

# [Collection: Renewable Heat Incentive statistics](#)

*Updated:* September 2018 RHI deployment stats published.

This statistical series provides deployment data for:

- the non-domestic Renewable Heat Incentive (RHI) introduced in Great Britain in November 2011 to support the uptake of renewable heat in the non-domestic sector
- the domestic RHI introduced in Great Britain in April 2014 to encourage a switch to renewable heating systems in the domestic sector.

Datasets are published on a monthly basis with supplementary statistical information published quarterly.

For further information or questions about these statistics, email [Chris.Fairbanks@beis.gov.uk](mailto:Chris.Fairbanks@beis.gov.uk).

Historical releases are available on the [National Archives](#).

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# [Collection: Environmental Stewardship: guidance and forms for agreement holders](#)

*Updated:* Link to guidance for those finding it difficult to meet scheme requirements due to hot and dry weather conditions.

## **Hot and dry weather conditions**

See the [guidance](#) for farmers finding it difficult to meet scheme requirements.

The deadline for Natural England to receive Environmental Stewardship (ES) revenue claims and amendments was 11 June 2018. Natural England will not accept any further revenue claims in 2018.

The extension of the Countryside Stewardship payment claim deadline does not apply to ES claims.

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# Detailed guide: Planning and transport authorities: get environmental advice on planning

*Updated:* Guidance includes spatial development strategy considerations.

This guide explains what consultations you must do with the Environment Agency and Natural England. It applies to:

- local planning authorities
- combined authorities (Greater Manchester, Liverpool City Region, West of England and Greater London)
- transport authorities
- elected mayors

## **Spatial development strategies, local plans and neighbourhood plans**

Before you start your plan, you must consult the relevant agency if you think it affects their environmental interests.

Use this table to find out which agencies you must consult:

| <b>Your plan</b>                                                                                                                                                                                             | <b>Consult Natural England</b> | <b>Consult the Environment Agency</b> |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| requires a <a href="#">sustainability appraisal</a>                                                                                                                                                          | Yes                            | Yes                                   |
| requires a <a href="#">strategic environmental assessment</a>                                                                                                                                                | Yes                            | Yes                                   |
| affects <a href="#">protected sites and areas</a> , such as sites of special scientific interest, national parks or marine protected areas                                                                   | Yes                            | No                                    |
| affects the <a href="#">best and most versatile agricultural land</a>                                                                                                                                        | Yes                            | No                                    |
| includes <a href="#">reclaiming land previously used for mining or waste management to agricultural use</a>                                                                                                  | Yes                            | No                                    |
| affects <a href="#">protected species</a>                                                                                                                                                                    | Yes                            | No                                    |
| affects <a href="#">ancient woodland and veteran trees</a>                                                                                                                                                   | Yes                            | No                                    |
| affects flooding and coastal erosion                                                                                                                                                                         | No                             | Yes                                   |
| affects waterbodies identified in <a href="#">river basin management plans</a> by including plans to develop next to water bodies, restore water bodies to a more natural state or increase water efficiency | No                             | Yes                                   |

| Your plan                                                                                                                                    | Consult Natural England | Consult the Environment Agency |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------|--------------------------------|
| involves land that may be affected by <a href="#">contamination</a> from a previous use such as disused railways                             | No                      | Yes                            |
| affects land for waste management or mineral extraction                                                                                      | No                      | Yes                            |
| includes sites that the Environment Agency regulates, such as intensive agricultural activity                                                | No                      | Yes                            |
| identifies environmental opportunities that could be achieved such as ' <a href="#">green infrastructure</a> ' and biodiversity improvements | Yes                     | Yes                            |

Check the impact risk zone (IRZ) around a protected site to help you assess potential effects that the development proposal may have on the site. You can:

- download the [SSSI Impact Risk Zones \(England\)](#) dataset for geographic information systems (GIS)
- use the government's [Magic website](#)

See the [Magic map to show the location of protected areas](#) such as national parks and areas of outstanding natural beauty.

## Spatial development strategies and local plans

What you need to send and how soon you'll hear back will vary depending on your situation.

| What you're doing                                                                                                      | What you need to send                                                                                                                                         | When you'll get a response                            |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------|
| Deciding on the extent of the issues to be assessed in a <a href="#">sustainability appraisal</a> (known as 'scoping') | Details on scope and level of detail of information to be included in sustainability appraisal                                                                | 5 weeks                                               |
| Doing a <a href="#">sustainability appraisal</a> for your plan                                                         | Draft plan<br>Environmental report<br>Draft Habitats Regulations appropriate assessment (if required)                                                         | Agencies will agree a time with you – usually 5 weeks |
| Preparing your draft local plan                                                                                        | Information about the content of the plan<br>Draft local plan<br>Environmental report with evidence such as a <a href="#">strategic flood risk assessment</a> | Minimum 6 weeks                                       |
| Asking for comments on your early draft local plan                                                                     | Draft Habitat Regulations appropriate assessment (if required)                                                                                                | Agencies will agree a time with you – usually 6 weeks |

| What you're doing                                                               | What you need to send                                                                                                                                                   | When you'll get a response                            |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------|
| Asking for comments on your final draft plan (known as the 'publication stage') | local plan<br>Environmental report with evidence such as a <a href="#">strategic flood risk assessment</a><br>Habitats Regulations appropriate assessment (if required) | Agencies will agree a time with you – usually 6 weeks |
| Asking for comments on your draft spatial development strategy                  | Draft plan<br>Environmental report<br>Habitats Regulations appropriate assessment (if required)<br>Draft spatial development strategy                                   | 12 weeks                                              |
| Asking for comments on proposed modifications to your plan                      | Details of proposed changes                                                                                                                                             | 6 weeks                                               |

## Neighbourhood plans

| What you're doing                                                          | What you need to send                              | When you'll get a response                            |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------|
| Giving an opinion on a plan's environmental effects (known as 'screening') | A map of the plan area and the purpose of the plan | Agencies will agree a time with you – usually 6 weeks |
| Asking for comments from the agencies about a new plan                     | The plan                                           | Agencies will agree a time with you – usually 6 weeks |
| <a href="#">Strategic environmental assessment</a> (if required)           | Evidence as an environmental report                | Agencies will agree a time with you – usually 5 weeks |

## Considering planning applications, permission in principle, technical details consent and development orders

Use this table to find out which agencies you must consult. You can consult the agencies on issues not covered in this table if the proposals affect their environmental interests.

| The proposal                                                                                                | Consult Natural England | Consult the Environment Agency |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------|--------------------------------|
| requires an <a href="#">environmental impact assessment (EIA)</a>                                           | Yes                     | Yes                            |
| requires a habitats regulation appropriate assessment of the effect it may have on European protected sites | Yes                     | No                             |

| The proposal                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     | Consult<br>Natural<br>England | Consult the<br>Environment<br>Agency |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| is in or likely to affect a site of special scientific interest (SSSI), check the <a href="#">impact risk zone around an SSSI</a> to help assess potential impacts that the proposal might have on the site                                                                      | Yes                           | No                                   |
| will result in a loss of over 20 hectares (ha) of the <a href="#">best and most versatile agricultural land</a> , unless the land is included in policies or proposals in a local or neighbourhood plan                                                                          | Yes                           | No                                   |
| <a href="#">reclaims land previously used for mining or waste management to agricultural use</a>                                                                                                                                                                                 | Yes                           | No                                   |
| is for development involving <a href="#">hazardous substances</a> in a naturally sensitive area, such as an SSSI                                                                                                                                                                 | Yes                           | No                                   |
| is for development that will be used to handle, produce, use or store <a href="#">hazardous substances</a> and is within the area at risk if a major accident happens nearby (see the Health and Safety Executive guidance on <a href="#">development near hazardous sites</a> ) | No                            | Yes                                  |
| is in flood zones 2 and 3 (first read the Environment Agency's <a href="#">flood risk guidance, known as 'standing advice'</a> )                                                                                                                                                 | No                            | Yes                                  |
| is in flood zone 1 – with critical drainage problems (the Environment Agency will have told your LPA if this is the case)                                                                                                                                                        | No                            | Yes                                  |
| is for a cemetery or cemetery extension                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          | No                            | Yes                                  |
| is for mining or mining exploration                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              | No                            | Yes                                  |
| is for storing oil and fuel and their by-products like petrol station                                                                                                                                                                                                            | No                            | Yes                                  |
| is for major development that doesn't use existing sewerage infrastructure for sewage treatment                                                                                                                                                                                  | No                            | Yes                                  |
| is in or likely to affect waterbodies identified in <a href="#">river basin management plans</a>                                                                                                                                                                                 | No                            | Yes                                  |
| is in or likely to affect groundwater in <a href="#">source protection zones</a>                                                                                                                                                                                                 | No                            | Yes                                  |
| includes land affected by <a href="#">contamination</a> from a previous activity such as a former power station or disused railway                                                                                                                                               | No                            | Yes                                  |
| is for the storage of sludge or slurry                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           | No                            | Yes                                  |
| is for storage, transfer or treatment of waste products or refuse                                                                                                                                                                                                                | No                            | Yes                                  |
| is within 20m of the top of the bank of a <a href="#">main river</a>                                                                                                                                                                                                             | No                            | Yes                                  |
| is for intensive pig, poultry or dairy units                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     | No                            | Yes                                  |
| is in or likely to affect areas identified in local plans (as coastal change management areas) to be affected by coastal erosion                                                                                                                                                 | No                            | Yes                                  |
| is for <a href="#">'permission in principle'</a> (PIP) and the proposed site meets the criteria in this table                                                                                                                                                                    | Yes                           | Yes                                  |

## The proposal

## Consult Natural England

## Consult the Environment Agency

is for a site with PIP ( the 'technical details consent' stage) and the agency made a written request at the PIP stage to be consulted

Yes, if you're advised in writing at the PIP stage

Yes, if you're advised in writing at the PIP stage

Use this guidance, known as 'standing advice' if planning applications affect:

- [protected species and their habitat](#)
- [ancient woodland and veteran trees](#)
- [flood risk](#)

Check if the proposed development is on or might affect any [protected sites, protected areas or marine protected areas](#) by using the Magic map guidance.

Consult the [Marine Management Organisation](#) for coastal proposals (like slipways, jetties and dredging). Find out about the [permits, consents and licences](#) that a developer might need for coastal developments.

## What you need to send

You must provide enough information about the plan or proposal for the environmental agencies to comment. You must include any environmental effects in the plan or proposal. In some cases you may need to get further surveys or assessments done before the agencies can give advice.

## Planning applications, PIP and technical details consent

| What you're doing                                                                         | What you need to send                                                                                                                               | When you'll get a response                     |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------|
| Preparing an EIA scoping opinion, that is deciding on the issues that need to be assessed | <a href="#">Your scoping opinion</a>                                                                                                                | Within 5 weeks                                 |
| Deciding on a planning application                                                        | The planning application with relevant supporting environmental information such as a draft Habitats Regulations appropriate assessment if required | Within 21 days, or longer if agreed in writing |

| <b>What you're doing</b>                                                                                       | <b>What you need to send</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                            | <b>When you'll get a response</b>               |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------|
| Deciding an EIA planning application                                                                           | The planning application with relevant supporting information including the environmental statement that provides an assessment of the effect the proposal may have on the environment<br>Draft Habitats Regulations appropriate assessment if required | Within 30 days, or longer if agreed in writing  |
| Deciding whether to give a site permission in principle and to list it in Part 2 of a brownfield land register | Details of the proposal with relevant environmental information to show that the site is suitable in principle                                                                                                                                          | Within 21 days                                  |
| Deciding whether to grant permission in principle for non-major development                                    | Details of the proposal with relevant environmental information to show that the site is suitable in principle                                                                                                                                          | Within 14 days (or longer if agreed in writing) |
| Deciding an application for 'technical details consent' after granting permission in principle                 | Details of the proposal with relevant supporting environmental information                                                                                                                                                                              | Within 21 days (or longer if agreed in writing) |

### **Local development orders (LDOs) and neighbourhood development orders (NDOs)**

| <b>What you're doing</b>                              | <b>What you need to send</b>                                    | <b>When you'll get a response</b>                            |
|-------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------|
| Working on an LDO                                     | Draft LDO                                                       | Agencies will agree a time with you – usually within 28 days |
| Consulting on your environmental statement for an LDO | Draft LDO<br>Environmental statement (only for EIA development) | Agencies will agree a time with you – usually within 30 days |
| Consulting on your environmental statement for an NDO | Draft NDO<br>Environmental statement (only for EIA development) | Agencies will agree a time with you – usually within 6 weeks |

You may be asked to provide extra information with the proposal, such as:

- a 'foul drainage assessment' for proposals where connecting drainage to the public sewer to carry contaminated waste water isn't feasible
- a flood risk assessment for proposals within a flood zone or at risk of local flooding
- a water cycle study to make sure the proposal is sustainable and doesn't have an impact on water supply, water quality or flooding
- water supply or water quality assessment if one or both are affected
- an assessment of the landscape and visual impacts on protected areas such as areas of outstanding natural beauty or on protected species

## Environmental assessments

You must consult Natural England and the Environment Agency about plans and projects that need an environmental assessment. These are:

- [environmental impact assessments](#) for development projects
- [strategic environmental assessments](#) for plans and programmes
- [sustainability appraisals](#) for local plans
- habitats regulations appropriate assessments for plans and projects (Natural England only)

You may be asked to provide extra information with the proposal, even if an environmental assessment isn't needed.

## Contact the agencies

Consult the relevant agency in writing by email or letter.

### Natural England

Email [consultations@naturalengland.org.uk](mailto:consultations@naturalengland.org.uk)

Natural England consultation service

Hornbeam House

Electra Way

Crewe Business Park

Crewe

Cheshire

CW1 6GJ

### Environment Agency

Email [enquiries@environment-agency.gov.uk](mailto:enquiries@environment-agency.gov.uk)

Environment Agency

PO Box 544

Rotherham

Yorkshire

S60 1BY



## What you'll get back

The written response you receive from Natural England or the Environment Agency will depend on the:

- level of risk the proposal has on the environment, for example you'll get a standardised response for a low risk proposal
  - stage the plan, order or planning proposal has reached, for example you'll get more advice if you've sent in a completed draft plan
  - environmental opportunities that could be achieved such as '[green infrastructure](#)' and biodiversity improvements of the site and surrounding area
- 

## [Detailed guide: Developers: get environmental advice on your planning proposals](#)

*Updated:* Included guidance on getting advice for planning in principle and technical details consent.

This guide applies to construction and transport developers.

You can get environmental advice about your development proposal early in the planning process. Natural England, the Environment Agency and the Marine Management Organisation can tell you about environmental issues and help you to deal with them.

## When to consult

You must consult the relevant environmental agency before you apply for planning permission (the 'pre-application stage') on:

- nationally significant infrastructure projects like motorways, power stations or offshore wind turbines
- drilling monitoring boreholes for oil exploration (Environment Agency only)

You can get advice at the pre-application stage on all other development from the relevant agency. This is optional, but it will help you make sure that:

- risk assessment information such as flood risk assessments is correct
- you consider all environmental risks

- you include environmental opportunities

You'll need to provide enough information for the agencies to respond, such as landscape and visual impact assessments or flood risk assessments. You'll get a response within 21 days or by an agreed deadline. The agency may request extra information such as relevant survey data or research. You'll need to pay for some advice.

## Consult Natural England

Get advice from Natural England if your development proposal:

- is likely to affect [protected sites and areas](#) – this guidance helps you locate protected sites and areas on the [Magic map](#) and tells you how to avoid harming them during development work
- is likely to affect [protected species](#) – this guidance tells you how to avoid harming protected species during development work and whether you need a wildlife licence to carry out your proposal
- affects the [best and most versatile agricultural land](#) (classified as 1 – excellent, 2 – very good or 3a – good) – you can find the agricultural land classifications on the [Magic map](#) and zoom in on the map
- affects [ancient woodland](#)
- includes [restoring land](#) previously used for mining or waste management to agricultural use
- includes environmental opportunities that could be achieved such as [‘green infrastructure’](#) and biodiversity improvements of the site and surrounding area

Read Natural England's guidance on [how your local planning authority will review your application](#) if there are protected species on the proposed development site. This is known as Natural England's 'standing advice'.

Check the [impact risk zone \(IRZ\) around a protected site](#) to help you assess potential impacts that the development proposal may have on the site. You can download the IRZ data and use it on the government's [Magic website](#).

See the [Magic map to show the location of protected areas](#) such as national parks and areas of outstanding natural beauty.

Natural England can tell you:

- if your proposal will significantly affect a protected site or area or protected species
- if your proposal will affect the best and most versatile agricultural land
- what you should include with your planning application
- how you can avoid or reduce harming the natural environment

## EU funding for transport projects

Find out how to get Natural England's approval for applications for EU transport funding in the [Connecting Europe Facility transport guidance](#).

Successful applications will need to show that transport proposals are not likely to have significant effects on a [Natura 2000](#) site.

## **Consult the Environment Agency**

Read the Environment Agency's [flood risk standing advice](#) before you consult them about flood risk.

You can get advice from the Environment Agency if your development includes:

- land in [flood zones 2 or 3](#)
- land in [flood zone 1](#) with critical drainage problems – your LPA will know if this is the case
- is for development that will be used to handle, produce, use or store hazardous substances and is within the area at risk if a major accident happens nearby (see the Health and Safety Executive guidance on [development near hazardous sites](#))
- mining and mining exploration
- storing oil and fuel and their by-products, such as petrol stations
- a major development that does not use existing sewerage infrastructure for sewage treatment
- land in or within 20m of the top of the bank of a [main river](#)
- waterbodies identified in [river basin management plans](#)
- a cemetery or cemetery extension
- land affected by [contamination](#) from a previous use such as disused railways, or your proposal could cause contamination
- land used for the storage, transfer or treatment of waste products or refuse
- intensive pig, poultry or dairy units

You can get advice even if your proposal does not need a planning application, such as when [prior approval](#) is needed for permitted development.

Check the Environment Agency's [maps and data](#) to find out if there's environmental information that could be relevant to your development proposal.

The Environment Agency can provide free preliminary advice to tell you:

- about environmental constraints on your development
- if your development will affect the environment
- the kind of information it wants you to include with your planning application
- if you [need an environmental licence or permit](#) and if there are likely to be problems with granting it

[Complete the preliminary opinion enquiry form.](#)

The Environment Agency aims to respond to preliminary opinion requests within 21 days.

## Consult the Marine Management Organisation

You can get advice from the [Marine Management Organisation](#) (MMO) if your development proposal is on the coast and includes slipways, jetties or dredging.

You must consult the MMO on nationally significant infrastructure projects such as offshore wind turbines.

Find out what [permits, consents and licences you might need for coastal developments](#) you might need for coastal developments.

## If you need an environmental permit

If you need an [environmental permit](#) for activities at your new site before you submit your permit or planning applications you can get Environment Agency advice.

The Environment Agency can provide a limited amount of pre-application advice to help you complete your application. The cost of this advice is included in the application charge.

The Environment Agency charges £100 an hour plus VAT for its enhanced pre-application advice service. This is an optional service which you can request if you want more help with your application.

Find out about [basic and enhanced pre-application advice for environmental permits](#).

You do not need planning permission before you apply for an environmental permit, but you can still get advice about environmental permits after you've submitted your planning application.

## If you need planning and environmental consents

If your development needs both [planning permission and an environmental permit](#) you can submit your environmental permit application at the same time as your planning application. This is known as 'twin-tracking' and means you'll get fewer information requests.

You should twin-track if:

- your activity is large or complicated
- there are protected habitats or species near the place you want to develop and the Environment Agency's assessment shows your activity could have a significant effect on them

## Nationally significant infrastructure projects

If your activity is part of a nationally significant infrastructure project, you can twin-track your applications or apply for your environmental permit before you submit a development consent application.

The Planning Inspectorate will consider your permit requirements when assessing your application.

## **If you need an environmental impact assessment**

You can ask [your LPA](#) whether your proposal needs to include an [environmental impact assessment](#) (EIA).

If your proposal needs an EIA, you'll need to prepare an [environmental statement](#). Your LPA must consult with the environmental agencies before they can tell you what information needs to be included.

You can get help from Natural England or the Environment Agency with your environmental statement, but you'll need to pay for advice.

### **Preparing an environmental statement**

Your statement should only focus on the significant effects that your proposal will have on the environment. You should include relevant documents to support this, for example:

- a water cycle study if the proposal affects water supply, water quality or flooding
- a landscape assessment or visual impact assessment on a protected landscape

## **When you can pay for agency advice**

You can get help from Natural England or the Environment Agency on how to:

- reduce harm to the environment
- maximise opportunities to enhance the environment

They'll also look at your environmental statement and respond within an agreed timescale.

### **Natural England's advice services**

Natural England offers 2 kinds of paid-for advice:

- a [pre-submission screening service](#) to find out if a development proposal affects a protected species and needs a wildlife licence
- a discretionary advice service (DAS) which is extra advice for more complex development proposals that affect the environment

You can use the discretionary advice service to:

- review your draft environmental statement
- review your survey results and assessments
- advise on your mitigation strategies to reduce damage to the environment

You'll normally get this advice before you submit your application for:

- planning permission
- permission in principle
- technical details consent
- a marine licence

In some cases, you can get advice during and after getting consent.

How much you'll have to pay depends on:

- the work you need to do, such as multiple mitigation strategies or several surveys
- whether or not a Natural England adviser needs to visit your site

You'll pay:

- £500 per adviser for a 90 minute meeting (either by conference call or a face-to-face meeting at an office or on the development site)
- £110 per hour per adviser for each additional hour

If an adviser needs to travel to your office or development site you'll pay their:

- travel costs at 45p per mile
- additional public transport, tolls and travel expenses
- travel time as part of the hourly rate

You'll pay £110 per hour if your request is more complicated. This includes:

- reviewing a draft environmental statement
- providing advice to reduce damage to protected sites and species
- providing advice on your landscape and visual impact assessment

Complete the [charged service request form](#) and send to [consultations@naturalengland.org.uk](mailto:consultations@naturalengland.org.uk)

Natural England will respond within 15 working days to:

- confirm if the request is eligible
- agree the scope of the works
- provide a written quotation
- agree a timetable

Read

[Natural England's terms and conditions for paid-for services](#)

(PDF, 140KB, 16 pages)

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## **Environment Agency's advice services**

The Environment Agency offers a charged-for discretionary advice service.

You can use the discretionary advice service to:

- review and provide advice on your draft environmental statement
- review and provide advice on your technical reports and assessments
- seek advice on your mitigation strategies to reduce damage to the environment
- seek advice on non-statutory strategic engagement activities such as planning policies and evidence base documents

You'll normally get this advice before you submit your application for:

- planning permission
- permission in principle
- technical details consent
- a marine licence

In some cases, you can get advice during and after getting consent.

How much you'll have to pay depends on:

- how complex your proposal is
- the number of staff needed to provide the relevant advice

You'll pay:

- £100 an hour plus VAT per staff member – this includes travel time
- any other reasonable costs, for example costs of advice from external consultants if needed

To request charged-for discretionary advice email the Environment Agency at [enquiries@environment-agency.gov.uk](mailto:enquiries@environment-agency.gov.uk). Your enquiry will go to your local sustainable places team. You need to provide:

- your name and contact details, and who you're acting on behalf of
- the postcode or grid reference of the site and a location plan showing the boundary of the proposed development
- a project description, including what you're planning to build and the type of consent you need
- the type of advice you want, for example a face-to-face meeting or document review

The Environment Agency will respond within 15 working days to:

- confirm if the request is eligible
- agree the scope of the works
- provide a written quotation
- agree a timetable

Read the [Environment Agency's terms and conditions for planning and marine licence advice](#).

## Contact the agencies

Natural England

Email [consultations@naturalengland.org.uk](mailto:consultations@naturalengland.org.uk)

Natural England consultation service

Hornbeam House

Electra Way

Crewe Business Park

Crewe

Cheshire

CW1 6GJ

Environment Agency

Email [enquiries@environment-agency.gov.uk](mailto:enquiries@environment-agency.gov.uk)

Environment Agency

PO Box 544

Rotherham

Yorkshire

S60 1BY

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## **[Detailed guide: Polychlorinated biphenyls \(PCBs\): registration, disposal, labelling](#)**

*Updated:* The contact email address has been changed to: [pcb-enquiries@environment-agency.gov.uk](mailto:pcb-enquiries@environment-agency.gov.uk).

You must follow this guide if you own polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs), or any of the following substances that are also collectively known as PCBs:

- polychlorinated terphenyls
- monomethyl-dibromo-diphenyl methane



- monomethyl-dichloro-diphenyl methane
- monomethyl-tetrachlorodiphenyl methane

You must also follow this guide if you own or operate equipment or material that contains any of these PCBs at a concentration higher than 50 parts per million (0.005%).

## Ban on PCBs

PCBs are banned. You must [dispose of PCBs](#), and equipment or material that contains them, as soon as possible unless they're covered by an exception.

## Exceptions to the PCB ban

### Research or disposal

The ban does not apply to PCBs held:

- for research and analysis into the properties of PCBs
- as part of a process to dispose of PCBs (for example at a hazardous waste disposal site) or a process to remove ('decontaminate') PCBs from equipment

### Transformers

You can continue to use transformers if the fluid in the transformer has a PCB concentration below 500 parts per million (0.05%).

You must [dispose of the transformer](#) as soon as possible after the end of its useful life.

### Small components of equipment

You can continue to use small pieces of equipment that contain PCBs if both of the following apply:

- they're not [CE](#)
- they're components of larger pieces of equipment, which are not CE either

The exception for smaller equipment is meant to avoid you having to destroy or damage a large piece of equipment to remove the PCBs contained in a small component. The exception does not apply if it's practical for you to remove the smaller component and get rid of the PCBs without damaging the larger machine.

## Contaminated equipment (CE)

Any equipment that contains more than 5 litres of fluid containing PCBs (or more than 5 litres of fluid that has a PCB concentration of more than 0.005%) is classed as CE.

You must generally assume the following equipment is CE if it was manufactured before 1987 and contains more than 5 litres of fluid:

- power factor capacitors
- heat transfer equipment
- pole-mounted transformers
- process heating equipment
- vacuum pumps
- high temperature hydraulic systems
- electrical resistors
- brushings and other high voltage equipment
- fluorescent light ballasts
- hospital diagnostic equipment

You do not have to assume such equipment is CE if you're certain it does not contain PCBs, for example if you have:

- carried out tests on the equipment that showed it does not contain PCBs
- kept the original manufacturers' manual and it shows the equipment does not contain PCBs

If you're not sure whether your equipment contains PCBs, you must assume it does.

## **Combined sets of equipment**

Email [pcb-enquiries@environment-agency.gov.uk](mailto:pcb-enquiries@environment-agency.gov.uk) if you hold several pieces of equipment that would not be classed as CE on their own, but are part of a combined set which would be classed as CE.

This would apply, for example, if you have a piece of equipment that contains multiple capacitors which individually contain less than 5 litres of fluid, but collectively contain more than 5 litres of fluid.

The Environment Agency will discuss this with you on a case-by-case basis.

## **Register CE**

You must register any CE that you own with the Environment Agency, including CE that:

- has a legal use (for example transformers with a PCB concentration below 0.05%)
- does not have a legal use, but you have not disposed of yet (you must tell the Environment Agency how you plan to dispose of it as soon as possible)

Complete a [PCB holdings registration form](#) and return it to the Environment Agency as soon as possible.

You must re-register your equipment every year until you stop holding CE. To do this send a new PCB holdings registration form to the Environment Agency,

listing all CE you hold on 31 July each year.

You must pay a £155 fee every year when you submit your PCB holdings registration form.

If you become the owner of CE (for example if you buy a business that operates such equipment), you must register the equipment even if it's been registered before.

## Take CE off the register

You can take CE off the PCB register:

- after you have [disposed of it](#)
- if you sell it, or you sell the business or site it was part of
- if you have carried out tests that prove it does not contain PCBs
- if you have decontaminated it, so that the PCB content of the fluid is less than 0.005%

You can take equipment off the register at any time by completing the 'de-registering equipment' section of the [PCB holdings registration form](#) and returning it to the Environment Agency.

There's no charge for deregistering equipment.

## Labelling CE and premises

You must attach a label to any CE stating that the equipment is contaminated with PCBs.

You must also attach a sign to the premises where the equipment is used stating that the premises contains equipment contaminated by PCBs.

You must make sure the labels and signs are clearly visible and cannot be easily removed.

For transformers where the fluid has a PCB content of less than 0.05%, your label and sign can say, 'PCBs contaminated <0.05%'.

## Dispose of PCBs

You must dispose of PCBs and materials that contain PCBs as a persistent organic pollutant and hazardous waste.

That means you can either:

- dispose of the PCBs or equipment in a [way that destroys the PCB content](#)
- [apply to permanently store the equipment](#) underground if you cannot destroy the PCB content

Email [pcb-enquiries@environment-agency.gov.uk](mailto:pcb-enquiries@environment-agency.gov.uk) to discuss how to do this.

You must keep records to show that you disposed of the PCBs by one of these 2 methods.