



PINS NOTE 02/2022

To:	All Inspectors, All Examining Inspectors, All Appeal Planning Officers, All RTPI apprentices, All Casework Managers
Relevancy:	All Planning and Enforcement casework, Local Plans, Infrastructure and Specialist
Date of Issue:	25 January 2022
Review Date:	25 June 2022

Updates to Natural England and Forestry Commission Standing Advice

Introduction

1. On 14th January 2022, standing advice was updated for the following considerations:
 - [Protected species](#) (Natural England)
 - [Ancient woodland, ancient trees and veteran trees](#) (Natural England & Forestry Commission).
2. The updated advice aligns with the current National Planning Policy Framework.

Protected Species

3. The core standing advice has been updated and a new collection of species-specific advice has been published. It aims to provide streamlined and simplified advice for decision-makers, with a clearer distinction between planning and licensing requirements. The advice also includes updated links to other sources of guidance.
4. New advice for the following species has been published:
 - bats, all species
 - great crested newts
 - badgers
 - hazel or common dormice
 - water voles
 - otters

- wild birds
- reptiles
- protected plants, fungi and lichens
- white clawed crayfish
- invertebrates
- fish
- freshwater pearl mussels
- natterjack toads.

Ancient Woodland, ancient trees and veteran trees

5. The updated standing advice includes further advice on the effects of development, mitigation and compensation measures, and buffer zones. The assessment guide, which can be used by planning authorities to help them record their assessment and make their decisions, has also been revised.

Action

6. This advice is general advice from a statutory consultee to decision-makers about how to assess planning applications where the particular consideration is on or near a proposed development site. Decision-makers should consult the standing advice and take it into account when making planning decisions. The advice also sets out circumstances where case specific consultation should be sought from the consultee.
7. Where protected species or ancient woodland considerations arise in casework, Inspectors should consider whether it is necessary to go back to the parties to offer them an opportunity to comment on the updated standing advice. Case officer desk instructions will be updated to include suggested text for such letters, which will give the parties 7 days to comment on the new standing advice.

Further Information

8. Please contact [Knowledge Centre](#) if you have any general queries on this Note.
9. For case-specific queries, Inspectors should contact their IM in the first instance. The IM may raise the matter with the relevant PFL if necessary.
10. Non-salaried Inspectors should approach [Resource and Process Ownership Team](#) with any queries in the first instance.