

Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) public register and EIA screening opinion request form changes

This note provides changes relating to EIA public register and screening opinion request form.

1. EIA Public Register

From the 23 June 2025, Scottish Forestry will publish screening opinions made under The Forestry (Environmental Impact Assessment) (Scotland) Regulations 2017 on an updated EIA Public Register available from the website.

<https://www.forestry.gov.scot/support-regulations/environmental-impact-assessment/register>

This new system will improve public accessibility to EIA screening opinions and associated statements, making the screening process more transparent and allowing Scottish Forestry to publish relevant supporting information used to inform screening opinions. The new public register will also have additional functionality to enable map-based searches to be undertaken.

The Scottish Forestry webpages relating to EIA forestry projects requiring our consent will remain as the location for information on current and historic Applications for EIA Consent.

2. Screening Opinion Request Form (SORF) Changes and Transitional Arrangements

In addition to the new public register going live, the Screening Opinion Request Form (SORF) used by agents/owners to request a Screening Opinion from Scottish Forestry will be updated.

The changes to the SORF are to help data recording, providing a more detailed description of afforestation and deforestation projects.

The revised forestry project table will require the open ground (DOG) and unplanted land (OL) areas within the project area to be detailed along with native and non-native conifer and broadleaves. The project area table should record the whole project area affected by the land use change.

See below for the new project split table.

<u>Proposed* Work</u>	<u>Gross Project Area (ha)</u>	<u>Non Native CON (ha)</u>	<u>Native CON (ha)</u>	<u>Non Native BL (ha)</u>	<u>NBL (ha)</u>	<u>DOG (ha)</u>	<u>OL (ha)</u>
<u>Afforestation</u>		%	%	%	%	%	%
<u>Deforestation</u>		%	%	%	%	%	%

The definition of 'native' and 'non native' refers to Scotland as a whole, not to specific areas of Scotland and irrespective of management objectives.

This revised SORF will be available to download from the Scottish Forestry website from 23 June 2025.

Projects currently in progress and concluded by 1 August 2025 do not need to provide the additional detail.

All screening opinions made from 1 August 25 will require this additional project detail to be provided.

The screening opinion request section of the Long Term Forest Plan templates will also be aligned with these changes.

Examples new project split tables

Example 1: Afforestation

10 ha SS
10 ha SYC/SP 50:50 mix
5 ha NBL
2 ha Designed Open Ground
0.5 ha deep peat

<u>Proposed* Work</u>	<u>Gross Project Area (ha)</u>	<u>Non Native CON (ha)</u>	<u>Native CON (ha)</u>	<u>Non Native BL (ha)</u>	<u>NBL (ha)</u>	<u>DOG (ha)</u>	<u>OL (ha)</u>
<u>Afforestation</u>	27.5	10	5	5	5	2	0.5
		36%	18%	18 %	18 %	7 %	3 %

10 ha SYC/SP 50:50 mix so SYC = 5ha Non Native BL and SP = 5ha Native CON

Example 2: Afforestation

15 ha SS/NS productive

5 ha SP productive

2 ha SYC

1 ha SBi productive

10 ha NBL with 5% SP intimate mix (9.5 ha NBL 0.5 ha SP)

2 ha low density NBL

4 ha DOG buffering archaeological and sensitive habitats

2 ha deep peat

Proposed* Work	Gross Project Area (ha)	Non Native CON (ha)	Native CON (ha)	Non Native BL (ha)	NBL (ha)	DOG (ha)	OL (ha)
Afforestation	41.0	15	5.5	2.0	12.5	4.0	2.0
		37%	13%	5 %	30%	10%	5 %

5 ha SP productive + 10 ha NBL with 5% SP intimate mix (9.5 ha NBL 0.5 ha SP so 5.5ha Native Con

1 ha SBi productive +10 ha NBL with 5% SP intimate mix (9.5 ha NBL + 0.5 ha SP) 2 ha low density NBL so 12.5ha NBL

Please [contact your local Conservancy](#) if you have any queries about the content of this note.

Operational Delivery

National Office

Scottish Forestry

Tel: 0131 370 5250

Email: scottish.forestry@forestry.gov.scot