

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT CHECKLIST

FMU/WMU Name:	Cmpt:	Date:
Assessment completed by :		

Forest Operation/Activity:

This checklist should be used to assist in the screening of operations for potential adverse environmental impacts.

Part I: Information about the operation and the site

FMU/WMU Name:	Cmpt:	Date:	Manager Name:
Description of the operation:			
Operation (e.g. fell & extract ¹)? Species? Size of felling area? Machinery to be used on site? Planned timescale? How will lop & top be left? Other?			
Description of the site and habitat present:			

Part II: Assessment of risks

		YES	NO	COMMENTS
1	Harvesting & felling is potentially damaging to the environment.	Y		e.g. Potential impacts are: disturbance to wildlife; damage to ground & flora; and pollution. (See part III).
2	Does the site hold any designatory status?			
3	Are there any important species or sensitive features in the harvesting area?			<i>Information on Irish Protected Species is available from NPWS^{*)}</i>
4	Has there been a previous incident of environmental damage on this site?			
5	Is the harvesting area, or any access routes to it, near any watercourses, water bodies, or private water supplies?			
6	Are new roads / rides, loading bays, car parks or entrances to be created?			
7	Timing: is the operation to be carried out in a sensitive period for flora and fauna?			

¹ The example of felling is used in this template, but it applies to ALL forest operations

		YES	NO	COMMENTS
8	Timing: is the operation to be carried out when ground is likely to be churned up?			
9	Any other site considerations to assess (e.g. topography, soil type, exposure, special conditions)?			

*) See <https://www.npws.ie/sites/default/files/publications/pdf/Red%20List%20No.%2012%20Mammals.pdf>

Part III: Assessment of specific potential impacts (List and describe any potential impacts identified in Part II).

Potential Impact	Assessment of Potential Impact	Protection / Mitigation Methods	Further Assessment Required?
e.g. Harvesting & felling is potentially damaging to the environment.	Potential impacts are: disturbance to wildlife; damage to ground & flora; and pollution.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Timing arranged to avoid disturbance to wildlife and ground damage 2. No-go areas & site restrictions marked on map, and if appropriate, marked on the ground. 3. Biodegradable oil used in chainsaws 4. Fuel / oil storage areas identified and agreed 5. Spillage kits carried 6. Follow FS Guidelines (e.g. Protection, Biodiversity, Water) 	
e.g. site preparation [ditching/mounding/roading]			

Monitoring

- Programme levels of supervision relative to the sensitivity of the operation and the site to ensure that safeguards are attained.
- Be prepared to implement alternative practices (mitigating measures) or cease operations, when conditions change, in order to minimise impacts.
- A post-operation check is to be carried out and any remedial actions executed expediently.

Planning Consent/GFL Consent

If the work you are proposing will result in changes in the existing ground level or require the importation of stone it may be necessary to seek guidance from your local planning authority as to whether consents are required unless otherwise covered under GFL consents.

CONTACT THE GROUP MANAGER IF YOU HAVE ANY QUERIES REGARDING IMPACTS, MITIGATION METHODS OR IF YOU ASSESS AN OPERATION AS REQUIRING ADDITIONAL ASSESSMENT.

REMEMBER, THE 'PRECAUTIONARY PRINCIPLE' APPLIES – IF IN DOUBT SEEK MORE INFORMATION.