

Felling Licence

Draft Baseline Conditions

Site Operations:

Oil & Fuel - The licence holder must ensure that all oil & fuel are stored and used in a way that prevents the risks of leakage and pollution.

Situation - The Licence Holder must ensure that all forest operations should be pre-planned and continuously managed to:

- minimise damage to the soil structure and soil function
- avoid runoff into watercourses
- conserve on site flora, fauna, geological or physiographical features and natural habitats

Chemicals (which includes pesticides; herbicides; and fertilisers) - Must be used by a competent person who is trained to the required standard or their work supervised by a certified person and used in accordance with user guidance and avoid harm to the environment or pollution of water.

Operations – Operational and contingency plans must be in place before major operations such as harvesting, and engineering works take place. Plans should cover actual and potential risks to the forest, wildlife, waterbodies and biosecurity (pests, diseases and invasive non-native species). When undertaking these operations care should be taken to conserve or enhance the site's natural beauty.

Manufactured waste - Ensure all manufactured waste such as grease cartridges, planting bags etc., is appropriately stored during the works and appropriately disposed of.

Incident reporting -

In the event that operational activities give rise to an incident or accident that significantly affects or may significantly affect the environment, the licence holder must immediately:

- (i) inform Natural Resources Wales using the hotline number 0300 065 3000
- (ii) take the measures necessary to limit the environmental consequences of such an incident or accident, and
- (iii) take the measures necessary to prevent further incidents or accidents.

Site features and species:

Historic Features:

The Licence holder must not damage historic features on the site. Any objects found that come into scope of the law for archaeological finds must be reported to the relevant authority, CADW.

Veteran Trees:

The licence holder must identify, retain, manage, and avoid damage to existing veteran trees.

Veteran tree (Definition) taken from UKFS: A tree of considerable age that is of interest biologically, culturally, or aesthetically because of its age, size or condition, including the presence of deadwood micro- habitats.

Deadwood:

Licence holders must retain a proportion of standing and fallen deadwood within the woodland with a view to retaining a minimum average of 20 cubic meters per hectare

European Protected Species

- Prior to works commencing, the area should be checked for presence of EPS. If any evidence of EPS and/or their breeding/resting places are found, a suitably experienced individual, preferably an ecologist, should be contacted for advice before works commencing in that area.

- During the course of the works, the area should be checked for the presence of EPS and if any evidence of EPS and/or their breeding/resting places are found, works must cease and a suitably experienced individual, preferably an ecologist, should be contacted for advice before recommencing works in that area.

** Felling Licence holders

Where you have applied for and received an EPS licence to undertake these works. Please follow the guidance within the method statement if the species for which you hold a licence is identified on site before or during the operation, no further consideration is required.

Animals and Plants Protected under the Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981 (“UK Protected Animals”) –

Schedule 5 Animals:

- Prior to works commencing, the area should be checked for presence of UK Protected Animals. If any evidence of UK Protected Animals and/or any structure or place which any such animal uses for shelter or protection are found, a suitably experienced individual, preferably an ecologist, should be contacted for advice before works commence in that area.

- During the course of the works, the area should be checked for the presence of UK Protected Animals and if any evidence of UK Protected Animals and/or any structure or place which any such animal uses for shelter or protection are found, works must cease and a experienced individual, preferably an ecologist, should be contacted for advice before works recommence in that area.

Schedule 8 Plants

Prior to works commencing, the area should be checked for presence of UK protected plants. If any there is any evidence of Schedule 8 UK Protected plants the licence holder must not intentionally or recklessly pick, uproot or destroy:

(i) any wild plant included in Schedule 8;

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Bird Nests - You must ensure a check is undertaken across the felling/operational area and its edges before the start of operations to locate active bird nests. If there is evidence of an active bird nest, then you must ensure that no harm is caused.

Licence holder must not intentionally—

(a) kills, injures or takes any wild bird; (b) takes, damages or destroys the nest of any wild bird while that nest is in use or being built; or

(c) takes or destroys an egg of any wild bird,

In the case of Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 amendment 1985- Schedule one birds, appropriate buffers must be put in place to ensure no harm or disturbance to active nests (Note – Nests of Osprey, White-Tailed Eagle and Golden Eagle are protected year-round even when the nest is not in use)

Licence holder must not intentionally or recklessly—

(a) disturb any wild bird included in Schedule 1 while it is building a nest or is in, on or near a nest containing eggs or young; or

(b) disturbs dependent young of such a bird,

Badgers - Prior to works commencing, the area should be checked for presence of badgers. If any evidence of badgers and/or their breeding/resting places are found, badger guidance should be consulted, and action taken accordingly. Contact a qualified and experienced individual, preferably an ecologist if necessary.

Required notifications:

Natural Resources Wales shall be notified within 14 days for operational sites and 28 days before commencement of works on non-operational sites for the following:

a) Where the licence holder is a registered company:

- Any change in the licence holders trading name, registered name or registered office address: and
- Any steps taken with a view to the licence holders going into administration, entering into a company voluntary arrangement or being wound up

b) Where the licence holder is a corporate body other than a registered company:

- any change in the licence holders name or address: and

- any steps taken with a view to the dissolution of the licence holders.

c) In any other case:

- the death of any of the named licence holder (where the licence holders consist of more than one named individual);

- any change in the licence holders name (s) or address(es); and

- any steps taken with a view to the licence holders, or any of them, going into bankruptcy, entering into a composition or arrangement with creditors, or, in the case them being in a partnership, dissolving the partnership.