely Lodge 73.21Ha. These were all surveyed in 2015 and no critical threats identified. Other threats were identified and control measures have been programmed.

Environmental summary: LOUGH ERNE

Site Designation	Forest	Area		% Area of LU %Planted area	Relevant details
DESIGNATIONS					
ASSI/SPA/SAC	Derrylin & Naan Island Tullychurry	10.4 <u>298.5</u> 308.9		11.4% 14.3%	
Natural Reserve	Castlecaldwell Ely Lodge Necarne Riversdale Sillees Tullychurry	2.7 1.2 1 3.8 8.9 <u>5</u> 22.6		1.9% 2.3%	
Extended Rotation	Castle Archdale Castlecaldwell Derrylin & NI Necarne Riversdale Sillees Ely Lodge	16.1 1.6 3.2 4.4 6.9 9.7 <u>4</u> 46.3	}	1.7% 2.2%	
OG Semi Natural Habitat	Lough Erne LU	538		19.8% 25%	
Deadwood	See table below				
TOTALS		2715	915.8	33.7%	

LOUGH ERNE LU DEADWOOD ESTIMATE FOR FOREST AREAS

Crop description	Area (Ha's)	Deadwood estimate (M3)	Total
		per Ha	
Natural reserves	23	50-100	1,725
All crops: new-plant	0	0.00	0
All crops: restock 0-10 years old	212	30-50	8,480
All crops: 11-30	722	20-40	21,660
Conifer: Unthinned 31-50	309	30-80	16,830
Conifer: Thinned 31-50	141	5-15	1,410
Conifer: Unthinned 50+	175	40-100	12,250
Conifer: Thinned 50+	520	5-15	5,200
BI & Con/BI: 31-60	108	25-65	4,860
BI & Con/BI: 61+	442	30-70	22,100
TOTAL	2,668		94,515
Average per Hectare			35.4

3.4 Outcomes for Recreation & Social Objectives –West Fermanagh Upland and Lough Erne Landscape Units

Management Intentions

<p>Recreation services and facilities</p>	<p>To manage existing recreation services in an affordable way, meeting the expenditure and income requirements of FS 'Memorandum Trading Account' and To agree longer term arrangements with Councils and others to enhance, create and maintain recreation forest based facilities within the planning review period.</p>
<p>PROPOSALS</p> <p>Direction</p> <p>Maintain and improve built Infrastructure, Access and Interpretation</p>	<p>Non Commercial Recreation</p> <p>Formal pony trekking in Tullychurry to cease. Day permits will be available.</p> <p>Work with operational partners to develop outdoor recreation facilities and enhanced walking and cycling opportunities; particularly where these tie in with other objectives, e.g. Village Improvement Plans. Grant aid for these projects may come from a range of funding bodies.</p> <p>The active involvement of community associations, including volunteers, will be encouraged to improve 'local ownership' of forests and to enhance the social and public health benefits this can deliver.</p> <p>Developing Access and Infrastructure</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work with Fermanagh & Omagh Councils and community groups to develop partnership arrangements for the improvement, management and maintenance of walking trails and associated recreation facilities at Ballintempo, Belmore Big Dog, Castlecaldwell, Ely Lodge, Carrigan, Lough Navar and Castle Archdale forests. • Work with Fermanagh & Omagh District Council, Waterways Ireland and community groups to further develop partnership arrangements for the improvement and maintenance of walking trails and associated recreation facilities in the West Fermanagh area. • Continue to work with National Trust to further develop partnership arrangements for the improvement of recreation facilities within Florencecourt forest.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Support tourism initiatives led by Waterways Ireland and local Councils. <p>Interpretation and Community Education</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Seek opportunities to engage with volunteer groups and others who wish to become involved in the promotion and interpretation of cultural & historical sites within forests and conservation enhancement.• Facilitate education providers to use the forests to deliver elements of Key Stage syllabus.
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4. Social Provision in Forests

4.1 Social Provision: Current Use & Status	
Strategic overview	<p>Tourism is a significant economic driver for Northern Ireland. Over 3 million domestic and international visitors generate more than £530 million for the local economy here each year. Eight percent of the local workforce is employed in the tourism and leisure sector in Northern Ireland.</p> <p>The DETI produced '<i>Draft Tourism Strategy for Northern Ireland to 2020</i>' has recognised that our forests can play a significant role in helping to increase tourist numbers, both out of state and domestic visitors. This Strategy identifies a number of Action Plan targets linking closely to the recreational & social use of our forests and which are embodied in our management proposals – these are;</p> <p>People:</p> <p>C1 – Councils to actively involve the community in developing and sharing interpretative material.</p> <p>Product and Places:</p> <p>C2 – Government agencies to commit to access to lands, including forests, for leisure purposes.</p> <p>C3 – Introduction of high quality recreation products in forests.</p> <p>These targets are also reflected in our own publication '<i>A Strategy to Develop the Recreational and Social Use of Our Forests</i>' and which has been used to shape our management planning for West Fermanagh Forests.</p>
Existing Use and facilities	<p>Shooting areas in several forests, where the rights are held by the Department, are licensed to clubs or private individuals.</p> <p>Forest recreation provision is generally free; exceptions being motor sports events and other approved special events where charges are set to recover the additional costs incurred by Forest Service.</p>
West Fermanagh	<p>Ballintempo: Two walks are managed under licence with Fermanagh & Omagh District Council</p> <p>Belmore: One walk managed under licence by F&ODC.</p>

Big Dog: One walk managed under licence by F&ODC.

Carrigan: One walk managed under licence by F&ODC.

Castle Archdale: The Northern Ireland Environment Agency (NIEA) Country Park with caravan park, WWII museum and access to the large expanse of Lower Lough Erne merges with the FS managed forest of Castle Archdale and offers visitors the opportunity to walk through wooded areas along the lake shore as well as providing families the opportunity to try out the woodland cycle trail which was completed in 2007. Fermanagh & Omagh District Council have recently carried out improvements to the trails and path network including improved signage and a focus on car parking at the old castle and country park sites. The existing small car park at the millennium wood will be closed to facilitate clearer destination hubs and interpretation facilities for the forest. We will in conjunction with Fermanagh & Omagh District Council support the development of a footpath from the forest to Lisnarick village.

Castlecaldwell: This forest, three miles from Belleek, has walks managed by Fermanagh & Omagh District Council that takes visitors through a range of forest types and offers vistas overlooking Lough Erne and the West Fermanagh scarplands of Lough Navar. Along the way visitors pass the ruins of the NIEA managed castle from which this forest gets its name.

Conagher: NIEA maintain a path through Correl Glen. Two walks are managed under licence by F&ODC.

Derrylin & Naan Island: One Jetty leading onto Naan Island managed by Waterways Ireland.

Ely Lodge: Only three miles out from Enniskillen this mature forest with larch as a dominant component provides a quiet location for walkers to enjoy the mature mixed woodlands and access to the shore of Lough Erne. Fermanagh & Omagh District Council currently manage the recreational trails.

Florencecourt: This forest park nestles around the National Trust owned stately home of Florencecourt which dates back to the 17th century. This Forest park offers a range of walks, pony trekking trails and cycle trails through oak woods and conifer plantations. This compliments the NT facilities which includes guided tours of Florencecourt House, walks through manicured gardens and an enclosed children's' play area. Forest Service completed the construction of a new visitor Reception Building adjacent to the main car-park in the Summer of 2015 and under licence and lease arrangements, National Trust manage the recreation in Florencecourt since July 2015.

	<p>Garrison: No formal recreation.</p> <p>Lough Navar: In addition to the existing forest drive and spectacular viewpoint at Magho cliffs, five local walks with signage and interpretation for walkers and educational groups are currently being managed by Fermanagh & Omagh District Council. This forest is typical of the scarpland geology of the wider area and key features are well represented along these walks. It is recognised that there are more opportunities for development in this forest and this will be considered later.</p> <p>Necarne: Although no formal recreation, forest roads are heavily used by local community.</p> <p>Riversdale: No formal recreation.</p> <p>Sillees: No formal recreation.</p> <p>Tullychurry: Formal pony trekking route to cease. No formal recreation.</p>
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4.2 Social provision: Management Intentions

<p>Recreation services and facilities</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To manage existing recreation services in an affordable way, meeting the expenditure and income requirements of FS 'Memorandum Trading Account' • To agree longer term arrangements with Councils and others to enhance, create and maintain recreation forest based facilities within the planning review period.
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<p>PROPOSALS</p> <p>Maintain and improve built Infrastructure</p>	<p>Commercial Recreation</p> <p>Consult with potential partners and consider future management options for Florencecourt Touring in The Trees Caravan site.</p> <p>Non Commercial Recreation</p> <p>Seek operational partners to develop outdoor recreation facilities and enhanced walking and cycling opportunities; particularly where these tie in with other objectives, e.g. Village Improvement Plans. Grant aid for these projects may come from a range of funding bodies.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work in partnership with Councils to develop or enhance formal trails and associated recreation facilities in forests. • The active involvement of community associations should be encouraged to improve 'local ownership' of forests and to enhance the social and public health benefits this can deliver. <p>Other facilities and services</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work locally to publicise the open access policy to pedestrian recreation activities • Establish improved signage at key sites to make forests more welcoming to casual users.
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5.1 WOODLAND MANAGEMENT – WEST FERMANAGH UPLANDS LANDSCAPE UNIT

Long Term Policy for the West Fermanagh Uplands Landscape Unit																																					
Woodland	<p>West Fermanagh Uplands LU will meet the requirements of a single species site under UKWAS 3.3.2.</p> <p>We propose that the future make up of the forest should be as follows.</p> <table style="margin-left: 40px;"> <tr> <td>TOTAL AREA</td> <td style="text-align: right;">11,238</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td style="text-align: right;">Area</td> <td style="text-align: right;">%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Primary Species</td> <td></td> <td style="text-align: right;">6,133</td> <td style="text-align: right;">54%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Secondary Species</td> <td></td> <td style="text-align: right;">354</td> <td style="text-align: right;">3%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Native Woodland</td> <td></td> <td style="text-align: right;">1,103</td> <td style="text-align: right;">10%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Open Space</td> <td></td> <td style="text-align: right;">3,438</td> <td style="text-align: right;">31%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Natural Reserve</td> <td></td> <td style="text-align: right;">83</td> <td style="text-align: right;">1%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Water</td> <td></td> <td style="text-align: right;">127</td> <td style="text-align: right;">1%</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td style="text-align: right; border-top: 1px solid black;">11,238</td> <td style="text-align: right; border-top: 1px solid black;">100.0%</td> </tr> </table> <p>This represents a change from the current status, where previously very poor areas were planted with Lodgepole pine and Sitka spruce. This has led to a significant reduction in secondary species and an increase primary species with an increase in open ground and native woodland.</p>	TOTAL AREA	11,238					Area	%	Primary Species		6,133	54%	Secondary Species		354	3%	Native Woodland		1,103	10%	Open Space		3,438	31%	Natural Reserve		83	1%	Water		127	1%			11,238	100.0%
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Silviculture	<p>Areas suitable for thinning will be identified and established at 2500 stems per hectare. Areas not suitable for thinning within this LU should be re-established at 1,800 to 2,200 stems per hectare.</p> <p>Fell dates have been applied to maintain a wide age class distribution across West Fermanagh Uplands LU.</p> <p>Broadleaves areas should be allowed to regenerate naturally.</p> <p>Areas of invasive non native plant species such as laurel, rhododendron, American Raspberry Balsam and knotweed have been identified and this data will be used to prepare a control programme for this LU.</p> <p>We will continue to control deer and grey squirrels to protect crops and resident red squirrel populations.</p>																																				

Current Status – West Fermanagh Uplands Landscape Unit

Area

West Fermanagh Uplands Landscape Unit (LU) is comprised of nine forests totalling 11,238 ha and is part of the West Fermanagh Management Planning Unit.

Forest	Area (Ha)
Ballintempo	1946
Belmore	865
Big Dog	1102
Carrigan	1763
Conagher	1064
Florencecourt	1346
Garrison	427
Lough Navar	2627
Marlbank	98
Total	11238

Location

All Forests are located in Fermanagh, West Fermanagh Uplands forests form part of the West Forest Region and technical staff along with administrative support are officed at the Forest Office in Inishkeen House, Killyhevlin, Enniskillen. Phone 028 6634 3165. In addition operational buildings are retained at Florencecourt forest and Lough Navar forest..

Buildings

We have a number of buildings which are no longer used for operational forestry purposes and during the period of this plan we will consider how these can be best utilised This may include the option to dispose. In West Fermanagh this includes

Old buildings and yard at Ballintempo.

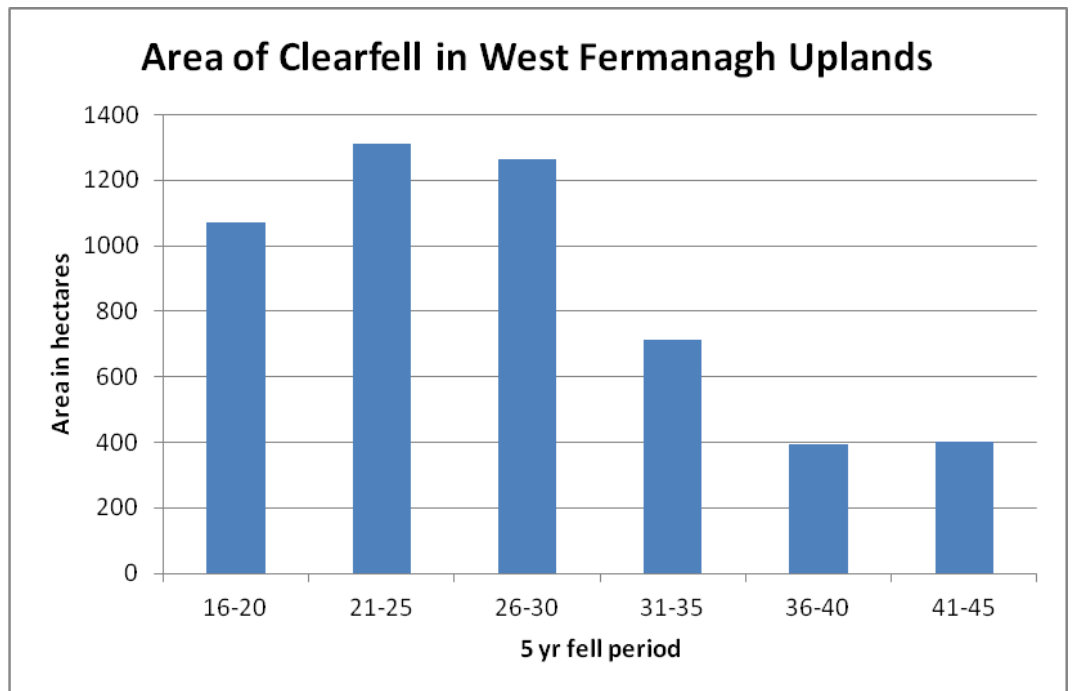
Land

Some small areas of land which were purchased as part of a larger acquisition and are detached from the main body of the forest can be expensive to manage and we will consider the option to dispose. No areas are under consideration in the West Fermanagh Uplands.

A number of possible encroachments have been identified in this LU and these will be investigated and appropriate actions taken to protect the public estate.

Operational issues

Within the period of this plan harvesting interventions are programmed in all forests.



P ramorum

P ramorum has not been found in larch species within West Fermanagh Uplands.

Larch is a small component of West Fermanagh.

Invasive Species

Areas of invasive non native plant species such as laurel, rhododendron and Japanese knotweed have been identified and this data will be used to prepare a control programme for this LU.

We will continue to control deer and grey squirrels to protect trees from damage and resident red squirrel populations.

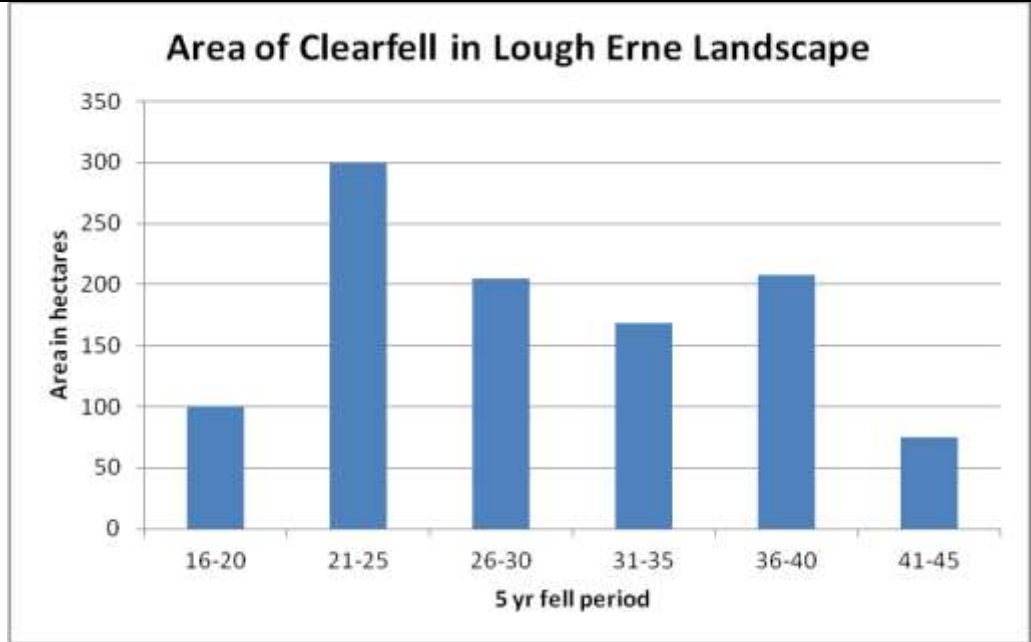
5.2 Woodland Management – Lough Erne LANDSCAPE UNIT

Long Term Policy for the Lough Erne Landscape Unit																																					
Woodland	<p>Lough Erne LU must meet the requirements of a two species site under UKWAS 3.3.2.</p> <p>We propose that the future make up of the forest should be as follows.</p> <table style="margin-left: 40px;"> <tr> <td>TOTAL AREA</td> <td>2,715</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td style="text-align: right;">Area</td> <td style="text-align: right;">%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Primary Species</td> <td></td> <td style="text-align: right;">960</td> <td style="text-align: right;">35%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Secondary Species</td> <td></td> <td style="text-align: right;">412</td> <td style="text-align: right;">15%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Native Woodland</td> <td></td> <td style="text-align: right;">728</td> <td style="text-align: right;">27%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Open Space</td> <td></td> <td style="text-align: right;">574</td> <td style="text-align: right;">21%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Natural Reserve</td> <td></td> <td style="text-align: right;">23</td> <td style="text-align: right;">1%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Water</td> <td></td> <td style="text-align: right; border-top: 1px solid black;">18</td> <td style="text-align: right; border-top: 1px solid black;">1%</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td style="text-align: right;">2,715</td> <td style="text-align: right;">100.0%</td> </tr> </table>	TOTAL AREA	2,715					Area	%	Primary Species		960	35%	Secondary Species		412	15%	Native Woodland		728	27%	Open Space		574	21%	Natural Reserve		23	1%	Water		18	1%			2,715	100.0%
TOTAL AREA	2,715																																				
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		2,715	100.0%																																		
Silviculture	<p>This represents a minimal increase in primary species and native woodland from secondary species. This is due to reducing the use of Lodgepole pine on soils where Sitka spruce is more appropriate and also by using native broadleaf species instead of non native.</p> <p>Areas suitable for thinning will be identified and established at 2500 stems per hectare. Areas not suitable for thinning within this LU should be re-established at 1,800 to 2,200 stems per hectare.</p> <p>Fell dates have been applied to maintain a wide age class distribution across Lough Erne LU.</p> <p>Broadleaves areas should be allowed to regenerate naturally.</p> <p>Areas of invasive non native plant species such as laurel, rhododendron, American Raspberry Balsam and knotweed have been identified and this data will be used to prepare a control programme for this LU. We will continue to control deer and grey squirrels to protect trees and resident red squirrel populations.</p>																																				

Current Status – Lough Erne Landscape Unit

Area	Lough Erne Landscape Unit comprises of eight forests totalling 2,715 ha and is part of the West Fermanagh Management Planning Unit.	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Forest</th> <th>Area (Ha)</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Castle Archdale</td> <td>517</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Castle Caldwell</td> <td>206</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Derrylin & Naan</td> <td>104</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Ely Lodge</td> <td>251</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Necarne</td> <td>89</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Riversdale</td> <td>143</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Sillees</td> <td>572</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Tullychurry</td> <td>833</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Total</td> <td>2715</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Forest	Area (Ha)	Castle Archdale	517	Castle Caldwell	206	Derrylin & Naan	104	Ely Lodge	251	Necarne	89	Riversdale	143	Sillees	572	Tullychurry	833	Total	2715
Forest	Area (Ha)																					
Castle Archdale	517																					
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Ely Lodge	251																					
Necarne	89																					
Riversdale	143																					
Sillees	572																					
Tullychurry	833																					
Total	2715																					
Location	Forests are situated in Fermanagh.																					
Ownership	A legal summary for each forest is contained within the Forest Folder. All land is owned by the Department:																					
Buildings	We have a number of buildings which are no longer used for operational forestry purposes and during the period of this plan we will consider how these can be best utilised. This may include the option to dispose. This includes an old building at Castle Archdale and old yard and buildings at Castlecaldwell.																					
Land	<p>Some small areas of land which were purchased as part of a larger acquisition and are detached from the main body of the forest and may not contribute to all our forestry objectives and we will consider the option to dispose. No areas are under consideration within Lough Erne Landscape.</p> <p>Within the period of this plan harvesting interventions are due in all forests.</p>																					

Operational issues



P Ramorum

P. Ramorum was confirmed in larch trees in Castle Archdale and these trees have been removed.

Invasive Species

A number of pockets of Japanese Knotweed have been identified in Riversdale and are being dealt with following best practice guidelines. Approx 44Ha (nett) of Rhododendron ponticum and Prunus laurocerasus have been identified within the Landscape Unit and an appropriate program of treatment will take place over the period of the plan

2015 – 2019 - Outcome of Proposals – Lough Erne Landscape Unit

Land Use

No significant change in Land Use

Production

100 ha to be felled with an estimated volume of 43,000m³

All coupes programmed for the planning period are under 20Ha

Thinning

260 Hectares have been identified for thinning during the period with an associated estimated volume of 18,080m³

Re-establishment

To re-generate 100 ha of clearfell sites as per redesign map. Conifers largely to be planted and broadleaf species largely by natural regeneration.

6.1 West Fermanagh Uplands: Conservation & Enhancement of the Rural Environment

Long Term Objectives for West Fermanagh Uplands Landscape Unit

Woodland	<p>Within the West Fermanagh Uplands LU currently 23.6% of the area under Forest Service control is managed with conservation as a major objective.</p> <p>It is our proposal to maintain this level of land managed with conservation as a major objective and manage these in accordance with FS and NIEA objectives.</p>
National Designations	<p>Some 12.1% of this landscape unit is designated as, Special Areas of Conservation (SAC) or Areas of Special Scientific Interest (ASSI). We will work with NIEA to ensure that these sites are not degraded from present condition.</p>
Native Fauna & Flora	<p>We propose to continue to work with partners in the conservation and enhancement of priority species.</p> <p>Control programmes will be required for controlling the spread of non native species where they pose a threat to priority species.</p>
Ancient woodland	<p>We will continue to monitor ancient woodland sites</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monitoring and reviewing the condition and response of remnant ancient woodland features • Monitoring the status of threats • Monitoring the condition of cultural heritage features.

Current Status	
National designations	<p>ASSI/SAC –There are four Special Areas of Conservation designated within this landscape unit: West Fermanagh Scarplands (483.1Ha), Largalunny (186.8Ha), Cuilcagh Mountain (686.2Ha) and Lough Melvin (1.7Ha) a total of 1357Ha.</p> <p>ASSI – There are several ASSIs within or immediately adjacent to forests in West Fermanagh: Ballintempo – Lough Alaban, West Fermanagh Scarplands (WFS) (8.8Ha), Belmore-Boho (5.2Ha), Big Dog – Big Dog Scarps & Lakes, WFS (233.7Ha), Carrigan – Big Dog Scarps & Lakes, Lough Formal, WFS (56.5Ha), Conagher – Big Dog Scarps & Lakes, Conagher, Largalunny, Lough Naman Bog & lakes, Mullynaskeagh (61.3Ha), Florencecourt – Cuilcagh mountain Florencecourt (53.7Ha), Garrison – Ground Bridge, Lough Melvin (0.3Ha), Lough Navar – Braade, Blackslee, Cliffs of Magho, Glennasahver, Lough</p>

Local designations	<p>Navar Scarps & Lakes (638.8Ha), Marlbank – Marlbank (30.8Ha)</p> <p>West Fermanagh Uplands LU has features with an SMR number such as cairns, megalithic tombs etc. These features are listed in the legal summary for each forest.</p>
NI Biodiversity Action Plan	<p>A number of forests within this LU have populations of red squirrel and operations will be planned to minimise disruption to their breeding.</p> <p>Various mobile species – Irish hare, bats, badgers, raptors</p>
UKWAS Requirements	<p>The requirement to manage at least 15% of current rotation, with conservation and enhancement of biodiversity as a major objective, is being achieved within West Fermanagh Uplands LU.</p>

2015 – 2019 Outcome of Proposals	
	<p>To implement current approved plans where appropriate to maintain and / or improve the identified areas of biodiversity and to manage these in accordance with stated objectives.</p> <p>To rationalise existing Natural Reserves plans across West Fermanagh Uplands LU and ensure that areas managed with conservation and enhancement of biodiversity as a major objective are kept in a favourable condition.</p> <p>To recognise that the requirement to manage at least 15% of the current rotation with conservation and enhancement of biodiversity as a major objective is being delivered with a contribution from each forest.</p>

NATURAL RESERVE SUMMARY -----WEST FERMANAGH 2016

Landscape Unit 1 West Fermanagh Uplands

FMU NAME/ NO.		Cpt. No.	NR Area (Ha)	Description/ Rationale
Marlbank		110	3.1	Killesher Wood FNR, Native Ash woodland.
105				
Lough Navar		332,347,348	10.1	Mixed native broadleaves p.99, LP p.66, mixed scrub
106		306,307, 308	4.6	Mixed native broadleaves P.98 /99 along stream - (ASH/OAK/BE/ASP/GN/HA/RO & heathland)
Conagher		231/236	1.9	Native scrub/UP in gully beside watercourse
107				
Garrison		230/31	0.6	
108		235	4.4	Small areas of ASH/BI/WIL/RO/OAK P.0 & SYC/RO P.89
Big Dog		4, 11, 46, 47, 55	17.6	Native woodland (ASH/BI/BT/RO/WIL/HWD)
109				
Ballintempo 110		24,25,29	16.1	LP/SS P.57/58 with regen native broadleaves
Belmore		450	3.2	ASH/NS/AN/LP/PRA/PPN P.60
111		451	5.4	SP/LP/AN P.60
		459	2.4	JL/NS/AN p.63
Florencecourt		111	0.3	ASH/EL p.41
114		112	1.7	ASH/BI P.0 in steep gully
		116	3.4	ASH/BE/BI P.0
		122	1.7	Scrub

		123	3.1	Scrub
		124	1.9	Scrub along stream
		125	1.7	Scrub along stream
TOTALS			83.2	
Planted area	8038.2			
	Total for WF plan		1.0	

Site Designation	Forest	Area		% Area of LU %Planted area	Relevant details
ASSI/SAC	Ballintempo	119.2			
	Big Dog	7.8			
	Carrigan	356.1			
	Conagher	186.8		12.08%	
	Florencecourt	686.2		16.89%	
	Garrison	<u>1.7</u>			
		<u>1357.8</u>			
	Belmore	5.2			
	Big Dog	233.7			
ASSI	Carrigan	56.7			
	Conagher	61.3			
	Florencecourt	53.7			
	Garrison	0.3		9.69%	
	Lough Navar	638.8			
	Marlbank	<u>30.8</u>		13.55%	
		1089.3			
Natural Reserves	Ballintempo	16.1			
	Belmore	11.0			
	Big Dog	17.6		0.74%	
	Conagher	1.9		1.04%	
	Florencecourt	13.8			
	Garrison	5.0			
	Lough Navar	14.7			
	Marlbank	<u>3.1</u>			
		83.2			
Extended Rotation	Ballintempo	38.4			
	Belmore	12.0			
	Big Dog	7.6			
	Carrigan	16.2		1.13%	
	Conagher	10.9		1.58%	
	Florencecourt	6.1			
	Garrison	4.2			
	Lough Navar	30.2			
	Marlbank	<u>1.3</u>			
		126.9			
Deadwood	See table below				<i>Estimated 430,535 M3 of deadwood exceeds the 224,760 m3 required to meet the deadwood strategy</i>
TOTALS	11,238	2657.2		23.64%	

6.2 Lough Erne: Conservation & Enhancement of the Rural Environment

Long Term Objectives for Lough Erne Landscape Unit (LU)

Woodland	<p>Within the Lough Erne LU currently 33.7% of the area under Forest Service control is managed with conservation as a major objective.</p> <p>It is our proposal to maintain this level of land managed with conservation as a major objective and manage these in accordance with FS and NIEA objectives.</p>
National Designations	<p>There is an SAC/SPA/ASSI in Tullychurry forest and also a small area in Naan Island.</p>
Native Fauna & Flora	<p>We will continue to work with partners in the conservation and enhancement of priority species.</p> <p>Control programmes are required for controlling the spread of non native species where they pose a threat to priority species.</p>
Ancient woodland	<p>We will continue to monitor ancient woodland sites</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monitoring and reviewing the condition and response of remnant ancient woodland features • Monitoring the status of threats • Monitoring the condition of cultural heritage features.

Current Status	
Local designations	<p>Every forest within Lough Erne LU has features with an SMR number such as cairns, megalithic tombs etc. These features are listed in the legal summary for each forest.</p>
NI Biodiversity Action Plan	<p>Various mobile species – Red Squirrels, Irish hare, bats, badgers and raptors</p>
UKWAS Reqts	<p>The requirement to manage at least 15% of current rotation, with conservation and enhancement of biodiversity as a major objective, is being achieved within Lough Erne LU.</p>

2015 – 2019 Outcome of Proposals

	<p>To implement current approved plans where appropriate to maintain and / or improve the identified areas of biodiversity and to manage these in accordance with stated objectives.</p> <p>To rationalise existing Natural Reserves plans across Lough Erne LU and ensure that areas managed with conservation and enhancement of biodiversity as a major objective are kept in a favourable condition.</p> <p>To recognise that the requirement to manage at least 15% of the current rotation with conservation and enhancement of biodiversity as a major objective is being delivered with a contribution from each forest.</p>
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NATURAL RESERVE SUMMARY -----WEST FERMANAGH 2016

Landscape Unit 2 Lough Erne

FMU NAME	NR-- Min area	Cpt. No.	NR area (ha)	Description/ Rationale
Ely Lodge		13	1.2	Hwd SC P.0
102				
Riversdale		115	3.8	Scots Pine P.0
103				
Sillees		139/140	8.9	Native woodland/scrub 1900 Tullycarbry
104				
Castle Caldwell		26	2.7	Scrub on lough shore
112				
Tullychurry		148	4.2	Scrub & WIL/ASP/POP around Tully lough
113		117	0.8	Mixed broadleaved beside stream - ASH/CAL/HA/BI p2001
Necarne 136		2	1.0	Bi/Willow scrub P.1900
TOTALS			22.6	
Planted area	2157.3			
	Total for WF plan		1.0	

Site Designation	Forest	Area		% Area of LU %Planted area	Relevant details
DESIGNATIONS ASSI/SPA/SAC	Derrylin & Naan Island Tullychurry	10.4 <u>298.5</u> 308.9		11.4% 14.3%	
Natural Reserve	Castlecaldwell Ely Lodge Necarne Riversdale Sillees Tullychurry	2.7 1.2 1 3.8 8.9 <u>5</u> 22.6		0.8% 1.1%	
Extended Rotation	Castle Archdale Castlecaldwell Derrylin & NI Necarne Riversdale Sillees Ely Lodge	16.1 1.6 3.2 4.4 6.9 9.7 <u>4</u> 46.3	} }	1.7% 2.2%	
OG Semi Natural Habitat	Lough Erne LU	538		19.8% 25%	
Deadwood	See table below				<i>Estimated 95,415M3 of deadwood exceeds the minimum 54,300 m3 required to meet deadwood strategy.</i>
TOTALS		2715	915.8	33.7%	

6.3 Tree Disease and Flood Risk Management

Risks to Woodland caused by Chalara ash dieback

Chalara ash dieback has potential to cause significant damage to the Northern Ireland's ash tree population. Evidence from GB and continental Europe suggests that older, mature ash trees can survive infection for some time while young trees whether planted or natural regeneration and coppice ash re-growth in hedges may die more quickly after infection.

West Fermanagh Scarplands represents the largest area of base-rich woodlands dominated by ash with an understory of hazel in Northern Ireland. The area of designated woodland is 574 hectares made up of groups of woodlands at the Magho cliffs, Knockninny hill, Lurgan River and Florence Court. These woodlands are largely undisturbed with a species-rich ground flora and a rich diversity of epiphytic bryophytes.

Forest Service will draft guidance and practical advice to help owners manage these and other ash woodlands should Chalara ash dieback become established in the wider environment.

Woodland contribution to flood risk management

Prolonged and heavy rainfall, throughout much of November and December 2015 resulted in saturated ground conditions, generally higher than normal water levels in lakes and watercourses and instances of flooding in West Fermanagh and elsewhere.

Natural Flood Management (NFM) is defined as 'working with or restoring natural flooding processes with the aim of reducing flood risk and delivering other benefits' (Rivers Agency 2015). NFM aims to reduce the downstream maximum water height of a flood (the flood peak) and/or delay the arrival of the flood peak which could increase the time available for communities to prepare for possible flooding. It also aims to reduce the amount of water reaching the river channel at a range of stages within the catchment. These aims are achieved by storing and restricting the progress of water throughout the catchment by the introduction of a range of measures including creation of new woodland, planting forests in upland areas of catchments and planting woodlands in buffer strips close to watercourses.

The Forest Service identified a supporting target in 2016/17 Business Plan to publish a report on the role of forests in flood mitigation. The project will be carried out in collaboration with Forest Research and will provide opportunity maps displaying opportunities and priorities for woodland creation to help reduce flood risk including West Fermanagh.



Glossary of Terms

Ancient woodland	Woodland is referred to as ancient woodland when it has been in continuous existence since before AD1600 in England, Wales and Northern Ireland and 1750 in Scotland. The majority of ancient woodland sites in Forest Service forests are classified as being either possibly or probably ancient woodland. A proportion of these areas have been planted with conifer species.
Area of Special Scientific Interest (ASSI)	A statutory designation in Northern Ireland that offers statutory protection to habitats and species.
Biodiversity Action Plan(s)	The UK Biodiversity Action Plan sets out a programme of action to conserve and enhance biological diversity throughout the UK. It includes action plans for key habitats and species, and cross-sectoral programmes to encourage biodiversity conservation within all land uses and businesses. Local Biodiversity Action Plans integrate these measures at a local or regional level e.g. Northern Ireland Biodiversity Action Plan.
Clearfelling	The complete cutting down of an area of woodland. Sometimes a scatter or small clumps of trees may be left standing within the felled area.
Coppice	Management based on regeneration by re-growth from cut stumps (coppice stools). The same stool is used through several cycles of cutting and re-growth.
Coupe	An area of woodland that has been or is planned for clearfelling.
Deadwood	All types of wood that are dead including whole or wind-snapped standing trees, fallen branch wood and stumps, decaying wood habitats on living trees such as rot holes, dead limbs, decay columns in trunks and limbs, and wood below the ground as roots or stumps.
Design Plan (Forest Design Plan)	Long term outline planting or felling and regeneration plan (20 years or more) which takes account of the environmental characteristics of the woodland as well as the management of the growing stock.
Invasive (species)	Introduced non-native species which spread readily and

	dominate native species.
Landscape Character Area	An area of broadly homogeneous landscape character.
Extended Rotation (ER)	Trees retained for environmental benefit significantly beyond the age or size generally adopted by the woodland enterprise.
Lower impact silvicultural systems (LISS)	Is a term used to describe forest management methods which maintain continuous woodland conditions, rather than periodically removing whole crops of trees as clearfelling systems do. Primarily this is done by manipulating the over-storey through removal of individual trees or small groups, thus controlling the light regime allowing natural regeneration to occur. This gives rise to an uneven aged mixed woodland, where all age classes of tree co-exist within one forest stand.
Minimum intervention	Management with no systematic felling or planting of trees. The only work normally carried out would be fencing, control of exotic plant species and vertebrate pests, maintenance of paths and rides and safety work.
Native (species)	A species that has arrived and inhabited an area naturally, without deliberate assistance by man, or would occur had it not been removed through past management. For trees and shrubs in the UK this is usually taken to mean those species present after post-glacial recolonisation and before historic times.
Natural reserve	Natural reserves are predominantly wooded, are permanently identified and are in locations which are of particularly high wildlife interest or potential. They are managed by minimum intervention unless alternative management has higher conservation or biodiversity value.
Northern Ireland Biodiversity Action Plan	<i>See Biodiversity Action Plan.</i>
Open space	In a woodland this includes streams, ponds and well laid-out roads and rides.
Plantation on ancient woodland site (PAWS)	The term ancient woodland site refers to the site of an ancient woodland irrespective of its current tree cover. Where the native tree cover has been felled and replaced by the planting of tree species not native to the site it is referred to as a plantation on ancient

	woodland sites, (PAWS)
Priority (species)	Priority species were those that were identified as being the most threatened and requiring conservation action under the UK Biodiversity Action Plan.
Ramsar sites	Wetlands of international importance designated under the Ramsar Convention.
Regeneration	Renewal of woodland through sowing, planting, or natural regeneration.
Remnant	<p>The baseline of surviving ancient woodland features found in PAWS, for which there is physical or documentary evidence.</p> <p>These include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Woodland specialist flora. These are species with a strong affinity for ancient woodland but may vary in relation to geographic region • Trees originating from the pre-plantation stand. They can be maidens, standards, coppice stools or pollards and may include ancient or veteran trees • Deadwood originating from the pre-plantation stand, coarse woody debris and associated decomposer communities. <p>These features provide the continuity of habitat with the pre-plantation phase.</p>
Sites and Monuments Record (SMR)	<p>Environment and Heritage Service: Built Heritage maintains the Sites & Monuments Record for Northern Ireland, holding information on approx. 15,000 sites. These range from Mesolithic camp sites, Bronze age landscapes preserved under bog, through the Early Christian monasteries, the castles of the Norman conquest and the defended houses of the Plantation settlers.</p> <p>The NISMR information is used to identify sites and monuments for statutory protection and is also used to identify sites and monuments which are threatened by proposed land-use changes, such as infrastructure and built development, mineral extraction and agricultural projects and forestry schemes.</p>
Semi-natural woodland	Semi-natural woodlands are composed of locally native trees and shrubs which derive from natural regeneration

	or coppicing rather than planting.
Silviculture (silvicultural)	The techniques of tending and regenerating woodlands, and harvesting their physical products.
Special Area for Conservation (SAC)	Area designated under the EU Habitats and Species Directive.
Special Protection Area (SPA)	Area designated under the EU Birds Directive.
Thinning	A tree removal practice that reduces tree density and competition between trees in a stand. Thinning concentrates growth on fewer, high-quality trees, provides periodic income, and generally enhances tree vigour. Heavy thinning can benefit wildlife through the increased growth of ground vegetation.
Veteran tree	A tree that is of interest biologically, culturally or aesthetically because of its age, size or condition, including the presence of deadwood micro-habitats.