Biodiversity Checklist

**Section 1: Protected Species**

Please answer ALL questions. Please mark D in column B or **X** in column C next to ALL the questions in column A. Column D indicates the species survey required (black dots) for each question marked D.

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| A  **Proposals for development that will trigger a protected species survey**  Please note other types of applications not listed below may also have an impact on wildlife; please contact the LPA for advice if your application does not ﬁt the descriptions below | B  **Yes**  D | C  **No X** | D  **Species that may potentially be aﬀected**  **– further surveys will be required**  (see [Standing advice for protected](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/protected-species-how-to-review-planning-applications#standing-advice-for-protected-species) [species)](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/protected-species-how-to-review-planning-applications#standing-advice-for-protected-species) | | | | | | | | |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **1.** Will the proposed development involve any of the following?  ✞ Renovation or conversion of buildings including barns;  ✞ Demolition of buildings;  ✞ Disturbance to roofs and roof spaces (e.g. building extensions, loft conversions or re-rooﬁng) – see note below for Householder applications1;  ✞ Works that are likely to aﬀect exterior access to nest or roost sites (e.g. extensions built close to possible exterior roost access points);  ✞ Works to walls with hanging tiles, wooden cladding or climbing plants;  ✞ Works to underground structures such as cellars, ice- houses, tunnels, mines, kilns, adits;  ✞ Works to bridge structures; |  |  | ●  ●  ●  ●  ●  ●  ● | ●  ● |  | ●  ●  ●  ●  ●  ●  ● |  | ● |  |  |  |
| **2.** Will the proposals aﬀect any areas of 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? |  |  | ● |  | ● | ● |  |  | ● |  |  |
| **3.** Will the proposal aﬀect any of the following?  ✞ Old and veteran trees (on site or within 50m);  ✞ Trees with holes, cracks, cavities or heavy vegetation;  ✞ Trees with a girth greater than 1m at chest height;  ✞ Any of the above where next to watercourses |  |  | ●  ●  ●  ● |  |  | ●  ●  ●  ● |  | ● |  |  |  |
| **4.** Will the proposal have the potential to impact on ponds,  lakes, rivers, streams or water ﬁlled ditches (on the land or nearby within 500m and linked by habitat)? |  |  | ● |  |  | ● | ● | ● |  | ● |  |
| **5.** Will the proposal aﬀect mature/overgrown gardens, any  rough grassland or derelict land, brownﬁeld, railway land, allotments on or adjacent to the site? |  |  |  |  |  | ● |  |  | ● |  | ● |
| **6.** Will the proposal involve lighting of churches, Listed  Buildings or ﬂood lighting of green space within 50m of woodland, water, ﬁeld hedgerows or lines of trees? |  |  | ● | ● |  | ● |  |  |  |  |  |
| **7.** Will the proposal involve Major development2 within 500m of a pond or Minor development3 within 250m of pond |  |  |  |  |  |  | ● |  |  |  |  |

1

For Householder applications further bat surveys may not always be required. In certain instances detailed photos may

suﬃce to enable the LPA ecologist to review for the potential presence of bats and their roosts but if ecologists potential exists further surveys will be required.

2

Major development for housing is development where 10 or more homes will be provided, or the site has an area of 0.5

hectares or more.

3

For non-residential development it means additional ﬂoorspace of 1,000m2 or more, or a site of 1 hectare or more, or as

otherwise provided in the Town and Country Planning (Development Management Procedure) (England) Order 2015.

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|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **8.** Will the proposal involve the generation of renewable energy, e.g. wind turbines (either singly or in groups), hydro-powered schemes, or photo-voltaic arrays? | **Yes** | **No** | The impacts of these vary from case to case. Your ecologist will advise on the surveys required for your application. |
|  |  |

**Section 2: Protected and Important Habitats That May Support Protected Species**

Please answer ALL questions. Please mark a D in Yes boxes or a **X** in the No/Not Sure boxes as applicable.

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **9. Is you site within or adjacent to any of these designated habitats sites:** | **Yes** | **No** | **Not Sure** |
| ✞ Site of Special Scientiﬁc Interest (SSSI), including risk zones4 |  |  |  |
| ✞ Special Area of Conservation (SAC) 4 |  |  |  |
| ✞ Special Protection Area (SPA) 4 |  |  |  |
| ✞ Ramsar sites4 |  |  |  |
| ✞ Special Areas of Conservation (SAC) for bats - Technical Guidance available here: [https://www.somerset.gov.uk/planning-buildings-](https://www.somerset.gov.uk/planning-buildings-and-land/biodiversity-and-planning/habitat-regulations-assessment/)  [andland/biodiversity-and-planning/habitat-regulations-assessment/](https://www.somerset.gov.uk/planning-buildings-and-land/biodiversity-and-planning/habitat-regulations-assessment/) |  |  |  |
| ✞ Local Wildlife Site (LWS). (The applicant would need to apply for data from the Somerset Environmental Records Centre5) |  |  |  |
| **10. Are there any of these features within or adjacent to your site:** | **Yes** | **No** | **Not Sure** |
| ✞ Hedgerows |  |  |  |
| ✞ Woodland/trees (Ancient - on site or within 50m) |  |  |  |
| ✞ Orchards |  |  |  |
| ✞ Unimproved grassland (i.e. old ﬂower-rich meadows) |  |  |  |
| ✞ Heathland |  |  |  |
| ✞ Rivers/streams/ponds. (The applicant would need to apply for data from the Somerset Environmental Records Centre5) |  |  |  |
| ✞ Greenﬁeld land (The applicant would need to apply for data from the Somerset Environmental Records Centre5) |  |  |  |

4 Locations of statutory designated sites can be found here[:](https://magic.defra.gov.uk/MagicMap.aspx) <https://magic.defra.gov.uk/MagicMap.aspx>

A formal Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) and Appropriate Assessment may be required to be undertaken see: [Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (as](http://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2010/490/contents/made) [amended)](http://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2010/490/contents/made)

5 Somerset Environmental Records Centre https://[www.somerc.com/request-data/](http://www.somerc.com/request-data/)

If ‘**Yes’** to any of the above in **Section 1 or 2**, please include with your planning application a Wildlife/Ecology Survey undertaken by a qualiﬁed ecologist, a member of the Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management (CIEEM). This should include details of the species and/or habitat concerned, location, signiﬁcance, any anticipated impact on the species or habitat, and recommendations for mitigation. A list of Ecological consultants can be found here: [https://cieem.net/i-need/ﬁnding-a-consultant/](https://cieem.net/i-need/finding-a-consultant/)

Please note that in all circumstances legislation pertaining to protected species still applies and it is the responsibility of the applicant 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 must be halted and advice sought from Natural England (telephone 0300 060 6000).**

I hereby certify that, to the best of my knowledge, the above information is correct and accurate. Signed: ……………………………………………………………..………………. Date: ………………………………….

Site Location: ……………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………….

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**Please return this completed form with your planning application to the area team in which the application sits –**

**NORTH (former Sedgemoor) -** [**planningnorth@somerset.gov.uk**](mailto:planningnorth@somerset.gov.uk) **EAST (former Mendip) -** [**planningeast@somerset.gov.uk**](mailto:planningeast@somerset.gov.uk)

**SOUTH (former South Somerset) -** [**planningsouth@somerset.gov.uk**](mailto:planningsouth@somerset.gov.uk)

**WEST (former Somerset West and Taunton) -** [**planningwest@somerset.gov.uk**](mailto:planningwest@somerset.gov.uk)

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