

Guidance for Scottish Forestry on Consultation with SEPA

SEPA has been subject to a serious and complex cyber-attack which has significantly impacted our internal systems, processes, and communications. We have continued to engage on forestry issues at a strategic level and are now implementing the following working practices to address local forestry consultations.

Environmental Impact Assessments (EIA) for Forestry Projects

SEPA contacts – local Planning Service teams - Planning.North@sepa.org.uk, planning.sw@sepa.org.uk or PlanningSouthEast@sepa.org.uk.

In line with the requirements of the EIA regulations please consult the relevant team above at the scoping and EIA Report phases. We expect applicants to use recognised best practice guidance (including on [wetlands](#)) and information on our website (www.sepa.org.uk) and on Scotland's Environment Web (www.environment.gov.scot) to determine whether there are likely to be significant effects on the issues within our remit as outlined below:

- flood risk
- potential pollution and waste
- quarrying
- disruption to wetlands including ground water dependent terrestrial ecosystems (GWDTE)
- the disturbance and re-use of peat
- habitat restoration
- the water environment
- private water abstraction or dewatering.
- Public and Private Water Supplies

However, if there are any specific issues which applicants require site specific advice on then these can be directed to the above teams. Similarly, should Scottish Forestry require SEPA's advice on an issue when determining whether EIA is required, then these requests can be sent to the above teams.

Non-EIA Forestry Consultation

SEPA contact – national WIRE Campaigns team – email wire.campaigns@sepa.org.uk

The above national team should be consulted on non-EIA consultations in line with [existing guidance](#). The consultation checklist should be used to consult them on:

- Forest plans (1) 200 hectares or more; or (2) other plans < 200 ha when the River Basin Management Plan has identified that a water body within or adjacent to the site is downgraded as a result of a forestry pressure.
- Felling and replanting applications (1) 100 hectares or more; or other applications < 100 ha when the River Basin Management Plan has identified that a water body within or adjacent to the site is downgraded as a result of a forestry pressure
- Woodland creation applications (1) 200 hectares or more; or (2) other plans < 200 ha when the River Basin Management Plan has identified that a water body within or adjacent to the site is downgraded as a result of a forestry pressure.

If there are significant issues identified for smaller developments, then consultation can be made if these exceptional circumstances are clearly set out in the checklist.

Consultation checklist

**CONSULTATION WITH SEPA ON A FORESTRY APPLICATION
(Forest Plan, Felling application and Planting application)**

- at least one box should be crossed

Is this a re-consultation of an existing application? (cross and complete as applicable) (If no, reference no. & case officer details not required)	No		
	Yes		SEPA reference no.

Type of forest development		Purpose of this Consultation (x as appropriate)
1.	The application covers an area of 200 ha or greater (Forest Plans) or 100 ha of greater (felling or planting applications)	
2.	The application covers an area less than outlined in (1) above but there is a downgraded water body as a result of pressure from forest activities either within or adjacent to the site Please highlight the name of the downgraded water body within your consultation letter or in the comments section below.	
3.	The application covers an area less than outlined in (1) above but you consider that it raises a particularly unusual or significant environmental risk, and you wish our advice Please highlight the reason you are consulting us within your consultation letter or in the comments section below.	
Comments:		

For information on accessing this document in an alternative format please see our contact page: <https://www.sepa.org.uk/contact/contact-us-by-email/>

If you are a user of British Sign Language (BSL) the Contact Scotland BSL service gives you access to an online interpreter enabling you to communicate with us using sign language. <http://contactscotland-bsl.org/>

Contact us here: <https://www.sepa.org.uk/contact/contact-us-by-email/>

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