

Background information

The following results will indicate whether your project is likely to require professional ecological advice before making a planning application, based on the information you have provided. It provides a summary of the potential protected and priority wildlife species and statutory designated sites that may need to be considered by an ecologist.

This report can be given to a suitably qualified ecologist for their background information and if they wish they can submit it as part of a planning application, together with any additional ecological information the ecologist produces.

NOTE: It is important for users to note that the Wildlife Assessment Check output is based on the information provided by the user; if this is not accurate (e.g. if the user did not tick that trees were present on site when they actually were) then the output will not be correct. Local Planning Authorities and qualified ecologists should check on the 'habitats' and 'types of work' selected using Section 1 of this output sheet. The Wildlife Assessment Check is for guidance only. It is not designed to replace the judgement of a qualified professional ecologist about the potential wildlife impact of a development project. Applicants should consult a qualified professional ecologist and / or their local authority ecologist where they are present, to ensure that requirements are fulfilled.

No responsibility can be accepted for any loss, damage or unsatisfactory results arising from the implementation of any guidance provided by the Wildlife Assessment Checklist.

Additional information

The Wildlife Assessment Check involves applicants answering a series of questions about the location, type of development, site works and local habitats. Linked to these questions are [national species distribution maps and data triggers](https://www.biodiversityinplanning.org/wildlife-assessment-check/spatial-data-and-credits/) (<https://www.biodiversityinplanning.org/wildlife-assessment-check/spatial-data-and-credits/>) for habitats and development works that are associated to UK 'protected' and 'priority' wildlife species*. The tool produces a summary of how applicants have answered the questions and gives them an opportunity to revise their selections. A 'Results' page indicates whether professional ecological advice is recommended for the proposed site. It also provides a list of the potential species and species groups that could be considered by the ecological consultant. The tool identifies proximity of the proposed site to any 'statutory designated sites', such as Sites of Special Scientific Importance (SSSIs) and Special Protected Areas (SPAs).

NOTE: The national maps do not always pick up local species data, so we would always advise that the consultant also seeks additional information from the [local environmental record centre](https://www.alerc.org.uk/find-an-lerc-map.html) (<https://www.alerc.org.uk/find-an-lerc-map.html>) and Local Wildlife Groups, as well as through conducting a [Preliminary Ecological Appraisal](https://www.biodiversityinplanning.org/about/what-is-an-ecological-assessment/) (<https://www.biodiversityinplanning.org/about/what-is-an-ecological-assessment/>)

Wildlife Assessment Check - Summary Report

Site location:

- Postcode (nearest): RG7 1NU
- Grid reference: SU711685

Type of development project:

- Householder building projects

The Local Environmental Records Centre (LERC) is:
Thames Valley Environmental Records Centre

The Local Planning Authority is:
Wokingham District Council

Output from the Wildlife Assessment Check, including whether input from a suitably qualified ecologist is required and the species or species group surveys that may be necessary:

Depending on the habitats present on site (e.g. any watercourses, trees or hedgerows), you may need to engage a suitably qualified ecologist to consider the effects on wildlife of any works you wish to carry out.

Precautionary advice for birds

Birds are legally protected during the breeding season and need to be considered in respect of any impact from the proposed work. Work involving vegetation clearance must take place outside the optimum breeding season (March to August inclusive), unless it can be confirmed there are no breeding birds in the proposed work area.

Survey reports should include biodiversity information from your Local Environmental Records Centre (LERC).

Section 1: Protected and Priority Species results

Types of works being carried out and habitats present nearby (options selected):

- Works within the curtilage (boundary/garden) of an existing house
 - No other options selected

The applicant is aware of Protected and/or Priority species being present within or adjacent to the development site:

- No

Section 2: Statutory Designated Sites results

International/European sites

- This proposed development project does not lie within any international/European designated sites.
- There are no international/European designated sites within 50m of this proposed development project.

National sites

- This proposed development project does not lie within any nationally designated sites.
- There are no nationally designated sites within 50m of this proposed development project.

Local Nature Reserves

- This proposed development project does not lie within any Local Nature Reserves.
- There are no Local Nature Reserves within 50m of this proposed development project.

Section 3: Local Wildlife Sites (locally designated sites of importance for biodiversity and nature conservation)

There may be non-statutory Local Wildlife Sites (also known as Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation, County Wildlife Sites etc) that should be considered as part of this proposed development project as they receive protection through the planning system. This tool does not hold information on Local Wildlife Sites so separate advice should be sought.

If your development proposal is within or adjacent to a Local Wildlife Site, the Local Planning Authority may require an ecological assessment to be undertaken by a professional ecologist.

Biodiversity Net Gain in England

Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) is an approach to development that leaves biodiversity in a measurably better state than before and is mandatory for major developments and from 2nd April 2024 for small sites:

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/understanding-biodiversity-net-gain>

Additional guidance on this approach can be found here:

<https://cieem.net/i-am/current-projects/biodiversity-net-gain/>

The section below needs to be completed by the local planning authority

1. Has Section 1 of the Wildlife Assessment Check Summary Report indicated input from a suitably qualified ecologist is required for this development project?

☐ Yes
 Go to question 2

☐ No
 Go to question 5

2. Has an ecological report been submitted with the planning application?
(An ecological report should accompany the planning application if the output from Section 1 of the Wildlife Assessment Check indicates that input from a suitably qualified ecologist is required).

☐ Yes
 Go to question 3

☐ No
 Request further information from the applicant to clarify why no report has been submitted.

 Go to question 5

3. Does the ecological report include the necessary species or species group surveys, as indicated in Section 1 of the Wildlife Assessment Check Summary Report?

☐ Yes
 Go to question 5

☐ No
 Go to question 4

4. Has justification been provided as to why the species or species group surveys have not been undertaken?

☐ Yes
 Go to question 5

☐ No
 Request further information from the applicant to clarify why no surveys have been undertaken.

 Go to question 5

5. Does the development proposal fall within or close to any statutory designated sites, as indicated in Section 2 of the Wildlife Assessment Check Summary Report?

☐ Yes
 Go to question 6

☐ No
 Go to question 7

6. Are the statutory designated sites covered within the ecological report?

☐ Yes
 Go to question 7

☐ No
 Request further information from the applicant and go to question 7

7. The Wildlife Assessment Check does not hold information on Local Wildlife Sites. Have Local Wildlife Sites been covered within the ecological report?

☐ Yes

☐ No
 Request further information from the applicant

☐ Not applicable since there are no Local Wildlife Sites nearby