

BIODIVERSITY QUESTIONNAIRE



The purpose of the biodiversity questionnaire is to assess the likely presence of protected habitats and species within or in close proximity to the application site. All of these protected habitats and species are afforded varying levels of protection under European and/or UK legislation and applicants are reminded that it is the developer's responsibility to ensure that the proposed development does not result in harm being caused to any protected habitats or species and that, in many cases, it is an offence to cause such harm.

The council also has a duty to protect and conserve biodiversity in all of its functions. The biodiversity questionnaire will identify those important habitats and species that need to be protected and conserved from a series of questions and answers. **It is important therefore for both the applicant and the council that the following questions are answered accurately.**

This questionnaire will then allow the council to assess whether further information is required in respect of protected species and their habitats. If any information that is subsequently requested is not received, you are advised that your planning application will not be validated. If the information provided is not sufficiently detailed, you are further advised that the application may not be successful.

Internationally important sites:

- Is the development within 2km of a Special Protection Area/Ramsar Site or Special Area of Conservation (SAC)?

~~YES~~ / NO

Currently, sites of international importance within the District are located only within Rye Meads and Amwell Quarry and a SAC at Wormley-Hoddesdonpark Woods. Within 2km of these areas written ecological reports will be required, unless the applicant is able to provide written notification from Natural England confirming that they are satisfied that the proposed development will not have a detrimental impact on any SAC or SPA site.

Nationally important sites:

- Does the proposed development affect, or is it within 500 metres, of a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI)?

~~YES~~ / NO

If yes, you will need to consider whether the proposed development could result in damage to the wildlife value of the site and you should consult with Natural England to clarify.

It may be necessary to submit supporting information, from Natural England and/or in the form of a written report, showing that the proposal will not impact on the SSSI. You should submit copies of any correspondence with your planning application.