

**Planning application requirements (local) for  
Biodiversity Conservation survey and report**

**The Fenland biodiversity checklist  
(major proposals including EIA development)**

**In accordance with  
The Town and Country Planning Development Management Procedure Order 2015**

## Biodiversity Checklist to accompany planning applications

Please refer to the Validation local requirements which specify the types of application which must be accompanied by this checklist. Where identified as required any surveys must also accompany an application.

### Question 1: Pre-existing knowledge

To the best of your knowledge are any protected species such as, but not limited to, bats, specially protected birds such as barn owl or kingfisher, great crested newts, reptiles, water voles, badgers or otters present within the site or would be affected by the proposal?

Yes

No

If Yes, please provide further details:

### Question 2: Water Voles

Does the proposal affect or is it within 5m of a river, stream, ditch, canal or lake?

Yes

No

### Question 3: Great Crested Newts

Applicable to all applications except Section 73 (Variation/removal of Condition), Reserved Matters, or Change of Use applications involving no building works or not resulting in disturbance to land.

Which Great Crested Newt protection zone does the site fall within?

Red

Amber

Green

If in a Red or Amber zone, a survey or evidence of the appropriate licence will be required (unless the application does not affect the ground e.g. roof alterations)

If in a Green zone, is the application within 500m of a pond?

Yes

No

If yes, a survey will be required (unless the proposal is not affecting the ground, eg. roof alterations).

For more information on the appropriate survey or evidence of the District Level Licence Please refer to guidance on Fenland District Council website: [www.fenland.gov.uk/planningandbuilding](http://www.fenland.gov.uk/planningandbuilding)

### Question 4: Bats

Does the proposed development constitute or include the modification conversion, demolition or removal of buildings and structures (especially roof voids) involving the following:

- All agricultural buildings (e.g. farmhouses and barns) particularly of traditional brick or stone construction and/or with exposed wooden beams greater than 20cm thick?

- All buildings with weather boarding and/or hanging tiles that are within 200m of woodland and/or water?
- Pre-1960 detached buildings and structures within 200m of woodland and/or water?
- Pre-1914 buildings within 400m of woodland and/or water?
- Pre-1914 buildings with gable ends or slate roofs, regardless of location?
- All tunnels, kilns, ice-houses, adits, military fortifications, air raid shelters, cellars and similar underground ducts and structures?
- Proposals affecting gravel pits or quarries and natural cliff faces and rock outcrops with crevices or caves?
- All bridge structures, aqueducts and viaducts (especially over water and wet ground)?
- Lighting of churches and listed buildings or flood lighting of green space within 50m of woodland, water, field hedgerows or lines of trees with obvious connectivity to woodland or water?
- Affecting woodland, or field hedgerows and/or lines of trees especially those with obvious connectivity to woodland or water bodies?
- Proposals affecting or within 200\*m of rivers, streams, canals, lakes, or other aquatic habitats.
- Buildings and walls with thick, dense ivy covering?
- Tall walls (higher than 2 m) with crevices present?
- Proposed tree work (felling or lopping) and/or development affecting:
  - old and veteran trees, and trees that are older than 100 years?
  - trees with obvious holes, cracks or cavities?
  - trees with a girth greater than 1m at chest height?
  - trees with substantial coverings of ivy?

Yes

No

## Question 5: Birds

Is the proposal likely to affect any of the following protected bird species:

- 1) Those listed on Schedule 1 of the Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981 (as amended)?  
[http://jncc.defra.gov.uk/pdf/waca1981\\_schedule1.pdf](http://jncc.defra.gov.uk/pdf/waca1981_schedule1.pdf)
- 2) Those listed as Species of Principle Importance in England under S41 of the NERC Act?  
<http://www.naturalengland.org.uk/ourwork/conservation/biodiversity/protectandmanage/habandspeciesimportance.aspx>
- 3) Those associated with the Nene Washes (or other National or European designated sites if relevant)?  
<http://jncc.defra.gov.uk/pdf/SPA/UK9008031.pdf>

Yes

No

## Question 6: Badgers and/or Reptiles

Does the building and associated working area of your proposal directly affect any derelict (brown- field) land, allotments, woodland or linear features e.g. hedgerows, ditches or rows of trees?

Yes

No

## Further action for questions 2-6:

Where a positive answer is given to any of questions 2 to 6, relevant protected species survey work should be carried out by a suitably experienced ecologist and a report must accompany the planning application.

Alternatively you may provide evidence (e.g. statement from a suitably qualified ecologist) to demonstrate that no priority species or habitats are likely to be impacted on by your proposals to rule out the need for further survey work.

### Question 7: Nationally and Locally important wildlife sites

Will the proposal impact (directly or indirectly) on a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI), Regionally Important Geological Site (RIGS) or County Wildlife Site (CWS)?

Yes

No

If Yes, please provide further evidence with your planning submission including the amount (sq m) of affected sites. Please also state the relevant section within your Environmental Statement where this information may be found:

Please note, answers to Questions 8 and 9 are only required for EIA Development

### Question 8: Habitats of Principle Importance for Conservation

Will your proposal result in a net gain in Priority Habitats?

Yes

No

Please state the relevant section within your Environmental Statement where this information may be found or alternatively please complete the following table:

**Amount (Ha) of Habitats of Principle Importance for Conservation created and/or enhanced which can be attributed to proposed development**

	Existing	Proposed habitat (ha or linear metres)				
Local BAP Habitat	Existing habitat (Ha or linear m)	Existing habitat Loss	Habitat retained (current condition)	Habitat retained & enhanced	New habitat created	Comments
Arable field margins						
Fenland drainage ditches						
Fens						
Floodplain and grazing marsh						
Hedgerows						
Lowland chalk grassland						
Neutral grassland						

Open mosaic habitats on previously developed land						
Ponds, lakes and standing water						
Reedbeds						
Rivers and streams						
Traditional orchards						
Veteran trees and parklands						
Wet woodland						
Lowland mixed						
Deciduous woodland						
<b>Totals</b>					Ha (+ m)	

### Question 9: Green Infrastructure (GI)

Will your proposal result in a net gain in GI (excluding Priority Habitats)

Yes

No

Please also state the relevant section within your Environmental Statement where this information may be found or alternatively please complete the following table:

#### Amount and quality of green infrastructure attributed to proposed development

	Existing	Proposed Green Infrastructure (ha or linear metres or number if mature trees)				
Green Infrastructure (GI) Types	Existing GI (Ha or linear metres)	Existing habitat Loss	Habitat retained (current condition)	Habitat retained & enhanced	New habitat created	Comments
Individual broadleaf and/ or coniferous trees						
Non-BAP grassland						
Non-BAP Wetland habitat						

Non-BAP Woodland						
Other						
<b>Totals</b>					Ha + no of trees	

## Impact on Public Rights of Way Network

Will the proposal permanently affect the public rights of way network?

Yes

No

<b>PROW Network – Adversely Affected (Loss) (Length - linear metres)</b>	<b>PROW Network – Adversely Affected (Qualitative loss)</b>	<b>PROW Network – Enhancement (Gain) (Length - linear metres)</b>	<b>PROW Network – Enhancement (Qualitative Improvements)</b>
e.g. x m of footpath to be lost.	e.g. x m of bridleway to be downgraded to footpath status	e.g. Additional x m of footpath - permissive right of way.	e.g. x m of existing Green Wheel route to be upgraded to bridleway status

## Declaration: Details of person responsible for completing checklist

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Relationship to proposal: \_\_\_\_\_  
(e.g. agent, applicant, ecological consultant).

Being familiar with the proposal and site in question the information supplied above is correct to the best of my knowledge.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_