

# Sub-threshold EIA Screening – Guidance for Forestry Inspectors

## Working Document 21Sept23

### Please review the following notes before continuing:

1. The following document sets out the questions in the EIA section of iFORIS, the available options for responses, and (in the right-most column) guidance for Forestry Inspectors carrying out the screening process.
2. In most cases, the Forestry Inspector is confirming whether or not a particular issue has been resolved, following an assessment by the Ecology Section or the Archaeology & Built Heritage Section. However, other questions require the Forestry Inspector to apply his / her best judgement, based on their professional expertise and experience, knowledge of the site and its surroundings, and awareness of the types of issues that can arise in relation to an afforestation project.
3. It is envisaged that Forestry Inspectors carrying out the EIA screening will dip in and out of the EIA section, answering questions as and when issues are resolved. In this way, s/he can keep track of progress regarding the various sensitivities identified in the earlier Environmental Considerations section.
4. Further refinement of the EIA questions and this guidance will take place. For example, programming is underway to pre-populate questions in the EIA section based on answers given in the earlier Environmental Considerations section. Also, some of the text in the questions on iFORIS are different from that in the question column below. These discrepancies will be corrected, with the text snapping to the versions below. Blue and yellow highlighting have been employed to flag where both of these issues arise below.
5. An important distinction exists between screening for AA purposes and screening for EIA purposes. During the latter, the individual undertaking the screening exercise can factor in mitigation when deciding whether or not significant impacts or effects are likely to arise. This mitigation can be one or more of the following: mandatory mitigation set out in the Environmental Requirements for Afforestation (e.g. prescribed setbacks and operational restrictions in sensitive parts of the site), site-specific mitigation proposed by the Applicant / Registered Forester in the application (including subsequent submissions); mitigation identified by the Inspector him-/herself, including mitigation he / she may extract or derive from referral responses and 3<sup>rd</sup> party submissions on file; and mitigation set out by Ecology Section or Archaeology & Built Heritage Section.
6. When undertaking the final pass and completing all of the questions before making his / her final certification, the Inspector will have full sight of how the various sensitivities identified earlier in the Environmental Considerations section have been resolved, and can answer the EIA questions based on the conditions s/he knows will be attached to the approval, if issued. Similarly, where a refusal is being made, any process relating to that refusal must be complete (e.g. where refusal imminent due to the proposal to plant a site comprising entirely of Annex 1 habitat, the necessary report from the Ecology Section specifying the need for refusal, must be on file).
7. Any decision to trigger a full EIA must be reviewed by the relevant Grade 1, in consultation with other Grade 1s responsible for environmental policy, ecology and archaeology and built heritage. Triggering a full EIA creates a considerable burden on the Applicant, in terms of time and financial cost of compiling the necessary EIA Report and responding to follow-on FIRs likely to arise. It is also resource-heavy in terms of the necessary input of technical expertise and administrative handling on the part of DAFM. Reserve the full EIA for projects which give rise to a ponderance of environmental issues, the resolution of which is either impossible, not clear or will necessitate significant investigation. However, a multitude of environmental issues does not in itself necessitate an EIA, if each issue can be and is resolved appropriately by the Inspector, Ecology and / or Archaeology.
8. As the central figure in the assessment process, the Forestry Inspector must ensure that all relevant conditions from Ecology and Archaeology are attached to the afforestation licence (if issued). The Inspector must also check to make sure that the various conditions fed in from the various sources are compatible with each other and do not lead to discrepancies that can cause confusion on-the-ground during the implementation stage. If you have concerns in this regard, contact the relevant source of the conditions involved to seek a resolution.
9. Also, where issues are addressed by the Ecology Section and the Archaeology and Built Heritage Section, the District Inspectors should have no cause to deviate from or seek a revision of conditions or constraints recommended by the either section, save where clear errors occur regarding the project details (e.g. discrepancies regarding plot numbering) or where there have been relevant changes to the project between the time of referral to the section and the time of the certification / report (e.g. a plot has been removed or FT changed from native forest to commercial conifers). The output of both Sections is the result of the work of one or more professional experts, with access to various sources of information beyond those included on iFORIS.
10. Finally, this document is a working document and will undergo periodic updating, primarily to expand on the guidance given. Feedback in this regard is most welcome – please provide to Kevin Collins, cc-ing your Line Manager.

DESCRIPTION OF THE PHYSICAL CHARACTERISTICS OF THE PROJECT		Guidance for Forestry Inspectors	
1	The physical characteristics and design of the afforestation project, as detailed in the Environmental Considerations form, the Form 1 application form, the maps, and any other supplemental reports submitted by or on behalf of the Applicant, have been examined?	Yes / No	It is envisaged that Forestry Inspectors will partially complete various sections of this EIA Screening procedure at various stages in the assessment of the file, as a way of keeping track of various environmental issues identified as needed to be addressed. However, all of the material listed must have been examined at some point, when it comes to the final run-through of the EIA questions, undertaken just prior to the Inspector's final certification to either approve or refuse the application for the final that issues.
3	Is the total area of this project 50 ha or greater? (net digitised area)  <b>If 'YES', the application must be accompanied by an Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR) and the remainder of the form does not need to be completed.</b>	Yes / No	Any afforestation project 50 ha or greater in area must be accompanied by a EIA Report, and must undergo the full EIA process.  If the project if 50 ha or greater and an EIA Report is not in CONTACTS, inform your relevant Regional Inspector Grade 1. This will set in train the process of requesting an EIA Report, which requires specialist input.

PROJECT LOCATION			Guidance for Forestry Inspectors
Existing and approved land uses			
1	Cumulative effect and extent of the project. Last Spatial Run Date: DD-MM-YYYY	Last Spatial Run Date: DD-MM-YYYY	<p>Please note that Qs 1 to 9 are all pre-populated by iFORIS and present here to inform the Forestry Inspectors assessment: (i) if there a likely significant cumulative impact on the environment from this project when considered in conjunction with the impact of other existing and/or approved afforestation projects (Q10); and (ii) if the amount and type of forest cover in this locality known to be a significant issue (Q11). If 'Yes' to either or both of these questions, provide reasons that led to your decision(s) in the text box provided.</p> <p>Inspectors can also refer to the in-combination report produced during the AA process (either at screening stage or appropriate assessment stage), which identifies from various sources, projects within the relevant subbasin.</p>
2	Does this project, together with existing afforestation projects completed in the last 3 years or less within a 500 metre radius, constitute an area 50 ha or greater?	Pre-populated on both iNET and iFORIS	
3	Does this project, together with other applications within 500 metres and recommended for approval but not yet planted, constitute an area 50 ha or greater?	Pre-populated	
4	Current extent of forest cover (approx. %) of the townland(s) within which the project is located?	Pre-populated	
5	Extent of forest cover (approx. %) in the project's townland(s) 5 years ago?	Pre-populated	
6	Current extent of forest cover (approx. %) within 5 km of the project?	Pre-populated	
7	Extent of forest cover (approx. %) 5 years ago within 5 km of the project?	Pre-populated	
8	Current extent of forest cover (approx. %) of the river sub-basin(s) within which the project is located.	Pre-populated	
9	Extent of forest cover (approx. %) in the project's river sub-basin(s) 5 years ago?	Pre-populated	
10	Based on the extent of forestry as outlined above, is there a likely significant cumulative impact on the environment from this project when considered in conjunction with the impact of other existing and/or approved afforestation projects? <b>Answer 'YES' or 'NO' and provide reasons that led to this decision, below.</b>	Yes / No	
11	Is the amount and type of forest cover in this locality known to be a significant issue? <b>Answer 'YES' or 'NO' and provide reasons that led to this decision, below.</b>	Yes / No	
	<b>[FREE TEXT BOX]</b>		

<b>NATURAL RESOURCES: SOIL, LAND, WATER AND BIODIVERSITY &amp; THE ABSORPTION CAPACITY OF THE NATURAL ENVIRONMENT</b>	<b>Guidance for Forestry Inspectors</b>
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<b>Soil and Wetlands</b>			
1	Do all parts of the site meet the R+N score of 6.0 or greater? <b>If 'NO', answer Q2.</b>	Yes / No	<p>These question is designed to confirm that any part of the project area that does not meet the R+N score of 6.0 or greater has been addressed, through one of the following procedures:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i) exclusion from the project area, through the submission of a revised Certified Species Map and Species Table, before referral to Ecology;</li> <li>ii) incorporation into the surrounding vegetation unit for planting (but only if less than 0.2 ha in area and meeting the relevant requirements as set out in the current Land Types for Afforestation (see Appendix B, Section entitled 'Mapping');</li> <li>iii) refusal of the entire project area, if all of the site has a R+N score of less than 6.0.</li> </ul> <p>Please note, it is not advisable to seek exclusion through conditionality alone.</p>
2	Has the area with a R+N score of less than 6.0 been addressed, either through: (i) exclusion from application, through project redesign <b>or conditions to be attached to the afforestation licence (issued);</b> (ii) <b>incorporation into the surrounding vegetation unit for planting</b> (where a discrete area(s) less than 2.0 ha is involved); or (iii) refusal of the entire project area (if all of the site has a R+N score of less than 6.0)?	Yes / No / N/A	
3	Does any portion(s) of the site contain soil type(s) other than the following eligible soil types: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ mineral soil</li> <li>➤ organo-mineral soil with a peat depth of less than or equal to 30 cm</li> <li>➤ modified fen or modified cutaway raised bog that meet the requirements of the Native Woodland Type and possible to progress without drainage</li> </ul> <b>If 'YES', answer Q4.</b>	Yes / No	<p>These two questions are designed to identify if soil types other than those allowed as listed in the question) are present onsite within the project area, and if so, whether the area(s) involved have been excluded from the application.</p> <p>Exclusion should be through project redesign, triggered by a FIR seeking a revised Certified Species Map and Species Table and finalised before referral to Ecology.</p> <p>In cases where the entire site comprises a soil type(s) other than those listed, the project must be refused.</p>
4	Has the area containing other soil type(s) been excluded, either through: <b>(i) exclusion from application; (i) project redesign; or (ii) refusal of</b> the entire project area (if all of the site contains other soil type(s))?	Yes / No / N/A	
5	Does the project area contain modified fen or modified cutaway raised bog? <b>If 'YES', answer Q6.</b>	Yes / No / <b>N/A</b>	<p>These three questions, when taken together, are designed to confirm whether or not the project area contains modified fen or modified cutaway raised bog, and if so: (i) that the area involved would meet the requirements of the appropriate Native Woodland Types(*) without the need for additional drainage; <u>and</u> (ii) that the project earmarks that area for planting with that Native Woodland Type, without drainage.</p> <p>If this soil type doesn't arise onsite, the tick 'N/A' to the two subsequent questions Q6 and Q7.</p> <p>(* The Native Woodland Type and the required species mix to be planted to realise that type, are identified using the current Native Woodland Framework document. In most cases, Scenario 5: Highly Modified Peat &amp; Peaty Podzols (Pioneer Birch Woodland) will apply.)</p>
6	Is the area containing modified fen or modified cutaway raised bog meet the requirements of the Native Woodland Type and possible to progress without site cultivation works that involve site drainage?  <b>If 'YES', answer Q7.</b> <b>If 'NO' answer Q8.</b>	Yes / No / N/A	
7	Is this area ear-marked for planting under a native woodland-related Forest Type(s), either through project redesign or conditions to be attached to the afforestation licence (issued);	Yes / No / N/A	

8	<b>DELETE THIS QUESTION</b> Has this area been excluded from the application, either through project redesign, conditions to be attached to the afforestation licence (if issued), or refusal?	Yes / No / N/A	
9	Does the project contain wetland habitats listed in the <i>Irish Wetland Types – An Identification Guide and Field Survey Manual</i> (Irish Ramsar Wetlands Committee, 2018)? <b>If 'YES', answer Q10.</b>	Yes / No / N/A	<p>Taken together, these questions are design to check that any wetland habitats, as listed in the cited document, has been addressed in relation to this project.</p> <p>If any of these wetland habitats occur within the project area (as recorded under the Environmental Considerations Section), consult the Ecology Output Checklist to verify that this issue has been addressed by Ecology Section. This will be indicated by a tick opposite 'Wetland Habitats'.</p> <p>The District Inspectors should have no cause to deviate from or seek a revision of conditions or constraints recommended by the Ecology Section, save where clear errors occur regarding the project details (e.g. discrepancies regarding plot numbering) or where there have been relevant changes to the project between the time of referral to Ecology and the time of the certification / report (e.g. a plot has been removed or FT changed from native forest to commercial conifers).</p> <p>The output of the Ecology Section is the result of the work of one or more professional Ecologists, with access to various sources of information beyond those included on iFORIS.</p> <p>Ensure the recommendations in the Ecologist's report are applied through conditions to be attached to the afforestation licence (if issued), or by a refusal (where so recommended).</p> <p>(Tick 'N/A' to the 2<sup>nd</sup> question only if overlap does not occur.)</p>
10	Has this sensitivity been addressed by Ecology Section and resulting recommendations applied, either through project redesign, conditions to be attached to the afforestation licence (if issued), or refusal?	Yes / No / N/A	
11	Does the project contain an area-listed in the Wetland Survey of Ireland? <b>If 'YES', answer Q12.</b>	Yes / No / N/A	<p><b>NOTE, spatial question to be pre-populated from corresponding question (Q3.4) in the Environmental Considerations section.</b></p> <p>Taken together, these questions are design to check that any overlap with an area listed in the Wetland Survey of Ireland, has been addressed in relation to this project.</p> <p>If any such overlap occurs within the project area (as recorded under the Environmental Considerations Section), consult the Ecology Output Checklist to verify that this issue has been addressed by Ecology Section. This will be indicated by a tick opposite 'Wetland Survey of Ireland'.</p> <p>The District Inspectors should have no cause to deviate from or seek a revision of conditions or constraints recommended by the Ecology Section, save where clear errors occur regarding the project details (e.g. discrepancies regarding plot numbering) or where there have been relevant changes to the project between the time of referral to Ecology and the time of the certification / report (e.g. a plot has been removed or FT changed from native forest to commercial conifers).</p> <p>The output of the Ecology Section is the result of the work of one or more professional Ecologists, with access to various sources of information beyond those included on iFORIS.</p> <p>Ensure the recommendations in the Ecologist's report are applied through conditions to be attached to the afforestation licence (if issued), or by a refusal (where so recommended).</p> <p>(Tick 'N/A' to the 2<sup>nd</sup> question only if overlap does not occur.)</p>
12	Has this sensitivity been addressed by Ecology Section and resulting recommendations applied, either through project redesign, conditions to be attached to the afforestation licence (if issued), or refusal?	Yes / No / N/A	

Water and Freshwater Pearl Mussel (FPM)			
1	Is the project area within an area designated as being potentially acid sensitive in relation to surface waters?	Yes / No	<b>NOTE, spatial questions to be pre-populated from corresponding questions (Qs 4.1 to 4.11) in the Environmental Considerations section.</b>
2	Is the project area greater than 5 ha and wholly or partially within an area identified as being sensitive for fisheries?	Yes / No	
3	Is the project area greater than 40 ha and wholly outside of those areas identified as being sensitive to fisheries?	Yes / No	
4	Is the project area greater than 10 hectares and within a catchment area of Local Authority designated water scheme?	Yes / No	
5	Is the project area within a Zone of Contribution, Source Protection Area or 250 m buffer for a drinking water abstraction?	Yes / No	
6	Is the project area within the sub-basin(s) of a High Status Objective Waterbody?	Yes / No	
7	Is the project area within the sub-basin(s) of a waterbody where forestry is characterised as a pressure by the EPA (alone or alongside other pressures)?	Yes / No	
8	Is the project area within or immediately upstream of the sub-basin(s) of a river waterbody deemed 'At Risk' or subject to review under the relevant River Basin Management Plan?	Yes / No	
9	Is the project area within or immediately upstream of the sub-basin(s) of a river waterbody, the status of which has been classed as 'Bad' or 'Moderate' under the current River Basin Management Plan?	Yes / No	
10	Is the project area within or immediately upstream of the sub-basin(s) of a lake waterbody deemed 'At Risk' or subject to review under the relevant River Basin Management Plan?	Yes / No	
11	Is the project area within or immediately upstream of the sub-basin(s) of a lake waterbody, the status of which has been classed as 'Bad' to 'Moderate' under the relevant River Basin Management Plan?	Yes / No	
12	Is the project area partially within one of the top eight FPM catchments? <b>If 'YES', answer Q13.</b>	Yes / No	<b>NOTE, spatial question to be pre-populated from corresponding questions (Q7.1) in the Environmental Considerations section.</b> Taken together, these questions ask if the project area overlap with any of the top 8 FPM catchments, and if so, has the area(s) involved been excluded from the project area.  (Please note, do not rely on conditionality to exclude the area(s) involved. Instead, it should be excluded early in the assessment process before referral to Ecology, through the submission of a revised Certified Species Map and Species Table.) Taken together, these questions are designed to confirm that the requirement under the Forestry Programme to exclude afforestation from all of the top 8 FPM catchments has been adhered to in relation to this specific project. (Tick 'N/A' to the 2 <sup>nd</sup> question only if overlap does not occur.)
13	Has the area within the catchment been excluded from the application?	Yes / No / N/A	
14	Is the project area partially or wholly within the catchment of any of the other 19 SACs designed for FPM?	Yes / No / N/A	<b>NOTE, spatial questions to be pre-populated from corresponding questions (Qs 7.2 &amp; 7.3) in the Environmental Considerations section.</b> Taken together, these questions are design to check that any overlap with the 6 km zone associated with any of the other 19 SACs designated for FPM, has been addressed with in relation to this project.
15	Is the project area within the 6 km zone associated with any of the other 19 SACs designated for FPM? <b>If 'YES', answer Q16.</b>	Yes / No / N/A	

16	Has this sensitivity been addressed by Ecology Section and resulting recommendations applied, either through project redesign, conditions to be attached to the afforestation licence (if issued), or refusal?	Yes / No / N/A	<p>If any overlap occurs (as recorded under the Environmental Considerations Section), consult the Ecology Output Checklist to verify that this issue has been addressed by Ecology Section. This will be indicated by a tick opposite 'Overlap with 6 km FPM Zone'.</p> <p>The District Inspectors should have no cause to deviate from or seek a revision of conditions or constraints recommended by the Ecology Section, save where clear errors occur regarding the project details (e.g. discrepancies regarding plot numbering) or where there have been relevant changes to the project between the time of referral to Ecology and the time of the certification / report (e.g. a plot has been removed or FT changed from native forest to commercial conifers).</p> <p>The output of the Ecology Section is the result of the work of one or more professional Ecologists, with access to various sources of information beyond those included on iFORIS.</p> <p>Ensure the recommendations in the Ecologist's report are applied through conditions to be attached to the afforestation licence (if issued), or by a refusal (where so recommended).</p> <p>(Tick 'N/A' to the 2<sup>nd</sup> question only if overlap does not occur.)</p>
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Birds and Special Protection Areas (SPAs)			
1	Is the project area partially within a SPA? If 'YES', answer Q2.	Yes / No	<b>NOTE, spatial question to be pre-populated from corresponding question (Q5.1) in the Environmental Considerations section.</b> These questions ask if the project area overlap with a SPA, and if so, has the area(s) involved been excluded from the project area. (Please note, do not rely on conditionality to exclude the area(s) involved. Instead, it should be excluded early in the assessment process before referral to Ecology, through the submission of a revised Certified Species Map and Species Table.)
2	Has that portion(s) within the SPA been excluded from the application?	Yes / No / N/A	Taken together, these questions are designed to confirm that the requirement under the Forestry Programme to exclude afforestation from all SPAs has been adhered to in relation to this specific project. (Tick 'N/A' to the 2 <sup>nd</sup> question only if overlap does not occur.)
3	Is the project area wholly or partially within the part of any Hen Harrier 'Red Area' that extends outside of a SPA designated for breeding Hen Harriers? If 'YES', answer Q4.	Yes / No	<b>NOTE, spatial question to be pre-populated from corresponding questions (Q5.5) in the Environmental Considerations section.</b> Similar to above, these questions ask if the project area overlap with the part of any Hen Harrier HLNA that bulges outward into surrounding countryside beyond the boundary of the relevant SPA, and if so, has the area(s) involved been excluded from the project area. (Please note, do not rely on conditionality to exclude the area(s) involved. Instead, it should be excluded early in the assessment process before referral to Ecology, through the submission of a revised Certified Species Map and Species Table.)
4	Has that portion(s) within the HH Red Area been excluded from the application?	Yes / No / N/A	Taken together, these questions are designed to confirm that afforestation does not take place within those parts of Hen Harrier HLNAs that lie outside of the relevant SPAs. (Tick 'N/A' to the 2 <sup>nd</sup> question only if overlap does not occur.)  NOTE continued confidential status of the HLNAs under current data sharing agreement with Golden Eagle Trust. <b>DO NOT</b> share with any outside party. Regarding potential overlap, direct queries to <b>XXXX</b> .
5	Is the project area wholly or partially within the Current Distribution and Breeding Distribution for Hen Harrier, as recorded in the current NPWS Article 12 Report? If 'YES', answer Q6.	Yes / No	<b>NOTE, spatial question to be pre-populated from corresponding question (Q5.6) in the Environmental Considerations section.</b> Taken together, these questions are design to check that any overlap with important areas for Hen Harrier outside of the designated SPAs, as listed in the Article 12 reporting, has been addressed in relation to this project.
6	Has this sensitivity been addressed by Ecology Section and resulting recommendations applied, either through project redesign, conditions to be attached to the afforestation licence (if issued), or refusal?	Yes / No / N/A	If any overlap occurs (as recorded under the Environmental Considerations Section), consult the Ecology Output Checklist to verify that this issue has been addressed by Ecology Section. This will be indicated by a tick opposite 'Regionally important areas for Hen Harrier'. The District Inspectors should have no cause to deviate from or seek a revision of conditions or constraints recommended by the Ecology Section, save where clear errors occur regarding the project details (e.g. discrepancies regarding plot numbering) or where there have been relevant changes to the project between the time of referral to Ecology and the time of the certification / report (e.g. a plot has been removed or FT changed from native forest to commercial conifers). The output of the Ecology Section is the result of the work of one or more professional Ecologists, with access to various sources of information beyond those included on iFORIS. Ensure the recommendations in the Ecologist's report are applied through conditions to be attached to the afforestation licence (if issued), or by a refusal (where so recommended). (Tick 'N/A' to the 2 <sup>nd</sup> question only if overlap does not occur.)
7	Is project area partially within a Curlew breeding buffer? If 'YES', answer Q8.	Yes / No	<b>NOTE, spatial question to be pre-populated from corresponding question (Q5.2) in the Environmental Considerations section.</b> These questions ask if the project area overlap with a 1.5 km radius Curlew Breeding Buffer (as supplied periodically by NPWS*), and if so, has the area(s) involved been excluded from the project area.
8	Has that portion(s) within the Curlew breeding buffer been excluded from the application?	Yes / No / N/A	(Please note, do not rely on conditionality to exclude the area(s) involved. Instead, it should be excluded early in the assessment process before referral to Ecology, through the submission of a revised Certified Species Map and Species Table.) Taken together, these questions are designed to confirm that the requirement under the Forestry Programme to exclude afforestation from all parts of these Curlew Breeding Buffers has been adhered to in relation to this specific project. (Tick 'N/A' to the 2 <sup>nd</sup> question only if overlap does not occur.) NOTE continued confidential status of the Curlew breeding layer, provided to DAFM by NPWS on that basis. <b>DO NOT</b> share with any outside party.

9	<p>Is the project area wholly or partially within the foraging range of a Special Conservation Interest of a SPA, as per the Bird Foraging Table?</p> <p><b>If 'YES', answer Q10.</b></p>	Yes / No	<p><b>NOTE, spatial question to be pre-populated from corresponding question (Q5.3) in the Environmental Considerations section.</b></p> <p>Taken together, these questions are design to check that any overlap with the foraging range of a SCI of a SPA, as detailed in the current DAFM Bird Foraging Table, has been addressed in relation to this project.</p>
10	<p>Has this sensitivity been addressed by Ecology Section and resulting recommendations applied, either through project redesign, conditions to be attached to the afforestation licence (if issued), or refusal?</p>	Yes / No / N/A	<p>If any overlap occurs (as recorded under the Environmental Considerations Section), consult the Ecology Output Checklist to verify that this issue has been addressed by Ecology Section. This will be indicated by a tick opposite 'Foraging Range of SCIs'.</p> <p>The District Inspectors should have no cause to deviate from or seek a revision of conditions or constraints recommended by the Ecology Section, save where clear errors occur regarding the project details (e.g. discrepancies regarding plot numbering) or where there have been relevant changes to the project between the time of referral to Ecology and the time of the certification / report (e.g. a plot has been removed or FT changed from native forest to commercial conifers).</p> <p>The output of the Ecology Section is the result of the work of one or more professional Ecologists, with access to various sources of information beyond those included on iFORIS.</p> <p>Ensure the recommendations in the Ecologist's report are applied through conditions to be attached to the afforestation licence (if issued), or by a refusal (where so recommended).</p> <p>(Tick 'N/A' to the 2<sup>nd</sup> question only if overlap does not occur.)</p>
11	<p>Is the project area wholly or partially within the Bird Watch Ireland (BWI) Breeding Wader Hotspot layer?</p> <p><b>If 'YES', answer Q12.</b></p>	Yes / No	<p><b>NOTE, spatial question to be pre-populated from corresponding question (Q5.4) in the Environmental Considerations section.</b></p> <p>Taken together, these questions are design to check that any overlap with the BWI Breeding Wader Hotspot layer has been addressed in relation to this project.</p>
12	<p>Has this sensitivity been addressed by Ecology Section and resulting recommendations applied, either through project redesign, conditions to be attached to the afforestation licence (if issued), or refusal?</p>	Yes / No / N/A	<p>If any overlap occurs (as recorded under the Environmental Considerations Section), consult the Ecology Output Checklist to verify that this issue has been addressed by Ecology Section. This will be indicated by a tick opposite 'Breeding wader Hotspots'.</p> <p>The District Inspectors should have no cause to deviate from or seek a revision of conditions or constraints recommended by the Ecology Section, save where clear errors occur regarding the project details (e.g. discrepancies regarding plot numbering) or where there have been relevant changes to the project between the time of referral to Ecology and the time of the certification / report (e.g. a plot has been removed or FT changed from native forest to commercial conifers).</p> <p>The output of the Ecology Section is the result of the work of one or more professional Ecologists, with access to various sources of information beyond those included on iFORIS.</p> <p>Ensure the recommendations in the Ecologist's report are applied through conditions to be attached to the afforestation licence (if issued), or by a refusal (where so recommended).</p> <p>(Tick 'N/A' to the 2<sup>nd</sup> question only if overlap does not occur.)</p>

Other Areas Designated for Nature Conservation			
1	Is the project area partially or wholly within a SAC? If 'YES', answer Q2.	Yes / No	<b>NOTE, spatial question to be pre-populated from corresponding question (Q6.1) in the Environmental Considerations section.</b> Taken together, these questions are design to check that any overlap with a SAC has been addressed in relation to this project.
2	Has this sensitivity been addressed by Ecology Section and resulting recommendations applied, either through project redesign, conditions to be attached to the afforestation licence (if issued), or refusal?	Yes / No / N/A	If any overlap occurs (as recorded under the Environmental Considerations Section), consult the Ecology Output Checklist to verify that this issue has been addressed by Ecology Section. This will be indicated by a tick opposite 'Overlap with SAC'. The District Inspectors should have no cause to deviate from or seek a revision of conditions or constraints recommended by the Ecology Section, save where clear errors occur regarding the project details (e.g. discrepancies regarding plot numbering) or where there have been relevant changes to the project between the time of referral to Ecology and the time of the certification / report (e.g. a plot has been removed or FT changed from native forest to commercial conifers). The output of the Ecology Section is the result of the work of one or more professional Ecologists, with access to various sources of information beyond those included on iFORIS. Ensure the recommendations in the Ecologist's report are applied through conditions to be attached to the afforestation licence (if issued), or by a refusal (where so recommended). (Tick 'N/A' to the 2 <sup>nd</sup> question only if overlap does not occur.)
3	Is the project area partially or wholly within a NHA? If 'YES', answer Q4.	Yes / No	<b>NOTE, spatial question to be pre-populated from corresponding question (Q6.2) in the Environmental Considerations section.</b> Taken together, these questions are design to check that any overlap with a NHA has been addressed in relation to this project.
4	Has this sensitivity been addressed by Ecology Section and resulting recommendations applied, either through project redesign, conditions to be attached to the afforestation licence (if issued), or refusal?	Yes / No / N/A	If any overlap occurs (as recorded under the Environmental Considerations Section), consult the Ecology Output Checklist to verify that this issue has been addressed by Ecology Section. This will be indicated by a tick opposite 'Overlap with NHA'. The District Inspectors should have no cause to deviate from or seek a revision of conditions or constraints recommended by the Ecology Section, save where clear errors occur regarding the project details (e.g. discrepancies regarding plot numbering) or where there have been relevant changes to the project between the time of referral to Ecology and the time of the certification / report (e.g. a plot has been removed or FT changed from native forest to commercial conifers). The output of the Ecology Section is the result of the work of one or more professional Ecologists, with access to various sources of information beyond those included on iFORIS. Ensure the recommendations in the Ecologist's report are applied through conditions to be attached to the afforestation licence (if issued), or by a refusal (where so recommended). (Tick 'N/A' to the 2 <sup>nd</sup> question only if overlap does not occur.)
5	Is the project area partially or wholly within a proposed NHA, a Nature Reserve, or a National Park? If 'YES', answer Q6.	Yes / No	<b>NOTE, spatial question to be pre-populated from corresponding question (Q6.3) in the Environmental Considerations section.</b> Taken together, these questions are design to check that any overlap with a proposed NHA, Nature Reserve or a National Park has been addressed in relation to this project.
6	Has this sensitivity been addressed by Ecology Section and resulting recommendations applied, either through project redesign, conditions to be attached to the afforestation licence (if issued), or refusal?	Yes / No / N/A	If any overlap occurs (as recorded under the Environmental Considerations Section), consult the Ecology Output Checklist to verify that this issue has been addressed by Ecology Section. This will be indicated by a tick opposite 'Overlap with NHA'. The District Inspectors should have no cause to deviate from or seek a revision of conditions or constraints recommended by the Ecology Section, save where clear errors occur regarding the project details (e.g. discrepancies regarding plot numbering) or where there have been relevant changes to the project between the time of referral to Ecology and the time of the certification / report (e.g. a plot has been removed or FT changed from native forest to commercial conifers). The output of the Ecology Section is the result of the work of one or more professional Ecologists, with access to various sources of information beyond those included on iFORIS. Ensure the recommendations in the Ecologist's report are applied through conditions to be attached to the afforestation licence (if issued), or by a refusal (where so recommended). (Tick 'N/A' to the 2 <sup>nd</sup> question only if overlap does not occur.)



High Nature Value Farmland (HNVf) and Habitats			
1	Is the project area within a HNVf area with a score of 0.5 SD or greater? <b>If 'YES', answer Q2.</b> <b>If 'NO', answer Q9 and Q11.</b>	Yes / No	<b>NOTE, spatial question to be pre-populated from corresponding question (Q8.1) in the Environmental Considerations section.</b> Confirm whether or not the project area overlaps with a HNV farmland area with a score of 0.5 SD or greater. If 'Yes', proceed to Q2. If 'No', proceed to Q9 and Q10.
2	Does the project area wholly comprise intensively managed farmland, with no overlap of the Irish Semi-Natural Grasslands Survey layer and the BirdWatch Ireland Farmland Birds Hotspot map, and with no Annex 1 habitat onsite? <b>If 'YES', Q3.</b> <b>If 'NO', Q4.</b>	Yes / No / N/A	This question asks if the project area wholly comprise intensively managed farmland, and that the sensitivities listed regarding semi-natural grassland, Annex 1 habitats and farmland birds don't arise. Where the Applicant / Registered Forester tick 'Yes' to the corresponding question in the Environmental Considerations section, a report must be submitted supporting this claim. The Forestry Inspector then makes his / her decision on the matter, taking this report into account alongside other sources of information. If the position is accepted, answer 'Yes' to Q3, tick N/A to all the remaining questions in this section, and continue straight to the next section regarding Archaeology & Built Heritage. If 'No', proceed to Q3.
3	Does DAFM concur with this assessment, based on the submitted report supporting this assessment, and other sources of information (e.g. recent aerial imagery, site inspection)?	Yes / No / N/A	
4	Does the project area include any extensively managed farmland? <b>If 'YES', answer Q5, 6 &amp; 7.</b>	Yes / No / N/A	After ruling out the possibility of the site wholly comprising intensively managed farmland, etc., the Inspector is asked if it includes any extensive-managed farmland. A 'Yes' response then brings in follow-up questions Q5-7.
5	Does the project area overlap with the Irish Semi-Natural Grasslands Survey layer? <b>If 'YES', answer Q8.</b>	Yes / No / N/A	<b>NOTE, spatial questions Q5 and Q7 to be pre-populated from corresponding question in the Environmental Considerations section.</b> Confirm whether or not one or more of these three sensitivities involving semi-natural grassland, Annex 1 habitat and farmland birds arises in relation to the project area. If 'yes' to any, If any overlap occurs (as recorded under the Environmental Considerations Section), consult the Ecology Output Checklist to verify that the issue(s) involved has been addressed by Ecology Section. This will be indicated by a tick opposite 'Semi-Natural Grassland', 'Annex 1 Habitat' and 'Farmland Birds'. The District Inspectors should have no cause to deviate from or seek a revision of conditions or constraints recommended by the Ecology Section, save where clear errors occur regarding the project details (e.g. discrepancies regarding plot numbering) or where there have been relevant changes to the project between the time of referral to Ecology and the time of the certification / report (e.g. a plot has been removed or FT changed from native forest to commercial conifers). The output of the Ecology Section is the result of the work of one or more professional Ecologists, with access to various sources of information beyond those included on iFORIS.
6	Does the project area contain an area(s) having the characteristics of an Annex I habitat(s)? <b>If 'YES', answer Q8.</b>	Yes / No / N/A	
7	Does the project area overlap with the BirdWatch Ireland Farmland Birds Hotspot layer? <b>If 'YES', answer Q8.</b>	Yes / No / N/A	
8	If 'YES' to any of the above Q5, Q6 and / or Q7, has this sensitivity been addressed by Ecology Section and resulting recommendations applied, either through project redesign, conditions to be attached to the afforestation licence (if issued), or refusal?	Yes / No / N/A	Ensure the recommendations in the Ecologist's report are applied through conditions to be attached to the afforestation licence (if issued), or by a refusal (where so recommended).
9	Where not within a HNVf area with a score of 0.5 SD or greater, does the project area overlap with the Irish Semi-Natural Grasslands Survey layer? <b>If 'YES', answer Q10.</b>	Yes / No / N/A	<b>NOTE, spatial question to be pre-populated from corresponding question in the Environmental Considerations section.</b> These two questions apply to projects outside of HNV farmland areas with a score of 0.5 SD or greater, and taken together they are design to check that any overlap with the Irish Semi-Natural Grasslands Survey layer has been addressed in relation to this project.

10	Has this sensitivity been addressed by Ecology Section and resulting recommendations applied, either through project redesign, conditions to be attached to the afforestation licence (if issued), or refusal?	Yes / No / N/A	<p>If any overlap occurs (as recorded under the Environmental Considerations Section), consult the Ecology Output Checklist to verify that this issue has been addressed by Ecology Section. This will be indicated by a tick opposite 'Outside of HNV farmland, overlap with NHA'.</p> <p>The District Inspectors should have no cause to deviate from or seek a revision of conditions or constraints recommended by the Ecology Section, save where clear errors occur regarding the project details (e.g. discrepancies regarding plot numbering) or where there have been relevant changes to the project between the time of referral to Ecology and the time of the certification / report (e.g. a plot has been removed or FT changed from native forest to commercial conifers).</p> <p>The output of the Ecology Section is the result of the work of one or more professional Ecologists, with access to various sources of information beyond those included on iFORIS.</p> <p>Ensure the recommendations in the Ecologist's report are applied through conditions to be attached to the afforestation licence (if issued), or by a refusal (where so recommended).</p> <p>(Tick 'N/A' to both questions if there is no overlap with HNV farmland with a score of 0.5 SD or greater.)</p> <p>(Tick 'N/A' to the 2<sup>nd</sup> question where the project overlaps with HNV farmland with a score of 0.5 SD or greater, but does not overlap with the Irish Semi-Natural Grasslands Survey layer.)</p>
11	<p>Where NOT within a HNVf area with a score of 0.5 SD or greater, does the project area contain Annex I habitat(s)?</p> <p><b>Answer Q12.</b></p>	Yes / No / N/A	<p>These two questions apply to projects outside of HNV farmland areas with a score of 0.5 SD or greater, and taken together, they are design to check that any overlap with an Annex 1 habitat(s) has been addressed in relation to this project.</p>
12	Has this sensitivity been addressed by Ecology Section and resulting recommendations applied, either through project redesign, conditions to be attached to the afforestation licence (if issued), or refusal?	Yes / No / N/A	<p>If any overlap occurs (as recorded under the Environmental Considerations Section), consult the Ecology Output Checklist to verify that this issue has been addressed by Ecology Section. This will be indicated by a tick opposite 'Outside of HNV farmland, overlap with Annex 1 habitat'.</p> <p>The District Inspectors should have no cause to deviate from or seek a revision of conditions or constraints recommended by the Ecology Section, save where clear errors occur regarding the project details (e.g. discrepancies regarding plot numbering) or where there have been relevant changes to the project between the time of referral to Ecology and the time of the certification / report (e.g. a plot has been removed or FT changed from native forest to commercial conifers).</p> <p>The output of the Ecology Section is the result of the work of one or more professional Ecologists, with access to various sources of information beyond those included on iFORIS.</p> <p>Ensure the recommendations in the Ecologist's report are applied through conditions to be attached to the afforestation licence (if issued), or by a refusal (where so recommended).</p> <p>(Tick 'N/A' to both questions if there is no overlap with HNV farmland with a score of 0.5 SD or greater.)</p> <p>(Tick 'N/A' to the 2<sup>nd</sup> question where the project overlaps with HNV farmland with a score of 0.5 SD or greater, but does not overlap with an Annex 1 habitat(s).)</p>

Archaeology and Built Heritage			
1	Does the project area contain or adjoin a listed archaeological site or monument?	Yes / No	<p><b>NOTE, spatial question to be pre-populated from corresponding question (Q9.1-9.6) in the Environmental Considerations section.</b></p> <p>Questions 1-7 under the title 'Archaeology and Built Heritage' are designed to check that any overlap with the circles or polygons around or intersections with the 200 m screening distance for various archaeological sites and monuments and built heritage (as listed in Qs1-6) have been addressed in relation to this project.</p> <p>If any overlap or 200 m screening distance intersection occurs (as recorded under the Environmental Considerations section), consult the outputs of the Archaeology &amp; Build Heritage Section to verify that the issues arising from any overlap(s) or 200 m screening distance intersection have been addressed by that Section. Also ensure that the recommendations in the Archaeologist's certification and/or report is applied through conditions to be attached to the afforestation licence (if issued), or by a refusal (where so recommended).</p> <p>As is the case throughout, the output of the Archaeology &amp; Build Heritage Section is the result of the work of one or more professional Archaeologists, often following statutory referral to and advice from the National Monuments Service of the Department of Heritage, Local Government and Housing.</p> <p>The District Inspectors should have no cause to deviate from or seek a revision of conditions or constraints recommended by the Archaeology &amp; Build Heritage Section, save where there are clear errors occur regarding the project details (e.g., discrepancies regarding plot numbering) or where there have been relevant changes to the project between the time of referral and the time of the certification / report (e.g., a plot has been removed or an indicated access route re-aligned).</p> <p>Confirmation of this need only be indicated by completing the relevant Yes/No ticks opposite.</p> <p>(Tick 'N/A' to Q.7 only if 'No' to all of Qs.1-6.)</p>
2	Does the project area contain or adjoin a listed archaeological site or monument with intensive public usage, e.g. a National Monument in State or Local Authority Ownership, in Guardianship or with a Preservation Order, or an abbey, church, graveyard or children's burial ground?	Yes / No	
3	Is the project area adjacent to (i.e. within 200 metres of) a listed archaeological site or monument?	Yes / No	
4	Is the project area within or adjoining an Archaeological Area, a Zone of Archaeological Amenity, a World Heritage Site, a site on the Tentative List of World Heritage Sites, or a historic battlefield?	Yes / No	
5	Does the project area contain or adjoin a Protected Structure or a building or structure in the National Inventory of Architectural Heritage?	Yes / No	
6	Is the project area within or adjoining a rural Architectural Conservation Area?	Yes / No	
7	<b>If 'YES' to any of the above</b> , has this sensitivity(-ies) been addressed by the Archaeology and Built Heritage Section and resulting recommendations applied through conditions to be attached to the afforestation licence (if issued), or refusal?	Yes / No / N/A	

Landscape, Amenity and Recreation			
1	Is the project area within an area identified in the relevant County Development Plan as being sensitive for: landscape / visual amenity; and / or recreational / amenity purposes? <b>If 'YES', answer Q2.</b>	Yes / No	<b>NOTE, spatial question to be pre-populated from corresponding question (Q10.1) in the Environmental Considerations section.</b> These two questions are designed to check whether this project overlaps with areas identified in the relevant County Development Plan as being sensitive for landscape / visual amenity and / or recreational / amenity purposes, and where this is the case, that the project is designed to offset potential impacts on this sensitivity(-ies).
2	Has any potential impact on these sensitivities been offset, either through project redesign; and / or through conditions to be attached to any licence issued (including adherence to landscape measures set out in the Environmental Requirements for Afforestation); or through refusal?	Yes / No / N/A	Typically, project redesign is used where this issue arises(*). For example, the removal of visually obtrusive geometric shapes on prominent slopes, through the use of landscape setbacks, forest edge and environmental setback planting, changes in species selection and plot boundaries, or exclusion of individual plots). Such redesign can be sought <i>via</i> FIR and the subsequent submission of a revised Certified Species Map and Species Table; or (ii) through conditionality (especially where the required changes are minor). In some cases, due to extreme landscape sensitivities, redesign may not be sufficient to avoid impact, and the project must be refused on this basis. (* Where the issues are complex in nature, redesign can be aided through the use of panoramic photographs of the site taken using the panoramic function available on most smart phones (or alternatively, a photomontage created from several photos joined together) from prominent viewing points. The resulting image can be overlaid by the mature forest canopy, with different design ideas 'triated', using different overlays.) (Tick 'N/A' to the 2 <sup>nd</sup> question only if overlap does not occur.)
3	Is there potential for the project to impact negatively on a locally important amenity(-ies) that may not be officially designated but still used and enjoyed by the local community? <b>If 'YES', provide details of the amenity(-ies) and answer Q4.</b>	Yes / No	<b>NOTE, spatial question to be pre-populated from corresponding question (Q10.2) in the Environmental Considerations section.</b> This question is designed to check the project does not impact negatively on locally important amenity(-ies) that may not be officially designated but still used and enjoyed by the local community.
	<b>[FREE TEXT BOX]</b>		As described in the Environmental Considerations section, local knowledge is important in terms of recognising whether or not such a sensitivity exists. Submissions from local people may also point to this issue.
4	Has any potential impact on the amenity been offset, either through project redesign; and / or through conditions to be attached to any licence issued (including adherence to landscape measures set out in the Environmental Requirements for Afforestation); or through refusal?	Yes / No / N/A	Typically, project redesign is used where this issue arises(*). For example, the removal of visually obtrusive geometric shapes on prominent slopes, through the use of landscape setbacks, forest edge and environmental setback planting, changes in species selection and plot boundaries, or exclusion of individual plots). Such redesign can be sought <i>via</i> FIR and the subsequent submission of a revised Certified Species Map and Species Table; or (ii) through conditionality (especially where the required changes are minor). In some cases, due to extreme landscape sensitivities, redesign may not be sufficient to avoid impact, and the project must be refused on this basis. (* Where the issues are complex in nature, redesign can be aided through the use of panoramic photographs of the site taken using the panoramic function available on most smart phones (or alternatively, a photomontage created from several photos joined together) from prominent viewing points. The resulting image can be overlaid by the mature forest canopy, with different design ideas 'triated', using different overlays.)
5	Is there potential for the project to impact negatively on any adjoining or nearby dwelling(s), public road(s), infrastructure and / or densely populated area(s)? <b>If 'YES', answer Q6.</b>	Yes / No	These two questions are designed to check whether this project has the potential to impact negatively on any adjoining or nearby dwelling(s), public road(s), infrastructure and / or densely populated area(s)? Whether or not a negative impact may arise will be based on knowledge of the site and its surroundings, a review of public submissions, and a balanced judgement.
6	Has any potential impact of these sensitivities been offset, either through project redesign; and / or through conditions to be attached to any licence issued (including adherence to landscape measures set out in the Environmental Requirements for Afforestation); or through refusal?	Yes / No / N/A	If project redesign is needed, this may include the removal of visually obtrusive geometric shapes on prominent slopes, through the use of landscape, dwelling and public road setbacks, the introduction of ridelines to retain views, forest edge and environmental setback planting, changes in species selection and plot boundaries, or exclusion of individual plots. Such redesign can be sought <i>via</i> FIR and the subsequent submission of a revised Certified Species Map and Species Table; or (ii) through conditionality (especially where the required changes are minor). In some cases, due to extreme landscape sensitivities, redesign may not be sufficient to avoid impact, and the project must be refused on this basis. (* Where the issues are complex in nature, redesign can be aided through the use of panoramic photographs of the site taken using the panoramic function available on most smart phones (or alternatively, a photomontage created from several photos joined together) from

prominent viewing points. The resulting image can be overlaid by the mature forest canopy, with different design ideas 'tried', using different overlays.)

Transfrontier and Other Potential Impacts			
1	Is the project area within 500 m of the border with Northern Ireland?	Yes / No	<p>These questions establish the proximity of the project area to the border of Northern Ireland, i.e. within 500 m ‘as the crow flies’ and / or within 3 km upstream of the border. (Conceivably, both situations could exist, where a waterbody travels a wide loop before meeting the border.) The Inspector is asked whether the project is likely to have a significant transfrontier effect(s) or impact(s), and if so, to describe the effect(s) or impact(s) involved.</p> <p>The ‘source – pathway – receptor’ model will be useful in this regard. The ‘source’ refers to any negative attributes that could arise from the project(*). The ‘receptor’ refers to the environmental sensitivity that could be impacted by that same attribute. The ‘pathway’ refers to the route by which the negative attribute of the project can reach the receptor. Within that basic model, significant variabilities arise in relation to each of the three factors, which influence whether or not any effort or impact is likely to be significant. For example, the instream distance will influence the degree to which sedimentation will impact a downstream receptor.</p> <p>For further information on this model, see the AA Screening SOP developed for District Inspectors, Nov., 2019.</p> <p>(* Note the following important distinction: In relation to the EIA process, mitigation can be factored into the screening stage of the EIA process. Therefore, when deciding whether or not the project gives rise to a ‘source’, e.g. of sedimentation, consideration can be given to the various mandatory mitigation measures set out in the Environmental Requirements for Afforestation, including the water setback. Conditions set by Ecology can also be relied upon.)</p>
2	Is the project area within 3 km upstream of the border with Northern Ireland?	Yes / No	
3	Is the project likely to have a significant transfrontier effect(s) or impact(s)? <b>If ‘YES’, answer Q4.</b>	Yes / No	
4	Specify the potential significant effect(s) or impact(s) identified.		
	<b>[FREE TEXT BOX]</b>		
5	Do the characteristics of the project indicate any likely significant effects in terms of the production of waste, pollution and nuisances, risks of major accidents or disasters (including those caused by climate change), or risks to human health? <b>If ‘YES’, provide details.</b>	Yes / No	<p>Inspectors are asked to look at the project and to consider whether any significant effects are likely to arise in relation to the possible impacts listed in the question. Again, when considering this question, the Inspector can assume that all relevant measures set out in the Environmental Requirements for Afforestation will apply, together with conditions arising from your own assessment of the project, from Ecology, from Archaeology, etc.</p>
	<b>[FREE TEXT BOX]</b>		
6	Are there any other potential environmental impact(s) arising from this project? (E.g. Small White Orchid, FPM population outside of designated areas, Marsh Fritillary) <b>If ‘YES’, provide details.</b>	Yes / No	<p>The Inspector can use the response to this question to highlight any other sensitivity not specifically covered in any of the sections and respective questions above, and to track the resolution of the issues involved. Examples of an ecological nature include Small White Orchid, FPM population outside of designated areas and Marsh Fritillary, and if any of these issues arise in the Environmental Considerations section, an appropriate response should be on file, in the form of a confirmation by Ecology that it has dealt with the issue.</p>
	<b>[FREE TEXT BOX]</b>		

Referral Responses and Submissions			
1	Was the application referred to the necessary Consultation Bodies, as required by referral procedures? <b>If 'YES', answer Q2.</b>	Yes / No	<p>These two questions are designed to confirm that all necessary referrals to statutory bodies took place and that where responses were received, that the observations and recommendations therein have been reviewed and give due consideration, up to and including the following, as appropriate:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ exclusion of certain areas / plots (formalised through a FIR to the Applicant seeking a revised Certified Species Map and Species Table);</li> <li>➤ refusal of the entire site (if merited); or</li> <li>➤ incorporation of recommendations (all or a selection) as conditions attached to any approval issued.</li> </ul> <p>Do not complete this section if the file was referred to a statutory body but the time allowed for a response has not yet lapsed. Instead, wait until the time has lapsed or a response received, which ever comes first.</p> <p>Note, only refer the file to Ecology Section after all of the necessary referrals have taken place, and responses received (or time lapsed). In this way, both Sections can review the responses as they commence their own assessment of the file.</p> <p>NOTE, DIs must not refer (or re-refer) a file to a statutory body after receipt of the output from Ecology and / or Archaeology and Built Heritage.</p> <p>(Tick 'N/A' to the 2<sup>nd</sup> question only if overlap does not occur.)</p> <p>NOTE In relation to Q5 below, the DI is required to provide a short summary of the issues raised within the referral responses received from the various statutory bodies, and how these issues have or will be addressed.</p>
2	Were all of the referral responses received, and observations / recommendations therein, given due consideration?  <b>If 'YES', answer Q5.</b>	Yes / No / N/A	
3	Were there any submissions received from the general public and/or non-governmental organisations (NGOs)? <b>If 'YES', answer Q4.</b>	Yes / No	<p>These two questions are designed to confirm that any submission received as a result of the public notification process, has been reviewed, and that the observations and recommendations therein have been given due consideration, up to and including the following, as appropriate:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ exclusion of certain areas / plots (formalised through a FIR to the Applicant seeking a revised Certified Species Map and Species Table);</li> <li>➤ refusal of the entire site (if merited); or</li> <li>➤ incorporation of recommendations (all or a selection) as conditions attached to any approval issued.</li> </ul> <p>Do not complete this section if the allowable time for submissions has not yet lapsed. Instead, wait until the time has lapsed, before proceeding with this question.</p> <p>(Tick 'N/A' to the 2<sup>nd</sup> question only if overlap does not occur.)</p> <p>NOTE In relation to Q5 below, the DI is required to provide a short summary of the issues raised within the submissions received from the general public and environmental NGOs, and how these issues have or will be addressed.</p>
4	Were all of the submissions received, and observations / recommendations therein, given due consideration?  <b>If 'YES', answer Q5.</b>	Yes / No / N/A	
5	Provide a short summary of the issues raised within the referral responses (from Consultation Bodies) and submissions (from the general public and NGOs) received, and how these issues have or will be addressed.		As outlined above, provide a summary of the issues raised from the statutory referral and public notification processes, and how these issues have or will be dealt with.
	<b>[FREE TEXT BOX]</b>		

EIA SUB-THRESHOLD DETERMINATION		
1	Having considered:	
	1) the physical characteristics and design of the afforestation project, as detailed in the Environmental Considerations form, the Form 1 application form, the maps, and any other supplemental reports submitted by or on behalf of the Applicant;	
	2) the location of the project, with particular regard to the environmental sensitivity of geographical areas identified above that could be affected;	
	3) The type and characteristics of potential impacts, in particular the cumulation of any such potential impacts with other existing and/or approved afforestation projects summarised above or other non-afforestation projects listed in the AA in-combination report for the project, and where the considerations made are further detailed in Schedule 3 of the Forestry Regulations 2017; and 4) the questions and answers above (as informed by established procedures and protocols, and by related reports submitted by or on behalf of the Applicant):	
2	It has been determined that the project is unlikely to give rise to significant effects on the environment by virtue of its nature, size and location and consequently, an environmental impact assessment is not required? <b>If 'YES', answer Q3.</b> <b>If 'NO', answer Q7.</b>	Yes / No
3	Where it has been determined that an EIA is not required, in coming to the conclusions on the likelihood of significant effects on the environment resulting from the project, has account been taken of any mitigation measures intended to avoid likely significant effects on the environment or effectively reduce impacts?  <b>If 'YES', answer Q4 and Q5.</b>	Yes / No / N/A
4	Regarding the mitigation measures referred to, are these standard mitigation measures which have been incorporated into the project design?  <b>If 'YES', answer Q5 &amp; Q6.</b>	Yes / No / N/A
5	Have any other non-standard mitigation measures incorporated into the project design been taken into account?  <b>If 'YES', answer Q6.</b>	Yes / No / N/A
6	Indicate where further details of these mitigation measures are set out?	
	Certified Species Map	[Tick Box]

	Biodiversity Map	[Tick Box]	
	Habitat Map	[Tick Box]	
	Fencing Map	[Tick Box]	
	Other (specify) <b>[FREE TEXT BOX]</b>	[Tick Box]	
7	Specify the potential significant effects or impacts identified that should be made subject to EIA?	Yes / No / N/A	
	<b>[FREE TEXT BOX]</b>		

*end*