

Biodiversity Self-Assessment Form Householder Applications

Planning reference (for office use):

Site address: RAMBLERS COTTAGE, THE WALK, ALVESCOT, OX18 2PU

There are many legally protected sites of nature conservation importance and non-statutory local wildlife sites (see Note 1), priority habitats (see Note 3) and a wide range of legally protected, notable and priority species (see Note 6) in the District. Developments can adversely affect these and Local Planning Authorities (LPAs) are legally required by the 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 LPA's local plan will set out how they address these requirements in local policy terms. The LPA needs 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 self-assessment 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 for householder applications.

If you require additional advice, please download a copy of the council's Planning Validation Biodiversity Guidance for Householder Applications.

Types of Biodiversity Report

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 you will need to submit a biodiversity report that demonstrates at least the following information:

- Description of 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 (*this will depend on the exact nature of your proposal*);
- How alternative designs and locations have been considered;
- How adverse impacts will be avoided;
- How any unavoidable impacts will be mitigated or reduced (*see Note 4*);
- How impacts that cannot be avoided or mitigated will be compensated (*see Note 4*); and
- Full details of biodiversity enhancements that will be provided.

In most householder applications, it is likely that a **Preliminary Ecological Appraisal** (PEA) report would be sufficient. This comprises a scoping assessment to identify important biodiversity features, further surveys and biodiversity enhancement opportunities. It is not usually suitable for submission with a planning application unless no additional surveys are required, no significant impacts would arise and no mitigation is necessary (other than precautionary working methods). The report must be prepared in accordance with the Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management (CIEEM) guidelines: <https://cieem.net/resource/guidance-on-preliminary-ecological-appraisal-gpea/>

Householder Self-Assessment Form

To be completed by the Applicant

Has this checklist been completed or checked by a suitably qualified/experienced ecologist?	Yes / No
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SECTION 1 – Sites and Habitats

PROPOSAL DETAILS		Y	N	If you have answered 'YES' to any of these, is it likely that the development would have an impact on the identified site? (see Note 2) Please explain why/why not, or state if further information is provided (see below*)
Please answer all questions Yes or No by marking the appropriate box against each question				
Legally Protected Sites for Nature Conservation				
1.1	Is the application site on or within 50m of a SSSI, SAC, SPA or Ramsar site? (see Note 1)		/	
Habitats and Locally Designated Sites				
1.2	Are any of the following present on or within 50m of the application site? <i>NB: If Yes, there may be a Local Wildlife Site (see Note 1), Priority Habitat or other important feature within or adjacent to the application site – please see Note 3 for further information on identifying these.</i>			
a)	Local Wildlife Site		/	
b)	Estuary or saltmarsh		/	
c)	Wetlands or marshes		/	
d)	Water courses (rivers or streams)		/	
e)	Lakes or ponds		/	
f)	Heathland		/	
g)	Mixed / Broad-leaved woodland	/		TREES LOCATED ON THE SITE & NEIGHBOURING PROPERTIES
h)	Veteran (particularly old/large) trees		/	
i)	Hedgerows		/	
j)	Flower-rich meadow/grassland		/	
k)	Traditional or Old Orchard		/	

l)	Mosaic habitats on previously developed land		/	
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**This may simply be a brief explanation in the box provided within the table, for example stating that the identified feature is outside the development footprint/boundaries, or a biodiversity report has been submitted. Please note that the submitted information will be reviewed by the Local Planning Authority and you may be asked for further clarification if necessary either prior to validation or during the application process.*

SECTION 2 – Species, including priority species (see Note 6)

	Please answer all questions yes (Y) or no (N) by marking the appropriate box against each question.	Y	N	Species / Issue	Survey carried out and relevant report submitted attached (reference)?
2.1	Would the proposed works affect existing buildings with any of the following: (see Note 2)				
a)	Hanging tiles (see note 5), timber cladding/weatherboarding, roof voids where the building is within 200m of woodland, hedgerow network or water	/	/		
b)	Buildings or structures within 200m of woodland, hedgerow network and/or water		/		
c)	Pre-1914 buildings or structures within 400m of woodland, hedgerow network and/or water		/		
d)	Pre-1914 buildings with gable ends, traditional clay tile roofs or slate roofs, hanging tiles or weatherboarding regardless of location		/	Bats and bat roosts Breeding birds Barn owls	
e)	Any structure with open flying access within 200m of woodland, hedgerow network or water		/		
f)	Any structure with gaps around roof structures such as flashing, ridge tiles, fascia and soffit boards within 200m of woodland, hedgerow network or water		/		
g)	Structures where there is known current or historic bat use		/		
h)	Cellar, ice-house or other stone-built structure		/	Bats	
2.2	Would the proposal affect trees with ANY of the following features? (see note 2)				
a)	Old and veteran trees		/		
b)	Trees with obvious holes, cracks, cavities or heavy vegetation (e.g. ivy)		/	Bats and bat roosts Breeding birds Invertebrates	
c)	Trees with a circumference greater than 1m at chest height		/		
2.3	Are there streams, rivers or lakes on or within 10m of the application site that would be affected (including their banks and adjacent habitat) by the development?		/	Bats – foraging habitat Otter Water vole	

				White-clawed crayfish Breeding birds	
2.4	Would the proposals affect (see note 2) any of the following features?				
a)	Deciduous (i.e. not mainly conifer) woodland?		/	Bat foraging habitat	
b)	Field hedgerows over 1m tall and over 0.5m thick?		/	Dormice Breeding birds	
c)	Areas of scrub well-connected to woodland or hedgerows?		/	Badger	
2.5	Do the proposed works (see Note 2):				
a)	Take place within 50m of any pond and within the red or amber zones of the district level licensing scheme's modelled map (NatureSpace) https://naturespaceuk.com/gismaps/impact-risk-map/ .		/	Amphibians – particularly great crested newts and common toads	
b)	Damage or destroy a pond or habitat within close proximity to a pond (c. 10m)?		/		
c)	Affect suitable habitat: refuges (e.g. log piles or rubble) grassland, scrub woodlands or hedgerows OR is connected to the pond by grassland, hedgerows etc?		/		
2.6	Would the proposal affect mature/overgrown gardens over 0.1ha, or any rough grassland, meadow, orchard derelict/brownfield land, railway land or allotments? (see note 2)		/	Reptiles Breeding birds Hedgehogs	
2.7	Does the proposal involve flood lighting or a significant increase in external lighting?		/	Bats	
2.8	Is the proposal for a wind turbine?		/	Bats Birds	

NOTES

Note 1: You can find out if your application site is on or near any of these sites from www.natureonthemap.org.uk, www.magic.gov.uk. The Gloucestershire Centre for Environmental Records (GCER) or the Thames Valley Environmental Records Centre (TVERC) can provide detailed maps showing boundaries of all site designations and priority habitats.

SSSI = Site of Special Scientific Interest (designated and protected under UK law); SAC = Special Area of Conservation; SPA = Special Protection Area (these are designated and protected under EU law and are also SSSIs); Ramsar site = internationally important wetland, designated under the Ramsar Convention – these will also be SPAs / SACs and SSSI.

Impact Risk Zones (IRZs) are a GIS tool developed by Natural England to make a rapid initial assessment of the potential risks to SSSI posed by development proposals. They define zones around each SSSI which reflect the particular sensitivities of the features for which it is notified and indicate the types of development proposal which could potentially have adverse impacts. The SSSI IRZ Dataset can be downloaded from the [Natural England Open Data Geoportal](https://naturalengland-open-data-geoportal/). It is also available to view on www.magic.gov.uk

Local Wildlife Sites (LWS) are not legally protected, but are identified in the Local Plan as being of importance for biodiversity and are considered during the planning process.

Note 2: Impacts can be *direct* such as destruction, removal or modification, or *indirect* through disturbance such as run-off, noise, dust, lighting or increased recreational use. The impact risk mapping for GCN is available at <https://naturespaceuk.com/gismaps/impact-risk-map/>.

Note 3: Areas of designated Ancient Woodland and some Priority Habitats can be found on www.magic.gov.uk. The LPA's Local Plan Proposals Map for your local planning authority may identify the location of any Local Wildlife Sites. A biodiversity data