

Application for a Deforestation project EIA Opinion in England

The Environmental Impact Assessment (Forestry) Regulations (England and Wales) 1999 regulate deforestation projects, amongst other forestry activity. Anyone planning to undertake a deforestation project in England may apply to the Forestry Commission (FC) for an Opinion on whether their project is a relevant project likely to have a significant effect on the environment.

Definition:

By Deforestation we mean permanent removal of woodland cover for conversion to another land use.

The EIA Enquiry application form, along with the [Convert Woodland to Open Habitats](#) form and a proposal map, is used to gather key information about a deforestation project and the project proposer and/or their agent, as required for the FC to give an EIA Opinion under these Regulations. **Please consider** each section of the form carefully when completing it, and provide written evidence to support your application.

The 2017 transposition of the EIA (Forestry) Directive (2014/52/EU) into UK law introduced Schedule 2A, the need for relevant environmental information to be obtained and used to inform the design and implementation aspects of a deforestation project so that, where possible, a project minimises any significant environmental effect.

Schedule 2A requires all relevant information and evidence gathered e.g. from field survey, environmental records searches and engagement with stakeholders, and the design methodology supporting a deforestation project be submitted when applying for an EIA Assessment or Opinion.

Open Habitats Policy

The overarching policy for the sustainable management of forests and woodlands in the UK is a presumption against the conversion of forest land to other land uses unless there are compelling reasons in the public interest for doing so. As a result, applications to convert to woodland to open habitat must comply with the [Government's Policy on when to convert woods and forests to open habitats in England](#).

This application form is used help identify and collect evidence for the issues that need to be resolved in relation to Open Habitats Policy, and the granting or refusal of permission for woodland to be removed.

Project maps

Project map(s) will show the boundary of the forestry project and identify details of the operations you intend to undertake. Additional maps should be used as required to show further information about the site, its constraints and surrounding influences.

In line with DEFRA and other Government departments we have adopted Ordnance Survey MasterMap® (OSMM) as the preferred standard of mapping for applications. MasterMap® is the most up-to-date large-scale digital map of Great Britain.

Applicants can get free copies of an OSMM map by completing the Map Request Form available from our [website](#). Applicants should allow two weeks for the delivery of the OSMM maps they have requested.

Please note: We may not accept maps that are not OSMM.

If you would like to submit an application using mapping data other than OSMM you should contact the local FC office to ensure we will be able to accept the maps.

In certain instances we will accept the submission of digital mapping data. You should contact the local FC office to ensure the data submitted will be in an acceptable format and standard.

If you do not use our Map Request Service you must provide us with an original map or a good quality photocopy. **Please note:** We will return applications that include maps that are not acceptable without registering the project.

Before you mark the map, check that:

- It is an up-to-date Ordnance Survey map;
- It is at a scale of either 1:10,000, 1:5000 or 1:2,500 (more than one map may be required for large areas);
- The scale is shown on the map;
- At least two horizontal and two vertical Ordnance Survey grid lines are shown;
- Any relevant details are not hidden by folds, other marks or labels.

Marking the map

- Clearly show the location of the EIA project boundary;
- Mark the grid reference of the centre of the project;
- If the point of access to the area is not obvious, mark this on the map also;
- NB: Do not use a map used for a previous application.

Complete this Enquiry application form for an Opinion on whether a deforestation project is a relevant project under the Environmental Impact Assessment (Forestry) Regulations (England and Wales) 1999.

Part 1 – Applicant Details

Title:		First name:		Surname:	
Organisation:				Position:	
Address:					
Postcode:					
Main contact number:			Secondary contact number:		
E-mail:					
Is this the address for correspondence about this application?				<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
If No please provide the correspondence address:					

Part 2 – Applicant Category

Please give details of the applicant status? Put a cross in one box only:	
<input type="checkbox"/> PE - Personal occupier	You or your family own the property, or hold it as a family trust, partnership or family farm.
<input type="checkbox"/> VO - Voluntary organisation	An organisation funded by public subscription or a charitable trust or community organisation e.g. Woodland Trust, National Trust, Wildlife Trusts, or Groundwork.
<input type="checkbox"/> PU - Public ownership	Government departments and their agencies e.g. Natural England, Defence Estates, Prison Service, Crown Estates (not including land personally owned by members of the Royal Family) and The National Forest. Local and Unitary authorities, National Parks, local education and schools authorities.
<input type="checkbox"/> BU - Business occupier	A company, forestry investor, business partnership, syndicate or pension fund.
<input type="checkbox"/> OT - Other: (provide details) _____	

Part 3 – Applicant Type

Please give details of the Applicant Type? Put a cross in one box only:			
<input type="checkbox"/> LS – Leaseholder	<input type="checkbox"/> OW – Owner		
<input type="checkbox"/> TE – Tenant	<input type="checkbox"/> TR – Trust		

Part 4 – Property Details

Please give details of the location of the work or project?	
Name of Property:	
Ordnance Survey 6 fig Grid Ref for the project: (e.g. XX123456)	
Nearest town:	
Local Authority District or County	

Part 5 – Agent or Woodland Manager’s Details

Title:		First name:		Surname:	
Organisation:				Position:	
Address:					
Postcode:					
Main contact number:			Secondary contact number:		
E-mail:					
Is this the address for correspondence about this application?				<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
If No please provide the correspondence address:					

Part 6 – When to convert woodland to open habitat

Please download the application form, complete and submit with this EIA Enquiry Form, a project plan/map, and /or a felling application.

<https://www.forestry.gov.uk/england-openhabitats>

Part 7 – Declarations

I apply to the Forestry Commission for its Opinion under the Environmental Impact Assessment (Forestry) Regulations (England and Wales) 1999 as to whether a deforestation project described in this application is a relevant project, and, I certify that:

	Owner <i>Please tick</i>	Applicant <i>Please tick</i>
I have enclosed a map of a deforestation project and environmental information that supports the project to which this application refers.		
I have an estate or interest in the land to which this deforestation project application refers.		
To the best of my knowledge and belief the information given in this application is accurate and complete.		

Signature of Applicant: _____ Date: _____

Signature of Land Owner: _____ Date: _____