



Technical Advice Note

Biodiversity

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Introduction

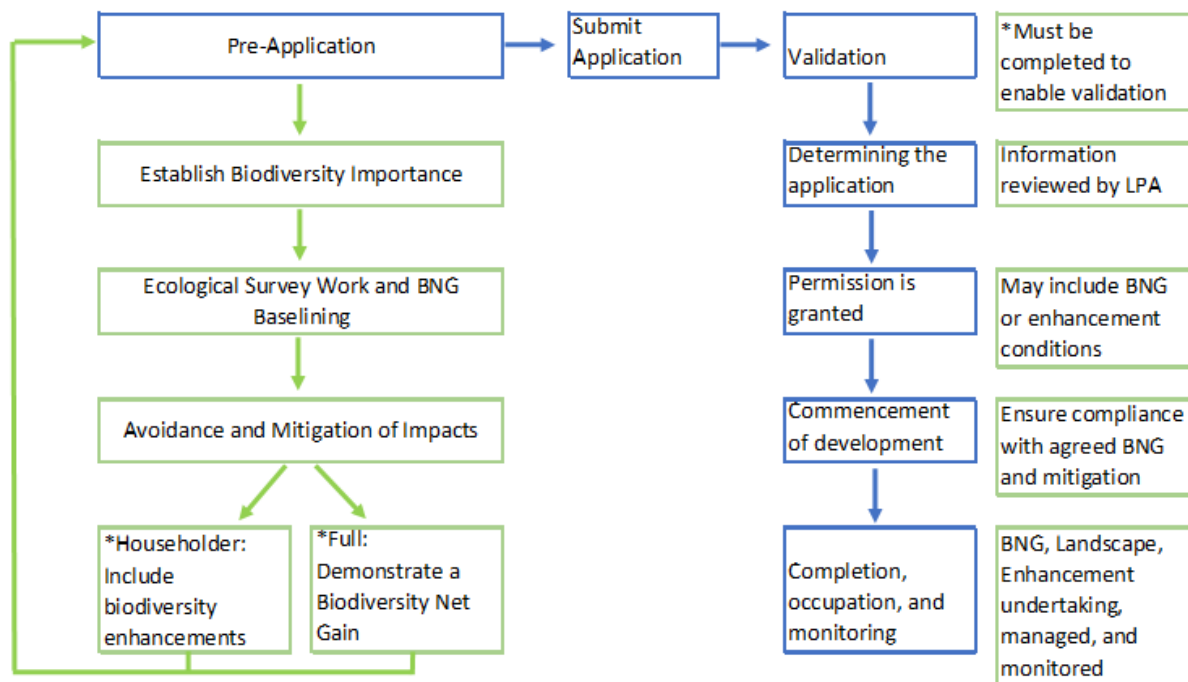
- 1 This Technical Advice Note (TAN) provides guidance on how to address biodiversity matters when preparing a planning application and sets out the information required in support of a planning application.
- 2 This TAN is not adopted policy and should not be read as such, but it is guidance designed to help applicants meet the requirements for biodiversity set out in legislation and national and local planning policies.
- 3 The process for considering biodiversity impacts outlined in this TAN is relevant to all those preparing planning applications. However, legislation requires that BNG information is required for most major developments, and proposals requiring full applications may require additional biodiversity information than for more straightforward householder proposals.
- 4 Hart District has extensive areas noted for their biodiversity value, with many covered by statutory protections and others designated locally. In addition, many habitats, animals and plants are protected by law because they are irreplaceable, rare or endangered.
- 5 Policy NBE4 of the [Hart Local Plan \(Strategy and Sites\) 2032 \(HLP32\)](#) requires all development proposals to avoid negative impacts on existing biodiversity, and provide a net gain where possible. [The Environment Act 2021](#) makes a net gain of 10% mandatory for applicable development. See Appendix 1 for more information on the relevant planning policies and legislation.
- 6 This TAN does not cover measures to avoid or mitigate any potential adverse effects on the Thames Basin Heath Special Protection Area (see [HLP32](#) Policy NBE3 and relevant [guidance](#)).
- 7 The Council offers [pre-application advice](#) which can help to identify and overcome potential issues before submitting a planning application and can speed up the planning application process.

Key messages:

- Consider biodiversity as an ‘opportunity’ at the earliest stage
- Undertake all appropriate survey work before submitting a planning application, including biodiversity net gain assessment where appropriate.
- Follow the mitigation hierarchy (avoid, mitigate, compensate)
- Design high quality, relevant biodiversity net gain on-site, or identify off-site opportunities/credits, and design other ecological enhancement into the scheme.

The planning application process

- 8 An overview of the planning application process is shown in the flow chart below.



- 9 The process can be seen as a series of steps 1 to 9 discussed below.
- 10 Steps 1 to 4 precede the submission of a planning application.

Step 1 Establish biodiversity importance – what is the likelihood of biodiversity impacts arising from your proposal, does it qualify for BNG?

Step 2 Ecology Survey Work (if necessary)

Step 3 Avoidance and mitigation of impacts

Step 4 Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) and other enhancements

Steps 1 to 4 must be completed to enable the planning application to be validated. Applicants need to be mindful of the level of information that will need to be gathered and assessed and the timescales for undertaking the processes outlined.

Step 5 Submit planning application including necessary information on biodiversity.

Step 6 Validation. Subject to checks and provision of required information.

Step 7 Planning application is determined.

Step 8 Commencement of development and construction, with required pre-commencement conditions on BNG and mitigation met.

Step 9 Completion, occupation and monitoring.

11 Each of these steps is explained further below.

Step 1 Establish Biodiversity Importance

Complete relevant Biodiversity Checklist & validation requirements.

- 12 The first step is to establish whether your proposal is likely to affect biodiversity and, if so, what additional information may be required to support your planning application.
- 13 All major developments will require BNG in line with the [Environment Act 2021](#) legislation. All developments that do not fit with the exemptions listed in the [draft] [Statutory Instrument](#), will be required to submit a Biodiversity Net Gain Baseline Assessment utilising the most recent Defra Metric, and indicate, through a BNG statement or Plan, how 10% BNG will be achieved.
- 14 Hampshire County Council has prepared two [Biodiversity Checklists](#) (one for Householder proposals and one for Full planning applications) designed to help you with this stage of the process. Early completion of the relevant checklist will assist the planning application process.
- 15 For bats the Biodiversity Checklists refer to a ‘trigger list for bats’ which provides examples of common development situations where bats are likely to be encountered. This can be found on page 13 of [Bat Surveys for Professional Ecologists Good Practice Guidelines published by the Bat Conservation Trust](#). If a property meets the trigger list a survey is more than likely required. In addition, any property in rural Hart has the potential to support bat roosts so a survey is advised.
- 16 The following sources of information are helpful for completing the Biodiversity Checklist:
 - [The Council’s online mapping](#) for designated sites;
 - The governments [MAGIC website](#) provides authoritative geographic information about the natural environment from across government. It is presented as an interactive map with data from Natural England, Defra, the Environment Agency, Historic England and the Forestry Commission;
 - [Hampshire Biodiversity Information Centre \(HBIC\)](#) for comprehensive information about protected sites, SINCs and protected and notable habitats and species. There may be a charge for this service.
- 17 Examples of types of development that are likely to have biodiversity impact in Hart are set out at Appendix 2.
- 18 Appendix 3 sets out the different types of designated sites that exist in Hart.
- 19 Appendix 4 sets out protected habitat types and species most likely to be encountered in Hart.

Given the bespoke nature of different proposals and impacts on individual sites and species, it may be necessary to seek further technical advice.

Step 2 Ecological surveys

- 20 If the results of initial research deem there is, or there is a reasonable likelihood of, biodiversity interest on the site, it will be necessary to undertake a more detailed assessment.

Ecological surveys

- 21 Engage an ecologist to address the biodiversity features that have been identified to:
- Determine the potential impacts of proposals on biodiversity;
 - Demonstrate that the impacts have been properly considered;
 - Form the basis for understanding what avoidance, mitigation, compensation and enhancement measures are necessary or suitable;
 - Demonstrate that the proposed development can accommodate the required on-site or off-site BNG, and other mitigation and/or compensation (if avoidance is unreasonable) and protected species licensing is achievable (if required). Note that District Level Licensing for Great Crested Newts is not currently available in Hart. Updates on this will be published on our [website](#) and this TAN will be updated accordingly.
- 22 There are seasonal constraints to ecology surveys and repeat site visits may be required to obtain sufficient information, this needs consideration in project planning. Appendix 5 provides an Ecological Survey Calendar.
- 23 Ecological survey work is generally undertaken in two stages:

Phase 1 These are 'scoping' surveys and include:

- Preliminary Ecological Appraisal (PEA); This includes an assessment of potential for protected species and mapping of habitats present on site. Habitats should be mapped following the [UK Habitat Classification system](#) as this can easily be transposed into the [Biodiversity Metric 3.1\(JP039\)](#) to calculate biodiversity unit value.
- Walkover or scoping survey (without habitat mapping) may be appropriate for small scale or householder applications;
- Species-specific assessments (e.g. Preliminary Bat Roost Assessment).

Phase 2 These are further surveys as determined by Phase 1 and include:

- Protected/notable species surveys (e.g. bat emergence or reptile survey);
- Detailed botanical or habitat survey;
- Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) & Habitats Regulations and Appropriate Assessment (AA) for larger applications.

How to appoint an Ecologist

- 24 Ecological surveys should be undertaken by an appropriately qualified and experienced person. When appointing an ecologist the following should be considered:
- Membership of [The Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management \(CIEEM\)](#) is strongly recommended. CIEEM maintains a list of [registered practices](#) who offer commercial consultancy services;
 - Consultant is in possession of relevant licences where appropriate (e.g., a Natural England bat licence for bat surveys);
 - Local knowledge may be useful in determining what is needed;
 - Cost – obtain more than one quote wherever possible. Ensure the quote covers all the information and survey work you need, not necessarily the cheapest (although locally based consultants are often more cost effective);
 - Will produce a survey report in line with the British Standard for Biodiversity BS42020 to avoid unnecessary delays at the planning application stage.

Step 3 Avoidance and mitigation of impacts

- 25 Applications should demonstrate how the mitigation hierarchy (**Avoid – Mitigate - Compensate**) has been addressed within the application for any identified biodiversity features:

Avoid

- 26 Avoidance of impacts involves designing the site layout to retain and protect important biodiversity features. Avoidance is often the cheapest and most effective way of reducing potential impacts, but it requires biodiversity to be considered at the very earliest stages of planning.
- 27 The loss of irreplaceable habitats, such as ancient woodland or veteran trees, will always entail a net loss of biodiversity and must be avoided. Direct impacts to designated sites and protected species should also be avoided in the first instance.

Mitigate

- 28 Mitigation is taking steps on the site to minimise the duration, intensity and extent of unavoidable impacts on biodiversity features identified during the survey work.

Compensate

- 29 Compensation should only be used as a last resort, once all other options have been considered, to off-set unavoidable remaining impacts on biodiversity.
- 30 Good design of a scheme by incorporating existing biodiversity value into the site layout can mean that any residual biodiversity loss from the development footprint can be accounted for in other on-site habitat creation or restoration schemes.

Step 4 Biodiversity Net Gain and Enhancements

- 31 Schemes should incorporate 10% BNG where applicable, and additional enhancements for biodiversity wherever possible. Hart recognises there are different types of development and adopts a proportional approach relative to the size of the impact and what is realistically achievable on the site. See Appendix 6 for examples of suitable Enhancement Measures; these are intended to be scalable depending on the size of the proposal. Targeted species-specific enhancements can achieve a biodiversity enhancement, where habitat is created or restored this can contribute to a biodiversity net gain (BNG). Natural England have produced a [brochure](#) which provides an introduction to BNG.
- 32 Hart DC have declared a [climate emergency](#); the applicant might wish to consider ecological enhancement options that are also beneficial for carbon storage and sequestration.

Householder planning applications

- 33 It is considered that most householder applications could incorporate at least some biodiversity enhancements (for example installation of bird or bat boxes) with some applications also being able to accommodate habitat creation (e.g., wildlife friendly planting); the size of the proposal and the impacts would determine what scale of enhancement would be expected.

Full planning applications

- 34 Full planning applications are expected to incorporate biodiversity enhancements. All new development (i.e. net new build) should deliver a net gain for biodiversity. For major development (i.e. greater than 10 units) a more detailed plan would be expected. Biodiversity net gains can be achieved by enhancing existing habitats or creating new habitats. The accepted method of determining a 'measurable biodiversity net gain' is through the use of the [Defra Biodiversity Metric](#).
- 35 All options for delivery of net gain 'on site' must be explored before other options are considered. However, there may be instances where the residual biodiversity impact and net gain cannot be realistically delivered to acceptable standards within the site boundary. Once all options have been explored, off-site provision should be considered and the council will encourage the exploration of 'offsetting' enhancement schemes, through planning obligations/legal agreements. These may be new and bespoke habitat creation schemes or a contribution to an existing scheme in the district. When necessary, offsetting should be delivered to the highest standards and be as close to the site as possible, and as local to the district as possible.

Step 5 Submit Planning Application

36 Submit relevant information from previous stages including:

- Completed Biodiversity Checklist;
- Up-to-date ecology survey work (see [Advice Note on the Lifespan of Ecological Reports and Surveys published by CIEEM](#));
- Details of mitigation (where necessary e.g. avoidance of site clearance during nesting bird season)
- For European protected Species (e.g. bats, Great Crested Newts and Hazel Dormice) a [protected species license](#) may be required. The application will need to provide an outline method statement and demonstrate that a license is likely to be granted.
- Details of biodiversity net gain and/or enhancement.

Step 6 Validation

37 Application should only be validated if submitted with all the relevant biodiversity information from the previous stages.

Step 7 Determining the application

38 Hart District Council will review the application in line with [Natural England's Standing Advice](#) and the submitted biodiversity information. Irrespective of validation, at this stage we may request surveys or further clarification depending on our review of the application and any additional information we may be made aware of (for example a site visit may highlight features, or species records may be reported).

39 Natural England may also comment on the application itself as a result of consultation or specific comments depending on the proposal, the location and the impacts.

Note: A planning application cannot be determined until the required surveys and a mitigation strategy (if necessary, following the surveys) have been completed. Ecology surveys to determine presence and impact to protected habitats and species should not be secured through planning conditions.

40 If planning permission is granted, planning conditions for biodiversity could include submission to, and approval by the Council of the following:

- Details of avoidance measures;
- Details of any compensation measures;
- Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP)
- BNG Management Plan and/or a Landscape and Ecological Management Plan (LEMP) illustrating biodiversity enhancements.
- Evidence of provision of off-site BNG units being secured.

- 41 Further information on planning conditions and how they can be discharged (approved) is available at the [Planning Portal](#).

Step 8 Commencement of development and construction

- 42 Development may commence, providing pre-commencement conditions have been discharged regarding biodiversity net gain, ecological mitigation, or other enhancements
- It is important to read the decision notice as there may be pre-commencement conditions relating to biodiversity that must be undertaken prior to work commencing on the site;
 - Obtain [Natural England Development License](#) if required (e.g. for bats, Hazel Dormouse and Great Crested Newts);
 - Undertake works in line with CEMP and / or other mitigation strategies (note there may be seasonal or other constraints).
 - Install biodiversity enhancements as per the LEMP.

Step 9 Completion, occupation, and monitoring

- 43 Biodiversity Net Gain sites are required to be managed and monitored for 30 years.
- Implement the BNG Management Plan / LEMP;
 - Undertake any required monitoring programme (e.g. as prescribed within the BNG Management Plan or legal agreements detailing provision of BNG);
 - Undertake the reporting requirements of any Natural England Development License.

Appendix 1 Key policy and legislation

Development Plan

[Hart Local Plan \(Strategy and Sites\) 2032](#) (HLP32) in particular 'Policy NBE4 Biodiversity'

[Neighbourhood Plans](#) where relevant. Neighbourhood Plans sometimes contain Biodiversity policies.

National Policy and Guidance

[National Planning Policy Framework \(NPPF\) 2021](#) In particular Section 15: Conserving and enhancing the natural environment

[Planning Practice Guidance](#) & [BNG Planning Practice Guidance](#)

[Government Circular 06/2005: Biodiversity and Geological Conservation – Statutory Obligations And Their Impact Within The Planning System:](#)

Main Acts and Legislation

[The Environment Act \(2021\)](#) – Will mandate a 10% biodiversity net gain for new developments, this is anticipated to be implemented from January 2024

[The Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 \(as amended\)](#) - this is the primary legislation which protects animals, plants and habitats in the UK.

[The Conservation of Habitats and Species \(Amendment\) \(EU Exit\) Regulations 2019](#) - these Regulations transpose Council Directive 92/43/EEC, on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora (EC Habitats Directive). They also provide for the designation and protection of former "European Sites" and the creation of a 'national site network'.

[The Hedgerow Regulations 1997](#) - These Regulations make provision for the protection of 'important hedgerows' in England and Wales. They do not include hedgerows within or on the boundary of domestic properties.

[Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations 2017 \(EIA\)](#) - the aim of EIA is to protect the environment by ensuring that a local planning authority when deciding whether to grant planning permission for a project, which is likely to have significant effects on the environment, does so by understanding the full implications.

[The Countryside Rights of Way Act 2000](#) – provides for access on foot to certain types of land and allows for management measures for SSSI sites.

[Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006](#) - requires the Secretary of State to publish a list of habitats and species which are of principal importance for the conservation of biodiversity in England. It also states that "Every public authority must, in exercising its functions, have regard, so far as is consistent with the proper exercise of those functions, to the purpose of conserving biodiversity".

Appendix 2 Types of development likely to have biodiversity impacts

This is not an exhaustive list but is intended to highlight the most frequent and likely examples in Hart.

- All major works meeting the criteria for BNG;
- Works on or near to a site designated for its nature conservation value (see Appendix 3);
- Works on or near to woodland and trees, or scrub connected to woodland;
- Works in mature/overgrown gardens, rough grassland, railway land or allotments;
- Works on or near species rich meadows, grassland, heathland, acid grassland, hedgerows, arable, mire or scrub.
- New build on or near to greenfield and derelict/brownfield sites;
- Works within 25 metres of a watercourse or 250 metres of a pond;
- Hedgerow removal;
- Demolition of buildings or structures;
- Barn conversions;
- Loft conversions, roof works and works to hanging tiles or weatherboarding;
- Works to bridges, underground structures and tunnels.

Appendix 3 Designated sites in Hart

The locations and extent of designated sites can be viewed at the Councils [on-line maps](#) (where these categories can be selected from the 'Environment' menu on the left-hand side).

Thames Basin Heaths Special Protection Area (TBH SPA)

Network of heathland sites, internationally important for species of ground nesting bird. Development in and around the THB SPA is closely controlled. The extent of the TBH SPA and its protection zones can be viewed at the Councils [on-line maps](#). Further details are set out in the [Hart Local Plan \(Strategy and Sites\) 2032](#) – see Policy NBE 3 Thames Basin Heaths Special Protection Area.

Sites of Scientific Interest (SSSIs)

National designation to protect important areas of national heritage. Hart has the following SSSIs:

- Basingstoke Canal;
- Bourley and Long Valley;
- Blackwater Valley;
- Butter Wood;
- Bramshill;
- Castle Bottom to Yateley and Hawley Commons;
- Fleet Pond;
- Foxlease and Ancell's Meadows;
- Greywell Fen;
- Greywell Tunnel (Basingstoke Canal);
- Heath Brow;
- Hazeley Heath;
- Hook Common and Bartley Heath;
- Odiham Common with Bagwell Green and Shaw;
- Warnborough Green;
- West Minley Meadow.

SSSIs have 'risk zones' within which certain types of development may impact the SSSI (these can be viewed on [MAGIC](#)); Natural England will be consulted if a development meets the criteria within the defined geographic risk area.

National Nature Reserve (NNR)

These protect some of our most important habitats, species and geology, there is one in Hart - Castle Bottom NNR in Yateley.

Local Nature Reserve (LNR)

Local authority (Hart District Council) designation based on importance for wildlife, geology, education, or public enjoyment. There are three LNRs in Hart: Elvetham Heath, Fleet Pond, and Zebon Copse (Church Crookham).

Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINC)

These are locally designated wildlife sites protected under local planning policy. As of September 2020, [there were 284 SINCs in Hart.](#)

Appendix 4 Protected Habitats and Species in Hart

Key protected habitats most commonly encountered on development sites in Hart

- Ancient woodland, wood pasture and veteran trees;
- Grassland;
- Heathland;
- Waterbodies and watercourses.

Protected species most commonly encountered on development sites in Hart

- Badger;
- Bats (all species);
- Nesting birds;
- Great Crested Newt;
- Hazel Dormouse;
- Reptiles (all widespread species i.e. Slow worm, Grass Snake and Common Lizard).

Appendix 5 Ecological Survey Calendar

| Survey | | Jan | Feb | Mar | Apr | May | Jun | Jul | Aug | Sep | Oct | Nov | Dec |
|--|--|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| Extended Phase 1 Habitat | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Preliminary Ecological Appraisal/walkover survey | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Detailed Botanical work | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Badgers | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Bats | Preliminary Roost inspection (buildings and trees) | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | Tree assessment (ground) | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | Climbing (trees) | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | Emergence/re-entry | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | Activity | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | Hibernation | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Birds | Wintering | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | Breeding | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Dormice | Nest tubes | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | Nut search | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Great-crested newts | Habitat Suitability Assessment | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | Pond survey | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | eDNA | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | Pitfall trapping | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Invertebrates | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Otters | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Reptiles | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Water voles | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

| | | | | | |
|--|---------|--|-------------|--|-----------|
| | Optimal | | Sub-optimal | | No survey |
|--|---------|--|-------------|--|-----------|

Ecological Survey Calendar

Extended Phase 1 Habitat: Optimal April to September inclusive, Sub-Optimal October to March inclusive.

Preliminary Ecological Appraisal Walkover: Optimal April to September inclusive, Sub-Optimal October to March inclusive.

Detailed Botanical: Optimal April to September inclusive, No survey any other months.

Badger: Optimal December to April inclusive, Sub-Optimal May to November inclusive.

Bats – Preliminary Roost Inspection: Optimal January to December inclusive.

Bats – Tree Assessment from the Ground: Optimal November to March inclusive, Sub-Optimal April to October inclusive.

Bats – Tree Assessment from Climbing Tree: Optimal January to December inclusive.

Bats – Emergence/Re-entry: Optimal May to August inclusive. Sub-Optimal April and September, No survey any other months.

Bats - Activity: Optimal March to October inclusive, No survey any other months.

Bats – Hibernation: Optimal December to February inclusive. No survey any other months.

Birds – Wintering: Optimal November to February inclusive. No survey any other months.

Birds – Breeding: Optimal March to June inclusive. No survey any other months.

Dormice: Nest tubes: Optimal April to October inclusive, Sub-Optimal November, No survey any other months.

Dormice: Nut Search: Optimal October to November inclusive, Sub-Optimal December to September inclusive.

Great Crested Newts – Habitat Suitability Assessment: Optimal April to September inclusive, Sub-Optimal October to April inclusive.

Great Crested Newts – Pond Survey: Optimal April to May inclusive, Sub-Optimal March and June, No survey any other months.

Great Crested Newts – eDNA: Optimal April to May inclusive, No survey any other months.

Great Crested Newts – Pitfall Trapping: Optimal March to October inclusive, No survey any other months.

Invertebrates: Optimal May to August inclusive, Sub-Optimal April and September, No survey any other months.

Otters: Optimal May to September inclusive, Sub-Optimal October to April inclusive.

Reptiles: Optimal April to May inclusive and September, Sub-Optimal March, June to August and October to December inclusive, No survey any other months.

Water Voles: Optimal April to September inclusive, Sub-Optimal March and October, No survey any other months.

Appendix 6 Biodiversity Enhancement Measures

Listed below are examples of suitable biodiversity enhancement measures for different **habitat types** and then for different **species**. *Note: Those enhancements that create or restore habitats can also contribute to a biodiversity net gain.*

Potential enhancement measures for different *habitats*:

Grassland

- Create a new area of wildflower meadow with species appropriate to the geographic area;
- Improve the diversity, structure, and management of existing grassland.

Woodland

- Positive management regime for existing woodland;
- Enhance existing woodland buffers with appropriate beneficial planting;
- Restore native species in plantation woodland;
- It is possible in some areas to create heathland/acid grassland by clearing coniferous plantation;
- Remove non-native understorey species such as cherry, laurel and rhododendron.

Hedgerows/boundary planting

- Strengthen existing hedgerows by filling gaps ('gapping-up') with appropriate, native species;
- Create new native hedgerows, especially those that may link other habitats together;
- Incorporate feature planting using native species, or species with a known benefit to wildlife.

Aquatic features

- Create or restore ponds in suitable locations;
- Designing of sustainable drainage systems (SuDS);
- Create appropriately planted buffer zones along water courses that benefit existing ecological communities.

Buildings and built areas

- Incorporate green roofs and walls;
- Create wildflower or meadow areas;
- Consider using grasscrete instead of hard standing;
- Incorporate street trees.

Potential enhancement measures for different *species*:

Bats

- Erect bat boxes in suitable locations;
- Incorporate bat bricks/tiles into new dwellings;
- Strengthen existing, or create new boundary features and maintain them as "dark corridors";

- Incorporate 'bat friendly' planting.
For further advice regarding Bats see [Landscape and Urban Design for Bats and Biodiversity. The Bat Conservation Trust.](#)

Birds

- Erect nest boxes;
- Create rough grassland to provide foraging habitat (for Barn Owls);
- Swift bricks should be added to all new dwellings (these are a straightforward, relatively cheap enhancement that are also used by other species and do not require cleaning when used by swifts). '[Hampshire swift](#)' can provide advice;
- Provide other bespoke species nest boxes where appropriate (your ecologist can advise on this);
- Include native berry bearing and fruiting planting in landscape schemes for feeding and nesting;
For further advice see the [Urban Advice Pack published by the RSPB \(Royal Society for the Protection of Birds\)](#)

Hazel Dormouse

- Create links between woodland blocks;
- Strengthen (gap-up) existing hedgerows;
- Erect dormouse boxes.

Hedgehog

- Ensure green links are included between habitat blocks;
- Create gaps under fences between newly created gardens;
For further information see '[Hedgehogs and development](#)' published by the [British Hedgehog Preservation Society and the People's Trust for Endangered Species](#)

Amphibians and reptiles

- Enhance and restore existing ponds;
- Create a new pond;
- Develop areas of rough grassland;
- Create hibernacula or compost heaps.

Invertebrates

- Create deadwood habitat, or loggeries;
- Include insect / bee bricks in buildings;
- Increase the diversity of existing grassland;
- Create new, flower-rich grassland and planting areas.

Non-native invasive species

- Control (ideally eradicate) non-native invasive species;
- Choose appropriate planting.

Glossary

Biodiversity

The totality of genes, species, and ecosystems in a region (Source: Global Biodiversity Strategy – Guidelines for Action to Save, Study, and Use Earth’s Biotic Wealth Sustainably and Equitably, 1992)

Biodiversity enhancement

An improvement in biodiversity, for example, an increase in either the number of species or individuals, improvement of habitat condition or increase/extension in habitat area or connectivity, creation of new habitats or instillation of wildlife features (e.g. nest boxes). (See Appendix 6 for specific examples.) N.B not all enhancements deliver Biodiversity Net Gain.

Biodiversity Metric

A tool that enables biodiversity losses and gains resulting from development or land use to be quantified and measured. It assigns a value to a habitat and combines this with its size (area, or length) to give a ‘unit’ biodiversity value.

Biodiversity Net Gain

In development this is defined as “an approach that leaves biodiversity in a better state than before....and provides an increase in appropriate natural habitat and ecological features over and above that being affected” (Source: [Biodiversity Net Gain | CIEEM](#))

British Standard for Biodiversity (BS4:2020)

This standard aims to provide a coherent level of consistency and objectivity across the ecological sector when delivering ecology work for planning. It sets out a code of conduct for undertaking ecological work and provides guidelines for standard planning conditions and management plan contents which Hart expects during the planning process.

Carbon storage and sequestration

The process of capturing and storing atmospheric carbon dioxide for a long time so that it is not in the atmosphere.

Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP)

This is a working document that defines how a site will mitigate its potential impacts through construction on the environment and local community.

Landscape and Ecological Management Plan (LEMP)

This is a site-specific document which details the immediate and long-term commitments to manage the planting, protection and enhancement of biodiversity in and around a new development site.

Planning Conditions

A condition imposed on a grant of planning permission (in accordance with the [Town and Country Planning Act 1990](#)) or a condition included in a Local Development Order or Neighbourhood Development Order.

Planning Obligation

A legal agreement entered into under [section 106 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990](#) to mitigate the impacts of a development proposal.

Habitat

The place or environment where a plant or animal naturally or normally lives.

Further Advice

Hart District Council Biodiversity Officer countryside@hart.gov.uk

Hampshire Biodiversity Information Centre (HBIC) enquiries.hbic@hants.gov.uk
Phone 0370 779 8805 or 0370 779 6638

Natural England Guidance:

[Protected species and development: advice for local planning authorities](#)

[Prepare a planning proposal to avoid harm or disturbance to protected species](#)

[Ancient woodland, ancient trees and veteran trees: advice for making planning decisions](#)

[Biodiversity metric: calculate the biodiversity net gain of a project or development](#)

The Council is part of the [NatureSpace District Licensing Scheme for great crested newts](#), approved by Natural England, through which great crested newt mitigation can be assessed and implemented. If you need to use the district licence, you must apply before or during the planning process.