

Biodiversity Checklist for Full Applications

Planning ref: (for office use)

Site address: 19, Linkway, Crowthorne, RG45 6ES

There are many legally protected sites of nature conservation importance (see Note 1) across Hampshire alongside non-statutory wildlife sites (Note 2), priority habitats (Note 3) and a wide range of legally protected and other notable species (Note 4). Developments can adversely affect these, and Local Planning Authorities (LPAs) are legally required by Government to consider the conservation of biodiversity when determining a planning application. Government planning policies for biodiversity are set out in the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF), while the Local Authority's local plan will set out how they address these requirements in local policy terms. LPAs need to be able to understand what the potential impacts of the development might be and if there are impacts on biodiversity, how these will be avoided, mitigated, or compensated.

This Checklist will help you work out if your proposal is likely to affect biodiversity, what additional information you will need to provide to support your application and how to get that information.

Guidance for applicants

If your answers to the questions in **Sections 1, 2 and/or 3** identify that your project may potentially have an adverse impact on designated sites, priority or other important habitats or legally protected or notable species then you will need to submit a suitable report such as a Preliminary Ecological Appraisal, Ecological Impact Assessment or species-specific survey which demonstrates the following:

- Information about the sites, species, habitats or features that could be affected (such as location, size, abundance, importance)
- Likely impacts of your development on habitats, sites or species identified
- How alternative designs and locations have been considered
- How adverse impacts will be avoided
- How any unavoidable impacts will be mitigated (reduced) (see note 6)
- How impacts that cannot be avoided or mitigated will be compensated (see note 6)
- Any proposals for enhancement of biodiversity

Where more targeted and specific reports are necessary (for example bat surveys), these must:

- Be undertaken by an appropriately qualified and experienced person
- Be of appropriate scope and detail (i.e. be carried out to established standards)
- Be conducted at an appropriate time of year, in suitable weather conditions and using approved methodologies.

Reports may not be required where applicants are able to provide pre-application correspondence from Natural England, the Local Authority ecologist or your ecological adviser that confirms that they are satisfied that the proposal will not have an adverse impact on any features identified in Sections 1, 2 or 3. Your local authority ecologist contact details are given on page 5.

The application may not be validated if any of the information submitted proves to be inadequate. If validated and the information is subsequently found not to fully address any potential impacts then further information may be required during the course of any planning application, for instance if any of the information you have provided needs clarification, or if other potential impacts are identified. **If sufficient information on ecological issues is not provided by the time the application needs to be determined, the application may be refused. This can include information (surveys and data searches) considered out of date.**

It is strongly advised that you consider biodiversity at the **earliest** possible stage in your project as there are seasonal constraints to much of the survey work that may be needed to support your application.

For further advice on competent ecologists who can undertake specialist survey work, please see the Chartered Institute of Ecological and Environmental Management <http://www.cieem.net> in the first instance.

Please let us know if this checklist has been completed or checked by a qualified ecologist; YES/NO

SECTION 1 – Legally protected sites for nature conservation

Please answer Yes or No to the following question. If you answer ' YES ', it is possible that the development could have an impact on the designated site. (see note 5). Please provide further information with your application.	YES ✓ NO X
Does the application lie within: • 2km of a SAC, SPA or Ramsar site • An SSSI Impact Risk Zone (IRZ) and does it correspond to any of the development types listed in the results. See Note 1 and http://magic.defra.gov.uk/Metadata_for_magic/SSSI%20IRZ%20User%20Guidance%20MAGIC.pdf for guidance on the interpretation and use of the Impact Risk Zones for Sites of Special Scientific Interest	X

SECTION 2 – Habitats and locally designated sites

Please answer ALL questions Yes or No <i>Many of the features described below may support a Priority Habitat. See <u>note 3</u> for further information on identifying these.</i> If you have answered 'YES', is it possible that the development may have an impact on the designated site or habitat? Please PROVIDE further information if that is the case	YES ✓ NO X
Are any of the following present on or within 100m of the application site?	
▪ <i>Site of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINC) See Note 2</i>	X
▪ <i>Native woodland including ancient semi-natural and <u>replanted</u> woodlands</i>	X
▪ <i>Veteran (particularly old / large) trees</i>	X
▪ <i>Water courses (rivers or streams)</i>	X
▪ <i>Lakes or ponds</i>	X
▪ <i>Wetlands or marshes</i>	X
▪ <i>Unimproved/semi-improved species-rich grassland</i>	X
▪ <i>Arable field margins supporting assemblages of rare arable plants</i>	X
▪ <i>Heathland/acid grassland/mire/scrub</i>	X
▪ <i>Coastal grassland/saltmarsh/shingle/mudflats</i>	X
▪ <i>Hedgerows supporting mainly native species</i>	X

The [Hampshire Biodiversity Information Centre](#) can provide detailed maps showing boundaries of all site designations and Priority habitats.

Section 3 – Legally protected and other notable species

PROPOSAL DETAILS Please answer ALL questions Yes or No by marking against each feature	YES ✓ NO X	If you have ticked 'YES' to any of these, you will need to consider potential impacts to these species.	Survey attached?
3.1 Will the proposal affect any of the following features / structures? (see note 2 and note 7)			
- Buildings or structures exhibiting features likely to support bat roosts or swift nests e.g., in gaps/crevices /cracks/voids within roofs or building materials such as hanging tiles, soffits, cladding etc. - Underground structures (e.g. cellars, caves, mines) - Bridges or similar structures - Structures where there is known current or historic bat use	X	Bats and bat roosts Swift nests	
Agricultural buildings particularly of traditional brick, timber or stone construction and/or with exposed timber beams greater than c.20cm thick.	X	Bats and bat roosts Barn owl/Little owl Nesting birds	
Other large agricultural buildings	X	Barn owls/Little owl	
3.2 Will the proposal affect trees with any of the following features? (see note 2)			
<i>Old and veteran trees or other trees with a circumference greater than 1m at chest height</i>	X	Bats and bat roosts Nesting birds	
<i>Trees exhibiting, or likely to exhibit holes, cracks, splits, cavities etc. and/or heavy vegetation</i>	X	Other Notable species	
3.3. Will the proposals affect any of the following wetland features (note 2)			
streams, rivers or lakes on or within 25m of the application site that would be affected (including their banks and adjacent habitat) by the development?	X	Bat foraging habitat Otters, Water vole White-clawed crayfish Nesting birds Other Notable species	
ponds within 100m, particularly any that are well-connected to the application site by e.g. Hedges, ditches, woodland, grassland or field boundaries?	X	Amphibians (particularly with respect to great crested newts)	
3.4 Will the proposals affect any of the following features (note 2)			
<i>deciduous woodland?</i>	X	Bat foraging habitat Dormice Nesting birds Badger Reptiles Other Notable species	
<i>field hedgerows over 1m tall and over 0.5m thick?</i>	X		
<i>areas of scrub well-connected to woodland or hedgerows?</i>	X		
species-rich meadows or grassland on or directly adjacent to the site?	X		
mature or overgrown gardens, rough grassland, derelict/brownfield land, railway land or allotments	X		
coastal grasslands/arable	X	Waders and Wildfowl feeding/roost sites	