



## Irish Forestry Unit Trust

<b>Coan MU</b>
Castlecomer, Co. Kilkenny
<b>MANAGEMENT PLAN</b>
<b>2008 – 2027</b> <b>(Period 4: 2021 -2025)</b>



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

Coan Forest MU comprises of 3 separate forest blocks totalling 72.15ha. They are on relatively fertile but marginal agricultural grazing land.

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

1. **Coan West**, 57.48ha. Established in 1989, replanted between 2015 to 2021.
2. **Uskerty**, 9.51ha. Established in 2004.

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

3. Uskerty 2, 5.16ha. Established in 1998.
- 4.

Within this management unit lies Coan Bogs NHA adjacent to the Northern boundary of Coan West and Uskerty.

## 4. SOIL TYPES.

The main areas of Coan FMU are surface water gleys derived from mainly non-calcareous parent materials, fertile but characterised by wet heavy clay and frequent rush growth. There are some patches of peaty gley, and the very northern boundary is adjoining onto a small area of upland blanket bog.

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

### **Low Felling Impact with High Afforestation Sensitivity** - Refer to Map 3.

Low landscape value due to remote location on a raised plateau and sparsely populated area. Surrounding landscape with significant areas of poor grazing, and young forestry plantations, as well as blanket bog protected areas. To achieve sustainable timber production (Map 6) had applied a coupe restructuring sequence to diversify crop age structure. However, this property has been badly affected by windblow. As such – the entire property has now been clearfelled apart from Uskerty. Sitka spruce is the preferred species to meet economic objectives. Restock plan (Map7) focuses MB in several areas including two sections on the eastern edge such as around an old farmhouse and existing broadleaved area, as well as near the entrance for amenity purposes.

## 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)

## 16. Felling.

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. **Coan West & Uskerty**

	Objective	How was it achieved?	How this information was applied to 5 year Management Plan review?
1	<b>Economic Return</b>	Economic return achieved in the previous plan review - by way of thinning operations – three thinnings carried out at Coan West. Was a very productive forest with little or no weak/unproductive areas. Uskerty crop too young and due to species mixture will be thinned later, final crop should be economic with commercial spruce	Coan West was typically a very strong productive MU. Unfortunately this property was hit with windblow 4 years in a row since 2014. This has resulted in the whole property being clearfelled in stages over the last few years.
2	<b>FSC Standards</b>	FSC Standard maintained through first five years using IForUT FM manual as given to forest manager and more recently [REDACTED]. Forest inspection records record of operations and monitoring by manger.	Continue as before and update FMM as required.
3	<b>Timber production</b>	SS [REDACTED] very good growth rates on fertile soils, high production forest with three thinnings. All categories of timber produced, sawlog, pallet, stake and pulp. Quality good as evident in thinning operations. Quality of larch in Uskerty questionable but minor component.	Timber production will not occur in any great volume. Coan west is now completely replanted so no timber will be extracted in the planning period.  Uskerty will be first thinned in 2019.
4	<b>Landscape</b>	FS Landscape classification low.	No major landscape issues as such a flat remote area.

<b>5</b>	<b>Biodiversity Enhancement</b>	Opportunities to enhance biodiversity at restocking stage, and also where opportunities rise at thinning stage.	Biodiversity enhancement will commence following first clearfells in the next two phases of the plan, during replanting. Extension of broadleaved areas. Planned LTR was blown over by windthrow so a new area in Uskerty has been identified as being more suitable. Long term this will be planted with Scots pine.
<b>6</b>	<b>Stakeholder</b>	No stakeholder issues or replies to date.	Will continue to record any stakeholder issues [REDACTED] - possibility for consulting with private forest manager if any boundary issues with adjacent forest property.
<b>7</b>	<b>Professional Development</b>	MU managed by [REDACTED]	Ongoing development of the FMM and also system brought in to capture all site visits and document storage online.