

# Forest Certification

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- What is Forest Certification?
- What does it involve?
- Consultation and participation
- Discussion

# What is 'Forest Certification'?

- Independent assessment of a forest against a defined, documented national standard (in the UK, UK Woodland Assurance Scheme – UKWAS)
- Performance based assessment – have to meet a certain level of performance
- Main scheme is 'Forest Stewardship Council' (FSC)

# FSC Promotes:

- Environmentally appropriate, socially beneficial and economically viable management of the world's forests.



# What does certification do?

- Identifies well managed forests and their products
- Provides consumers with independent assurance of the sources of forest products

What does  
certification  
involve?

# The Basic Process:

- Application - to a 'certification body'
- Initial Review and contact
- Consultation – minimum 1 month
- Assessment of compliance with standard
- Decision
- If successful, certificate issued
- Annual monitoring visits

# What does certification involve?

- There are two main elements to FSC forest certification:
  - Document review, management plans, procedures etc.
  - Resource management inspection: implementation
- Stakeholder consultation covers both these areas

# What does certification involve?

- For forest certification:
  - An assessor conducts a document review, stakeholder consultation and physical inspection of the resource
  - Inspection conducted using FSC recognised national standard (UKWAS)
  - Inspection takes 3-5 days
  - Annual monitoring visits

# Forest Stewardship Council

## Principles and Criteria

1. Compliance with laws and FSC Principles
2. Tenure and use rights and responsibilities
3. Indigenous peoples' rights
4. Community relations and worker's rights
5. Benefits from the forest
6. Environmental impact
7. Management plan
8. Monitoring and assessment
9. Maintenance of High Conservation Value forests
10. Plantations

# FSC Standards interpreted into National Standards - UKWAS

UKWAS

uk woodland assurance standard



## UKWAS REVISION

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## Welcome to UKWAS the UK woodland assurance standard

It is my pleasure to welcome you to the UKWAS website.

The UK Woodland Assurance Standard is an independent certification standard for verifying sustainable woodland management in the United Kingdom.



The UKWAS is not a certification scheme but uniquely, it is designed to provide a single common standard for use within those forest certification programmes that operate in the UK; these programmes provide a way to assure buyers and users that wood and wood products come from sustainably managed woodlands.



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The UK's forestry sector and its stakeholders chose to develop and publish

# The UK Woodland Assurance Standard

**Second Edition**

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UKWAS



# 3

## Woodland design: creation, felling and replanting

### 3.1 Assessment of environmental impacts

BAP

MP



#### 3.1.1

#### Requirement

The environmental impacts of new planting and other woodland plans shall be assessed before operations are implemented, in a manner appropriate to the scale of the operations and the sensitivity of the site.

#### Means of verification

##### All woodlands:

- Management planning documentation.
- Documented environmental impact assessment or 'Appropriate Assessment' where such has been requested by the FC or DARD.

##### Non-SLIM woodlands:

- Design plans
- Documented environmental appraisals.

#### Guidance

Depending on scale and sensitivity the assessment of environmental impacts may be:

- Brief environmental appraisals for planting or felling which might affect sites recognised for cultural, landscape, hydrological or ecological value
- Ecological assessments of ancient semi-natural woodland and projections of their response to management and natural processes
- Specific assessments for unusual and/or extensive operations
- Specialist advice on impacts of woodland operations on rare or vulnerable species or special sites
- Specialist advice on the impact of woodland operations on archaeological sites and landscapes
- Checks against relevant UK Biodiversity Action Plan Habitat Action Plans (HAPs) and Species Action Plans (SAPs).

# Consultation and Participation

# Two Main Elements:

- Consultation during the assessment
- Requirements of UKWAS

# Consultation during the assessment

- A minimum of 1 month before the assessment, consultation requests will be sent to relevant stakeholders, and taken into consideration during the assessment
- The assessors will be looking for compliance with the standards, and stakeholders usually raise issues where they feel standards are not being met

# Requirements of UKWAS

- UKWAS has a specific section (7) titled ‘The Community’

# 7

## The community

### 7.1 Consultation

MP

#### 7.1.1

#### Requirement

a) Local people and relevant organisations and interest groups shall be made aware that:

- New or revised management planning documentation, as specified under section 2.1.1, is being produced
- A new or revised FC or DARD scheme application and associated documents are available for inspection
- High Impact operations are planned
- The woodland is being evaluated for certification.

b) The owner/manager shall ensure that there is full co-operation with FC or DARD consultation processes. The owner/manager shall consult adequately with local people and relevant organisations and make a reasonable response to issues raised or requests for ongoing dialogue and engagement.

At least 30 days shall be allowed for people to respond to notices, letters or meetings before certification.

#### Means of verification

##### All woodlands:

- Consultation with FC or DARD
- Evidence that users of the woodland are informed about high impact operations (e.g. signs, letters or other appropriate means).

#### Guidance

The owner should be able to justify the level of consultation and the certification authority will look for corroborating evidence.

Examples of methods for making local people and relevant organisations aware include:

- Statutory consultations by the FC or DARD or voluntary consultation with relevant bodies
- Letters to individuals or groups
- Temporary or permanent signs in or near the affected woodland
- Information in local newspapers or other publications
- Meetings
- Internet
- Notification to curators of archaeology
- Other appropriate methods.

The certifier is also obliged to consult with relevant stakeholders and may be able to supply a list of those to consult, or work with the owner/manager on a co-ordinated approach to consultation.

# UKWAS Section 7

- 7.1 Consultation
- 7.2 Woodland access and recreation including traditional and permissive use rights
- 7.3 Rural Economy
- 7.4 Minimising adverse impacts