



Community toolkit: Policy and legislation to protect wildlife (Northern Ireland)

Document	Page/section relating to environment	Level	Covers	Useful Resources
Conservation (Natural Habitats, &c) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1995	All	European	European level law that offers protection to certain species and designated sites (e.g. Special Area of Conservation). This law transposes the Habitats Directive into Northern Irish law. See Buglife's legislation guide for lists of species that are protected by this legislation.	Buglife legislation guide
Environment (Northern Ireland) Order 2002 (as amended)	All	National	National law that offers protection to certain species and designated sites (e.g. Areas of Special Scientific Interest). See Buglife legislation guidance for species protected under this legislation.	Buglife legislation guide
Wildlife and Natural Environment Act (Northern-Ireland) 2011	Sections 1 and 3	National	This legislation requires that all public bodies have a duty to conserve biodiversity. It also requires a lists of habitats and species that are of conservation concern is published. See Buglife legislation guidance for species protected under this.	Buglife legislation guide
Nature Conservation and Amenity Lands (Northern Ireland) Order 1985	All	National	Provides legal protection for Nature Reserves, National Nature Reserves, Marine Nature Reserves and Areas of Outstanding National Beauty.	JNCC
Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2012	Schedule 1 and 2 useful for identifying types of development requiring EIA	National	Transposes the Environmental Impact Assessment Directive into Northern Irish law. These regulations ensure that the likely effects of new development on the environment are fully understood and taken into account before planning permission is given. Only certain types of development require a full 'Environmental Impact Assessment'.	EIA in NI

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Planning Policy Statement 2 Natural Heritage	All - Policies NH4 and 5 of particular use when dealing with priority species and habitats	National	Sets out how the NI planning system should take account of wildlife and biodiversity.	PPS 2
A Strategic Planning Policy Statement for Northern Ireland (in consultation, awaiting final document)	paragraph 6.145-6.175 in the draft	National	Sets out national planning priorities, including protection of the natural environment. Local planning policy and decisions should follow these policies.	SPPSNI
BS42020: 2013 – Biodiversity. A Code of Practice for Biodiversity in Planning and Development	All	UK Wide	This British Standard seeks to promote transparency and consistency in the quality and appropriateness of ecological information submitted with planning applications and applications for other regulatory approvals. It provides an excellent overview of the planning application process and how biodiversity should be addressed through it.	BS42020
Development Plans	Varies	Local	Development Plans set out how an area should look in the future by deciding what type and scale of development should be encouraged and where it should be located.	DP Guidance

