Biodiversity Guidance Note

Northamptonshire County Council

Introduction

Biodiversity is a key aspect of sustainable development. Every local authority has a statutory duty to have regard, so far as is consistent with the proper exercise of its functions, to the purpose of conserving biodiversity[1]. This includes the assessment and determination of development proposals such as planning applications.

This Appendix explains how biodiversity should be integrated into the development process for County Matter development proposals in Northamptonshire, to ensure that legislation and policy requirements are met. It offers a standardised approach which all applicants should follow. As described in the Local Validation List to which this document is appended, a development application will not be valid unless it includes the necessary information to identify the biodiversity impacts of the proposed development, and adequate mitigation measures where required.

Definitions

Biodiversity (a contraction of 'biological diversity') refers to the number, variety and variability of living organisms. It is often defined in terms of genes, species and ecosystems.

Biodiversity *features* include:

- Species and their habitats (incl. feeding/resting/breeding areas). Note: this may include features such as trees and buildings that could hold protected species (e.g. owls, bats);
- Statutory and non-statutory nature conservation sites;
- UK and Local Biodiversity Action Plan habitats and species;
- Habitats and Species of Principal Importance for England (under Section 41 of the *Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006*[2]);
- Features which provide links/corridors or stepping stones from one habitat to another.

Biodiversity *impacts* include but are not limited to:

- Loss of, or damage to, all or part of an important site for biodiversity;
- Habitat fragmentation, isolation and removal or severance of wildlife corridors;
- Introduction or spread of invasive non-native species;
- Soil, air or water contamination, or light pollution;
- Disturbance and/or displacement (e.g. from recreational activity);
- Predation and/or harassment by domestic pets;
- Reduction/loss of species resources (e.g. food, water, shelter);
- Interruption to an established management regime, habitat neglect.

Biodiversity impacts *can* be:

- Permanent or temporary, short or long-term;
- Direct or indirect
- Cumulative (i.e. significant when the impacts of multiple small developments are taken into account)

[1] Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act (2006) Section 40: http://legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2006/16/section/40
[2] http://legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2006/16/section/41

Biodiversity in Northamptonshire

Any biodiversity features which might be affected by a development proposal will require survey, assessment and mitigation as necessary to meet both legislative and policy requirements. It is important that prospective applicants identify any biodiversity impacts as early as possible.

This guide aims to provide the basic tools to do this, as well as undertake any necessary surveys and prepare information as appropriate to help ensure that a development application:

- …is **valid**;
- …meets the **three legal tests** for European protected species licencing (as applicable);
- …can demonstrate that it will result in a **net biodiversity gain**.

If a proposal is likely to affect designated sites, priority habitats, protected species or species of principal importance advice will need to be sought from a suitably qualified ecologist.

Natural England should be consulted as early as possible where a development could impact a European Site[3]. Where a European Protected Species could be affected, applicants should consult as early as possible Natural England's standing advice on protected species.[4] If one or more European Protected Species are likely to be affected then Natural England's licensing process must be followed.

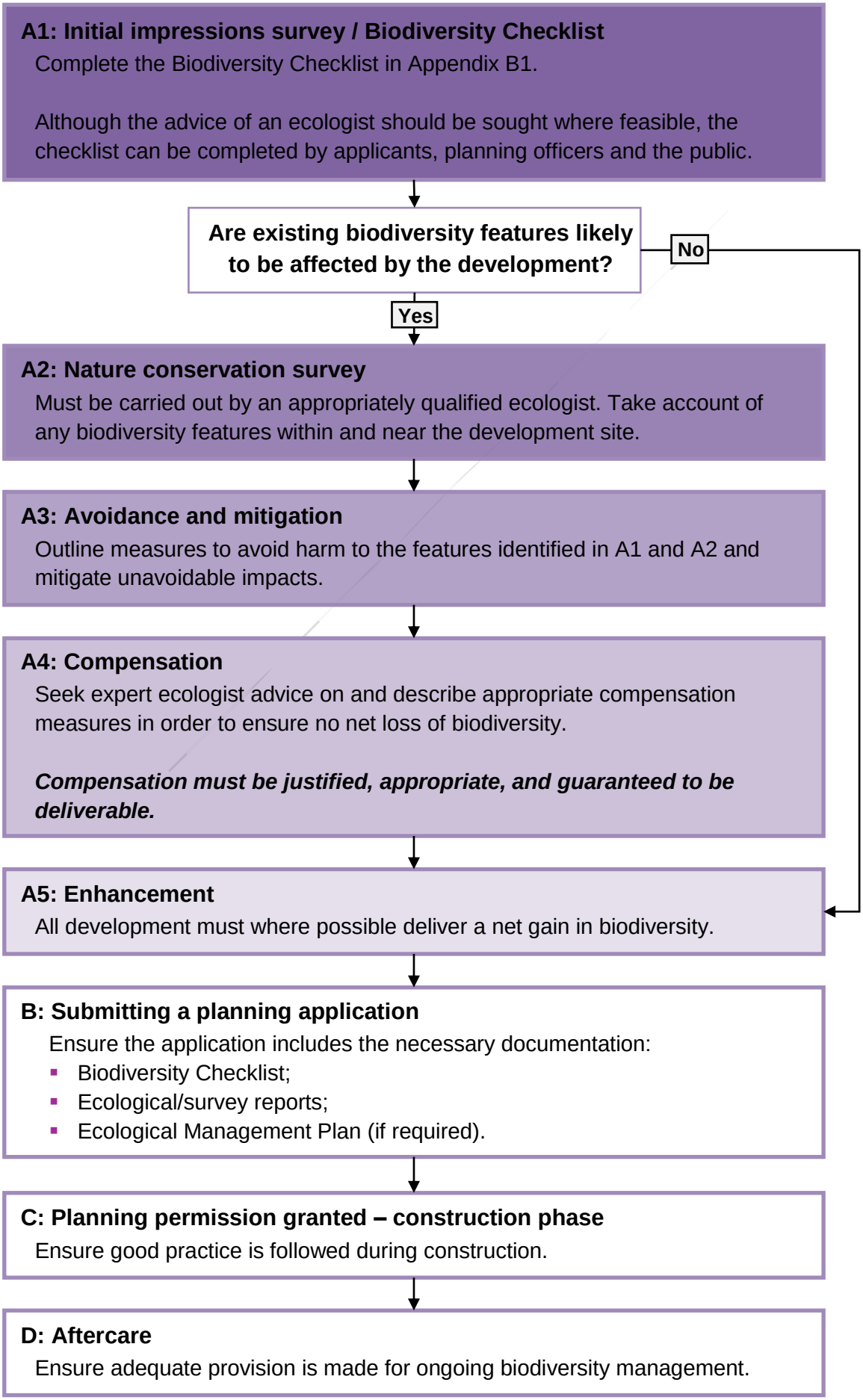
Certain types of development must be assessed in more detail through Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) and where required Habitats Regulation Assessment (HRA) procedures. Please refer to relevant guidance[5] for more information on these requirements.

[3] In Northamptonshire, the Upper Nene Valley Gravel Pits Special Protection Area (SPA)

[4] Planning and development guidance – Protected species and sites: how to review planning applications: https://gov.uk/guidance/protected-species-how-to-review-planning-applications. (Accessed 15 August 2017)

[5] Re EIA, Planning Practice Guidance explains the requirements of the Town and Country Planning (EIA) Regulations 2017: http://planningguidance.planningportal.gov.uk/blog/guidance/environmental-impact-assessment/. HRA guidance is available from the European Commission (European Commission. 2002. Assessment of plans and projects significantly affecting Natura 2000 sites. Luxembourg: Office for Official Publications of the European Communities: http://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/natura2000/management/docs/art6/natura_2000_assess_en.pdf). (Accessed 21 October 2014)

Fig. 1: Building nature into development – a Step-by-Step Guide



Stage A: Preparing to submit a planning application

Biodiversity impacts are most easily avoided when identified in the earliest stages of development, therefore it is essential that applicants ensure they have all necessary ecological information. Doing this as at the outset reduces the risk of delays or objections caused by lack of information.

Most ecological surveys can only be carried out at specific times of year so it is important that this be built into the development schedule (refer to *Survey Calendar* in *Appendix B2*).

Collecting ecological information is a two-step process:

1. **Biodiversity Checklist:** complete this form (Appendix B1) to identify features in and around the application site which may be of biodiversity value.
2. **Ecological Survey:** if the Biodiversity Checklist identifies features of potential value, a more thorough assessment of those features should be carried out.

It is commonly thought that habitat and species surveys can be postponed until after determination and then addressed by condition.

Part IV of ODPM Circular 06/2005 makes it clear that this practice is not acceptable in almost all cases, and that surveys/assessments must be submitted upfront with a planning application.[6]

Stage A1: Initial impressions survey/Biodiversity Checklist

The Biodiversity Checklist (*Appendix B1*) is a simple survey that should be used to detect features that could be at risk and identify any surveys required. The Checklist can be completed by the applicant, although ecological advice at this stage is advised.

Where the Biodiversity Checklist detects that an application could affect the Upper Nene Valley Gravel Pits SPA, applicants should contact Natural England as early as possible.

The Biodiversity Checklist has been designed to detect the majority of biodiversity features which could be affected by development. It is important to note however that protected species can occur in very unlikely places.

Attempts to exclude or remove biodiversity features could constitute a criminal offence and should not be undertaken.

[6] Further supported by R (on the application of Simon Woolley) v Cheshire East Borough Council. 2009. The judgment clarifies for the first time the legal duty of a Local Planning Authority when determining a planning application for a development which may have an impact on European Protected Species.

Stage A2: Nature Conservation Survey

Nature conservation surveys should:

- Take account of all the possible biodiversity features identified by the Biodiversity Checklist and any others which may later become apparent
- Assess biodiversity features both on and near the site, i.e. within the proposal's zone of influence
- Use standard survey methods, a list of which is available at http://www.cieem.net/sources-of-survey-methods-sosm-.[7]
- Be conducted at the optimal time of year (see Ecological Survey Calendar in Appendix B2)
- Be current, generally not more than two years old
- Include an extended Phase I Habitat Survey to assess the plant communities and habitat types present on site. Areas identified as being of botanical interest should be re-surveyed in detail to confirm their extent and conservation value.
- Account for previous species records for the site, available from the Northamptonshire Biodiversity Records Centre (NBRC) http://www.northantsbrc.org.uk, and for certain species (*e.g.* bats) from county specialists.

Some species records are also available from the National Biodiversity Network Gateway (NBN) https://data.nbn.org.uk/.

Please note that NBN data are supplementary to, and not a substitute for, locally derived NBRC records. Reliance solely on NBN data is not acceptable and may constitute a violation of NBN Terms and Conditions.

The data and initial survey work may identify further survey needs that were not apparent from the Checklist (e.g. past use of the site by protected species). As long as there is a reasonable likelihood of a species being present and affected by the development specific surveys must be conducted to confirm its presence or absence.

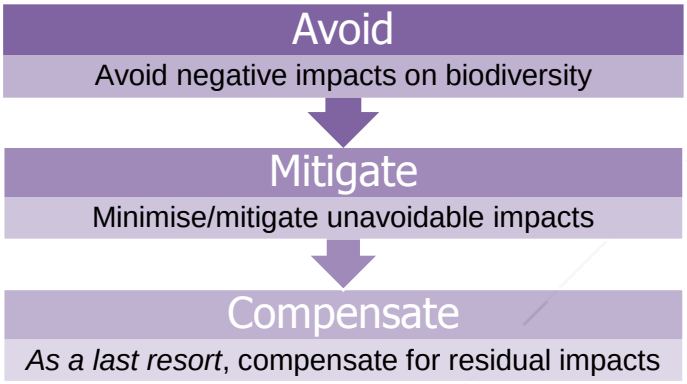
The methods, results and conclusions of any survey must be compiled and submitted in writing as part of the planning application.

[7] Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management. 2014. Sources of Survey Methods (SoSM): http://www.cieem.net/sources-of-survey-methods-sosm-. (Accessed 24 March 2014)

Stage A3: Avoidance and mitigation

Ecological survey findings should be used to avoid harm, mitigate potentially negative impacts and integrate existing biodiversity into the scheme. This involves following the 'Mitigation Hierarchy' (Fig. 2).

Fig. 2: Mitigation Hierarchy for addressing impacts on biodiversity features:



Steps must first be taken to ***avoid*** likely significant impacts to biodiversity, for example by:

- Designing the site in such a way as to retain any important biodiversity features;
- Scheduling works when key species are not active or breeding.

Avoidance is often the cheapest and most effective way of reducing potential impacts but it requires biodiversity to be considered at the very earliest stages of planning.

Unavoidable impacts should be mitigated. ***Mitigation*** means taking steps on the site itself to minimise the duration, intensity and/or extent of impacts that cannot be avoided entirely. Mitigation should not be confused with compensation, which is covered in the next section.

Stage A4: Compensation

On-site mitigation options should be exhausted before compensation is considered.[8]

Compensation schemes are rarely successful in replacing what is lost[9], it is far better not to cause damage in the first place than to try to compensate for it later. Unlike mitigation, compensation is usually carried out off-site, often involving major habitat restoration/creation.

Compensation will be acceptable only where independent expert advice indicates that there will be a high probability of success.

"If significant harm [to biodiversity] cannot be avoided, adequately mitigated, or, as a last resort, compensated for, then planning permission should be refused."[10]

[8] The Parliamentary Office of Science and Technology. 2011. POSTNOTE Number 369: Biodiversity Offsetting: http://www.parliament.uk/documents/post/postpn_369-biodiversity-offsetting.pdf. Accessed 21 October 2014.

[9] ARCHIVED: South West Ecological Surveys, Levett-Therivel Sustainability Consultants and Oxford Brookes University. 2004. Strategic Environmental Assessment and Biodiversity: Guidance for Practitioners. Report to Countryside Council for Wales, English Nature, Environment Agency and Royal Society for the Protection of Birds: http://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/20140605122214/http://publications.naturalengland.org.uk/publication/72022. Accessed 15 August 2017.

[10] Communities and Local Government. 2012. National Planning Policy Framework, paragraph 118.

Stage A5: Enhancement: delivering 'net gain' in biodiversity

Even in cases where mitigation or compensation is deemed unnecessary, planning policy requires new development to provide a net gain in biodiversity where possible[11]. This should be appropriate to the scale, type and location of the development.

Stage B: Submitting a Planning Application

Planning applications should include:

- Survey reports for any biodiversity features identified in the Biodiversity Checklist as at risk. These should:
  - Locate and describe existing biodiversity features and their significance, with scale plans where appropriate;
  - Describe how avoidance and mitigation measures, ecological management and aftercare would be achieved;
  - Provide contact details, qualifications and experience of all relevant personnel.
- A statement explaining the steps planned to address the conservation of any existing biodiversity features, so far as possible;
- Appropriate proposals for biodiversity enhancement;
- Ecological Management Plan (EMP) if required (see Stage D below).

Following good practice set out here will avoid unnecessary delay during the determination process.

Stage C: Planning Permission Granted: the Construction Phase

As a project progresses to the construction phase the mitigation strategies outlined in the environmental statement and other ecological reports (those accompanying an application for planning permission and/or required to be adhered to by planning conditions) must be put into practice. A Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP) is best practice and helps manage the environmental effects of construction[12]. A CEMP includes a risk assessment identifying aspects of construction that could have an environmental impact and outlines management measures designed to eliminate and/or minimise the identified impacts.

A CEMP should also:

- ***Identify 'biodiversity protection zones' and areas where invasive species have been identified;***
- ***Include or refer to method statements for mitigation and other measures;***
- ***Identify practical measures to protect biodiversity from impacts of construction-type activities;***
- ***Identify timing and location of sensitive works to avoid biodiversity impacts;***
- ***Identify when particular specialists need to be on site to oversee works;***
- ***Identify responsible persons and lines of communication;***
- ***Define the role of the Ecological Clerk of Works (see below) or ecologist;***
- ***Describe the use of exclusion fences, protective barriers and warning signs.***

[11] Communities and Local Government. 2012. National Planning Policy Framework, paragraph 109.

[12] [BSI] British Standards Institution. 2013. BS42020:2013 Biodiversity – Code of practice for planning and development. Section 10.2 Construction environmental management plan (CEMP). London: BSI.

Where the ecological impacts of a development are significant or the site is large and includes a range of ecological features, an Ecological Clerk of Works (ECoW) should be employed.

The ECoW's role is to guide and advise on how to avoid or minimise ecological impacts during site preparation/construction[13]. An ECoW will oversee the construction period and advise on the resolution of ecological issues as they arise, to protect the on-site features, habitats and species. An ECoW will ensure that all landscaping/ecological works, including habitat creation projects and mitigation for protected species, are undertaken in accordance with the Ecological Management Plan (see below) and various method statements agreed with the Local Planning Authority. Decommissioning or demolition of some structures may also require employment of an ECoW, where potential impacts on biodiversity features may be significant.

A restoration and landscaping scheme will often be required for minerals and waste applications. At a minimum such schemes should include:

- ***Purpose and conservation objectives for the proposed works;***
- ***Review of site potential and constraints;***
- ***Detailed design(s) and/or working method(s) to achieve stated objectives;***
- ***Extent and location/area of proposed works on appropriate scale maps and plans;***
- ***Type/source of materials to be used where appropriate, e.g. native species of local provenance;***
- ***Timetable for implementation, demonstrating works are aligned with proposed development phasing;***
- ***Persons responsible for implementing the works;***
- ***Details of initial aftercare and long-term maintenance;***
- ***Details for monitoring and remedial measures;***
- ***Details for disposal of any wastes arising from works.[14]***

Stage D: Aftercare

Where habitat creation, translocation and management forms an important part of proposals (particularly in the restoration of minerals and waste sites), those habitats should be maintained and managed for 5 years. For longer management (e.g. to satisfy legislation, planning policy or requirements to establish habitat to a certain standard) the landowner or operator should be prepared to secure ongoing management via a Section 106 agreement.

Where a significant amount of habitat is to be retained, restored or created an Ecological Management Plan (EMP) may be required by condition.[15] The EMP identifies biodiversity features which will be managed to maintain and enhance the site's nature conservation value. It sets out objectives for these habitats, with detailed management specifications and a monitoring programme of 10 years or more. The EMP should be fully costed and specify how the management and monitoring will be funded.

Applicants who envisage a non-governmental or public sector organisation taking on a role in long term management should contact the appropriate organisations as early as possible, and certainly well before submitting a planning application.

[13] The Association of Environmental & Ecological Clerks of Works. 2011. About AEECoW: Role of an Env/ECoW?: http://www.aeecow.com/role. Accessed 19 November 2014.

[14] [BSI] British Standards Institution. 2013. BS42020:2013 Biodiversity – Code of practice for planning and development. Annex D.4 Conditions relating to construction and large-scale biodiversity strategies, plans and schemes. London: BSI.

[15] British Standards Institution. 2013. BS42020:2013 Biodiversity – Code of practice for planning and development. Section 9.2.3 Conditioning biodiversity/ecological strategies, plans and schemes. London: BSI.

Appendix B1: Biodiversity Checklist

Section 1A: Designated Sites and Priority Habitats

Please answer ALL questions		YES	NO
Q1	Does the application *or restoration scheme* include: ▪ A new or an increase to capacity of an existing, car park; **AND** ▪ Is located within 3km of the Upper Nene Valley Gravel Pits SPA?	☐	☐
Q2	Is the application for/does the application include: **Within 2km** of the Upper Nene Valley Gravel Pits SPA: ▪ Quarry; ▪ New/additional footprint outside existing settlements; ▪ Commercial/industrial development with internal floor space >1000m^2. **AND/OR** **Within 5km** of the Upper Nene Valley Gravel Pits SPA: ▪ Infrastructure including road, rail, pylons, pipelines (except routine maintenance. **AND/OR** **Within 10km** of the Upper Nene Valley Gravel Pits SPA: ▪ Landfill and other waste management including composting; ▪ Any industrial development including combustion sources which could cause air pollution; ▪ Discharge to surface water or ground.	☐	☐
If you have answered YES to Q1 or Q2 above, please contact Natural England to find out whether additional ecological surveys will be required			
Q3	Please check whether and how the application could affect a SSSI (at http://magic.defra.gov.uk). Based on the results, is the application: ▪ Located within an Impact Risk Zone for a SSSI; **AND** ▪ For a proposal which falls into a category specified for that Impact Risk Zone?	☐	☐
Q4	Is the development on or within 100m of a Local Wildlife Site, Potential Wildlife Site or Local Nature Reserve?	☐	☐
Q5	Are there any of the following: ▪ Semi-natural habitats (e.g. woodland, grassland, pond, hedgerow, heathland, reedbed, orchard); ▪ Previously developed (brownfield) land; ▪ Watercourse (e.g. stream, lake, ditch) on, adjacent to or near the development site?	☐	☐
If you have answered YES to ANY of the questions above Further information is required to support your application to show how the proposal has accounted for the potential impacts.		**Please go to Section 1B**	
If you have answered NO to ALL Questions 1-4 above		**Please go to Section 2A**	

Section 1B

If the answer is 'YES' to any of the questions in section 1A, the application documents must include a Biodiversity Statement which demonstrates the following:

- A map accurately delineating the extent and location of habitats and features that could be affected;
- Likely impacts of the development on designated sites/priority habitat(including from any emissions);
- How alternative designs and locations have been considered;
- How adverse impacts will be avoided;
- How any unavoidable impacts will be mitigated[16] or reduced;
- How impacts that cannot be avoided or mitigated will be compensated[17];
- A landscaping and/or restoration scheme illustrating proposals for biodiversity enhancements, either on site or on adjacent/nearby land under the applicant's control.

Any protected species statements required as indicated by Section 2 below should be integrated within the Biodiversity Statement. These reports may form part of a wider Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA).

Reports might not be required where applicants are able to provide pre-application correspondence from Natural England which confirms that they are satisfied that the proposal will not have an adverse impact on the **SPA** or **any SSSI or NNR**.

NOW PLEASE COMPLETE SECTION 2 OVERLEAF

[16] Mitigation: measures which minimise the duration, intensity and/or extent of impacts which cannot be avoided entirely
[17] Compensation: measures which counterbalance the impacts, amending damage or loss

Section 2A: Protected Species

Please answer ALL of the questions in column A below, and tick the box in column B if the answer is 'YES'. For each question, the black dots in column C indicate which species surveys are required. In the shaded row please tick the appropriate boxes to summarise all species surveys required.

A	B	C Species protected by law and for which further surveys will be required								
DEVELOPMENT PROPOSALS THAT WILL TRIGGER A PROTECTED SPECIES SURVEY	**Tick if YES ☑**	**Bats**	**Barn owl**	**Dormouse**	**Breeding birds[18]**	**Amphibians**	**Water vole**	**Badger**	**Otter**	**Reptiles**
Will the proposed works affect[19] existing buildings / structures with **ANY** of the following features? ▪ Clay-tiled pitched roofs ▪ Loft spaces (including bell towers etc) ▪ Hanging tiles ▪ Wooden cladding ▪ Open soffits ▪ Bridge structures, aqueducts or viaducts especially over water or wet ground ▪ Dense climbing plants ▪ Bird boxes (especially owl boxes) or bat boxes which have previously been fitted ▪ Large agricultural buildings, particularly but not exclusively those of a traditional construction ▪ Other buildings in a derelict or decayed state in a rural location	☐	•	•		•					
Are there streams, rivers, lakes or other watercourses/ aquatic habitat on or within 200m of the proposals?	☐	•			•		•		•	
Will the proposals affect[18] any areas of mature deciduous woodland, field hedgerows over 1m tall and over 0.5m thick, or scrub well connected to woodland or hedgerows on or adjacent to the site?	☐	•		•	•			•		

[18] In Northamptonshire most likely kingfisher, little ringed plover, peregrine, hobby, red kite, quail and Cetti's warbler.

[19] Direct impacts such as removal or modification, or indirect through disturbance such as runoff, noise, dust, lighting or increased recreational use

A	B	C Species protected by law and for which further surveys will be required								
DEVELOPMENT PROPOSALS THAT WILL TRIGGER A PROTECTED SPECIES SURVEY	**Tick if YES ☑**	**Bats**	**Barn owl**	**Dormouse**	**Breeding birds[20]**	**Amphibians**	**Water vole**	**Badger**	**Otter**	**Reptiles**
Will the proposals affect[18] any of the following ▪ Old and veteran trees ▪ Trees with obvious holes, cracks, cavities or heavy vegetation ▪ Trees with a girth over 1m at chest height	☐	•	•		•					
Is the proposal a major application within 500m or any other application within 200m of a pond?	☐					•				
Will the proposal affect[18] mature/overgrown gardens over 0.25ha, any rough grassland or derelict/brownfield land, railway land, allotments, on or adjacent to the site?	☐				•	•				•
Will the proposal affect[18] species-rich meadows or grassland on or directly adjacent to the site?	☐				•					
Please tick boxes to indicate all protected species that may be affected by the development		☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐

- If ANY of the boxes in **column B** have been ticked in response to any of the questions proceed to **Section 2B**.
- If NONE of the boxes in **column B** have been marked X in response to any of the questions go to **Section 3**.

Please note that the above list does not include all protected species and all circumstances where species may be affected. In all circumstances legislation pertaining to protected species still applies and it is the responsibility of the developer to ensure that protected species and habitats are not impacted as a result of development. If protected species are found during the course of development, work should be halted and advice sought.

[20] In Northamptonshire most likely kingfisher, little ringed plover, peregrine, hobby, red kite, quail and Cetti's warbler.

Section 2B: Assessments ONLY for species potentially impacted by the development as identified in Section 2A

For any species identified in **Section 2A** as potentially impacted by the proposal:

- Contact the Northamptonshire Biodiversity Records Centre for existing species records;
- Conduct a preliminary survey[21] to establish potential for habitat to support the species;
- Using the results of the preliminary survey, determine whether **A** or **B** below applies.

Tick the relevant box below and attach corresponding assessment to application:

A	**IF THE PRELIMINARY SURVEY INDICATES MODERATE/HIGH LIKELIHOOD OF PROTECTED SPECIES BEING PRESENT, A FULL SURVEY AND MITIGATION STATEMENT** ARE **REQUIRED**

PLEASE INCLUDE:

- Extent and location of species populations (including supporting habitats and features) that could be affected (more detailed surveys will be required);
- Likely impacts on species populations;
- How alternative designs and location have been considered;
- How adverse impacts will be avoided wherever possible;
- How unavoidable impacts will be mitigated or reduced;
- How impacts that cannot be avoided or mitigated with be compensated;
- Proposals for biodiversity enhancements.

A protected species licence may be required in order to carry out these works. Please refer to Natural England guidance.

B	**IF THE PRELIMINARY SURVEY INDICATES LITTLE/NO LIKELIHOOD OF PROTECTED SPECIES BEING PRESENT, OR NO LIKELY IMPACTS, FULL SURVEY** IS NOT **REQUIRED**

Please provide the information required to demonstrate that there will be little or no likelihood of protected species being present, or there are no likely impacts on species. This can be in the form of a brief statement or letter from a suitably qualified person.

Please note that in all circumstances legislation pertaining to protected species still applies and it is the responsibility of the developer to ensure that protected species are not impacted as a result of this development. If protected species are found during the course of the development, work should be halted and advice sought.

To improve quality of the data held by the Northamptonshire Biodiversity Records Centre, applicants are encouraged to submit to the Centre data generated by surveys.

If a Biodiversity Statement is to be submitted with the application as required by Section 1B, then please include any species surveys as well.

NOW PLEASE COMPLETE SECTION 3 OVERLEAF

[21] Surveys should:

- Be of appropriate scope and detail
- Be conducted at an appropriate time of year, in suitable weather conditions and using recognised methodologies
- Be undertaken by an appropriately qualified and experienced person
- Include copies of correspondence with nature conservation organisations (i.e. Natural England, Environment Agency)

Section 3: Validation Checklist

Please indicate below ALL biodiversity information included with this application resulting from the prompting of the biodiversity checklist.

If all required information is not included with the application it will NOT be validated.

	Tick if included	*Office use only* Required	Attached
Biodiversity Checklist SECTION 1A* (designated sites and priority habitats)		**X**	
Section 1B Biodiversity Statement			
Biodiversity Checklist SECTION 2A* (protected species)		**X**	
Section 2B Protected Species Statement(s):			
Bats			
Barn owl			
Dormouse			
Breeding birds			
Amphibians			
Water vole			
Badger			
Otter			
Reptiles			
Correspondence from nature conservation organisation/local authority/other (as indicated by the checklist)			

** required for all applications*

Thank you for completing this checklist. Please include this, and all supplementary information indicated above, along with your application.

Appendix B2:
Ecological survey seasons

	Licence?	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
Badgers	Y												
Bats (hibernation roosts)	Y												
Bats (summer roosts)	Y												
Bats (foraging/commuting)	Y												
Birds (breeding)	N												
Birds (overwintering)	N												
Dormice (nut searches)	N												
Dormice (nest searches)	Y												
Dormice (cage traps/hair tube surveys)	Y												
Fish	Some	Optimal survey season varies with species											
Great crested newts (terrestrial surveys)	Y												
Great crested newts (aquatic surveys: ponds etc)	Y												
Invertebrates	N												
Otters	Y												
Reptiles (Common lizard / Other)	Y / N												
Water voles	Y												
Habitats Phase I surveys	N												
Vegetation Mosses, lichens	N												
Vegetation Higher plants	N												