

[Policy paper: Progress towards the sustainability of the building stock in England: sixth Parliamentary report](#)

Section 6 of the [Sustainable and Secure Buildings Act 2004](#) requires a biennial report on the sustainability of the building stock in England.

This current report covers progress between November 2014 and November 2016 (unless otherwise stated) in relation to:

- furthering the conservation of fuel and power
 - preventing waste, undue consumption, misuse or contamination of water
 - furthering the protection or enhancement of the environment
 - facilitating sustainable development
-

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Updated: Erratum: “Metric tonnes” on page 8 should read “million tonnes”. This has been corrected in both downloads of the report.

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Press release: Playground ready for summer fun at Forge Mill Farm

Updated: Wrong image used in original article

Ongoing construction of phase 2 of the Environment Agency Perry Barr and Witton Flood Risk Management Scheme, meant that the children's play area at Forge Mill Farm, had to be closed whilst the wall was being built. In addition to the play area being ready for the start of school holidays, contractors have now moved access to their construction site, away from the main visitor car park, to ensure safety of visitors to the park.

Rachel Kelly, Environment Agency project lead for the scheme said:

We have been working closely with our partners and the local community, to ensure that we minimise disruption to the park users and safety is of our top priority, especially as the summer holiday season begins and more people come to enjoy the park.

A number of notice boards are now on display around Forge Mill Farm, the lake and RSPB, to give visitors the latest information on progress of Phase 2 of the Perry Barr and Witton Flood Risk Management Scheme, which will reduce the risk of flooding for 1400 properties in the area.

More information is available about the scheme on the [Perry Barr and Witton flood scheme page](#) or [contact the Environment Agency project team](#).

Along with flood defences and flood management schemes, knowing your flood risk is also important when protecting your family and property from flooding. People can check their risk and register to receive free flood warnings by visiting the [Environment Agency flood information pages](#) or calling Floodline on 0345 988 1188.

Guidance: Decommissioning of nuclear sites and release from regulation

This guidance explains how operators of nuclear sites should prepare for the surrender of their radioactive substances permits. An operator cannot surrender a permit until they have completed all work to decommission and clean up their sites.

The guidance describes the standards that operators must meet before they can surrender permits – including when they have disposed of radioactive waste from the final stages of decommissioning on site.

The Environment Agency has produced this guidance with the Scottish Environment Protection Agency and Natural Resources Wales.

[News story: Public reminded of the rules around seahorses](#)

The Government is reminding people of the conservation rules protecting seahorses following [reports of a pair being discovered](#) at Babbacombe, Devon.

Both seahorse species found in UK waters – long snouted (*hippocampus guttulatus*) and short snouted (*hippocampus hippocampus*) – are protected under the [Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981](#) and all species of seahorse are protected under the Convention for International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES.)

If you want to carry out an activity that would disturb a seahorse, or other [UK or European protected species](#), you must have a marine wildlife licence, [administered in England by the Marine Management Organisation](#). Such activities could include taking photographs, filming or surveys.

Intentionally disturbing seahorses without appropriate permission could lead to enforcement action. The MMO will consider applications for licences for scientific or education purposes on a case-by-case basis.

Where divers may incidentally encounter seahorses the MMO recommends the following guidelines are followed:

- [Divers' protocol from Dorset Wildlife Trust](#)
- [Divers' protocol from the Seahorse Trust](#)
- [Wildlife Safe \(WiSe\) scheme guidelines](#) for taking part in research or filming

Details of wildlife licences and applications are published online [on the marine licensing public register](#).