

Biodiversity Checklist

- The below is intended as a guide to determine which ecological survey will be required to support your planning application. If professional ecological advice has identified further surveys are required, these should always be undertaken before the application is submitted to the Planning Authority.
- The checklist will be reviewed by the validation team and your planning case officer. Where the checklist indicates that no surveys are required, further evidence such as photographs may be requested to enable this review. Incorrect information provided or a failure to provide necessary surveys is likely to cause delays to your planning application.
- If the checklist indicates that surveys are required, but you believe this to be incorrect, please contact the Dorset Natural Environment Team at biodiversityprotocol@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk
- In most cases, the results of the surveys indicated by the checklist should be compiled into an Ecological Impact Assessment (EclIA), which is proportionate to the scale of the project.
- **Where a survey identifies an impact on biodiversity, a standardised Biodiversity Plan is required to be submitted to Dorset Council Natural Environment Team (DC NET) for review, in addition to the EclA / ecology report.**

[Planning portal applications](#)

We are working with the Planning Portal to improve our validation process. As part of this the biodiversity check list must now be completed for all online portal applications.

Sections to complete	Yes	No
Will the proposal impact on an area less than 0.1ha? If YES, complete Sections 1, 2, 3 and 4. If NO, complete Section 3 and 4 only.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Biodiversity Checklist			
Biodiversity features	Yes	No	Information required (if answer is yes)
1. HABITATS Are any of the following habitats present and likely to be affected by the proposal? (This is not limited to loss of habitat, but includes other effects including from increased lighting, dust deposition, siltation etc.)			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shrubs, bushes, climbing plants, non-native hedgerow 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No survey required. Avoid the nesting bird season, a pre-works nesting bird check will be required if the nesting bird season cannot be avoided.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Field hedgerows comprising mostly native species 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Preliminary Ecological Appraisal (PEA) including Hedgerow Regulations Assessment.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ponds on site or within 100m, including ornamental or garden ponds 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mature, urban, veteran and notable trees, areas of woodland or scrub, orchards 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
<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) 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Preliminary Ecological Appraisal (PEA).
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Species-rich meadows or grassland 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mature or overgrown garden, rough grassland, derelict land, brownfield, railway sidings, allotments 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Habitat not listed above 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Contact DC NET to discuss further.

Biodiversity features	Yes	No	Information required (if answer is yes)
<p>2. BUILDINGS AND STRUCTURES</p> <p>Will the proposal affect, or require conversion, modification, demolition or removal of, any of the following features or structures?</p> <p>(This includes work that in some circumstances may not require planning permission such as reroofing, repointing, internal modifications etc.)</p>			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Existing enclosed roof space or other enclosed voids • Chimney / chimney stack • Gaps, cracks, crevices or voids within: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Roof tiles, lead flashing, sarking ◦ Stonework, brickwork ◦ Timber building frames ◦ Timber cladding, hanging tiles ◦ Timber framed windows ◦ Soffits, fascias, bargeboards, eaves 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<p>Preliminary Roost Appraisal (PRA).</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Structures where there is known current or historic bat use 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Garage, outbuilding, derelict building • Underground structures, cellar • Tunnel, bridge, culvert • Stable, barn or other agricultural building, particularly those of traditional construction 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Single skinned building (such as steel prefabricated, wooden shed, concrete blockwork), prefabricated cabins/caravans, conservatory or flat roof building with none of the features listed above. Also, if in a rural location, no openings or cavities. 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<p>No ecological survey required.</p>

<p>3. OUTCOME Choose one option.</p>	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> For sites less than 0.1 ha: I have completed Sections 1 and 2 above and the answers indicate that I do not need a survey.	
<input type="checkbox"/> I have prepared a Biodiversity Plan but have not yet submitted it to the Council's Natural Environment Team.	
<input type="checkbox"/> I have submitted a Biodiversity Plan to the Council's Natural Environment Team and I am waiting for a certificate of approval.	
<input type="checkbox"/> I have a Natural Environment Team certificate of approval and I am submitting this with my application along with my approved Biodiversity Plan.	
<input type="checkbox"/> The checklist indicates that I need to prepare a survey and a Biodiversity Plan, but I am not submitting them. Please explain why:	
<p>4. CONFIRMATION</p>	
<p>I confirm that I have completed this checklist and the information contained within is accurate to the extent of my knowledge. Failure to supply necessary information or surveys may delay registration/consideration of your application.</p>	
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Date	22/05/2024