

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 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.

News story: British prosperity relies on defence according to independent review

The review was commissioned by the Defence Secretary Gavin Williamson after he launched the Modernising Defence Programme (MDP) to strengthen the Armed Forces in the face of intensifying threats, alongside the Prime Minister and the Chancellor.

The independent review of defence's contribution to national economic and social value by Philip Dunne looks right across the Armed Forces and industry to provide an in-depth picture to inform proposals for reform into the MDP.

Defence Secretary Gavin Williamson said:

Philip Dunne's review shows how vital defence is, not only protecting us from global dangers and safeguarding our national prosperity, but also to our economy by creating thousands of specialist and highly-skilled jobs and creating billions in exports.

He paints a clear picture of how defence and defence industry reaches every corner of the UK and is central to employment in so many cities and towns.

He lays down some key challenges to consider as our Modernising Defence Programme continues to ensure defence is the best it can be in a post-Brexit Britain.

The report also includes a number of recommendations for review, including: further research into the impact of significant procurements on national prosperity; building on the strong relationships with industry suppliers; and considering how the UK's world-leading institutions could be given greater entrepreneurial freedoms.

Philip Dunne said:

I am pleased to have been able to undertake this review and am grateful for the help of all those in and outside the Department who have contributed.

This is the first time for some years that an independent report has sought to look at the whole impact of Defence on the UK economy, its devolved nations and regions in England.

Defence has made a number of important steps in meeting its prosperity objective. It makes a major contribution to our economic well-being, with 500,000 people working directly and indirectly in Defence and over 25,500 apprentices developing skills. In several local communities Defence is one of the leading providers of high skilled jobs.

But there is more that can be done as Defence has to adapt to rapidly evolving technological threats, so too should it seize the opportunities to adapt and improve its own processes to help meet the challenges of the high-tech defence future.

I look forward to seeing how the MOD responds to this report and have confirmed to the Defence Secretary that I am willing to revisit in some months' time how the Department has considered and where it has decided to implement these ideas.

Defence makes a huge contribution across all regions of the UK whether as a major employer, a large investor or as a hub for local communities. Defence is the third largest landowner in the country with 220,000 hectares often benefiting remote and rural communities.

The report reveals that around 500,000 people support defence across the UK. It outlines that the UK's defence industry is one of the world's strongest with an annual turnover of £22 billion supporting 260,000 jobs, many of which are highly skilled and well-paid. Most importantly, he acknowledges that defence is a major contributor to the nation's skills and one of the largest employer of apprentices with over 25,500 currently enrolled.

Dunne also acknowledges that, in addition to the MOD budget of almost £37 billion, defence's direct contribution to GDP features over £7 billion of exports generated each year on average. Just recently a shipbuilding contract worth up to £20 billion was signed between BAE Systems and the Australian government for British-designed Type 26 frigates – the biggest Naval defence contract for a decade.

Defence's relationship as a customer and industrial partner with many high growth sectors in the economy generates more activity, particularly in the aerospace, space, cyber, and increasingly the knowledge economy and creative sectors.

Defence is also driving investment in British industry through the National Shipbuilding Strategy, which was launched last year to transform the UK maritime industry and boost the prosperity of regions, shipyards and maritime supply chains across the country. The MOD is also set to launch a Combat Air Strategy to ensure Britain maintains a world-leading combat air capability.

The MOD will now consider the findings of Philip Dunne's report as work

continues on the MDP.

[Press release: Biscathorpe residents meet regulators of oil and gas industry](#)

Communities in and around Biscathorpe are being invited to learn more about how the oil and gas industry is regulated.

The public information session for the proposed exploratory oil well in Biscathorpe is being held at Donington on Bain village hall, from 1pm until 8pm on Wednesday 18 July.

Local people will be able to meet with the authorities responsible for ensuring that oil and gas operations are carried out in a way that protects people and the environment.

Regulators attending the event include the Environment Agency, Lincolnshire County Council, Public Health England, the Health and Safety Executive, and the Oil and Gas Authority.

The event comes after Egdon Resources received environmental permits and planning permission to carry out drilling in search for oil at Biscathorpe, near Louth.

A spokesperson for the Environment Agency said:

The UK is recognised globally as a leading example for oil and gas industry regulation. We have some of the strictest controls in the world, as well as some of the toughest penalties and safeguards.

We regulate a huge number of industrial sites across England, and have decades of expertise in the assessment and mitigation of environmental risk, as well as the protection of local communities and their environment. We'd welcome the opportunity to speak with anyone who wants to find out more.