

# EIA afforestation 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 afforestation 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 [afforestation 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 to enable 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?

### Am I applying for grant funding?

[Publicly funded grants for afforestation are available](#). Where those grants are administered in part or in full by the FC, you do not need to submit a separate EIA application (i.e. this form), as the relevant environmental questions are incorporated into the grant application forms. If you are in doubt, check with the FC prior to completing and submitting this form. [Contact your local woodland officer](#).

### Can I use my Woodland Creation Planning Grant?

If you have an approved Stage 2 Woodland Creation Planning Grant (WCPG) where the initial WCPG application was submitted **prior** to 11 December 2024, then you only need to complete some of the questions in this form, providing your proposal hasn't changed since it was approved. Questions which you can skip by referring to your approved WCPG are indicated throughout the form.

If you have submitted an initial Woodland Creation Planning Grant (WCPG) application **after** 11 December 2024, then you will receive a 'stage 1' EIA decision from the FC following approval of your Stage 2 WCPG plan. This EIA decision will last for 5 years.

Where all the following apply:

- you already have a 'stage 1' EIA decision
- that decision allows the project to proceed
- that decision is less than five years old
- you do not want to make any changes to the project that was approved

then you do not need to submit another EIA application (i.e. this form) before carrying out your project, although you may do so if you choose.

Please note that if you intend to apply for grant funding for the project, then you should check with the grant provider whether the grant scheme allows works to be carried out prior to a grant agreement being in place – typically they do not.

### Is my proposal considered afforestation?

**Afforestation** means conversion of a non-woodland land use, for example agriculture, into woodland or forest (used interchangeably) by means of planting or facilitating natural regeneration (self-sowing) of trees to form woodland cover. This can include proposals for short rotation coppice (SRC) and short rotation forestry (SRF), including energy crops and Christmas tree plantations.

Planting or natural regeneration of **less than 0.5 hectares** will not be considered afforestation under the forestry EIA regulations. Therefore, you **do not need to apply for a 'stage 1' EIA** from the Forestry Commission for proposals less than 0.5ha, **unless** your proposal is **adjacent** to (within 500m of) another afforestation project completed within the last five years.

Afforestation 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's 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 considered 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.

### Can I presume that I do not need to submit this EIA afforestation application form?

The forestry EIA regulations create a **presumption** that some afforestation proposals will not likely 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:

- <0.5ha – 2ha in area (including any adjacent projects – see Part 7 below)
- outside of any 'sensitive area', apart from a National Park or National Landscape (formerly known as an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty) (see Part 4 below)

**Please refer to Annex 1 of this form for the EIA threshold tables for afforestation, 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 'stage 1' 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 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](#).

## 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 look for low risk areas for woodland creation, or 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. 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 Project Checks: 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 have a Forestry Commission approved Stage 2 Woodland Creation Planning Grant (WCPG) plan, then you may use this as your project map. Please note that if you have submitted an initial Woodland Creation Planning Grant (WCPG) application **after** 11 December 2024, then you will likely not be required to complete this form. See 'Can I use my Woodland Creation Planning Grant?' within the 'Do I need to complete this form?' section above.

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:<br>(if applicable)  |  |                           | Position:<br>(if applicable)                        |          |    |
| Single Business Identifier (SBI):<br>(if applicable)                              |  |                           | Customer Reference Number (CRN):<br>(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):<br>(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:<br>(for example, XX123456) |     |  |    |  |                    |
| County Parish Holding (CPH) number:<br>(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 entirely on 'low risk land'?   | Yes |  | No |  |
| <i>Use the <a href="#">Forestry Commission's Land Information Search</a> to check for low risk land.</i>  |     |  |    |  |
| 4.2 Is your proposal on any of the following 'sensitive areas'? If not, mark 'No' for all.  |     |  |    |  |
| <i>Use the <a href="#">Forestry Commission's Land Information Search</a> and <a href="#">Defra's MAGIC Map</a> 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 Reserves that are <b>not</b> designated by local authorities   | Yes |                         | No                         |                        |
| <p>4.3 If you have indicated 'yes' to any of the sensitivities listed in Part 4.2, 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 a 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> |     |                         |                            |                        |
|  |     |                         |                            |                        |
| 4.4 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                         |                        |
| <p>If you indicated 'yes', please give details below.</p>  |     |                         |                            |                        |
|  |     |                         |                            |                        |
| <p>4.5 If the site is a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI), what is its listed condition?</p> <p><i>Refer to <a href="#">Natural England's designated sites website</a> 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 afforestation proposal? Tick in one box below. You will be asked about any adjacent projects in Part 7, so do not include adjacent projects here. |                             |                               |                                |                             |
| Proposal size<br>under 0.5 ha   | Proposal size<br>>0.5 – 2ha | Proposal size<br>>2 ha – 5 ha | Proposal size<br>>5 ha – 50 ha | Proposal size<br>over 50 ha |
|   |                             |                               |                                |                             |

## Part 6 – Proposal overview

|   |   |   |   |  |    |  |
|---|---|---|---|--|----|--|
| 6.1 Have you got an approved <b>Stage 2 Woodland Creation Planning Grant (WCPG)</b> plan?<br><br><i>If you answer yes to 6.1. and your initial WCPG application was made <b>after</b> 11 December 2024, you will likely not be required to complete this form. See 'Can I use my Woodland Creation Planning Grant?' within the 'Do I need to complete this form?' section near the beginning of the form.</i> |   |   | Yes   |  | No |  |
| 6.2 Please provide the information below as an overview of your afforestation proposal. You will be asked about any adjacent projects in Part 7, so do not include adjacent projects here.  |   |   |   |  |    |  |
| <b>Proposed work: Afforestation</b>   |   |   |   |  |    |  |
| Proposal area (total afforestation in ha):<br><br><i>Do not include open space</i>  | Area of open space in proposal (ha):    | Conifer to be planted (ha):<br><br><i>Do not include open space</i>     | Broadleaf to be planted (ha):<br><br><i>Do not include open space</i> |  |    |  |
|   |   |   |   |  |    |  |
| Area of proposal in sensitive area (as defined in Part 4.2) (ha):   | Area of proposal on low risk land (ha): | Area of proposal outside sensitive area and outside low risk area (ha): |   |  |    |  |
|   |   |   |   |  |    |  |

*If this application is accompanied by an approved **Stage 2 WCPG plan** and your initial WCPG application was submitted **before** 11 December 2024, then you do not need to complete this section. Please reference the page and section where this information sits in your Stage 2 plan and attach the plan to this application. If your initial WCPG application was submitted **after** 11 December 2024, then you will likely not be required to complete this form. See 'Can I use my Woodland Creation Planning Grant?' within the 'Do I need to complete this form?' section near the beginning of the form.*

*You can attach a separate sheet if necessary and reference it in Part 9.2 – Evidence log.*

[illegible]

6.4 Please outline below the aims and objectives of your afforestation proposal.

*This includes the purpose of your forestry proposal and the measurable outcomes you want the completed project to deliver. Comment upon the design of your scheme and how it will help deliver your aims and objectives.*

*If this application is accompanied by an approved **Stage 2 WCPG plan** and your initial WCPG application was submitted **before** 11 December 2024, then you do not need to complete this section. Please reference the page and section where this information sits in your Stage 2 plan and attach the plan to this application.*

*If your initial WCPG application was submitted **after** 11 December 2024, then you will likely not be required to complete this form. See 'Can I use my Woodland Creation Planning Grant?' within the 'Do I need to complete this form?' section near the beginning of the form.*

6.5 How do you intend to prepare and maintain the site of your 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](#).*

*You should provide full details of how you will prepare the ground, including planned drainage and cultivation techniques. You should provide full details of how you intend to ensure the trees will establish and survive, include your plans for fencing, including deer fencing, initial herbicide spraying and fertilizer application etc. This may best be portrayed on a map or plan of your site.*

## Part 7 – Adjacent projects

Any EIA afforestation projects completed (for example, fully planted, but not necessarily established) 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 an afforestation project adjacent to your proposed project that has been completed within the last five years?  | Yes      |  | No |  |
| 7.2 How many hectares of afforestation have been completed (i.e. planted, but not necessarily established) in adjacent projects within the past five years?                                | hectares |  |    |  |
| 7.3 Adding adjacent projects to your current afforestation proposal (as listed in Part 6.2), 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 4.3 and 4.4 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 the [afforestation application guidance](#) to find sources of relevant environmental information, data and expertise for each section.

If you have an approved **Stage 2 WCPG plan**, you may refer to the relevant section of your plan to answer the question. Please note that if you have submitted an initial WCPG application **after 11 December 2024**, then you will likely not be required to complete this form. See 'Can I use my Woodland Creation Planning Grant?' within the 'Do I need to complete this form?' section near the beginning of the form.

|    |   |   |                            |   |
|----|---|---|----------------------------|---|
| A. | <b>Land use</b>   |   |                            |   |
|    | 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% |   |                            |   |
|    | Scrub   | % | Semi Improved Grassland    | % |
|    | Arable  | % | Unimproved land            | % |
|    | Cropped land  | % | Other (please state below) | % |
|    |   |   |                            |   |

|    |   |     |  |    |
|----|---|-----|--|----|
| B. | <b>Biodiversity</b>   |     |  |    |
|    | 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?<br><br><i>Examples include species-rich grassland or heathland, or habitat features such as a veteran tree, ancient hedgerow or blanket bog.</i> | 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><i>If you have an <b>approved Stage 2 WCPG plan</b>, you may refer to the relevant section of your plan here. Please note that if you have submitted an initial WCPG application <b>after</b> 11 December 2024, then you will likely not be required to complete this form. See 'Can I use my Woodland Creation Planning Grant?' within the 'Do I need to complete this form?' section near the beginning of the form.</i></p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; height: 150px; margin-top: 10px;"></div> |            |                          |           |                          |
|  | <b>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?</b>  | <b>Yes</b> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <b>No</b> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
|  | <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><i>If you have an <b>approved Stage 2 WCPG plan</b>, you may refer to the relevant section of your plan here. Please note that if you have submitted an initial WCPG application <b>after</b> 11 December 2024, then you will likely not be required to complete this form. See 'Can I use my Woodland Creation Planning Grant?' within the 'Do I need to complete this form?' section near the beginning of the form.</i></p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; height: 150px; margin-top: 10px;"></div>  |            |                          |           |                          |

|  |     |  |    |  |   |     |    |    |
|--|-----|--|----|--|---|-----|----|----|
| 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?  |     |  |    |  | 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> <p><i>If you have an approved <b>Stage 2 WCPG plan</b>, you may refer to the relevant section of your plan here. Please note that if you have submitted an initial WCPG application <b>after</b> 11 December 2024, then you will likely not be required to complete this form. See 'Can I use my Woodland Creation Planning Grant?' within the 'Do I need to complete this form?' section near the beginning of the form.</i></p> |     |  |    |  |   |     |    |    |
|  |     |  |    |  |   |     |    |    |

|   |  |     |  |    |
|---|--|-----|--|----|
| C. <b>Water and soils</b>   |  |     |  |    |
| C.i. Have any public or private drinking water supplies been identified within, or which may be affected by your proposal?  |  | Yes |  | No |
| <p>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.</p> <p><i>Please use Part 9.1 to record what stakeholder engagement you have undertaken with neighbours and water companies, and your proposed mitigation.</i></p> <p><i>If you have an approved <b>Stage 2 WCPG plan</b>, you may refer to the relevant section of your plan here. Please note that if you have submitted an initial WCPG application <b>after</b> 11 December 2024, then you will likely not be required to complete this form. See 'Can I use my Woodland Creation Planning Grant?' within the 'Do I need to complete this form?' section near the beginning of the form.</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 groundwaters are at poor quantitative status?   |  | Yes |  | No |
| C.iv. Is your proposal in an area identified by the Environment Agency where acidification of surface water is an issue?  |  | Yes |  | No |
| C.v. Is your proposal adjacent to a watercourse and/or does it affect flood defence structures or facilities?   |  | Yes |  | No |
| C.vi. Have any <b>other</b> water features been identified within, or which may be affected by your proposal?   |  | Yes |  | No |



|  |   |  |     |  |
|--|---|--|-----|--|
|  | <p>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.</p> <p><i>Please use Part 9.1 to record what stakeholder engagement you have undertaken and your proposed mitigation.</i></p> <p><i>If you have an approved <b>Stage 2 WCPG plan</b>, you may refer to the relevant section of your plan here. Please note that if you have submitted an initial WCPG application <b>after</b> 11 December 2024, then you will likely not be required to complete this form. See 'Can I use my Woodland Creation Planning Grant?' within the 'Do I need to complete this form?' section near the beginning of the form.</i></p> |  |     |  |
|  |   |  |     |  |
|  | C.vii. Is your proposal on or near an area of peaty soil?   |  | Yes |  |
|  | <p>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.</p> <p><i>Please use Part 9.1 to record what stakeholder engagement you have undertaken and your proposed mitigation.</i></p> <p><i>If you have an approved <b>Stage 2 WCPG plan</b>, you may refer to the relevant section of your plan here. Please note that if you have submitted an initial WCPG application <b>after</b> 11 December 2024, then you will likely not be required to complete this form. See 'Can I use my Woodland Creation Planning Grant?' within the 'Do I need to complete this form?' section near the beginning of the form.</i></p>     |  |     |  |
|  |   |  |     |  |
|  |   |  |     |  |

|    |  |     |  |    |  |
|----|--|-----|--|----|--|
| D. | <b>Landscape character</b>   |     |  |    |  |
|    | D.i. What is the national landscape character area?  |     |  |    |  |
|    |  |     |  |    |  |
|    | D.ii. What is the local landscape character type?  |     |  |    |  |
|    |  |     |  |    |  |
|    | D.iii. Does the local/national landscape character support afforestation in this location? | Yes |  | No |  |

|  |  |     |  |    |  |
|--|--|-----|--|----|--|
| E.   | <b>Historic and cultural environment</b>   |     |  |    |  |
|  | E.i. Have any local historic environment records identified features which may be affected by your proposal? | Yes |  | No |  |
| <p>If you answer yes to E.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>Please use Part 9.1 to record what stakeholder engagement you have undertaken and your proposed mitigation.</i></p> <p><i>Use Part 9.2 of this form to attach evidence that you have undertaken the appropriate record and field checks. You <b>must</b> supply evidence from the local authority historic environment / archaeology service.</i></p> <p><i>If you have an approved <b>Stage 2 WCPG plan</b>, you may refer to the relevant section of your plan here. Please note that if you have submitted an initial WCPG application <b>after</b> 11 December 2024, then you will likely not be required to complete this form. See 'Can I use my Woodland Creation Planning Grant?' within the 'Do I need to complete this form?' section near the beginning of the form.</i></p> |  |     |  |    |  |
|  |  |     |  |    |  |

|    |   |          |    |  |
|----|---|----------|----|--|
| F. | <b>Open access land</b>   |          |    |  |
|    | F.i. Is your proposal in an area of open access land as defined by the Countryside and Rights of Way (CROW) Act 2000?   | Yes      | No |  |
|    | <p>If you answer yes to F.i., please use the box below and your map/plan to provide details about where this open access land is, and how your proposal accounts for it.</p> <p><i>Please use Part 9.1 to record what stakeholder engagement you have undertaken with the Local Access Forum, and your proposed mitigation.</i></p> <p><i>If you have an approved <b>Stage 2 WCPG plan</b>, you may refer to the relevant section of your plan here. Please note that if you have submitted an initial WCPG application <b>after</b> 11 December 2024, then you will likely not be required to complete this form. See 'Can I use my Woodland Creation Planning Grant?' within the 'Do I need to complete this form?' section near the beginning of the form.</i></p> |          |    |  |
|    |   |          |    |  |
|    | F.ii. What area (ha) of your proposal is on land subject to CROW open access?   | hectares |    |  |

## 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 afforestation 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.

If this application is accompanied by an approved **Stage 2 Woodland Creation Planning Grant** then you do not need to repeat the consultations that you undertook as part of that process. Please reference the page and section where this information sits in your Stage 2 plan and attach the plan to this application. Please note that if you have submitted an initial WCPG application **after** 11 December 2024, then you will likely not be required to complete this form. See 'Can I use my Woodland Creation Planning Grant?' within the 'Do I need to complete this form?' section near the beginning of the form.

| 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 |  |                                     |

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, your FC-approved **Stage 2 Woodland Creation Planning Grant\***, and any other details that support your application.

| Document name | Which question (for example, 'Part 8, B.i.') does this document support? | Brief description |
|---------------|--|-------------------|
|               |  |                   |
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*\*Please note that if you have submitted an initial WCPG application **after** 11 December 2024, then you will likely not be required to complete this form. See 'Can I use my Woodland Creation Planning Grant?' within the 'Do I need to complete this form?' section near the beginning of the form.*

## Part 10 – Project maps

10.1 Project maps must show the boundary of your forestry proposal and identify details of the operations you intend to undertake. For afforestation proposals, this might include drainage, cultivation and fencing. 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.

*Your map may be in the form of your Forestry Commission approved **Stage 2 Woodland Creation Planning Grant (WCPG) plan**, if you have one. Please note that if you have submitted an initial WCPG application **after** 11 December 2024, then you will likely not be required to complete this form. See 'Can I use my Woodland Creation Planning Grant?' within the 'Do I need to complete this form?' section near the beginning of the form.*

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 identified proposed tree species and locations for open ground on my map.

Yes ☐ No ☐

I have marked the boundary of any sensitive areas (these are listed in Part 4.2) on or impacted by my site.

Yes ☐ No ☐

I have identified the land use on my proposal's area, and land use in adjacent fields.

Yes ☐ No ☐

I have provided a separate map/plan from the local authority historic environment / archaeology service.

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 the boundary of adjacent afforestation projects completed (i.e. planted, but not necessarily established) within the last five years.

Yes ☐ No ☐

I have shown priority habitats, habitat features, and priority or protected species 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 Notify, or apply for the Opinion of, the Forestry Commission, under the Environmental Impact Assessment (Forestry) Regulations (England and Wales) 1999 (i.e. make a 'stage 1' EIA application), and I certify that:  | <b>Applicant/agent</b><br>– please tick |
|---|---|
| <p>I have enclosed annotated map(s) of the afforestation proposal area and supporting environmental information.</p> <p>This may be submitted in the form of a Forestry Commission approved Stage 2 Woodland Creation Planning Grant (WCPG) plan*.</p>  |   |
| <p>Forestry proposals within sensitive areas (as listed in Part 4.2) will require engagement with, and potentially consent from, the authorities responsible for the site designation.</p> <p>I declare that I, the applicant/agent, am aware of my legal responsibilities in connection with this forestry proposal.</p> |   |
| To the best of my knowledge and belief the information given in this application is accurate and complete.  |   |
| <p>Signature of applicant/agent: _____</p> <p>Date: _____</p>   |   |

*\*Please note that if you have submitted an initial WCPG application **after** 11 December 2024, then you will likely not be required to complete this form. See 'Can I use my Woodland Creation Planning Grant?' within the 'Do I need to complete this form?' section near the beginning of the form.*

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



## Part 12 – 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 decision on whether the proposal is likely to have a significant effect on the environment and, therefore, whether 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 or Assessment 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 afforestation proposal described in this application is a relevant project, and I certify that: |     |  |    |  |
| The afforestation 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 afforestation proposal area and supporting environmental information.<br><br>This may be submitted in the form of a Forestry Commission approved Stage 2 Woodland Creation Planning Grant (WCPG) plan*.   | 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: \_\_\_\_\_

*\*Please note that if you have submitted an initial WCPG application **after** 11 December 2024, then you will likely not be required to complete this form. See 'Can I use my Woodland Creation Planning Grant?' within the 'Do I need to complete this form?' section near the beginning of the form.*

## Annex 1 – Threshold tables for afforestation

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 afforestation proposals under 0.5ha

| Land sensitivity | Can I presume the project is unlikely to have a significant effect? | If I <b>don't</b> submit a 'stage 1' EIA application, what's the risk? | Type of 'Stage 1' application |
|------------------|---|--|-------------------------------|
| Anywhere         | Yes   | No risk (such proposals are not deemed to be 'afforestation')          | Application for Opinion       |

### Threshold table for afforestation proposals of 0.5ha - 2ha

| Land sensitivity   | Can I presume the project is unlikely to have a significant effect? | If I <b>don't</b> submit a 'stage 1' EIA application, what's the risk? | Type of 'Stage 1' application |
|--|---|--|-------------------------------|
| <b>Any</b> part of the proposal is in 'sensitive area' that is <b>not</b> a National Park or National Landscape (formerly known as an AONB)  | No  | High risk  | Application for Opinion       |
| <b>Any</b> part of the proposal is in a National Park or National Landscape (formerly known as an AONB) but <b>no other</b> sensitive area<br><b>OR</b><br><b>No</b> part of the proposal is in a 'sensitive area' | Yes   | Low risk   | Application for Opinion       |

### Threshold table for afforestation proposals >2ha - 5ha

| 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 |
|--|---|--|-------------------------------|
| <b>Any</b> part of the proposal is in a 'sensitive area' | No  | High risk  | Application for Opinion       |
| <b>No</b> part of the proposal is in a 'sensitive area'  | Yes   | Mandatory requirement (you must submit a 'stage 1' application)        | Basic Notification            |

### Threshold table for afforestation proposals >5ha - 50ha

| 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 |
|--|---|--|-------------------------------|
| The <b>entire</b> proposal is in a 'low risk area'           | Yes   | Mandatory requirement (you must submit a 'stage 1' application)        | Full Notification             |
| <b>Any</b> part of the proposal is outside a 'low risk area' | No  | High risk  | Application for Opinion       |

### Threshold table for afforestation proposals over 50ha

| 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       |