Biodiversity checklist

Practical Ecology Ltd has put together the following biodiversity checklist in order to aid developers in identifying developments which may impact on the natural environment, for small scale housing/residential developments. The aim is to identify and address any nature conservation issues at an early stage in the planning process, ideally prior to a planning application.

If the answer is ‘yes’ to any of the following questions, then it is likely that the development will require some level of ecological survey and report.

If yes, add some short notes. This will help clarify the need for a survey and determine what survey type would suit best. If the answer is ‘yes’ to any of the questions, then it is likely that a biodiversity report will be required for a planning application and you need to consider seeking the advice of a qualified ecologist.

NB: This checklist was put together with reference biodiversity checklists provided by local authorities throughout the Midlands, South and East of England. Please note that this document is not an official biodiversity checklist, other biodiversity checklists may be issued by the local authority, and should not be submitted alongside planning applications. Its intended use is as a ‘early warning system’ for potential conflicts with nature conservation and the legislation which protect nature.

Site information

Site name: Click or tap here to enter text. Site ref: Click or tap here to enter text.

Do any of the following features apply to the development/application site?

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  |  | **Yes or No** | **Your notes** | **Survey information** |
| **Buildings (are any of the following being modified, demolished or converted?)** | | | | |
| 1 | **Agricultural buildings** particularlyof brick or stone construction, or with exposed wooden beams, whether derelict or in use | Choose an item. | Click or tap here to enter text. | If yes, surveys will be required particularly relating to bats, breeding birds and barn owl |
| 2 | **Buildings with hanging tiles or weather boarding** on buildings of any age within 200m of woodland or mature trees | Choose an item. | Click or tap here to enter text. | If yes, surveys will be required particularly relating to bats and breeding birds |
| 3 | **Pre-1914 buildings within 400m of woodland and/or water** or  **Pre-1914 buildings with gable ends, regardless of location** | Choose an item. | Click or tap here to enter text. | If yes, surveys will be required particularly relating to bats, breeding birds and barn owl |
| 4 | **Tunnels, mines, kilns, ice-houses, adits, military fortifications, air raid shelters, cellars** or similar underground ducts or structures | Choose an item. | Click or tap here to enter text. | If yes, surveys will be required particularly relating to bats, breeding birds and barn owl |
| 5 | Proposals involving **external floodlighting of churches and listed buildings within 50m** (about the width of a football pitch) of a green space, woodland or water | Choose an item. | Click or tap here to enter text. | If yes, surveys will be required particularly relating to bats, barn owls and breeding birds |
| **Other habitats (are any of the following being affected?)** | | | | |
| 6 | **Trees** of any age | Choose an item. | Click or tap here to enter text. | If yes, surveys will be required particularly for bats and breeding birds.  A survey by an aborist may also be required[[1]](#footnote-1). |
| 7 | **Clearance of shrubs/scrub or woodland** of more than 100m2 (about the size of half a tennis court) | Choose an item. | Click or tap here to enter text. | If yes, surveys will be required particularly relating to bats, breeding birds, reptiles, dormouse, otter and invertebrates |
| 8 | **Gravel pits, quarries or natural cliff faces and rock outcrops with crevices, caves or swallets** | Choose an item. | Click or tap here to enter text. | If yes, surveys will be required particularly relating to bats, breeding birds, reptiles and invertebrates. |
| 9 | **Ponds** of all types (including garden ponds) on the application site and/or within 500m | Choose an item. | Click or tap here to enter text. | If yes, surveys will be required particularly relating to great crested newts, other amphibians, water voles and bats |
| 10 | **Rivers, streams, canals, lakes or other aquatic habitats within 200m of the site** | Choose an item. | Click or tap here to enter text. | If yes, surveys will be required, particularly relation to bats, breeding birds, otters, water voles, amphibians and plants. |
| 11 | **‘Derelict’ land** (brownfield sites), allotments, railway land or rough grassland | Choose an item. | Click or tap here to enter text. | If yes, surveys will be required for breeding bids, great crested newts, badgers, dormouse, reptiles, invertebrates and plants |
| 12 | **‘Veteran’ trees** on or overhanging the development site, ‘Veteran’ trees, are trees with holes, cracks or cavities, or with peeling bark, or with large dead branches, or which support well established Ivy growth. | Choose an item. | Click or tap here to enter text. | If yes, then surveys will be required particularly with regards to bats, breeding birds, invertebrates. |
| 13 | **Grassland** grazed by horses, cattle or sheep, of more than 100m2 (about the size of half a tennis court) | Choose an item. | Click or tap here to enter text. | If yes, then surveys will be required particularly with regards to bats, breeding birds, reptiles |
| 14 | **Grassland** of more than 100m2 (about the size of half a tennis court), typically abandoned allotments, which is cut infrequently, or which supports a variety of flowers | Choose an item. | Click or tap here to enter text. | If yes, then surveys will be required particularly for plants |
| 15 | Any of the following observed on the application site: Narrow paths passing under thick vegetation or fences; small soil excavations; burrows of a diameter greater than 20cm | Choose an item. | Click or tap here to enter text. | If yes, then surveys will be required particularly for badger |
| 16 | Any vigorous/suspect plant growth, i.e. something that looks out of place, non-native invasive plant? |  |  |  |
|  | **Sites of nature conservation interest** | | | |
| 17 | Application site is inside or within 500mof a **Site of Special Scientific Interest** or within 2km of a **SAC, SPA, Ramsar?** | Choose an item. | Click or tap here to enter text. | If yes, then surveys will be required particularly with regards to statutory sites of nature conservation. |

1. Our partners [Hayden’s Aboricultural Consultants](http://www.treesurveys.co.uk/) are specialists in these surveys. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)