

Executive Summary

Identification and Confirmation Procedure for Areas of Natural and Scientific Interest

Areas of Natural and Scientific Interest (ANSIs) are areas of land and water containing natural landscapes or features which have been identified as having life science or earth science (or both) values related to natural heritage protection, scientific study or education. There are two types of ANSIs – life science and earth science. Confirmation as an ANSI recognizes an area's natural heritage values. ANSIs are a critical complement to provincial parks and conservation reserves as they represent important natural features that are not found in protected areas. ANSIs are located on both public and private lands.

The Ministry of Natural Resources (MNR) selects ANSIs based on scientific surveys of the province's ecodistricts. ANSIs may be of provincial, regional or local significance. More than 500 of these areas have been identified across the province.

Once confirmed, provincially significant ANSIs on private land are eligible for the Conservation Land Tax Incentive Program.

The ANSI Identification and Confirmation Procedure is required to:

- ensure a consistent scientific approach when identifying, confirming the status and boundaries of candidate and new ANSIs, and for modifying and removing ANSIs;
- ensure timely and appropriate contact with affected landowners, municipalities, or other effected interests;
- ensure that roles and responsibilities within the Ministry of Natural Resources (MNR) regarding the ANSI process are clearly defined.
- ensure a consistent approval process for ANSIs