

Detailed guide: Assess environmental impact before you create new woodland

Woodland creation means work that involves direct seeding or natural regeneration processes, planting Christmas trees or planting short rotation coppice.

The thresholds of projects to create new woodland are affected by the scale of the project and the sensitivity of the location in which the project is to take place. Use the table below to see which threshold your project falls into. You must apply for our opinion where your project requires EIA screening, or you may simply be able to notify us of your project instead. For very small proposals away from sensitive locations, you could be exempt from assessment by the Forestry Commission.

Afforestation thresholds table

Project Size (Ha)	Land type – sensitivity	EIA requirements
0ha – 2ha	A sensitive area but not a National Park or Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB)	Full EIA screening
0ha – 2ha	Everywhere else	No EIA screening
2ha – 5ha	Any sensitive area	Full EIA screening
2ha – 5ha	Everywhere else	(Prior) basic notification
5ha – 50ha	Only in a low risk area	(Prior) full notification
5ha – 50ha	Everywhere else	Full EIA screening
>50ha	Everywhere else	Full EIA screening

Notification

If your forestry project is afforestation (woodland creation), small scale in nature and/or located within a low risk area then you may simply be able to notify us of your proposal (giving a basic or full notification) using the EIA Enquiry Form to get our decision.

This process gives specific timescales in which the Forestry Commission must give you a decision. However, if you're also applying for a woodland creation grant from the Forestry Commission then you will not receive the decision for a Notification until the Forestry Commission has made a decision on the grant offer.

About prior basic notification

For afforestation projects between 2 and 5 hectares in non-sensitive areas, prior basic notification will be sufficient to satisfy the requirements under the EIA Regulations. Use the [Land Information Search \(LIS\)](#) and other online

map browsers such as MAGIC.gov.uk to identify any designations or sensitivities that may be affected by the project.

When you submit prior basic notification to the Forestry Commission, you must include:

- a description of the proposal for the project
- a map or plan sufficient to identify the land that is the subject of the proposed project (including its boundaries)
- information about the proposer and any agent or manager of the proposer

Within 28 days of first giving us notification, we may ask you to give further information. If you don't get an assessment from the Forestry Commission within 28 days then you can assume that the project is unlikely to have significant effects on the environment and no further action will then be required under the EIA Regulations.

About prior full notification

For afforestation projects between 5 and 50 hectares that are fully within low risk areas, prior full notification will be sufficient to satisfy the requirements under the EIA Regulations. Use the [Land Information Search \(LIS\)](#) and other online map browsers such as MAGIC.gov.uk to identify any designations or sensitivities that may be affected by the project.

Full notification submitted to the Forestry Commission on the EIA enquiry form must include:

- a description of the proposals for the project, including evidence that the proposals are consistent with good forestry practice
- information about the land that the project covers or affects, including a map or plan sufficient to identify the land and its boundaries, habitats and water features
- information about the proposer and any agent or manager of the proposer

It must also include evidence that the proposer has consulted on the project with (for example):

- the person responsible for maintaining the Local Environment Records for the area (in respect of biodiversity)
- the Environment Agency (in respect of the possible impact of the project on any water features)
- the relevant local authority (in respect of the possible impact of the project on the landscape)
- the person responsible for maintaining the Historic Environment Records for the area (in respect of the possible impact of the project on the historic environment)
- any potentially affected neighbours

Within 42 days of first giving us notification, we may ask you to give further information. If you don't get an assessment from the Forestry Commission within 42 days then you can assume that the project is unlikely to

have significant effects on the environment. No further action will then be required under the EIA Regulations.

[Submit an EIA enquiry form for afforestation.](#)

[Send your form to the FC admin hub](#)

EIAs and grant applications for woodland creation

If you're applying for a Forestry Commission grant then you may not be required to submit a separate EIA enquiry form, as the information in your grant application may meet the Forestry Commission's requirements to assess environmental impact.

Getting our opinion and applying for consent

If you do not qualify for an exemption or notification then you must apply to the Forestry Commission for our opinion. Your afforestation project may have impacts on the environment which, when seeking our opinion, will highlight the need for our consent to be given before the project can begin.

See the [overview guidance on EIAs](#) for general information about EIAs, or find out more about [getting our opinion and consent](#).

Further information

You can find out more about the process with the:

- [EIA screening guidance](#)
(PDF, 942KB, 21 pages)

- [EIA scoping](#)
(PDF, 652KB, 31 pages)

if you're applying for consent

See additional advice on [EIA requirements for woodland creation](#)
(PDF, 574KB, 20 pages)

If you have any questions, you can [contact your nearest Forestry Commission area office](#).

Appeals

You can [make a complaint or appeal against a Forestry Commission decision](#).

[Detailed guide: Assess the environmental impact of work on roads or quarries in forests](#)

The thresholds of projects for forestry roads and quarries are affected by the scale of the project and the sensitivity of the location for the road or quarry. Use the tables below to see which threshold your project falls into. You must apply for our opinion where your project requires EIA screening.

You may need to repair, improve or create new infrastructure through your woodland or across open land to reach your woodland, and you may need to quarry for materials to build that infrastructure.

You must check with your local planning authority to see if they will grant you permitted development rights for your infrastructure proposal. If they don't grant permitted development, you may need to apply for planning permission. The local planning authority should assess all your infrastructure proposals when considering your planning application, and you shouldn't need to ask the Forestry Commission for its opinion under the EIA Forestry regulations.

If they do grant permitted development, you need to check the thresholds table below to see if you'll need the Forestry Commission's opinion under the EIA Forestry regulations.

Forest road/quarries thresholds table

Land type	Proposed project area	Action
The land, or part of the land, is in a sensitive area	Area of any size	Application for EIA opinion required
No part of the land is in a sensitive area	1 hectare or less	No EIA required
No part of the land is in a sensitive area	More than 1 hectare	Application for EIA opinion required

Use the [Land Information Search \(LIS\)](#) and other online map browsers, such as [MAGIC.gov.uk](#) to identify any designations or sensitivities that may be affected by the project. The sensitivities will determine the particular area threshold that must be used.

Getting our opinion and applying for consent

If you do not qualify for an exemption or notification then you must apply to the Forestry Commission for our opinion. Your afforestation project may have impacts on the environment which, when seeking our opinion, will highlight the need for our consent to be given before the project can commence.

See the [overview guidance on EIAs](#) for general information about EIAs, or find out more about [getting our opinion and consent](#).

[Download an EIA Enquiry form for forest roads and quarries](#)

Send your form to your [local admin hub](#).

EIAs grant applications for forest roads and or quarries

If you're applying for a grant to enable forestry roads or quarries, you should not start any work until you have received an EIA determination on your deforestation proposal.

Further information

You can find more information about EIAs for work on roads and quarries in forests in the [Supplementary guidance for a forest road and/or quarry project seeking an EIA Opinion in England](#) (PDF, 426KB, 16 pages)

You can find out more about the process with the:

- [EIA scoping guidance](#)
(PDF, 652KB, 31 pages)
- [EIA screening guidance](#)
(PDF, 942KB, 21 pages)

if you're applying for consent

Appeals

You can [make a complaint or appeal against a Forestry Commission decision](#).

Detailed guide: Environmental Impact Assessments for woodland: overview

The Forestry Commission is responsible for administering the Environmental Impact Assessment (Forestry) (England and Wales) Regulations 1999, as amended.

These regulations affect 4 forestry projects. These are:

- afforestation: creating new woodland, including by use of direct seeding or natural regeneration processes, planting of Christmas trees or planting of short rotation coppice
- deforestation: felling trees to use the land for a different purpose
- forest roads: the formation, alteration or maintenance of private ways on land used (or to be used) for forestry purposes, including roads within a forest or leading to one
- forestry quarries: quarrying to obtain materials required for forest roadworks on land that is used or will be used for forestry purposes, or on land held or occupied with that land

Forestry projects and thresholds

The regulations give each of these projects a range of area thresholds depending on sensitivity to environmental impact. Lower thresholds are given for projects that lie within sensitive areas, such as a National Park or Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB).

Use the threshold information to work out if you're exempt from needing a Forestry Commission EIA decision all together or if you need:

- to give notification (basic or full)
- to get an opinion

The Forestry Commission will respond with a decision and you may need to apply for consent to carry out your work. Where you need a decision from the Forestry Commission, you must not carry out any work until you have received that decision.

[Find out more about giving notification, requesting our opinion and applying for consent.](#)

Each of the 4 projects have thresholds tables that the Forestry Commission uses to understand the scale of your work. You must check the thresholds table to work out if you need an EIA.

[See this thresholds table, guidance and EIA enquiry form if you're planning](#)

[to create new woodland.](#)

[See this thresholds table, guidance and EIA enquiry form if you're planning to fell trees in order to permanently remove woodland cover and change land use.](#)

[See this thresholds table, guidance and EIA enquiry form if you're planning work on roads or quarries to be used for woodland and forestry purposes.](#)

EIA enquiries

To help with our decision, we need you to complete an EIA enquiry form, along with a plan or map of the project area and any other relevant information that you've gathered about the site and from stakeholders.

The enquiry form to use will depend on whether the forestry project that you're proposing involves creating new woodland, felling trees for deforestation, or working on roads and/or quarries – see the guidance listed above.

Notification

If your forestry project is afforestation (woodland creation), small scale in nature and/or located within a low risk area, you may simply be able to notify us of your proposal using the EIA enquiry form to get our decision.

Grant applications for woodland creation

If you're applying for a Forestry Commission grant for woodland creation then you may not be required to submit an EIA Enquiry Form, as the information provided in your grant application may meet the Forestry Commission's requirements to assess environmental impact.

Applying for consent

If our opinion is that the proposed project is a relevant project under the regulations, and that it will have a significant impact on the environment, then you must get our consent for the work before you start. Your application will need to include an Environmental Statement. You can find guidance on scoping and preparing an Environmental Statement below, under 'Further information'.

In some cases, we may ask for more information before we can make this decision. The Forestry Commission will write to you detailing which information is required, and will wait for you to provide that information before proceeding with our decision.

Penalties and Enforcement Notices

If the Forestry Commission discovers that you're carrying out work subject to EIA regulations without consent, or that you've breached the terms of a previously granted consent, we may serve an Enforcement Notice.

Who can be served an Enforcement Notice

An Enforcement Notice can be served on:

- the person carrying out the work, possibly the contractor
- the land owner
- any other people who have sufficient interest in the property (allowing them to carry out the work without the need to get permission from anyone else)

Further information

You can find out more about the process with the:

- [EIA screening guidance](#)
(PDF, 942KB, 21 pages)
- [EIA scoping and Environmental Statement guidance](#)
(PDF, 652KB, 31 pages)

if you're applying for consent

If you have any questions, you can [contact your nearest Forestry Commission area office](#).

[News story: Global entrepreneur scheme set to boost trade with Western Balkans](#)

Trade Minister Baroness Fairhead will today (Monday, 9 July 2018) announce the expansion of a Global-trade Entrepreneur Programme (GEP) across the Western Balkans, as part of plans to build a long-term partnership with the region.

More than 20 entrepreneurs from Serbia, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Montenegro, Kosovo, Macedonia and Albania are set to attend the 2018 Western Balkans Summit in London, showcasing what they have to offer the UK market.

Whilst in London, the up and coming businesses will have a chance to meet with their UK counterparts, building a bridge between the UK and the Western Balkans, and spot opportunities for collaboration.

The GEP has already proved extremely successful in providing guidance to budding entrepreneurs around the world, resulting in 900 entrepreneurs investing in the UK since 2005 – creating more than 5,000 high quality jobs and raising more than £1 billion in venture capital.

Trade Minister Baroness Fairhead said:

The Department for International Trade (DIT) is committed to breaking down barriers to trade and investment, stimulating growth in emerging markets that will create jobs, improve quality of life and bring prosperity to communities both in the UK and around the world.

Through the availability of British expertise, broadening the GEP in the Western Balkans is a win-win for both the British economy and those of the 6 countries involved.

Her Majesty's Trade Commissioner for Europe, Andrew Mitchell said:

The possibilities for deeper trade and investment ties with the countries of the Western Balkans are some of the most exciting emerging opportunities for the UK in Europe.

Given the importance of trade to the security and economic stability of the Western Balkans region, DIT's new impetus for the GEP in the region is an example of exactly the type of work that I will be looking to encourage as the new Her Majesty's Trade Commissioner for Europe.

In enhancing the skills of entrepreneurs from the region, their ventures will develop into viable propositions that will contribute to the Western Balkans region's economic prosperity, strengthening the business environment in all 6 countries.

The UK's trade in goods and services with the region was at £2.25 billion in 2016, a 71.7% year-on-year rise.

Further information

The UK is Europe's leading base for entrepreneurs, with a record of nearly £3 billion raised in venture capital funding in 2017 – more than Germany, France

and Ireland combined.

The GEP attracts overseas-based, entrepreneur-led companies with innovative technologies by offering expert guidance on our how to scale up and internationalise their operations.

Entrepreneurs are attracted to the UK because of its competitive tax system, business-friendly regulation, skilled workforce and dynamic financial markets, along with key incentives for research and development, intellectual property protection, patent development and venture capital investment.

[News story: Chancellor in Saudi Arabia: 8-9 July](#)

The Chancellor, Philip Hammond has travelled to Jeddah, Saudi Arabia for a series of bilateral and business engagement meetings, as part of the government's ongoing work to support the Kingdom's Vision 2030 agenda.

While in Jeddah, the Chancellor is meeting King Salman bin Abdulaziz and Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman. He will also meet the Minister of Finance, the Minister of Commerce and Industry, Minister of Economy and Planning, and the Minister of Energy, and the Managing Director of the Public Investment Fund. Ken Costa, the Prime Minister's special envoy for Vision 2030 is accompanying the Chancellor, as are the co-chairs of the newly established Private Sector Groups, Catherine McGuinness and Gerry Grimstone, and the CEO of UK Government Investments Mark Russell.

Vision 2030 is the roadmap for Saudi Arabia to pursue social and economic reforms. The UK is a key partner for this agenda.

Philip Hammond said:

The UK is working closely with Saudi Arabia as it takes positive steps forward through its' ambitious Vision 2030 plan. We are uniquely positioned to offer the country our continued support with their economic diversification and social reforms. Increased trade and investment opportunities will benefit both of our Kingdoms.

While in Jeddah, the Chancellor will also witness the signing of a £27 million contract between British facilities management company Serco, and the Soliman Fakeeh Hospital group.

He is also meeting with British businesses based in Saudi Arabia.

The visit follows Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman's visit to the UK in

March.

Further information

During the visit of the Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman, the UK and Saudi Arabia committed to establish Private Sector Groups as part of achieving the goal of \$100 billion of additional trade and investment over the next ten years, and \$30 billion invested in and through the UK.