Elevation and Depth Glossary



**Glossary of File formats**

**LAS 1.4:** most widely adopted format for point-cloud.  
**LAZ 1.4:**most widely adopted compressed format for point-cloud (lossless).  
**Geotiff:**Geo-referenced tiff files with LZW compression (lossless).  
**COG:** Cloud Optimised Geotiff, LZW compression, lossless and retro-compatible.  
**ESRI ASCII:**widely adopted GRID files stored as text-format.  
**ESRI Shapefiles:**widely adopted format for vector features.

**Glossary of LiDAR-derived elevation products**

**LAS/LAZ:** classified point-cloud of various point density given in first returns/m2.  
**DEM:** Digital Elevation Model, ground elevation above sea level (i.e.: bare ground of a building.  
**DSM:** Digital Surface Model, elevation of surface features above sea level (i.e.: elevation of the roof of a building).  
**DHM:**Digital Height Model, height above ground (i.e.: height of the roof of a building).  
**BHM:** Building Height Model, similar to a DHM, but only includes buildings.  
**CHM:** Canopy Height Model, similar to a DHM, but only includes vegetation (i.e.: height of a tree).  
**FCM:**Fractional Cover Model, percentage of LiDAR returns classified as vegetation at a given height interval.   
**INT:**Intensity Model, intensity of LiDAR returns.