



EIA forest road or quarry application form (England)

Use this 'stage 1' Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) form to seek the Forestry Commission's (FC) view of the environmental impact of your forest road or forest quarry proposal, and whether you will be required to submit a 'stage 2' EIA Application for Consent, incorporating an Environmental Statement before commencing your project.

Help filling in this form

It is recommended that you refer to the [road or quarry application guidance](#) when filling in this form. This provides guidance on how to complete each individual question listed below, should you need it.

These questions are asked in order to assess your proposal against the [UK Forestry Standard](#), government policies and statutory criteria.

All responses to free text questions are expected to be **proportionate to the size of your proposal**. Therefore, if you are proposing a smaller project, your answers may be correspondingly brief (but you must still ensure that you provide the minimum necessary information for the FC to make a decision). Likewise, proposers of larger projects will be expected to provide more in-depth responses. The FC will request for further information if required.

Do I need to complete this form?

Is my proposal considered a forest road or quarry?

- Forest road** works mean the formation, alteration or maintenance of private ways on land used, or to be used, for forestry purposes.
- Forest quarry** works mean operations on land used, or to be used, for the purposes of forestry to obtain materials for forest road works.

Forest road or quarry projects completed within the last five years that are **adjacent** to your proposal will be considered part of your new proposal when determining your proposal area for the purpose of assigning it a 'threshold'. 'Adjacent' means any part of the project is within 500m of your proposal. Parts 5 and 7 below make it clear whether to include any adjacent project details or not. You should complete the remainder of the form solely in relation to your proposal (i.e. not in relation to any adjacent project).

Is my proposal considered development?

If your proposal is **development-related** (i.e. requiring **planning permission**) then it will normally be screened by the local planning authority under the Town and Country Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017, and so you will likely not need to complete this form. This is provided that:

- the planning application or approval has explicitly identified the location for the forestry proposal
- the development that requires planning permission is listed in either Schedule 1 or Schedule 2 of the Town and Country Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017

These lists cover most common forms of development. Where the forestry proposal is mapped in the planning application and the development is on either of the two lists, you will not need to fill in this form.

However, **permitted development** in the context of forestry is covered by the EIA Forestry Regulations. If your proposal contains permitted development in relation to forestry, you will need to fill in this form. You will also need to provide confirmation from the local planning authority that they have accepted that the work qualifies as permitted development.

Forestry permitted development includes:

- the formation, alteration or maintenance of private ways
- operations on that land, or on land held or occupied with that land, to obtain the materials required for the formation, alteration or maintenance of such ways

However, permitted development does not apply where any part of the proposal is within 25 metres of the metalled portion of a trunk road or classified road.

Can I presume that I do not need to submit this EIA forest road or quarry application form?

The forestry EIA regulations create a **presumption** that some forest road or quarry proposals will not have a likely significant effect on the environment, and therefore that they will not require an EIA 'stage 2' Application for Consent. This presumption relates to proposals that are both:

- under 1 ha in area (including any adjacent projects – see Part 7 below)
- not located within any sensitive area (see Part 4 below)

Please refer to Annex 1 of this form for the EIA threshold table for forest roads and quarries, to further understand when you may presume that a project will not have a likely significant effect on the environment, and to assess the risk in choosing not to submit an EIA 'stage1' application.

These proposals are presumed, at EIA 'stage 1' (applications made using this form), not to have a likely significant effect on the environment. Therefore they are unlikely to require an EIA 'stage 2' and you are unlikely to be liable to enforcement action being taken under the regulations. However, **this presumption is not certain**. The unique qualities of a site or a proposal may still cause the proposal to have a significant effect on the environment. The FC may 'call in' such proposals as having a likely significant effect on the environment, requiring you to submit an EIA 'stage 2' Application for Consent, or requiring you to undertake remedial works such as restoring the land to its original condition at your own expense by serving you with an Enforcement Notice.

For these proposals, where a presumption can be made, the proposer may, **at their own risk, choose not to submit an EIA 'stage 1' application** (i.e. this form), and simply proceed with their proposal (subject to other relevant consents being granted where necessary). By doing so, proposers forego the certainty of receiving a definitive EIA 'stage 1' decision from the FC as to:

- whether an EIA 'stage 2' Application for Consent is required
- whether the proposal will have a likely significant effect on the environment
- whether the proposer risks the FC taking enforcement action against them (for instance, by requiring the proposer to restore the land to its previous condition at their own expense)

If you are prepared to assume this risk, you need not complete or submit this form. You may still require an [FC approved felling licence](#). You may still require other consents from other relevant authorities before being able to proceed with your proposal (for example, SSSI consent from Natural England); and you should ensure that your proposal is compliant with the [UK Forestry Standard](#).

Tree felling licence

It's an offence to fell trees in England without a FC-approved felling licence, unless an exception to the need for a licence applies. Everyone involved in the [felling of trees](#) must ensure that a licence has been issued, or be able to provide evidence that one of the exceptions to the need for a licence applies, before any felling is carried out.

The EIA decision that you are requesting by submitting this application form does not remove the need for a felling licence. Exemptions to the requirement for a felling licence may apply. If no exemptions apply you will need to **submit a separate felling licence application** in order to lawfully enact the EIA decision provided by the FC. It is unlikely that the entirety of a forest road or quarry project will be exempt from the need for a felling licence.

A common exemption in relation to forest roads is set out in subsection 9(4) of the Forestry Act 1967. A felling licence does not apply to any felling that is immediately required for the purpose of carrying out development authorised by planning permission or deemed to be granted (permitted development). Forest roads may be constructed under permitted development rights, but the FC may request that you provide confirmation from the local planning authority that they consider the works to be permitted development.

If you do not submit a felling licence application, you must provide an explanation and further information for this decision in your Proposal Overview (Part 6).

Timescales

Under the Environmental Impact Assessment (Forestry) (England and Wales) Regulations 1999 (the EIA regulations), the FC has 28 days to give an EIA 'stage 1' deforestation decision, unless the following applies.

The FC can, in exceptional cases, extend the deadline of giving their EIA 'stage 1' decision under regulation 6(1A). If you submit a felling licence alongside your EIA application, the FC will consider this to be an exceptional case and consider your felling licence application as your acceptance that your EIA decision will be made at the same time as your felling licence decision, even if this takes longer than 28 days. The FC has 90 days within which to make a felling licence decision.

Map Browser and Land Information Search

The FC has developed the [Forestry Commission Map Browser on GOV.UK](#), which you can use to look at data layers relevant to forestry in England. You can use this tool to check the extent of designations such as National Nature Reserves or Special Protection Areas.

Within this map browser you can also use the FC's Land Information Search tool. This allows you to draw your proposal area on a map and runs a check on that area to show you a list of national designations or features on your land. Other map browsers, such as [Defra's MAGIC Map](#), can provide additional data layers.

For more information on searching for constraints, please see [Forestry Projects: Constraints](#).

Project maps

In line with the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) and other Government departments, the FC has 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 Ordnance Survey MasterMap® (OSMM) map by completing the [Map Request Form on GOV.UK](#). Allow two weeks for delivery of a hard copy, or three days for an electronic copy.

If you do not use OSMM, you must provide an original map or a good quality photocopy. The FC will return applications that include maps that are not presented to an acceptable standard, without registering the proposal.

If you would like to submit an application using digital mapping data, rather than OSMM please [contact your local FC admin hub](#) to check which file formats are acceptable. Please note that shapefiles alone do not provide any detail other than the shape and location of a polygon. When submitting a shapefile (files typically with the extension *.dbf, *.shp, *.shx), make sure that you provide additional explanation as to what your shapefiles are depicting, unless they are simply illustrative of your total project area.

Privacy notice

Applications are disclosed on request and may be published under the Environmental Information Regulations. Disclosure and publication will take into account the requirements of the Data Protection Act 2018 in respect to any personal information included in the application.

The FC may share your details with other government departments, professional bodies or trade associations for compliance, inspection or other purposes. The FC may publish details of enforcement notices served under the forestry EIA regulations in relation to carrying out a project without 'stage 2' consent where that consent was required, or non-compliance with the conditions attached to a consent.

Part 1 – Applicant details

Title:		First name:		Surname:	
Organisation: (if applicable)			Position: (if applicable)		
Single Business Identifier (SBI): (if applicable)			Customer Reference Number (CRN): (if applicable)		
Address:					
Postcode:					
Main contact number:			Secondary contact number:		
Email:					
Is this the address for correspondence with the applicant about this application?				Yes	No
If no, please provide the correspondence address:					

Part 2 – Agent or woodland manager's details

If you have an agent or woodland manager, please provide their details.					
Title:		First name:		Surname:	
Organisation:			Position:		
Customer Reference Number (CRN): (if applicable)					
Address:					
Postcode:					
Main contact number:			Secondary contact number:		
Email:					
Is this the address for correspondence with the agent about this application?				Yes	No
If no, please provide the correspondence address:					

Part 3 – Property details

Please give details of the location of the proposal.					
Name of property:					
Ordnance Survey six figure grid reference for the proposal: (for example, XX123456)					
County Parish Holding (CPH) number: (if applicable)					
Nearest town:					
Local planning authority:					
Is the property part of a Community Forest?	Yes		No		If yes, which one?

Part 4 – Proposals on or affecting sensitive areas

4.1 Is your proposal on any of the following 'sensitive areas'? If not, mark 'N' (no) for all.					
<i>Use the Forestry Commission's Land Information Search and Defra's MAGIC Map to identify sensitive areas.</i>					
a) Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) or Proposed SSSI (PSSSI)	Yes		No		
b) National Park	Yes		No		
c) The Norfolk Broads	Yes		No		
d) World Heritage Site, including its designated buffer zone	Yes		No		
e) Scheduled Monument	Yes		No		
f) National Landscape (formerly known as an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty)	Yes		No		
g) Special Area of Conservation (SAC)	Yes		No		
h) Special Protection Area (SPA)	Yes		No		

i) Ramsar site	Yes		No	
j) National Nature Reserve	Yes		No	
k) 'Local' Nature Reserve that is not designated by a local authority	Yes		No	
<p>4.2 If you have indicated 'yes' to any of the sensitivities listed in Part 4.1, please provide details of its features and of the reason for designation(s) below.</p> <p><i>Note that forestry proposals within some sensitive areas, and other statutory designations, may require separate consent from the authorities responsible for those sites. It is up to applicants to ensure that all necessary permissions are in place prior to enacting any forestry proposal.</i></p>				
4.3 If your proposal sits outside a sensitive area, does it still have the potential to affect the features of interest within a sensitive area?	Yes		No	
If you indicated 'yes', please give details below.				
<p>4.4 If the site is a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI), what is its listed condition?</p> <p><i>Refer to Natural England's designated sites website, or ask your Natural England advisor. For SSSIs that have multiple condition assessments across the site, tick all that apply.</i></p>				
Favourable		Unfavourable recovering	Unfavourable no change	
Unfavourable declining		Destroyed / Part destroyed		

Part 5 – Proposal size

What is the size (area in hectares) of your forest road or quarry proposal? Tick below. You will be asked about any adjacent projects in Part 7, so do not include adjacent projects here.

Road proposal total area 1 ha or less	Road proposal total area over 1 ha	Quarry proposal total area 1 ha or less	Quarry proposal total area over 1ha

Part 6 – Proposal overview

6.1 Please provide an overview of your forest road and/or quarry proposal. You will be asked about any adjacent projects in Part 7, so do not include adjacent projects here.

Proposed work: Forest road and/or quarry project

Area of proposal (ha):	Area of quarry (ha):	Area of road (ha):
Area of proposal in sensitive area (as defined in Part 4):	Area of proposal outside sensitive area (as defined in Part 4):	Length of road (m):

6.2 Please outline below the aims and objectives of your forest road and/or quarry proposal.

6.3 Please indicate below how you intend to carry out the work for your forest road and/or quarry proposal.

You can either:

- *attach an operational plan for carrying out the work*
- or*
- *give details below (or in an attached map)*

More information about operational plans can be found in the [UK Forestry Standard](#).

Part 7 – Adjacent projects

Any EIA road or quarry projects completed within the last five years, adjacent to (wholly or partly within 500m of) your proposal must be considered as part of your proposal. This will be added to your total proposal area, and may affect how the FC processes your application.

If there is a recently completed project adjacent to your proposal you must detail this below.

If you are in doubt as to whether a project is adjacent or not please [contact your local Woodland Officer](#).

7.1 is there a forest road and/or quarry project adjacent to your proposal that has been completed within the last five years?	Yes		No	
7.2 How many hectares of forest road and/or quarry have been completed in adjacent projects within the past five years?	hectares			
7.3 Adding adjacent projects to your current proposal (as listed in Part 6.1) what is the combined total area of your proposal and adjacent projects?	hectares			
7.4 Do the adjacent projects sit within or affect additional sensitive areas (as defined in Part 4) not also covered by your proposal (and set out in your response to 4.2 and 4.3 above)?	Yes		No	
If yes, give details below.				

Part 8 – Environment checks

Use this checklist to tell the FC how your proposal may affect the environment. Where environmental impacts are identified, provide further evidence and/or design statements in the box below each question showing how the proposal will avoid, mitigate (if avoidance is unachievable) or compensate for (if neither avoidance nor mitigation is achievable) any impact.

Use this form's [road or quarry application guidance](#) to find sources of relevant environmental information, data and expertise for each section.

A.	Land use			
	A.i. How is the current land use of your proposal area best described? Identify the proportion of current land use to the nearest 10%			
	Woodland	%	Developed land	%
	Arable	%	Semi Improved Grassland	%
	Cropped land	%	Unimproved land	%
	Improved Grassland	%	Other (please state)	%

B.	Biodiversity				
	<p>B.i. Have any priority habitats (under section 41 of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006) or habitat features been identified within, or which may be affected by, the proposal area?</p> <p><i>Examples include species-rich grassland or heathland, or habitat features such as a veteran tree, ancient hedgerow or blanket bog.</i></p>	Yes		No	
	<p>If you answer yes to B.i., please use the box below and your map/plan to provide details about these features, where they are, and how your proposal accounts for them.</p> <p><i>Use Part 9.2 of this form to attach evidence that you have undertaken the appropriate record and field checks (for example, copies of data searches or reports from local records centres or other experts).</i></p>				
	<p>B.ii. Have any protected species, species of principal importance, or other species important to the area, been identified within, or may be affected by, the proposal area?</p>	Yes		No	
	<p>If you answer yes to B.ii., please use the box below to provide details of species you have identified.</p> <p><i>Use Part 9.2 of this form to attach evidence that you have undertaken the appropriate record and field checks (for example, copies of data searches or reports from local records centres or other experts).</i></p>				
<p>B.iii. Have you considered the effect your proposal will have on wild birds in the area and diversity of habitat(s) for wild birds?</p>	Yes		No		

B.iv. Are you aware of the Good Practice guidance to safeguard European Protected Species when undertaking forestry operations and the need to obtain a licence if you cannot comply with the Good Practice?					Yes		No		
B.v. Are you aware of the Good Practice guidance to safeguard badgers when undertaking forestry operations and the need to obtain a licence if you cannot comply with the Good Practice?					Yes		No		
B.vi. Have any of the following Local Sites been identified that may be affected by your proposal?									
Local Wildlife Site	Yes		No		Site of Nature Conservation Importance (SNCI)	Yes		No	
Local Geological Site	Yes		No		Regionally Important Geological Site (RIGS)	Yes		No	
Site of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINC)	Yes		No		County Wildlife Site	Yes		No	
Other (please specify)									
<p>If you answer Yes to B.vi., use the box below and your map/plan to give details about these features, where they are, and how your proposal accounts for them.</p> <p><i>Please use Part 9.1 of this form to record what stakeholder engagement you have undertaken and your proposed mitigation.</i></p>									

C. Water and soils					
C.i. Have any public or private drinking water supplies been identified within, or which may be affected by your proposal?		Yes		No	
<p><i>If you answer yes to C.i., please use the box below and your map/plan to provide details about these features, where they are, and how your proposal accounts for them.</i></p> <p><i>Please use Part 9.1 to record what stakeholder engagement you have undertaken</i></p>					
C.ii. Is your proposal in an area identified by the Environment Agency as a Nitrate Vulnerable Zone or a Drinking Water Safeguard Zone?		Yes		No	
C.iii. Is your proposal in an area identified by the Environment Agency where the quality of riparian and/or surface water is an issue?		Yes		No	
C.iv. Is your proposal in an area identified by the Environment Agency where groundwaters are at poor quantitative status?		Yes		No	
C.v. Is your proposal adjacent to or does it cross a watercourse and/or, does it affect flood defence structures or facilities?		Yes		No	
C.vi. Have any other water features been identified within, or which may be affected by your proposal?		Yes		No	

If you answer yes to C.ii – C.vi., please use the box below and your map/plan to provide details about these features, where they are, and how your proposal accounts for them.

Please use Part 9.1 to record what stakeholder engagement you have undertaken and your proposed mitigation.

C.vii. Is your proposal on or near an area of peaty soil?

Yes

No

If you answer yes to C.vii., please use the box below and your map/plan to provide details about these peaty soils, where they are, and how your proposal accounts for them.

Please use Part 9.1 to record what stakeholder engagement you have undertaken and your proposed mitigation.

D.	Landscape character				
	D.i. What is the national landscape character type?				
	D.ii. What is the local landscape character type?				
	D.iii. Will a road/quarry in this location significantly negatively impact the landscape character?	Yes		No	
	D.iv. Has permitted development been granted by the planning authority?	Yes		No	
	Please provide further information below and use Part 9.2 of this form to attach evidence from the local planning authority.				
	D.v. Has full planning consent been granted by the planning authority?	Yes		No	
	Please provide further information below and use Part 9.2 of this form to attach evidence from the local planning authority.				

Part 9 – Stakeholders and evidence log

9.1 In the table overleaf, record the individuals and organisations who have been contacted (for example, the local authority historic environment / archaeology service) regarding your proposal.

The Forestry Commission will not undertake stakeholder engagement on your behalf that is necessary to finalise your proposal. However, the FC may consult with other bodies to validate the information, and interpretation of that information, that you provide in your completed application.

Part 6 of your roads and/or quarries application should demonstrate how views and perceived negative effects have been addressed and/or how the proposal has been adapted to capture opportunities to improve its design.

Individual or Organisation	Date contacted	Date feedback received	Correspondence attached in evidence log			Mitigation agreed/ action required
			Yes	No		
			Yes	No		
			Yes	No		
			Yes	No		
			Yes	No		
			Yes	No		
			Yes	No		
			Yes	No		
			Yes	No		
			Yes	No		
			Yes	No		
			Yes	No		
			Yes	No		
			Yes	No		
			Yes	No		
			Yes	No		
			Yes	No		
			Yes	No		
			Yes	No		

9.2 Use the evidence log below to list supporting information which you are including in your application. This can include stakeholder engagement, survey results, records checks, evidence from the local planning authority, and any other details that support your application.

Document name	Which question (for example, 'Part 8, B.i.') does this document support?	Brief description

Part 10 – Project maps

10.1 Project maps must show the boundary of your proposal 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.

Please indicate that your map(s) fulfils FC requirements by confirming the statements below.

My map is up to date, and of Ordnance Survey origin and has not been used for a previous application. It is presented at a suitable scale of either 1:10,000, 1:5,000 or 1:2,500. The map scale is shown, and relevant detail is not hidden by folds, marks or labels. At least two horizontal and two vertical Ordnance Survey grid lines are shown.	Yes		No	
I have marked the access point to the site on the map.	Yes		No	
I have marked the boundary of any sensitive areas (these are listed in Part 4.1) on or impacted by my site.	Yes		No	
I have identified the land use on my proposal, and land use in adjacent fields.	Yes		No	
I have provided a separate map/plan from the <u>local authority historic environment / archaeology service</u> .	Yes		No	
10.2 Please mark 'Yes' or 'No' for the statements below to show whether or not they apply to your project map(s).				
I have marked adjacent completed roads and/or quarries projects from within the last five years.	Yes		No	
I have shown priority habitats, habitat features, and priority or protected of interest on the map including areas of peaty soils.	Yes		No	
I have identified Local Sites.	Yes		No	
I have identified water-related features, including the location of supplies, extraction points, wells and boreholes on the map.	Yes		No	
I have identified features of the historic environment.	Yes		No	
I have indicated open access land.	Yes		No	

Part 11 – Declarations

I apply to the Forestry Commission for its Opinion, under the Environmental Impact Assessment (Forestry) Regulations (England and Wales) 1999 (i.e. make a 'stage 1' EIA application) and I certify that:	Applicant/agent – please tick
I have enclosed annotated map(s) of the proposal area and supporting environmental information.	
I have enclosed evidence of full planning consent and / or permitted development granted by the planning authority where applicable.	
I have submitted an application to fell trees and I agree that the EIA to be processed to the timescale of my felling licence application.	
Forestry proposals within sensitive areas (as listed in Part 4.1) will require engagement with and potentially consent from the authorities responsible for the site designation. I declare that I, the applicant, am aware of my legal responsibilities in connection with this forestry proposal.	
To the best of my knowledge and belief the information given in this application is accurate and complete.	
Signature of applicant/agent: _____ Date: _____	

Please email or post completed applications to your local FC admin hub.

Part 13 – Applying for EIA Consent (Optional)

Important: only complete this section if you require EIA Consent

You can ask the FC to immediately consider your application as a 'stage 2' EIA Application for Consent under the regulations, rather than wait for a 'stage 1' EIA opinion on whether the proposal is likely to have a significant effect on the environment and therefore, where an EIA stage 2 Application for Consent is in fact required.

Proceeding immediately to stage 2 is only likely to be beneficial to you if you are confident that your proposal is highly likely to have a significant effect on the environment, because of its location within a designated or sensitive area, its scale, or for some other reason.

If you are planning to proceed immediately to 'stage 2', speak to the FC first, by contacting your local woodland officer.

The FC strongly recommends that you apply for a 'stage 1' EIA Opinion of your proposal first, (by completing and submitting this form) and allow the FC to evaluate if EIA 'stage 2' Consent would be required. Nonetheless, you may proceed immediately to stage 2 by completing the section below.

If you do not wish to proceed immediately to stage 2, indicate 'No' in the table below, or leave this section blank.

I apply to the Forestry Commission for its Consent under the Environmental Impact Assessment (Forestry) Regulations (England and Wales) 1999 (i.e. a 'stage 2' EIA application), as I believe the forest road and/or quarry proposal described in this application is a relevant project, and I certify that:				
The road and/or quarry proposal is likely to have a significant effect on the environment, and I am applying for EIA Consent.	Yes		No	
I have completed a draft Environmental Statement for my proposal and am submitting this as part of my application for Consent.	Yes		No	
I have enclosed annotated map(s) of the forest road and/or quarry proposal area and supporting environmental information.	Yes		No	
To the best of my knowledge and belief the information given in this application is accurate and complete.	Yes		No	

Signature of applicant/agent: _____

Date: _____

Annex 1 – Threshold table for forest roads or quarries

Please use the appropriate threshold table for your proposal size, including any adjacent projects. When a proposal lies across multiple types of land, the most sensitive threshold applies to the whole proposal.

Threshold table for road or quarry proposals 1ha or less

Land sensitivity	Can I presume the project is unlikely to have a significant effect?	If I <u>don't</u> submit a 'stage 1' EIA application, what's the risk?	Type of 'Stage 1' application
Any part of the proposal is in a 'sensitive area'	No	High risk	Application for Opinion
No part of the proposal is in a 'sensitive area'	Yes	Low risk	Application for Opinion

Threshold table for road or quarry proposals over 1ha

Land sensitivity	Can I presume the project is unlikely to have a significant effect?	If I <u>don't</u> submit a 'stage 1' EIA application, what's the risk?	Type of 'Stage 1' application
Anywhere	No	High risk	Application for Opinion