



Irish Forestry Unit Trust

West Cork MU
Dunmanway, Co Cork
MANAGEMENT PLAN
2022 – 2041 (Period 1: 2022 -2026)

2. GENERAL INTRODUCTION, OWNERSHIP AND LANDUSE HISTORY.

West Cork Management Unit (MU) comprises of one property totalling 15.2ha. This MU is based on geographical location as it is the only forest IForUT owns in the region. The property is located on uplands and slopes near Kilaveenoge Hill, to the West of Cashloura and is in the catchment of Bandon River. Most of this FMU was previously marginal land, some open mountain and marginal agricultural ground used for grazing.

Properties in the MU:

Curranashingane, 15.2ha. Acquired by IForUT prior to 2015.

Elevation

Elevation is 246m at the highest point of the site.

Statutory Land Designations

There are no statutory designations on the site. It the site eventually drains into the catchment of the Bandon river which is a designated SAC and the Bandon Valley is a proposed NHA

Water/Fisheries Sensitivities:

The MU is within the Bandon River Catchments. These catchments are important as they support populations of Fresh Water Pearl Mussel, salmon and lampreys amongst others.

Margaritifera

The site is within Margaritifera sensitive areas and falls in the category Catchments of other extant populations. Typically, this means there are minor populations of margaritifera which are outside the SAC but are not present in significant enough quantity to warrant a designation.

Old Woodland Sites (OWS):

There is no OWS/potential OWS in the West Cork MU.

Archaeology/Historical/Cultural:

There are no national monuments in the Management Unit.

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.

The main soil type in the West Cork MU is blanket peat.

5. SUMMARY OF THE LANDSCAPE VALUE OF THE FOREST.

Moderate Felling Impact

Forest block is classed as moderate felling impact on the IForUT system due partly to the elevated landscape. The forest itself is not particularly visible from the main road to the north but it would be visible from the minor rads to the south.

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. **West Cork**

	Objective	Was it achieved?	How this information was applied to 5 year Management Plan review?
1	Economic Return	Decent Productivity in the Management Unit.	There has been some economic return generated from this property. Curranashingane experienced significant damage on both the East and Western sides of the property. Timber was recovered from the site but wind damage lessened the economic return somewhat. The site was clearfelled in two operations in 2019 and 2020. Site was planted in 2021. The young trees were badly hit with Weevil post planting but is starting to establish well now.
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	Timber production in this MU will not occur as it is in establishment stage	Curranashingane has recently been reforested and will not see any timber production for some time. The previous crop was not thinned as the window for thinning had passed. It is envisioned that the site will be able to be thinned, albeit lightly due to the exposure of the site.
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.	Moderate Felling Impact at this property. Attempts have been made to split felling coupes as much as possible to lessen the impact of forest operations on the landscape.
5	Biodiversity Enhancement	Biodiversity has been enhanced post clearfell and some additional areas of value in the FMU.	<p>Additional openspaces and some broadleaves have been added along the watercourse in Curranashingane. There is also a strip of broadlaves all around the perimeter of the property to act as a visual buffer and to distinguish it from that of neighbouring forest properties. There is some additional Unplanted area in the form of access tracks which were utilised for harvesting and planting and which will be of benefit in relation to future inspections of the crop. An area of the weaker conifer crop has been retained and will be monitored going forward.</p> <p>There have been some changes to the national standards. These standards will require increased broadleaves and open space alongside county roads and dwelling houses at restocking stage however neither of those are particular relevant to this property.</p>

6	Stakeholder	General quiet locality. Very little interactions with neighbours.	During plan review a more comprehensive stakeholder consultation has been conducted. See Stakeholder files.
7	Professional Development	Managed. Forest Managers are members of SIF and attend lectures and field days as part of continuous professional development.	Retendering of whole portfolio into regional management units in 2010 to simplify overall forest level management and FSC compliance. New centralised network server () has been introduced for managing FMM and IForUT database.
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.