

Annex 1: Policy Framework, Related Guidance and Sources of Further Information

Policy and Guidance:

[Keepers of Time](#) – A Statement of Policy for England’s Ancient and Native Woodland (updated May 2022). Includes definitions of ancient woodland, ancient and veteran trees, and sets out the importance of these habitats.

Policy Principles and Strategic Objectives include:

- *Maintaining and enhancing the existing area of ancient woodland*
- *Conserving and enhancing the existing resource of ancient and veteran trees.*

[National Planning Policy Framework](#) (published July 2021).

Paragraph 180(c) – irreplaceable habitats.

Paragraph 131 – street trees, trees within developments, and retention of existing trees.

[Standing Advice for Ancient Woodland and Veteran Trees](#) (first published October 2014, revised January 2022)

This advice, issued jointly by Natural England and the Forestry Commission, is a material consideration for planning decisions across England. It provides advice on how to avoid and mitigate impacts, and on compensation schemes where the tests set out in the NPPF are met. The Standing Advice also includes an [Assessment Guide](#), which can help planners assess the impact of the proposed development on the ancient woodland.

[National Planning Practice Guidance](#) – Natural Environment Guidance. (updated July 2019)

This Guidance outlines the Forestry Commission’s role as a non-statutory consultee and supports the implementation and interpretation of the National Planning Policy Framework in relation to ancient woodland and ancient and veteran trees, and clarifies that existing woodland condition should not affect the planning authorities consideration of proposals.

Felling Licences and Environmental Impact Assessment

[Felling Licences](#) - Under the Forestry Act (1967) a Felling Licence is required for felling more than 5 cubic metres per calendar quarter. Failure to obtain a Licence may lead to prosecution and the issue of a restocking notice.

[Environmental Impact Assessment](#) - Under the Environmental Impact Assessment (Forestry) (England and Wales) Regulations 1999, as amended, some proposals involving afforestation, deforestation, forest roads or forestry quarries may require ‘stage 2’ Consent from the Forestry Commission before they can be carried out. For these project types the applicant should determine if their proposal needs Consent (referring to [guidance](#) as necessary), or approach the Forestry Commission for a ‘stage 1’ opinion as to whether or not Consent is required.