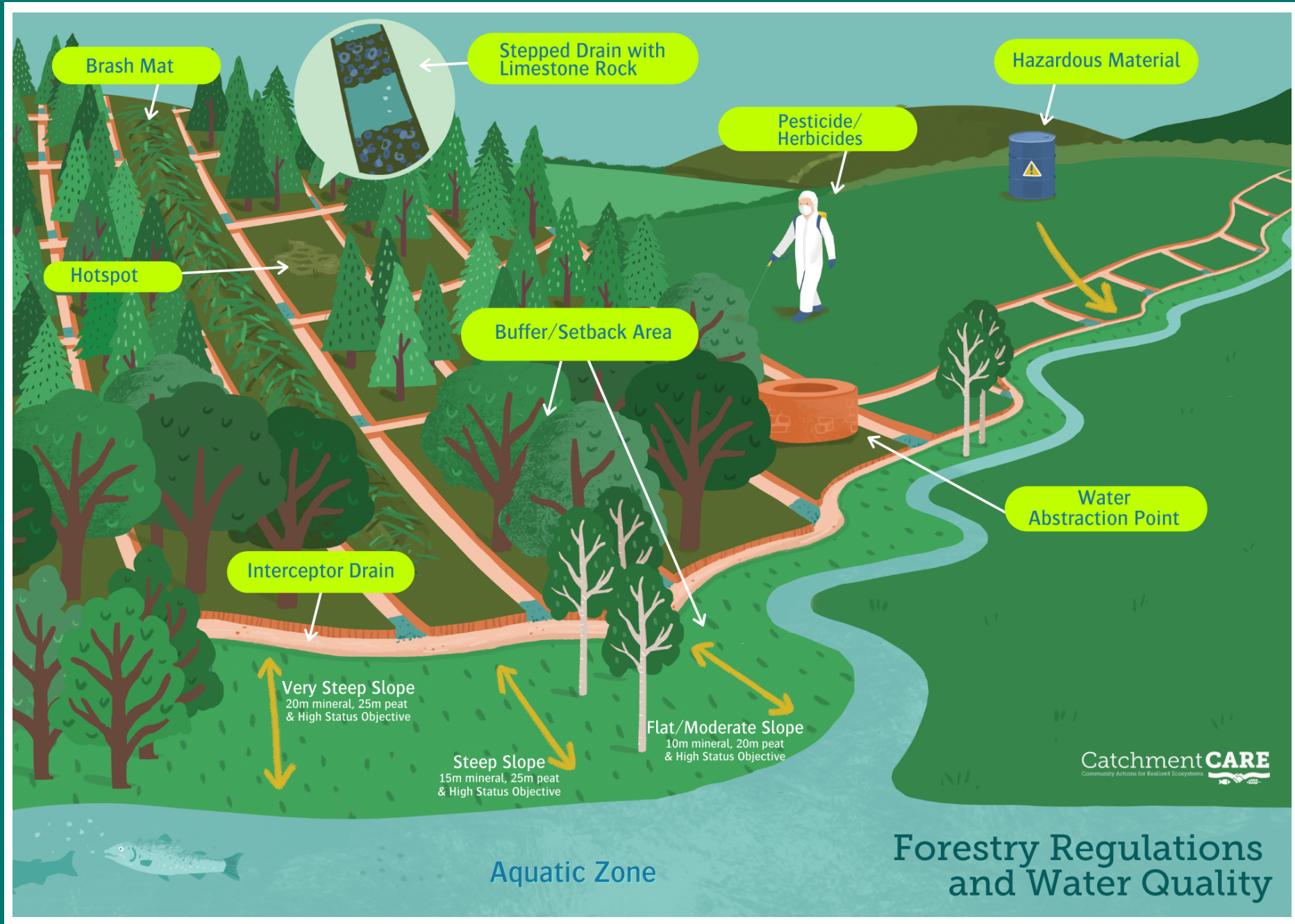


# Forestry Regulations and Water Quality - Advice Sheet



Forestry Regulations  
and Water Quality

# Forestry Operations in Ireland are regulated under the Forestry Act 2014 and are subject to licence.

## Standards for Felling & Reforestation



Version October 2019

[click here](#)

An Roinn Tithíochta,  
Rialtais Áitiúil agus Oidhreacht,  
Department of Agriculture,  
Food and the Marine

## Environmental Requirements for Afforestation

December 2016



Department of  
Agriculture,  
Food and the Marine  
An Roinn Tithíochta,  
Bia agus Mara

[click here](#)

## Aquatic Zone

Any natural river, stream or lake (but not an artificial drain).

## Relevant Watercourse

A watercourse that is not shown on an OS 6 inch map but which is connected to an aquatic zone onsite, adjoining the site or elsewhere and has the potential to carry significant amounts of sediments / nutrients, or shows evidence of erosion / deposition. A 5m buffer applies to these features.

## Hotspot

An area (often localised) that is a potential source for sediment / nutrient loss during afforestation and or future forestry operations. Examples include soft wet ground, flushes and springs, and pockets where machine access is difficult due to low ground-bearing capacity.

## Water Abstraction Point

Abstraction point of any surface waters, borehole, spring or well used for the abstraction of water for human consumption in a water scheme. An Exclusion Zone of between 5-200m is necessary to protect the abstraction point from machinery in harvesting and planting of the forest see table 7 page 43 of Environmental Requirements for Afforestation, December 2016

## Brash Mats

Fresh brash mats should be used on all machine routes to avoid soil damage, erosion and sedimentation during harvesting operations. These must be maintained throughout the operations.

## Stepped Drain with Limestone Rock

To trap sediment and raise the pH of the water entering the Aquatic zone.

## Interceptor Drain

Interceptor drains are constructed along the outer edge of the water setback. They collect the discharge from the drained area and allow it to overflow into the water setback.

## Set Back Area/Buffer

Is a buffer of natural ground vegetation and native broadleaf trees positioned between defined water features and the forest crop and associated operations. It works to protect water quality and aquatic ecosystems from possible sediments and nutrient runoff from the site at afforestation and throughout the remainder of the operation. The set back width depends on the slope of the site and soil type and can range from a minimum of 10m to 25m or more depending on these. Projects that occur in High Status/Objective water bodies also require at least a 25m setback and additional conditions or larger setbacks may be stipulated in licenses issued by the DAFM. For more information on how to select the appropriate sized setback, broadleaf buffer or exclusion zone please refer to table 5 on page 25 of the "Environmental Requirements for Afforestation", which can be downloaded directly by clicking the image on this pdf and the license issued by DAFM.

## Pesticides/ Herbicides

Do not apply herbicides within the water setback or within 20 metres of the aquatic zone, whichever is greatest. Do not apply within the water setback of a relevant watercourse or hotspot. Do not apply within specified distances from different types of water extraction points as prescribed by S.I. 155/ 2012 (See Table 7). Do not apply within 15 metres of a landscape feature known to be a groundwater vulnerable area, including karst areas, sinkholes and collapse features. Do not apply within a utilised building setback created for a dwelling and never apply pesticides if rain is forecast in days prior and during spraying operations.

## Hazardous Material

Spillage or leakage of fertilisers, herbicides (and pesticides), fuel and machine oils can be highly damaging to the environment, especially water. Minimise onsite storage and preparation where possible. If unavoidable, store and prepare at a dry, elevated location at least 50 metres from any aquatic zone and at least 20 metres from all other water features.

