

Biodiversity Checklist

Will the proposals affect any of the following?:	Circle if applicable	Reference Section Number (see bottom of page)	Circle if applicable	
Roof of a building	Yes	Bats may be an issue, refer to 1A	No	No further information required
Bridge, tunnel, culvert, kiln, ice house or cellar	Yes	Bats may be an issue, refer to 1B	No	No further information required
Old building with gaps in walls, around eaves, beneath tiles, around soffit boxes, external weatherboarding	Yes	Bats may be an issue, refer to 1C	No	No further information required
Mature tree with cavities and crevices	Yes	Bats may be an issue, refer to 1C	No	No further information required
Barns	Yes	Bats and barn owls may be an issue, refer to 1C and 4	No	No further information required
Large holes in the ground, grassland with regular digging activity, sites where badgers are known to be present	Yes	Badgers may be an issue, refer to 6	No	No further information required
Any still (not flowing) water bodies on or adjacent to the site	Yes	Newts may be an issue, refer to 2	No	No further information required
Long grass, overgrown areas, nettles, weeds etc. Overgrown brownfield sites and overgrown gardens	Yes	Newts and reptiles may be an issue, refer to 2 and 3	No	No further information required
Scrub, brambles adjacent to grassland	Yes	Reptiles may be an issue, refer to 3	No	No further information required
Scrub, brambles connected to woodland (directly or via hedgerows)	Yes	Dormice may be an issue, refer to 8	No	No further information required
Hedgerows	Yes	Newts, reptiles and dormice may be an issue, refer to 2, 3 and 8	No	No further information required
Woodland	Yes	Newts, badgers, dormice and bats may be an issue, refer to 1C, 2, 6	No	No further information required

		and 8		
Wet ditches and rivers	Yes	Water voles and otters may be an issue, refer to 5 and 7	No	No further information required
Reedbeds	Yes	The habitat may be of high ecological value, refer to 9	No	No further information required
Orchards	Yes	The habitat may be of high ecological value, refer to 9	No	No further information required
Wildflower rich meadow	Yes	The habitat may be of high ecological value, refer to 9	No	No further information required
Fen, marsh, swamp	Yes	The habitat may be of high ecological value, refer to 9	No	No further information required
Wet meadow	Yes	The habitat may be of high ecological value, refer to 9	No	No further information required
Wood pasture parkland	Yes	The habitat may be of high ecological value, refer to 9	No	No further information required
Nesting Birds – do you have any trees, shrubs, extensive areas of long grass, or buildings to which birds have access? Please confirm that:	Yes	I will commence tree / building works outside of March – August, or carry out a check for nests prior to commencing works	No	No potential bird nesting habitat is present, and no further precautions are required
Are your proposals likely to have an impact upon any of the designated sites listed in section 10 below?	Yes	Further surveys may be required to determine the likely impact of the works upon the designated site	No	No further information required
IMPORTANT: If you do not believe that any of the features listed below will be affected by your proposals, or if you do not believe that you require further survey or opinion from a professional ecologist, please provide a short 'Self Assessment Statement' detailing what you have done to check whether any of the species listed above are present, and / or why you believe that they are not present. Useful links are provided in each section below to help in your assessment.				

Reference Section

1A	Summer roosts are used roughly between May and September inclusive, and may be used by hundreds of bats for breeding, or by small numbers of bats simply for roosting. Generally conditions need to be dry, and often warm, such as a south facing roof face. Bats will use any building which provides cracks or crevices beneath which bats can roost, including loose tiles, gaps beneath eaves (both of which can also provide access to the roof), hanging tiles, warped weatherboarding, loose barge boards, loose soffit boards or cracks in walls. Gaps around 10mm wide are frequently used by bats, and these gaps may not be visible from the ground. The likelihood of bat presence is increase in an area with large numbers of trees, hedges, ponds, rivers or meadows. Some bats will roost and fly within an enclosed roof space. Here droppings can be obvious, equal in size or slightly larger than mice droppings, but with a crumbly texture. Accepted survey period: Building inspections – any time Roost surveys – May to September inclusive For more information refer to: http://www.naturalengland.org.uk/Images/Bats_tcm6-21717.pdf
1B	During winter bats need cool, constant temperatures in which to hibernate. These conditions are generally found in stone / thick brick buildings, and in underground buildings. An access gap of around 10mm is required. Accepted survey period: Building inspections – any time Hibernation surveys – December to February inclusive For more information refer to: http://www.naturalengland.org.uk/Images/Bats_tcm6-21717.pdf
1C	Any structure which provides both summer and hibernation bat roosting opportunities. Trees with cavities, cracks and loose bark can provide year-round roosting habitat for bats. Will require both summer and hibernation surveys. Timings as per 1A and 1B
2	Newts breed and lay eggs in still water bodies of any size, but spend most of their life on land. They travel around 250m from their breeding pond to feed on insects, and to hibernate under logs, large stones and in empty mammal burrows.

	Typical habitats are woodland, scrub, long grassland, wasteland and nettle / weedy habitats. If any of these habitats are likely to be affected by your proposals AND there is a pond within 250m of your site, a newt survey will be required. Accepted survey period: Mid-March to mid-June For more information refer to: http://www.naturalengland.org.uk/Images/GreatCrestedNewts_tcm6-21705.pdf
3	Reptiles use long, thick grass, weedy areas and scrub to hunt for insects and breed. During winter they hibernate under logs, large stones and in empty mammal burrows. Accepted survey period: April to September inclusive For more information refer to: http://www.naturalengland.org.uk/Images/Reptiles_tcm6-21712.pdf
4	Barn owls often use old barns and traditional agricultural buildings in which to nest. Accepted survey period: To identify possible presence of nesting barn owls – anytime To confirm presence of nesting barn owls – April to August inclusive For more information refer to: http://www.naturalengland.org.uk/Images/BreedingBirds_tcm6-21703.pdf
5	Water voles can be found in vegetated water ways from small, wet ditches to rivers. They burrow into the banks and forage amongst the bankside vegetation. Accepted survey period: March to October inclusive, preferably with one survey March to June, and a second survey July to October For more information refer to: http://www.naturalengland.org.uk/Images/WaterVoles_tcm6-21714.pdf
6	Badgers live underground in large burrows. The burrows tend to be larger than rabbits, and located in woodland, amongst scrub, along hedge lines or in other embankments.

	Accepted survey period: Sett identification – any time Confirmation of breeding sett – March and April Analysis of social groups – February to April inclusive, September For more information refer to: http://www.naturalengland.org.uk/Images/Badgers_tcm6-21692.pdf
7	Otters can be found in any freshwater habitat. They tend to rest in undisturbed areas with dense scrub, wood piles and lifted tree roots. Accepted survey period: Anytime For more information refer to: http://www.naturalengland.org.uk/Images/Otters_tcm6-21615.pdf
8	Dormice are generally associated with large woodlands, particularly those of ancient origin. However they will also use species rich scrub and thick hedgerows in areas where wood, scrub and hedgerow connectivity is good. Accepted survey period: April to November inclusive For more information refer to: http://www.naturalengland.org.uk/Images/Dormice_tcm6-21704.pdf
9	These rare habitats have been identified as part of a national effort to safeguard biodiversity, and are habitats of principle importance. National planning policy places a clear responsibility on Local Planning Authorities to further the conservation of these habitats where a planning proposal may adversely affect them An ecology survey is likely to be required to confirm whether or not these habitats are of value and worthy of protection. Many will support protected species, and require further survey. Meadows and marshes may support newts or reptiles, wood pasture may support roosting bats. All have the potential to require specialist botanical and / or insect surveys which are generally carried out between April and August inclusive.
10	Designated Sites: Sites of Special Scientific Interest: Crouch and Roach Estuaries, Thrift Wood, Hanningfield Reservoir, Blake’s Wood and Lingwood Common, Danbury Common, Newney Greenpit Special Areas of Conservation: Essex Estuaries Local Nature Reserves: Chelmer Valley Riverside, Galleywood Common The exact locations of these sites can be found on http://www.natureonthemap.naturalengland.org.uk/map.aspx

	In a very general sense, works on existing buildings are unlikely to have an effect upon these designated sites. Other works, or those on large sites, have the potential to affect these designated sites directly via unplanned events such as pollution of connecting water courses, or indirectly through disturbance of the wildlife which uses these sites. Disturbance ranges from excessive noise or lighting to increased use by people.
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	Any predicted impacts upon these designated sites will need to be fully assessed, and methods of working proposed to prevent the works having an adverse impact upon these sites and / or the wildlife which they support.
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