

## BIODIVERSITY QUESTIONNAIRE



The purpose of the biodiversity questionnaire is to assess the likely presence of protected habitats and species within or in close proximity to the application site. All of these protected habitats and species are afforded varying levels of protection under European and/or UK legislation and applicants are reminded that it is the developer's responsibility to ensure that the proposed development does not result in harm being caused to any protected habitats or species and that, in many cases, it is an offence to cause such harm.

The council also has a duty to protect and conserve biodiversity in all of its functions. The biodiversity questionnaire will identify those important habitats and species that need to be protected and conserved from a series of questions and answers. **It is important therefore for both the applicant and the council that the following questions are answered accurately.**

This questionnaire will then allow the council to assess whether further information is required in respect of protected species and their habitats. If any information that is subsequently requested is not received, you are advised that your planning application will not be validated. If the information provided is not sufficiently detailed, you are further advised that the application may not be successful.

### **Internationally important sites:**

- Is the development within 2km of a Special Protection Area/Ramsar Site or Special Area of Conservation (SAC)?

**YES / NO**

*Currently, sites of international importance within the District are located only within Rye Meads and Amwell Quarry and a SAC at Wormley-Hoddesdonpark Woods. Within 2km of these areas written ecological reports will be required, unless the applicant is able to provide written notification from Natural England confirming that they are satisfied that the proposed development will not have a detrimental impact on any SAC or SPA site.*

### **Nationally important sites:**

- Does the proposed development affect, or is it within 500 metres, of a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI)?

**YES / NO**

If yes, you will need to consider whether the proposed development could result in damage to the wildlife value of the site and you should consult with Natural England to clarify.

It may be necessary to submit supporting information, from Natural England and/or in the form of a written report, showing that the proposal will not impact on the SSSI. You should submit copies of any correspondence with your planning application.

### **County Wildlife Sites:**

- Does the proposed development affect, or is it adjacent to, a County Wildlife Site (WS)?

**YES / NO**

### **Buildings:**

- Does the proposed development include the demolition, modification, or conversion of buildings and structures of the following types and structures:-

1. Any agricultural buildings (farm houses and barns), particularly of traditional brick or stone with exposed wooden beams?

**YES / NO**

2. Proposals for the demolition or removal of buildings and structures, especially those with roof voids and gable ends or tile/slate roofs, regardless of location.

**YES / NO**

3. Any buildings with weather boarding and/or hanging tiles that are within 200m of woodland and/or water.

**YES / NO**

4. Pre-1960 detached buildings and structures within 200m of woodland and/or water.

**YES / NO**

5. Pre-1914 buildings within 400m of woodland and/or water.

**YES / NO**

6. Any Listed Buildings.

**YES / NO**

7. Any works to tunnels, culverts, kilns, ice-houses, chalk mines, and cellars with access to the outside.

**YES / NO**

8. Any works to bridge structures, aqueducts and viaducts, particularly those over water.

**YES / NO**

9. Any proposals for the exterior lighting of churches and Listed Buildings or the floodlighting of green space and manèges, within 50 metres of woodland, rivers, lakes, hedgerows and lines of trees, particularly if they connect with woodland and waterbodies.

**YES / NO**

### **Habitats**

- Is the development proposal in a setting with any of the following features: mature woodland, hedgerows, trees, scrub, grassland, rivers, lakes, marshes, ponds and ditches?

**YES / NO**

- Does the development involve the felling of any trees, particularly mature trees with hollows, cracks, crevices and loose bark?

**YES / NO**

- Does the development involve the removal of a traditional orchard, scrub, lines of trees, hedgerows and shrubs?  
**YES / NO**
- Does the development affect, or is it within, 100 metres of a river, stream, ditch, canal, lake or pond?  
**YES / NO**
- Does the development affect, or is it within, 100 metres of a quarry, gravel or clay pit?  
**YES / NO**
- Does the development affect, or is it within, 100 metres of allotments or railway land?  
**YES / NO**
- Does the development affect, or is it adjacent to, an area of rough grassland, scrub or derelict land?  
**YES / NO**
- Does the development site contain any piles of wood, rubble, woodchip, compost or manure heaps?  
**YES / NO**

If you answer 'yes' to any of the above questions, you will need to consider whether the proposed development could result in damage to the wildlife value of the site. It may be necessary to submit supporting information, in the form of a written report, showing that the proposal will not impact on any protected habitat or species. If impacts are identified, it will be necessary to submit written information on how the impacts will be mitigated. You should therefore consult with either a suitably qualified ecologist or with the Hertfordshire Biological Records Centre (HBRC) and submit copies of any correspondence with your planning application – HBRC can be contacted at HBRC, Environment, Hertfordshire County Council, County Hall, Pegs Lane, Hertford, SG13 8DN. You are advised, however, that there may be a charge for this pre-application advice.

**Site Address:**.....

**Details of person responsible for completing the checklist:**

**Name:**.....

**Relationship to proposal:**.....

e.g. applicant, agent, ecological consultant.

**Declaration:**

Being familiar with the proposed development and the site in question, the information supplied is correct to the best of my knowledge.

**Signed:**.....

**Date:**.....

**Please return this questionnaire to the Local Planning Authority with your planning application.**