Biodiversity Checklist for All Applications

~~Ref no:~~ (for office use)

Site address:

There are numerous legally protected sites of nature conservation interest across Hampshire. Hampshire also supports a wide range of legally protected species and non-statutory important sites. Developments can adversely affect these and in many cases Local Planning Authorities (LPAs) are **legally required** to address potential impacts to these. LPAs are required by the Government to consider the conservation of biodiversity when determining a planning application. Government planning policies for biodiversity are set out in Planning Policy Statement 9 – Biodiversity and Geological Conservation (PPS9). In order to meet these requirements, LPAs need to be able to understand what the potential impacts of the development might be and if there are impacts on biodiversity, how these will be avoided or mitigated.

This Checklist has been designed to help you work out if your proposal is likely to affect biodiversity, and if so, help you understand what additional information you will need to provide to support your application and how to get that information.

Guidance for applicants

If your answers to the questions in **Sections 1, 2** and / or **3** identify that your project may potentially have an adverse impact on designated sites, priority or other notable habitats or legally protected or notable species you will need to submit a Biodiversity Statement or other suitable report which demonstrates the following:

- Information about the sites, species, habitats or features that could be affected (such as location, size, abundance, importance)
- Likely impacts of your development on habitats, sites or species identified in this Checklist
- How alternative designs and locations have been considered
- How adverse impacts will be avoided
- How any unavoidable impacts will be mitigated or reduced (*see note 4*)
- How impacts that cannot be avoided or mitigated will be compensated (*see note 4*)
- Any proposals for enhancements of biodiversity

Where more targeted and specific reports are necessary (for example bat surveys), these must:

- Be undertaken by an appropriately qualified and experienced person
- Be of appropriate scope and detail (i.e. be carried out to established standards)
- Be conducted at an appropriate time of year, in suitable weather conditions and using recognised methodologies.

Reports may not be required where applicants are able to provide pre-application correspondence from Natural England, the Local Authority or their ecological adviser that confirms that they are satisfied that the proposal will not have an adverse impact on any features identified in Sections 1, 2 or 3.

The application may not be validated if any of the information submitted proves to be inadequate. If validated and the information is subsequently found not to fully address any potential impacts then further information may be required during the course of any planning application, for instance if any of the information you have provided needs clarification, or if other potential impacts are identified. If sufficient information on ecological issues is not provided by the time the application needs to be determined, the application may be refused.

It is strongly advised that you consider biodiversity at the **earliest** possible stage in your project as there are seasonal constraints to much of the survey work that may be needed to support your application.

For further advice on competent ecologists that can undertake specialist survey work, please see the Institute of Ecological and Environmental Management http://www.ieem.net in the first instance.

ARUN DISTRICT COUNCIL LU/204/13/L

SECTION 1 – Legally protected sites for nature conservation

PROPOSAL DETAILS Please answer ALL questions **Yes** or **No** by marking the appropriate box against each question	YES	NO	If you have answered '**YES**' to any of these, is it likely that the development would have an impact on the identified site? (*see note 2*) Please explain why / why not, or state if further information is provided
1.1 Is the application for any of the following: • >0.5ha in area • >10 units/dwellings • power station • sewage treatment works • fish farm • industrial/agricultural development next to or discharging pollutants into a water course • a new road scheme AND within 2km of a **SAC**,**SP A** or **Ramsar** site? (*see notes 1 and 1a*)		✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓	
1.2 Is the application for any of the following: • power station • sewage treatment works • fish farm • industrial/agricultural development next to or discharging pollutants into a water course • a new road or rail scheme • any new housing units • any new industrial units • other infrastructure and services • industrial estate • service station • golf course • leisure centre/stadium • car park • industrial or agricultural unit with large powder or liquid discharges AND within 500m of a **SSSI**? (*see note 1*)		✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓	

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SECTION 2 – Habitats

PROPOSAL DETAILS Please answer ALL questions **Yes** or **No** by marking the appropriate box against each question ***NB:*** *If Yes, there may be a* ***SINC**** *,* ***Priority Habitat**** *or other important feature within or adjacent to the application site – please see note 3 for further information on identifying these.*	**YES**	**NO**	Is it likely that the development would have an impact (*see note* 2) on this? Please explain why / why not, or state if further information is provided
2.1 Are any of the following present on or within 100m of the application site?			
a) *Broad-leaved woodland*		✓	
b) *Veteran (particularly old / large) trees*		✓	
c) *Water courses (rivers or streams)*		✓	
d) *Lakes or ponds*		✓	
e) *Wetlands or marshes*		✓	
f) *Flower-rich meadow / grassland*		✓	
g) *Water meadow*		✓	
h) *Heathland*		✓	
i) *Mature hedgerow*		✓	

* SINC – Site of Importance for Nature Conservation. These are not legally protected, but are identified in the LPA's Local Plan as being of importance for biodiversity and are considered during the planning process – see http://www3.hants.gov.uk/biodiversity/hampshire/sincs.htm

** Priority Habitat – natural or semi-natural habitats that have been identified as being at risk (in that they are rare or in decline) or that are important for certain key species of plant or animal - http://www.naturalengland.org.uk/ourwork/conservation/biodiversity/protectandmanage/prioritylist.aspx

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Section 3 – Legally protected species

PROPOSAL DETAILS Please answer ALL questions **Yes** or **No** by marking the appropriate box against each question	YES	NO	If you have ticked **'YES'** to any of these, you will need to consider potential impacts to the following:	Survey attached?
3.1 Will the proposal affect any of the following features / structures? (*see note 2*)				
a) *buildings with hanging tiles (see note 5), timber cladding or weatherboarding where the building is within 200m of woodland or water*		✓	▪ Bats and bat roosts	No. DUE TO THE NATURE OF THE ROOF (MONOPITCH FULLY LAPPED ASBESTOS SHEETING) THERE ARE NO ACCESS POINTS. ROOF VOID IS NOT CONDUCIVE TO BAT ROOSTING SHAPE
b) *pre-1960 buildings or structures within 200m of woodland and/or water*		✓		
c) *pre-1914 buildings or structures within 400m of woodland and/or water*	✓			
d) *pre-1914 buildings with gable ends, peg tile / traditional clay tile roofs or slate roofs, hanging tiles or weatherboarding regardless of location*		✓		
e) *underground structures (e.g cellars, caves or mines)*		✓		
f) *bridges or similar structures*		✓		
g) *structures where there is known current or historic bat use*		✓		
3.2 agricultural buildings particularly of traditional brick, timber or stone construction and/or with exposed timber beams greater than 20cm thick		✓	▪ Bats and bat roosts ▪ Barn owl ▪ Nesting birds	
3.3 other large agricultural buildings		✓	▪ Barn owls	
3.4 Will the proposal affect trees with any of the following features? (*see note 2*)				
a) *old and veteran trees*		✓	▪ Bats and bat roosts ▪ Nesting birds	
b) *trees with obvious holes, cracks, cavities or heavy vegetation*		✓		
c) *trees with a circumference greater than 1m at chest height*		✓		

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Section 3 continued

PROPOSAL DETAILS Please answer ALL questions **Yes** or **No** by marking the appropriate box against each question	YES	NO	If you have ticked '**YES**' to any of these, you will need to consider potential impacts to the following:	Survey attached?
3.5 Are there streams, rivers or lakes on or within 25m of the application site that would be affected (including their banks and adjacent habitat) by the development?		✓	▪ Bat foraging habitat ▪ Otters ▪ Water vole ▪ White-clawed crayfish	
3.6 Will the proposals affect (see *note 2*) any of the following features?				
a) *deciduous (i.e. not mainly conifer) woodland?*		✓	▪ Bat foraging habitat (see note 1a) ▪ Dormice ▪ Breeding birds ▪ Badger	
b) *field hedgerows over 1m tall and over 0.5m thick?*		✓		
c) *areas of scrub well-connected to woodland or hedgerows?*		✓		
3.7 Is the proposal either: - a major application (>0.5ha, >10 dwellings or >1000m^2 floor space for non-residential) within 500m of a pond, - or any other application within 200m of a pond where water in the pond(s) at its highest level (excluding flood events), is 225m^2 (c.15m x 15m)?		✓	▪ Amphibians (particularly with respect to great crested newts)	
3.8 Will the proposal affect mature/overgrown gardens over 0.25ha, or any rough grassland, derelict/brownfield land, railway land or allotments? (*see note 2*).		✓	▪ Reptiles ▪ Breeding birds	
3.9 Will the proposal affect flower-rich meadows or grassland on or directly adjacent to the site? (*see note 2*).		✓	▪ Breeding birds	

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Notes

- ***Note 1***

You can find out if your application site is on or near any of these sites from www.natureonthemap.org.uk, www.magic.gov.uk or the LPA's Local Plan Proposals Map.

SSSI = Site of Special Scientific Interest (designated and protected under UK law); SAC = Special Area of Conservation; SPA = Special Protection Area (these are designated and protected under EU law and are also SSSIs); Ramsar site = internationally important wetland, designated under the Ramsar Convention – these will also be SPAs / SACs and SSSIs. See http://www.naturalengland.org.uk/ourwork/conservation/designatedareas/default.aspx for more information.

- ***Note 1a - Mottisfont Bats SAC:***

NB: If the above search identifies that the proposals are within 7.5km of the Mottisfont Bats SAC and the proposals affect any significant trees, watercourses, lakes, deciduous woodland, hedgerows or meadows or other more ecologically diverse grassland then further consideration of potential impacts may be required. You should discuss this with your ecologist.

- ***Note 2***

Effects could be DIRECT, such as destruction, removal or modification, or INDIRECT through disturbance such as run-off, noise, dust, lighting or increased recreational use.

- ***Note 3***

Areas of designated Ancient Woodland and some Priority Habitats can be found on www.magic.gov.uk. The LPA's Local Plan Proposals Map may identify the location of any SINCs. Ordnance survey maps may also help.

- ***Note 4***

Avoidance = measures taken to avoid impacts – should be the first considerations; Mitigation = measures which make unavoidable impacts less severe; Compensation = measures which counterbalance remaining impacts, resulting in an overall no net loss of biodiversity. (NB 'Mitigation' as a general term, or a 'mitigation strategy' is often used to cover all these processes).

- ***Note 5 – a note on hanging tiles.***

This checklist, where relating to potential impacts on **bats**, is adapted from the Bat Conservation Trust's guidelines (see http://www.bats.org.uk/pages/guidanceforprofessionals.html) on where bats might reasonably be likely to be found. However bats can be found in other locations, types or areas of buildings. It is particularly important to note that where a building has **hanging tiles** but is not within 200m of woodland or water, there is still potentially a reasonable likelihood of bats being present and a survey may be required in situations other than those specifically identified in this checklist.

Important: this checklist cannot include *all* protected species and *all* circumstances where they may be affected. Legislation relating to protected species applies in all circumstances 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 from Natural England or a qualified ecologist.

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