

Glossary

Acronym	Description
AAC	Allowable Annual Cut
ASI	Archaeological Survey of Ireland https://www.archaeology.ie/archaeological-survey-ireland
ASI	Assurance Services International – accreditation body - https://www.asi-assurance.org/s/
CAR	Corrective Action Request
CB	Certification Body
CH	Certificate Holder
CoC	Chain of Custody
CPD	Continuing Professional Development
CPI	Consumer Price Index (available from https://www.cso.ie/en/statistics/prices/)
CSO	Central Statistics Office https://www.cso.ie/en/
DAFM	Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine https://www.gov.ie/en/campaigns/a9d3c-forestry-in-ireland/?referrer=http://www.gov.ie/en/publication/642e6-forestry/
ELI	Employers Liability Insurance
EPA	Environmental Protection Agency https://www.epa.ie/
EPS	European Protected Species
ERA	Environmental Risk Assessment
FC	Forestry Commission https://www.forestry.gov.uk/
FISA	Forest Industry Safety Accord https://www.ukfisa.com/
FMO	Forest Machine Operator
FMP	Forest Management Plan
FMU	Forest Management Unit
FO Number	Forest Owners Number as assigned by Forest Service, DAFM
FS	Forest Service https://www.gov.ie/en/campaigns/a9d3c-forestry-in-ireland/?referrer=http://www.gov.ie/en/publication/642e6-forestry/
GFL	General Felling Licence
HCVF	High Conservation Value Forest
HHC	Highly Hazardous Chemicals
HSA	Health and Safety Authority https://www.hsa.ie/eng/
IPM	Integrated Pest Management
ITGA	Irish Timber Growers Association https://www.itga.ie/
IUCN	International Union of Conservation of Nature https://www.iucn.org/
LTR	Long Term Retention
NC	Non-conformity
NHA	Natural Heritage Area https://www.npws.ie/protected-sites/nha
NMS	National Monument Service https://www.archaeology.ie/
NPTC	National Proficiency Tests Council https://www.nptc.org.uk/
NPWS	National Parks and Wildlife Service https://www.npws.ie/
NR	Natural Regeneration
NTFP	Non-Timber Forest Product

Acronym	Description
OWS	Old Woodland Site
P&C	Principles & Criteria
PRCD	Pesticide Registration and Control Divisions (PRCD), DAFM – formerly PCS https://www.pcs.agriculture.gov.ie/
PLI or PL	Public Liability Insurance or PL Insurance
pNHA	Proposed Natural Heritage Area https://www.npws.ie/sites/default/files/general/pNHA_Site_Synopsis_Portfolio.pdf
POWS	Plantation on Old Woodland Site
PPE	Personal Protective Equipment
RA	Risk Assessment
RMP	Record of Monuments and Places https://www.archaeology.ie/publications-forms-legislation/record-of-monuments-and-places
SAC	Special Area of Conservation https://www.npws.ie/protected-sites/sac
SAP	Species Action Plan https://www.npws.ie/publications/species-action-plans
SLIMF	Small and Low Intensity Managed Forests
SMR	Sites and Monuments Record
SPA	Special Protection Areas https://www.npws.ie/protected-sites/spa
Spp	Species
SUD	Sustainable Use of Pesticide Directive
UP	Unplanted
YC	Yield Class

Definitions of Plantation, Natural Forest and Peatland as employed in certification standards:

Plantation	<p><u>Plantations</u> were previously defined as “forest areas lacking most of the principal characteristics and key elements of native ecosystems, which result from the human activities of planting, sowing or intensive silvicultural treatments.”</p> <p>The new definition (April 2024) is as follows: <u>Plantation</u>: A forest area established by planting or sowing with using either alien or native species, often with one or few species, regular spacing and even ages, and which lacks most of the principal characteristics and key elements of natural forests. The description of plantations may be further defined in FSC Forest Stewardship Standards, with appropriate descriptions or examples, such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Areas which would initially have complied with this definition of ‘plantation’ but which, after the passage of years, contain many or most of the principal characteristics and key elements of native ecosystems, may be classified as natural forests. o Plantations managed to restore and enhance biological and habitat diversity, structural complexity and ecosystem functionality may, after the passage of years, be classified as natural forests. o Boreal and north temperate forests which are naturally composed of only one or few tree species, in which a combination of natural and artificial regeneration is used to regenerate forest of the same native species, with most of the principal characteristics and key elements of native ecosystems of that site, may be considered as natural forest, and this regeneration is not by itself considered as conversion to plantations. (Source: FSC-STD-01-001 V5-2).
Natural Forest	<p><u>Natural forests</u> were previously defined as “forest areas where many of the principal characteristics and key elements of native ecosystems such as complexity, structure and diversity are present, as defined by approved national and regional standards of forest management.”</p>

	<p>The new definition (April 2024) is as follows:</p> <p>Natural forest: A forest area with many of the principal characteristics and key elements of native ecosystems, such as complexity, structure and biological diversity, including soil characteristics, flora and fauna, in which all or almost all the trees are native species, not classified as plantations.</p> <p>‘Natural forest’ includes the following categories:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Forest affected by harvesting or other disturbances, in which trees are being or have been regenerated by a combination of natural and artificial regeneration with species typical of natural forests in that site, and where many of the above-ground and below-ground characteristics of the natural forest are still present. In boreal and north temperate forests which are naturally composed of only one or few tree species, a combination of natural and artificial regeneration to regenerate forest of the same native species, with most of the principal characteristics and key elements of native ecosystems of that site, is not by itself considered as conversion to plantations; o Natural forests which are maintained by traditional silvicultural practices including natural or assisted natural regeneration; o Well-developed secondary or colonizing forest of native species which has regenerated in non-forest areas; o The definition of ‘natural forest’ may include areas described as wooded ecosystems, forest and savannah. <p>The description of natural forests and their principal characteristics and key elements may be further defined in FSC Forest Stewardship Standards, with appropriate descriptions or examples.</p> <p>‘Natural forest’ does not include land which is not dominated by trees, was previously not forest, and which does not yet contain many of the characteristics and elements of native ecosystems. Young regeneration may be considered as natural forest after some years of ecological progression. FSC Forest Stewardship Standards may indicate when such areas may be excised from the Management Unit, should be restored towards more natural conditions, or may be converted to other land uses.</p> <p>FSC has not developed quantitative thresholds between different categories of forests in terms of area, density, height, etc. FSC Forest Stewardship Standards may provide such thresholds and other guidelines, with appropriate descriptions or examples. Pending such guidance, areas dominated by trees, mainly of native species, may be considered as natural forest. Thresholds and guidelines may cover areas such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Other vegetation types and non-forest communities and ecosystems included in the Management Unit, including grassland, bushland, wetlands, and open forests; o Very young pioneer or colonizing regeneration in a primary succession on new open sites or abandoned farmland, which does not yet contain many of the principal characteristics and key elements of native ecosystems. This may be considered as natural forest through ecological progression after the passage of years; o Young natural regeneration growing in natural forest areas may be considered as natural forest, even after logging, clear-felling or other disturbances, since many of the principal characteristics and key elements of native ecosystems remain, above-ground and below-ground; o Areas where deforestation and forest degradation have been so severe that they are no longer ‘dominated by trees’ may be considered as non-forest, when they have very few of the principal above-ground and below-ground characteristics and key elements of natural forests. Such extreme degradation is typically the result of combinations of repeated and excessively heavy logging, grazing, farming, fuelwood collection, hunting, fire, erosion, mining, settlements, infrastructure, etc. FSC Forest Stewardship Standards may help to decide when such areas should be excised from the Management Unit, should be restored towards more natural conditions, or may be converted to other land uses. <p>(Source: FSC-STD-01-001 V5-2).</p>
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Peatland	<p>Peatland: wetland ecosystems that are characterised by the accumulation of organic matter called peat, which derives from dead and slowly decaying plant material under wet conditions. A geographical area (with or without vegetation) where peat soil occurs naturally. For mapping purposes, a peatland should cover a minimum spatial extent of 1 ha. (Source: Irish National Peatland Strategy 2015).</p> <p>o Active peatlands or mires: Peatlands on which peat is currently forming and accumulating. All active peatlands (mires) are peatlands but peatlands that are no longer accumulating peat would no longer be considered mires. (Source: Irish National Peatland Strategy 2015).</p> <p>o Intact, pristine and virgin peatlands: The terms ‘virgin’, ‘pristine’ and ‘intact’ have been used in several studies in relation to sites that look unmodified, uncut (as visible to the eye) and where no obvious factor is currently degrading the peatland. These terms are best avoided for use of habitat description such as peatlands in an Irish context. Most Irish peatlands are ‘humanised’ landscapes that have evolved, indeed sometimes originated, in close association with land-use systems. It would be impossible to find an Irish peatland that has never been grazed or used in some way by humans (e.g. burning). (Source: Irish National Peatland Strategy 2015).</p>
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