

# Biodiversity Checklist for Householder Applications

Planning ref: (for office use)

Site address: 4, DUNCAN ROAD,  
ASHLEY, NEW MILTON,  
HAMPSHIRE, BH25 5AW

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 and/or 2** identify that your project may potentially have an adverse impact on designated sites, priority or other notable 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 enhancements 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, or 2. 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 that can undertake specialist survey work, please see the Chartered Institute of Ecological and Environmental Management <http://www.cieem.net> in the first instance.