

Biodiversity Checklist for Householder Applications

Planning ref: (for office use)

Site address:

"High Widden", Pitmore Lane, Sway.

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.

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

SECTION 1 – Designated Sites and Habitats

Please answer ALL questions Yes or No If you have answered ' YES ' is it possible that the development could have an impact on the identified site? (see note) Please provide further information***	YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/>
1.1 Is the application site on or within 50m of a SSSI, SAC, SPA or Ramsar site? (see note 1)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
1.2 Are any of the following present on or within 50m of the application site? <i>Please see note 2 & 3 for further information on identifying these.</i>	
a) Site of Importance for Nature Conservation	<input type="checkbox"/>
b) Native woodland including ancient semi-natural <u>and replanted</u> woodland	<input type="checkbox"/>
c) Veteran (particularly old / large) trees	<input type="checkbox"/>
d) Water courses (rivers or streams)	<input type="checkbox"/>
e) Lakes or ponds	<input type="checkbox"/>
f) Wetlands or marshes	<input type="checkbox"/>
g) Species-rich meadow / grassland	<input type="checkbox"/>
h) Heathland/acid grassland/mire/scrub	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
i) Coastal grassland/saltmarsh/shingle/mudflats	<input type="checkbox"/>
j) Hedgerows supporting mainly native species	<input type="checkbox"/>

*** This may simply be a brief explanation stating that the identified feature is outside the development footprint and boundaries, or it may be a more formal biodiversity assessment or survey report. Please note that submitted information will be reviewed by the Planning Authority's ecological advisor and you may be asked for further clarification if necessary either prior to validation or during the application process.

Data on site designations, habitats and species can be obtained from the [Hampshire Biodiversity Information Centre](#)

Section 2 – 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 the following:	Survey attached?
3.1 Will the proposal affect any of the following features / structures? (see note 5 and note 7)			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Buildings or structures exhibiting features likely to offer bat roosting potential e.g. gaps/crevices/cracks within building materials; hanging tiles, timber weatherboarding/cladding; roof voids; etc. ▪ Underground structures (e.g cellars, caves, mines) ▪ Structures where there is known current or historic bat use 	X	Bats and bat roosts	
3.2 Will the proposal affect trees with any of the following features? (see notes 4, 5 and 7)			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Old and veteran trees or other trees with a circumference greater than 1m at chest height 	X	Bats and bat roosts Nesting birds	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Trees exhibiting, or likely to exhibit holes, cracks, splits, cavities etc. and/or heavy vegetation 	X	Other Notable species	
3.3. Will the proposals affect any of the following wetland features (notes 4 and 5)			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 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	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ ponds within 100m, particularly any that are well-connected to the application site by hedgerows, 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 (notes 4 and 5)			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ deciduous (i.e. not mainly conifer) woodland? 	X	Bat foraging habitat Dormice Nesting birds Badger Reptiles Other Notable species	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ field hedgerows over 1m tall and over 0.5m thick? 	X		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ areas of scrub well-connected to woodland or hedgerows? 	X		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ species-rich meadows or grassland on or directly adjacent to the site? 	X		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ mature or overgrown gardens, rough grassland, derelict/brownfield land, railway land or allotments 	X		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ coastal grasslands/arable 	X	Brent Geese & wader feeding/roost sites	

Data on site designations, habitats and species can be obtained from the [Hampshire Biodiversity Information Centre](#)

Contacts

If you are unsure about any of these questions, please call your local authority ecologist for advice.

Basingstoke & Deane Borough Council - Biodiversity Officer - Tel 01256 845201/84526

Eastleigh Borough Council - Biodiversity Officer – Tel: 023 8068 8352

East Hampshire District Council/South Downs National Park – HCC Ecology Team - Tel 01962 832335

Fareham Borough Council - HCC Ecology Team - Tel 01962 832317

Gosport Borough Council - HCC Ecology Team - Tel 01962 832335

Hart District Council - Biodiversity Officer - Tel 01252 774106

Havant Borough Council - HCC Ecology Team - Tel 01962 832335

New Forest District Council/ New Forest National Park Authority – Ecologist - Tel 01590 646685

Portsmouth City Council - HCC Ecology Team - Tel 01962 832317

Rushmoor Borough Council - Biodiversity Officer – Tel 01252 398731

Southampton City Council – Planning Ecologist - Tel 02380 832727

Test Valley Borough Council - HCC Ecology Team - Tel 01962 832334

Winchester City Council/South Downs National Park – Biodiversity Officer – Tel 01962 848532

For office use:

1	Have ALL questions on ALL sections been completed?	Y / N	If YES, go to 2	If NO, application should not be validated
2	Have any questions been answered 'Yes'?	Y / N	If YES, go to 3	If NO, application can be validated. Evidence that a data search has been carried out by the applicant or their adviser would be helpful at this point.
3	Does the applicant identify likely impacts and address potential issues in any comments made on the checklist?	Y / N	If YES, application can be validated	If NO, go to 4
4	Has a separate statement, report or other supporting information been submitted to address potential impacts?	Y / N	If YES, application can be validated	If NO, application should not be validated