

## 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. Habitats and species may be afforded varying levels of protection under European and/or UK legislation. Applicants are reminded that it is the developer's responsibility to ensure that a proposed development does not result in harm being caused to any protected habitats or species. Any harm caused by the development may result in an offence being committed.

The Council also has a duty to protect and conserve biodiversity in all of its functions under the 2006 Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act. The biodiversity questionnaire will help identify those important habitats and species that may need to be considered in any proposal. **It is important therefore for both the applicant and the council that the following questions are answered accurately.**

This questionnaire will enable you and the Council to assess whether further information is required, particularly in respect of protected species and their habitats. If any such information is not received, you are advised that your planning application will not be validated and that if the information provided is not sufficient, you are further advised that the application may not be successful.

### **Works affecting designated Sites**

#### Nationally and Internationally important sites:

Is the proposed development in or within 100 metres of the following:

1. Special Area of Conservation,(SAC);
2. Special Protection Area (SPA);
3. Ramsar Site
4. 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 interest of the site and you may need to consult with Natural England for advice. It may be necessary to submit evidence demonstrating that the proposal will not detrimentally impact on the site.

#### County Wildlife Sites:

- Does the proposed development affect land within or adjacent to, a County Wildlife Site (CWS)?

**YES / NO**

If yes, you will need to consider whether the proposed development could result in damage to the wildlife interest of the site and you may need to consult with a suitably qualified Ecologist for advice. It may be necessary to submit evidence demonstrating that the proposal will not detrimentally impact on the CWS.

### **Works affecting existing built environments**

Does the proposed development include:

1. The demolition of buildings and structures; or the modification of buildings affecting roof voids, gable ends, exposed beams, tile/slate roofs, weather boarding, hanging tiles or involving listed buildings?  
**YES / NO**
2. Any works to bridges, aqueducts, viaducts, tunnels, culverts, kilns, ice-houses, chalk mines, and cellars with access to the outside?  
**YES / NO**
3. Any proposals for the exterior lighting of churches, Listed Buildings, manèges or other formal sporting facilities within 50m of a semi-natural feature outlined below?  
**YES / NO**

### **Works affecting semi-natural habitats and features**

Does the proposed development remove, modify or introduce disturbance to:

1. Woodland, trees (particularly mature trees with hollows, cracks, crevices and loose bark, or mature fruit trees), scrub, hedgerows?  
**YES / NO**
2. Semi-natural or rough grassland, roadside verges or arable field margins?  
**YES / NO**
3. Wetland habitats such as a river, stream, ditch, canal, lake, pond, marsh or area subject to seasonal flooding?  
**YES / NO**
4. A gravel or clay pit or quarry?  
**YES / NO**
5. Allotments or railway land?  
**YES / NO**
6. Previously disturbed or derelict land, with significant bare ground, piles of wood, rubble, woodchip, compost or manure heaps, or otherwise rough vegetation?  
**YES / NO**
7. Does the development affect land within 50m of any of the above?  
**YES / NO**

If you answer 'yes' to any of the above questions, you will need to consider whether the proposed development could result in harm to any associated wildlife. It may be necessary to submit a survey and report, showing how the proposal will avoid impact on any protected habitat or species or if not, how this would be dealt with by mitigation or compensation.

To help determine what would be reasonably required by the Council, you should contact a suitably qualified Ecologist who may need to undertake surveys and provide appropriate recommendations for submission with your application. Copies of any correspondence or reports should be submitted with your planning application. Further advice may be available from Hertfordshire Ecology who can be contacted at Environmental Resource Planning, Hertfordshire County Council, County Hall, Pegs Lane, Hertford, SG13 8DN Tel: 01992 555220 or [ecology@hertfordshire.gov.uk](mailto:ecology@hertfordshire.gov.uk). You are advised, however, that the County Council may charge for this pre-application advice.

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

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**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.**