

Environmental Conditions relevant to your licence (if granted)

Where we grant a Felling licence, we may attach Environmental conditions to the approval, these are required to meet the requirements of environmental legislation and the UK Forest Standard. The Environmental Conditions will form part of the felling licence, when approved, and are enforceable by NRW in the protection of wildlife and the environment, recognising the value of our woodlands as a valuable natural resource as well as a habitat.

The Environmental conditions will relate to the need to avoid or mitigate impacts on the environment, biodiversity or species when undertaking operational activities related to a Felling Licence Approval.

The Forestry Act 1967 has been amended to enable environmental conditions to be added to felling licences in addition to the current conditions relating to restocking and maintenance. This helps to minimise the risk of granting a felling licence that would negatively impact the environment or undermine other environmental legislation. Many of our applicants do not have a professional forestry background and therefore the addition of conditions will make the standards that are required to protect the environment in line with law more visible. Adding such conditions should not add any extra burden where licence holders already comply with relevant legislation and adhere to the UK Forestry Standard (UKFS). The use of environmental conditions will however give assurance that operational activities that take place, once a licence is issued, are carried out in a way that compliments other environmental legislation.

We will check your application against known environmental constraints or sensitives, we may need to visit the site to discuss how those environmental constraints or sensitives can be managed as part of an Operational Site. We will consult with you if the addition of relevant Tier Two or Bespoke Conditions are required. We will also take into consideration any proposed mitigations you may put in place on the site during Forestry Operations.

We may refuse a licence application if the licence request indicates a significant impact on the environment, we will consider and discuss with you all mitigations you propose to put in place when the site is operational before we make a final decision on your application.

Information and guidance on complying with the Baseline Conditions can be found on our [Guidance Hub](#).

Baseline Conditions

These Conditions will be added as standard to all Felling Licences approved by NRW from (insert date). As part of your application process you will need to review the Baseline Conditions and then if you are in agreement sign the relevant declaration [within the Felling Licence](#) application form. If you wish to discuss the Baseline Conditions with us prior to submitting your application, please contact us (insert email address) .

Commented [MG1]: Note: We will add the finalised Baseline conditions to the website here.

Tier Two Conditions

These Conditions will be added to a Felling Licence where your proposed felling has the potential to impact on the relevant sensitivities .

Bespoke Conditions

These Conditions will be identified on a site-by-site basis

Examples of when we may need to consider the addition of a Bespoke Condition:

- Where there are several or more complex sensitives on site and we need to understand how these can be protected whilst also considering how your proposed felling operation may be undertaken.
- Where the proposed felling site is within or will impact on:
 - Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs)
 - Special Areas of Conservation (SACs)
 - Special Protection Areas (SPAs)
 - Ramsar sites

Where a Baseline or Tier Two condition is already in place we may not need to consider a Bespoke Condition for these sites.

Commented [MG2]: Note: We will add the finalised Tier Two conditions to the website here.