

Validation Checklist – Appendix 2: Ecology and Biodiversity Requirements

Document	When is it required	What is required	Why it is required and additional information
<p>Environmental Statement (ES)</p>	<p>All applications where the development is listed in Schedule 1 of the Town and Country Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017.</p> <p>Developments that are listed in Schedule 2 of the above regulations, either above or below the thresholds, may require an Environmental Statement if it is likely to have significant effects on the environment by virtue of factors such as nature, size and location.</p>	<p>It is advised that, for all major development within or affecting a 'sensitive area' or for development that falls within Schedule 2 of the 2017 Regulations, you request a Screening Opinion from the Development Management team who will establish whether Environmental Impact Assessment is required. To obtain a Screening Opinion, please include the following information when contacting the Development Management team:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a location plan; • a description of the development, including in particular: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ a description of the physical characteristics of the development and, where relevant, of demolition works; and ▪ a description of the location of the development, with particular regard to the environmental sensitivity of geographical areas likely to be affected. 	<p>Town and Country Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017</p> <p>Environmental Impact Assessment - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)</p>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a description of the aspects of the environment likely to be significantly affected by the development; • to the extent the information is available, a description of any likely significant effects of the proposed development on the environment resulting from: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ the expected residues and emissions, including wastes, where relevant: and ▪ the use and/or destruction and/or creation of environmental resources, e.g. soil, land-take, water, fuels, habitats, heritage and culture. 	
Habitats Regulation Assessment Requirements	Applications which may impact on European designated nature conservation sites (Special Areas of Conservation etc.)	<p>For applications that may have a likely significant effect on a Special Area of Conservation, appropriate information needs to be submitted in order for the LPA to undertake Habitats Regulation Assessment (HRA). For most applications, the information provided will form part of a broader Wildlife Report.</p> <p>For specific information requirements relating to the Oxford Meadows SAC, designated for its lowland hay meadows, please refer to the SAC.</p>	<p>Paragraphs 43 and 187 of the NPPF</p> <p><u>The Habitats and Wild Birds Directives in England and its seas - Core guidance for developers, regulators and land/marine managers (draft for consultation) (publishing.service.gov.uk)</u></p>

<p>Biodiversity Metric and at least 10% net gain</p>	<p>All qualifying applications</p>	<p>Unless exempt, developments will need to submit the Statutory Biodiversity Metric and relevant Biodiversity Net Gain information as part of the planning application. Information on the habitat descriptions used in the metric can be found at the</p> <p>UK Habitat Classification - eCountability Ltd</p>	<p>Section 15 and Paragraphs 185, 186 and 190 of the NPPF</p> <p>Biodiversity net gain - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)</p>
<p>Ecological Information (Biodiversity report/Ecological surveys/PEA/species surveys)</p>	<p>All applications (including those for which an ES is required)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All applications should include a completed Biodiversity Checklist. This will help to indicate whether or not Ecological information is required. The checklist will also help identify whether the proposal may impact on protected or priority habitats or species. • Where the checklist indicates that Ecological information is required, it must be submitted with the application and be produced by a suitably qualified and experienced ecologist. Any report must include all the information required in order for the LPA to determine the application (including any survey information on protected and priority species and habitats). • In certain cases, the applicant may be required to submit a lighting 	<p>Paragraphs 180, 182, 183, 185, 186 and 188 of the NPPF.</p> <p>Biodiversity and geological conservation: circular 06/2005 - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)</p> <p>Magic Map Application (defra.gov.uk)</p> <p>Protected species and development: advice for local planning authorities - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)</p>

		<p>strategy/plan accompanied by a Lux Analysis of the development plans.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• All details of proposed avoidance, mitigation, compensation, and enhancement must be included within the Ecology Report or other supporting information. Information within Ecology Reports must be consistent and link with other relevant reports e.g. relating to SUDS, landscape, lighting, flood risk, open space, access, aftercare and trees.	
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