

Glossary of Terms

Alluvial soils	Are located adjoining rivers, streams and lakes and have been formed due to the deposition of soil particles from periodic flooding events. These soils may have restricted uses due to periodic flooding but are often fertile and suitable for grassland and tillage.
Ambient noise	The totally encompassing sound in a given situation at a given time, usually composed of sound from many sources, near and far.
Annex I Bird species	Annex I of the Birds Directive lists 193 bird species and sub-species which are: i) in danger of extinction, ii) vulnerable to specific changes in their habitat, iii) considered rare because of small populations or restricted local distribution and / or, iv) require particular attention for reasons of the specific nature of habitat. Article 4 of the Birds Directive has classified a number of Special Protection Areas (SPAs) for regularly occurring migratory birds and those birds listed on Annex I of the directive.
Annex I Habitat (including Priority)	Habitat types whose conservation requires the designation of Special Areas of Conservation. Priority habitats, which are in danger of disappearing within the EU territory, are highlighted with an asterisk.
Annex II Species	Animal and plant species whose conservation requires the designation of Special Areas of Conservation.
Appropriate Assessment	An Appropriate Assessment involves a case by case examination of the implications of a development or activity for a Natura 2000 site and its conservation objectives. The EU Habitats Directive (92/43/EEC) placed an obligation on Member States of the EU to establish the Natura 2000 Network. The Natura 2000 Network is a network of important ecological sites across the European Union and include Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) established under the Habitats Directive and Special Protection Areas (SPAs) established under the EU Birds Directive (79/409/EEC).
Architectural Conservation Areas	An Architectural Conservation Area (ACA) is defined as: “A place, area, group of structures or townscape, taking account of building lines and heights, that is of special architectural, historical, archaeological, artistic, cultural, scientific, social or technical interest or that contributes to the appreciation of a protected structure, and whose character it is an objective of a development plan to preserve.” Chapter 2 of Part 4 of the Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended outlines that all development plans must now include objectives for preserving the character of ACA’s. As such ACA’s are subject to statutory protection and are a key constraint.
Baseline	Work done to collect and interpret information on the condition / trends of the existing environment. This can be used to establish a <u>baseline</u> state against which future change is measured.
Biodiversity	Contraction of “biological diversity”. Biodiversity reflects the number, variety and variability of living organisms. The number and variety of species found in a given area in a region.
Birds Directive	Directive 2009/147/EC of the European Parliament & of the Council of 30 November 2009 on the conservation of wild birds.
Brown Earth Soils	Well drained soils with distinctly coloured horizons (layers). These soils are fertile and productive from an agricultural perspective being suited to tillage and grassland.
Buffer zone	The region adjacent to the border of a protected area; a transition zone between areas managed for different objectives.

Bullaun stone	The term 'bullaun' (from the Irish word 'bullán', which means a round hollow in a stone, or a bowl) is applied to boulders of stone or bedrock with hemispherical hollows or basin-like depressions, which may have functioned as mortars. They are frequently associated with ecclesiastical sites and holy wells and so may have been used for religious purposes. Other examples which do not appear to have ecclesiastical associations can be found in bedrock or outcrop in upland contexts, often under blanket bog, and are known as bedrock mortars. They date from the prehistoric period to the early medieval period (5 th -12 th centuries AD).
Burial ground	An area of ground, set apart for the burial of the dead, not associated with a church. These date from the medieval period (5 th - 16 th centuries AD) onwards.
Burial mound	An earthen or earthen and stone mound which contains burials. This classification is applied specifically to burial mounds which are medieval or later in date. For prehistoric examples see barrows.
Burnt mound	A circular or irregularly shaped mound of material consisting of burnt stones, ash and charcoal with no surface evidence of a trough or depression. Levelled examples can appear as a spread containing burnt stones. These can be of any date from the Bronze Age (c. 2400-500 BC) to the early medieval period (5 th - 12 th century AD). See also Fulacht fia.
Burnt pit	A subcircular or sub-rectangular pit which has evidence of in situ burning and contains a mixture of charcoal and/or fire-cracked stones. These pits have been also been called fire pits, roasting pits and boiling pits. They are part of a cooking/industrial tradition which continues from the Bronze Age up to the medieval period (c. 2400 BC - 16 th century AD).
Burnt spread	An area of charcoal-enriched soil indicative of an activity associated with burning. These may be of any date from prehistory onwards.
Castle - motte	An artificial, steep-sided, earthen mound on or in which is set the principal tower of a castle. Constructed by the Anglo-Normans in the late 12 th and early 13 th century AD.
Castle - motte and bailey	An early form of castle consisting of a flat-topped, steep-sided, earthen mound supporting a wooden tower, with an associated courtyard or bailey, which is often raised and enclosed by a bank and fosse. Constructed by the Anglo-Normans in the late 12 th and early 13 th century AD.
Castle - tower house	A fortified residence in the form of a tower, usually four or five storeys high, and for the most part slightly more rectangular than square in plan. They were constructed by a lord or landholder and were often partially or completely enclosed by a bawn. The majority date to the 15 th and 16 th centuries AD.
Cist	A rectangular or polygonal structure used for burial purposes, constructed from stone slabs set on edge and covered by one or more horizontal slabs or capstones. Cists may be built on the surface or sunk into the ground or set within a cemetery cairn or cemetery mound. They date to the Bronze / Iron Ages (c. 2400 BC - AD 400).
CO	Carbon Monoxide
DAU	Development Applications Unit at NPWS – the division of NPWS for which all official communications (with the exception of Wildlife licencing Unit) in respect of planning enquiries consultations are submitted.
dB	Decibel - The scale in which sound pressure level is expressed. It is defined as 20 times the logarithm of the ratio between the RMS pressure of the sound field and the reference pressure of 20 micro-pascals (20 µPa).
Demesne Landscapes	The first edition Ordnance Survey map of Counties Leitrim and Roscommon shows the extent of demesne landscapes across the landscape as shaded areas of land. These were established as a naturalised landscaped setting for the large houses of the landed gentry. Later early 20 th century OS mapping can also

	indicate demesne extent, although they are not shaded. Not all demesne landscapes are subject to statutory protection. However, where a demesne exists in association with a protected structure (dependant on the preservation of the landscape), protection can be interpreted as extending to the limits of the curtilage and as such falls within the remit of the Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended.
Designed landscape - tree-ring	A wall, bank, fosse or an earthwork platform, or any combination of these, usually circular or oval in plan, used to define or enclose a cluster of ornamental trees. These date from the 17 th to the 19 th century AD.
Designated Site	A geographically defined area through legal or other effective means, which is designated or regulated and managed to achieve specific conservation objectives.
Ecclesiastical enclosure	A large oval or roughly circular area, usually over 50m in diameter, defined by a bank/banks and external fosse/fosses or drystone wall/walls, enclosing an early medieval church or monastery and its associated areas of domestic and industrial activity. These date to the early medieval period (5 th -12 th centuries AD).
Ecology	The branch of science concerned with the interrelationship of organisms and their environment; the study of ecosystems.
Enclosure	An area defined by an enclosing element (e.g. bank, wall, fosse, scarp), or indicated as such cartographically, and occurring in a variety of shapes and sizes, possessing no diagnostic features which would allow classification within another monument category. These may date to any period from prehistory onwards. Enclosures with a diameter greater than 70m should be classed as Large Enclosure.
ETS	Emissions Trading Scheme
Excavation - miscellaneous	A feature or group of features of indeterminate function revealed by excavation that cannot be assigned to a particular monument class. These may date to any period from prehistory onwards.
Fauna	All of the animals found in a given area.
Flat cemetery	Three or more individual burials, in pits or cists, related to one another by rite, grave goods or simply by their close proximity to one another. These are not covered by a mound and are dated to the Bronze Age (c. 2400 - 500 BC).
Flora	All of the plants found in a given area.
Fulacht fia	A horseshoe-shaped or kidney-shaped mound consisting of fire-cracked stone and charcoal-enriched soil built up around a sunken trough located near or adjacent to a water supply, such as a stream or spring, or in wet marshy areas. The first recorded use of the Irish term 'fulacht fiadh/fia' (cooking pit of the deer or of the wild) as relating to ancient cooking sites was in the 17 th century. These are generally interpreted to have been associated with cooking and date primarily to the Bronze Age (c. 2400 - 500 BC). See also Burnt Mound.
Green Infrastructure	An interconnected network of natural areas and open spaces that conserves natural ecosystem values and functions, sustains clean air and water, and provides a wide array of benefits to people and wildlife.
Habitat	A place or type of site where an organism or population naturally occurs.
Habitat degradation	The diminishment of habitat quality, which results in a reduced ability to support flora and fauna species. Human activities leading to habitat degradation include polluting activities and the introduction of invasive species. Adverse effects can become immediately noticeable, but can also have a cumulative nature. Biodiversity will eventually be lost if habitats become degraded to an extent that species can no longer survive.

Habitat loss	The outcome of a process of land use change in which a ‘natural’; habitat-type is removed and replaced by another habitat-type, such as converting natural areas to production sites. In such process, flora and fauna species that previously used the site are displaced or destroyed. Generally this results in a reduction of biodiversity.
Habitats Directive	The Council Directive 92/43/EEC of 21 May 1992 on the conservation of natural habitats & of wild fauna & flora, which aims to promote the maintenance of biodiversity in Europe, taking account of economic, social, cultural & regional requirements. The EU Habitats Directive, together with the Birds Directive, forms the cornerstone of Europe’s nature conservation policy, and establishes the EU-wide Natura 2000 ecological network of protected areas. Annex I & Annex II list natural habitats & species (both animal & plant) of community interest whose conservation requires the designation of Special Areas of Conservation by Member States. The Habitats Directive is transposed into Irish law under the European Communities (Birds & Natural Habitats) Regulations 2011 (S.I.477 of 2011), as amended, and, as regards forestry developments, by the Forestry Regulations 2017 (S.I.191 of 2017), as amended.
Habitation site	A concentration of archaeological features which are indicative of habitation, the remains being insufficient to allow a more specific classification. These may be of any date up to the medieval period (5 th - 16 th centuries AD).
Hearth	A place where a fire is made but where there is insufficient evidence to indicate habitation. These may date to any period from prehistory (c. 8000 BC - AD 400) to the medieval period (5 th -16 th centuries AD).
IFI	Inland Fisheries Ireland - the state agency responsible for the conservation, protection, management, marketing, development and improvement of our inland fisheries and sea angling resources.
L_{den}	24-hour noise rating level determined by the averaging of the L _{day} with the L _{evening} (plus a 5 dB penalty) and the L _{night} (plus a 10 dB penalty). L _{den} is calculated using the following formula, as defined within the Environmental Noise Regulations (S.I. No. 140/2006).
<i>Where:</i>	$L_{den} = 10 \log \left(\frac{1}{24} \right) \left(12 * \left(10^{\frac{L_{day}}{10}} \right) + 4 * \left(10^{\frac{L_{evening}+5}{10}} \right) + 8 * \left(10^{\frac{L_{night}+10}{10}} \right) \right)$
L_{evening}	The A-weighted long-term average sound level as defined in ISO 1996-2, determined over all the evening periods of a year. The 4hr evening period is between 19:00hrs and 23:00hrs.
L_{night}	The A-weighted long-term average sound level as defined in ISO 1996-2, determined over all the night periods of a year. The 8hr night-time period is between 23:00hrs and 07:00hrs.
L_{day}	The A-weighted long-term average sound level as defined in ISO 1996-2, determined over all the day periods of a year. The 12hr daytime period is between 07:00hrs and 19:00hrs.
Kiln - corn-drying	A structure used for drying corn before it is ground. These are also known as cereal-drying kilns. These date from the medieval period (5 th -16 th centuries AD) onwards.
Local Area Plan (LAP):	Local Area Plans are statutory plans covering specifically defined local areas. They must be adhered to in guiding development in the areas to which they refer.
Luvisols	These are soils where there has been an accumulation of clay in the lower horizon compared to the upper horizon. This movement of clay has occurred over a long time due to downward percolation of water across the soil profile. Where limed and fertilised these soils are generally productive from an agricultural perspective and suited to grassland and tillage.

Megalithic structure	A construction of large stones of 'megalithic' proportions which, though comparable in certain respects with megalithic tombs, cannot be classified as any other known archaeological monument type on present evidence. These may date from the prehistoric period onwards.
Mound	An artificial elevation of earth or earth and stone of unknown date and function which cannot be classified as any other known archaeological monument type on present evidence.
Mt CO2 eq	Million tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent.
National Monuments	A national monument, as recorded on the National Monuments in State Care database, receives statutory protection, and is described as the following in Section 2 of the National Monuments Act 1930, as amended: “a monument or the remains of a monument the preservation of which is a matter of national importance by reason of the historical, architectural, traditional, artistic or archaeological interest attaching thereto.”
Native species	Flora and fauna species that occur naturally in a given area or region. Also referred to as indigenous species.
NO₂	Nitrogen Dioxide.
NO_x	Nitrogen Oxides.
Noise sensitive location	NSL – Any dwelling house, hotel or hostel, health building, educational establishment, place of worship or entertainment, or any other facility or other area of high amenity which for its proper enjoyment requires the absence of noise at nuisance levels.
Non-Native Alien Species or Invasive Species	An introduced species (intentionally or unintentionally) to an ecosystem in which they do not naturally appear and which threaten habitats, ecosystems, or native species. These species become invasive due to their high reproduction rates and by competing with and displacing native species, that naturally appear in that ecosystem. Unintentional introduction can be the result of accidents (e.g. when species escape from a zoo), transport (e.g. in the ballast water of a ship); intentional introduction can be the result of e.g. importing animals or plants or the genetic modification of organisms.
NPWS	National Parks and Wildlife Service at the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage. The state agency charged with securing the conservation of wildlife in Ireland and for overseeing management of sites designated for conservation purposes.
Peat soils	Form where there is severely restricted drainage and a wet climate. These are poorly productive from an agricultural point of view.
PM_{2.5}	Particulate Matter of less than 2.5 microns in diameter.
PM₁₀	Particulate matter of less than 10 microns in diameter.
Policies and Objectives	Policies emanate from a development plan's core strategy and set out the general direction to be adopted and pursued by the Planning Authority to achieve the proper planning and sustainable development of its area. Objectives, on the other hand, are more specific and refer to actual programmes which will go towards achieving a policy or strategy.
Preservation Orders	Preservation Orders and/or Temporary Preservation Orders can be assigned to a site or sites that are deemed to be in danger of injury or destruction. These are allocated under the 1930 Act. Preservation Orders make any interference with the site illegal. Temporary Preservation Orders can be attached under the 1954 Amendment of the National Monuments Act, 1930. These perform the same function as a Preservation Order but have a time limit of six months, after which the situation must be reviewed. Work may only be undertaken on or in the

	vicinity of sites under Preservation Orders with the written consent, and at the discretion, of the Minister of Culture, Heritage, and the Gaeltacht.
Protected Structures	Structures of architectural, cultural, scientific, historical, or archaeological interest are protected under the Planning and Development Act, 2000 as amended, where the conditions relating to the protection of the architectural heritage are set out in Part IV of this Act. The Planning and Development Act, 2000 as amended defines a protected structure as: “(a) a structure, or (b) a specified part of a structure which is included in a Record of Protected Structures (RPS), and, where that record so indicates, includes any specified feature which is in the attendant grounds of the structure and which would not otherwise be included in this definition. Protection of the structure or part thereof, includes conservation, preservation, and improvement compatible with maintaining its character and interest.” Buildings recorded in the RPS can include Recorded Monuments, structures listed in the NIAH or buildings deemed to be of architectural, archaeological, or artistic importance by the Minister of Culture, Heritage, and the Gaeltacht. It is noted that inclusion within the NIAH survey does not afford statutory protection. However, the structure may be added to the RPS by the relevant local authority. As such, these buildings should be considered to be constraints.
Record of Monuments and Places	Section 12 (1) of the National Monuments Act 1930, as amended provides that the Minister for Arts, Heritage, Gaeltacht and the Islands (now the Minister for Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht) shall establish and maintain a RMP where it is known that such monuments exist. The record comprises a list of monuments and relevant places and supporting mapping showing each monument and relevant place in respect of each county in the State. Sites recorded on the RMP all receive statutory protection under the National Monuments Act 1930, as amended.
Red List	The IUCN Red List of Threatened Species provides taxonomic, conservation status and distribution information on taxa that have been globally evaluated using the IUCN Red List Categories and Criteria. This system is designed to determine the relative risk of extinction, and the main purpose of the IUCN Red List is to catalogue and highlight those taxa that are facing a higher risk of global extinction (i.e. those listed as Critically Endangered, Endangered and Vulnerable). The IUCN Red List also includes information on taxa that are categorized as Extinct or Extinct in the Wild; on taxa that cannot be evaluated because of insufficient information (i.e. are Data Deficient); and on taxa that are either close to meeting the threatened thresholds or that would be threatened were it not for an ongoing taxon-specific conservation programme (i.e. are Near Threatened).
Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy	Strategy governing the planning and development of one of three regions in the country which sets out the regional implementation of national planning policies.
Ribbon Development	The building of houses in a continuous row along a public roadway.
Ring-ditch	A circular or near circular fosse, usually less than 20m in diameter and visible as cropmarks / soilmarks on aerial photographs. The function of these monuments is unknown as ring-ditches may be the remains of ploughed out barrows, round houses or other modern features and, in consequence, may date to any period from prehistory onwards.
Riparian	Something related to, living on, or located at the banks of a watercourse, usually a river or stream
Ritual site - holy well	A well or spring, though in some unusual cases a natural rock basin, which usually bears a saint's name and is often reputed to possess miraculous healing

	properties. These may have their origins in prehistory but are associated with devotions from the medieval period (5 th - 16 th centuries AD) onwards.
Rock art	Geometric and other motifs mostly pecked out, though some are incised, on earthfast boulders and rock outcrops, and occasionally on cist roofstones and standing stones. These associations suggest a Bronze Age date (c. 2400 - 500 BC), though perhaps with origins in the Neolithic (c. 4000 - 2400 BC). Rock art may be associated with metal deposits, boundaries and routeways
Surface water gleys	Relatively poorly drained soils which develop over time under permanent or intermittent waterlogged conditions caused by high ground water table. The lower soil horizon (layer) has a 'gleyed' appearance i.e. a grey / blue colour caused by the lack of oxygen due to water. These soils are generally suited to grassland enterprises. Where drainage outfalls have been achieved they can be highly productive but may have a shorter grazing season due to the wet nature of the soil.
Waterbody	Mass of water distinct from other masses of water.
Watercourse	Natural or man-made channel through or along which water may flow.