

Biodiversity Guidance for Householder Applications

Biodiversity is one of several material considerations when local planning authorities are considering planning applications. A material consideration is a factor that the local planning authority is obliged to consider.

Any development can affect biodiversity. If you are making a planning application, please identify the potential impacts to biodiversity at an early stage. This can prevent invalidation, delays or refusal of your planning application.

It is important that biodiversity is fully considered and opportunities for enhancements are integrated into all developments in order to meet the requirements of the climate and ecological emergencies that have been declared by all the local authorities in Publica. For more information on these, please visit:

- <https://www.cotswold.gov.uk/environment/climate-action/cotswold-climate-and-ecological-emergencies/>
- <https://www.fdean.gov.uk/environment/climate-action/>
- <https://www.westoxon.gov.uk/environment/climate-action/climate-action-and-what-we-are-doing/>

The following frequently asked questions should help you to identify what needs to be submitted with your planning application, why this information is required, how to go about obtaining this information and when biodiversity surveys should usually be carried out.

1. Why is information on biodiversity necessary for my householder application?

Although householder applications may be small in scale, they can still result in adverse effects on wildlife and habitats (or biodiversity), for example, 2-storey extensions or loft conversions could mean that house sparrows, starlings and swifts are no longer able to access their nesting sites.

In order for the local planning authority to judge whether an application meets the requirements of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF 2021) and Local Plan policies any application that may affect biodiversity should be accompanied by the appropriate level of information.

Paragraph 8 of the NPPF describes the environmental objective of sustainable development as (our emphasis added) *“to protect and enhance our natural, built and historic environment; including making effective use of land, improving biodiversity, using natural resources prudently, minimising waste and pollution, and mitigating and adapting to climate change, including moving to a low carbon economy”*.

Paragraph 174 requires planning policies and decisions to contribute to and enhance the natural and local environment by (our emphasis added):

- protecting and enhancing sites of biodiversity or geological value and soils;
- recognising the wider benefits from natural capital and ecosystem services, including the economic value of trees and woodland;
- minimising impacts on and providing net gains for biodiversity, including by establishing coherence ecological networks that are more resilient to current and future pressures;

Paragraph 179 requires plans to protect and enhance biodiversity and geodiversity by:

- identifying, mapping and safeguarding components of wildlife-rich habitats and wider ecological networks, including designated sites of importance for biodiversity; the wildlife corridors and stepping stones that connect them; and areas identified by national and local partnerships for habitat management, enhancement, restoration or creation (e.g. Nature Recovery Network); and
- promoting the conservation, restoration and enhancement of priority habitats, ecological networks and the protection and recovery of priority species; and identifying and pursuing opportunities for securing measurable net gains for biodiversity.

The need to protect and enhance biodiversity (and the need to understand the biodiversity resources that might be affected by development proposals) are also emphasised in:

- Cotswold District Local Plan 2011-2031 policies (EN1, EN8 and EN9)
- Forest of Dean District Council Local Plan policies – (CSP1, AP7 and AP8)
- West Oxfordshire District Council Local Plan policy EH3
- British Standard BS 42020:2013 Biodiversity Code of Practice for Planning and Development <http://shop.bsigroup.com/ProductDetail/?pid=000000000030258704>
- Natural England standing advice <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/protected-species-and-sites-how-to-review-planning-proposals>

2. How do I know if I need to provide any biodiversity information with my application?

The Householder Application Biodiversity Self-Assessment Form has been developed to guide you and help you understand when biodiversity information is needed to support your planning application. It is a broad brush approach and cannot be specific to every individual application site. There may be cases where you are advised to undertake biodiversity survey work even if the checklist does not immediately indicate this.

In order to complete the checklist, you are encouraged to use the “Wildlife Assessment Check” available at: <https://www.biodiversityinplanning.org/wildlife-assessment-check/>.

This is a free online tool that has been produced for householders and small to medium scale developers by the Partnership for Biodiversity in Planning. The Wildlife Assessment Check helps you to identify whether you will need expert ecological advice before submitting a planning application. It considers whether there are any protected and priority wildlife species and statutory designated sites that may be impacted by a development project. The key aims of the Wildlife Assessment Check are to:

- Ensure protected and priority species and statutory designated sites for nature conservation are considered early in the planning process
- Ensure professional ecological input is sought at an early stage of a development project
- Ensure necessary ecological assessments are carried out and submitted as part of a planning application

It is important for users to note that the ‘Wildlife Assessment Check’ is for guidance only. It is not designed to replace the judgement of a qualified professional ecologist about the potential wildlife impact of a development project. The main focus is on protected and priority species rather than priority habitats (such as rivers, hedgerows and ancient woodlands) or Local Wildlife Sites.

Another useful tool is the Sustainability Checklist (for *West Oxfordshire District Council* planning applications only), which will provide you with further details of what biodiversity needs to be considered and how you can play a part in nature's recovery.

3. Where do I find an ecological consultant to carry out a survey?

You will need to appoint a professional and/or appropriately qualified and/or experienced ecological consultant to prepare the relevant ecological submission. The consultant would need to be specifically licensed to carry out any surveys for the following protected species: bats, dormouse, great crested newt, otter and white clawed-crayfish.

Information on how to find such a consultant can be found on the Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management (CIEEM) website <https://cieem.net/i-need/finding-a-consultant/>

4. What type of biodiversity report do I need to submit?

The minimum amount of information for a householder application is likely to include the following details depending on the specific nature of the proposed development:

- Photographs and descriptions of the following areas;
 - All elevations, particularly the locations of proposed changes;
 - Internal parts of the building(s) affected by the proposal, including the roof void;
 - Close-ups of key features such as gable ends, roof ridge, eaves, soffits/fascia boards and any holes or gaps in the building fabric (including cracks and crevices around windows, doors, eaves, roof tiles and ridges);
 - Outbuildings and any unoccupied buildings, or parts thereof (as above);
 - Areas to be disturbed by the proposal, including temporary disturbance; and
 - Ponds and other waterbodies present on site;
 - *Note: photographs should be numbered and recently taken with an accompanying plan showing the location of these photographs.*
 - *Commentary on the suitability of a building or structure for roosting bats should only be provided by a named competent ecologist.*
- A completed Biodiversity Self-Assessment Form for Householder Applications;
- A copy of the Wildlife Assessment Check report (downloadable from the website provided above);
- A statement by the applicants/homeowners to provide their local knowledge of the site and what wildlife is present, e.g. nesting birds, hedgehogs or roosting bats;
- Information to confirm the age of the property, its general state of repair, if it is currently lived in/used or how long it has been empty;
- Confirmation of the location of materials/waste to be stored on site during construction;
- Any other relevant information from the agent/ homeowner that may assist decision making; and/or
- Information required as part of the Sustainability Checklist for applications in **West Oxfordshire** only.

Where there are likely to be major or significant impacts, then surveys by a professional/competent ecologist may be required. This would be indicated by the Biodiversity Self-Assessment Form and/or the Wildlife Assessment Check. You may decide to obtain professional ecological advice to assist you in completing these. For more information about commissioning an ecological consultant to carry out surveys and provide you with this advice, please visit the Chartered Institute of Ecology and

Environmental Management (CIEEM) website to download their householder guide:

<https://cieem.net/resource/a-householders-guide-to-engaging-an-ecologist/>

Depending on the outcome of your initial assessments, there are two types of biodiversity reports that would be sufficient for submission with a householder planning application. This relates to the type of assessment that has been carried out and whether there would be any biodiversity impacts arising from the proposed development.

- a) Preliminary Ecological Appraisal (PEA) report comprises a scoping assessment to identify important biodiversity features, further surveys and biodiversity enhancement opportunities. It is not usually suitable for submission with a planning application unless no additional surveys are required, no significant impacts would arise and no mitigation is necessary (other than precautionary working methods). Surveys and reports should be carried out in accordance with best practice guidelines (Chartered Institute for Ecology and Environmental Management (CIEEM): <https://cieem.net/resource/guidance-on-preliminary-ecological-appraisal-gpea/>)

It is likely that in most cases a PEA report would be sufficient for a householder application where minor impacts may occur and mitigation measures, for example, precautionary working methods, can be implemented to either avoid or reduce impacts.

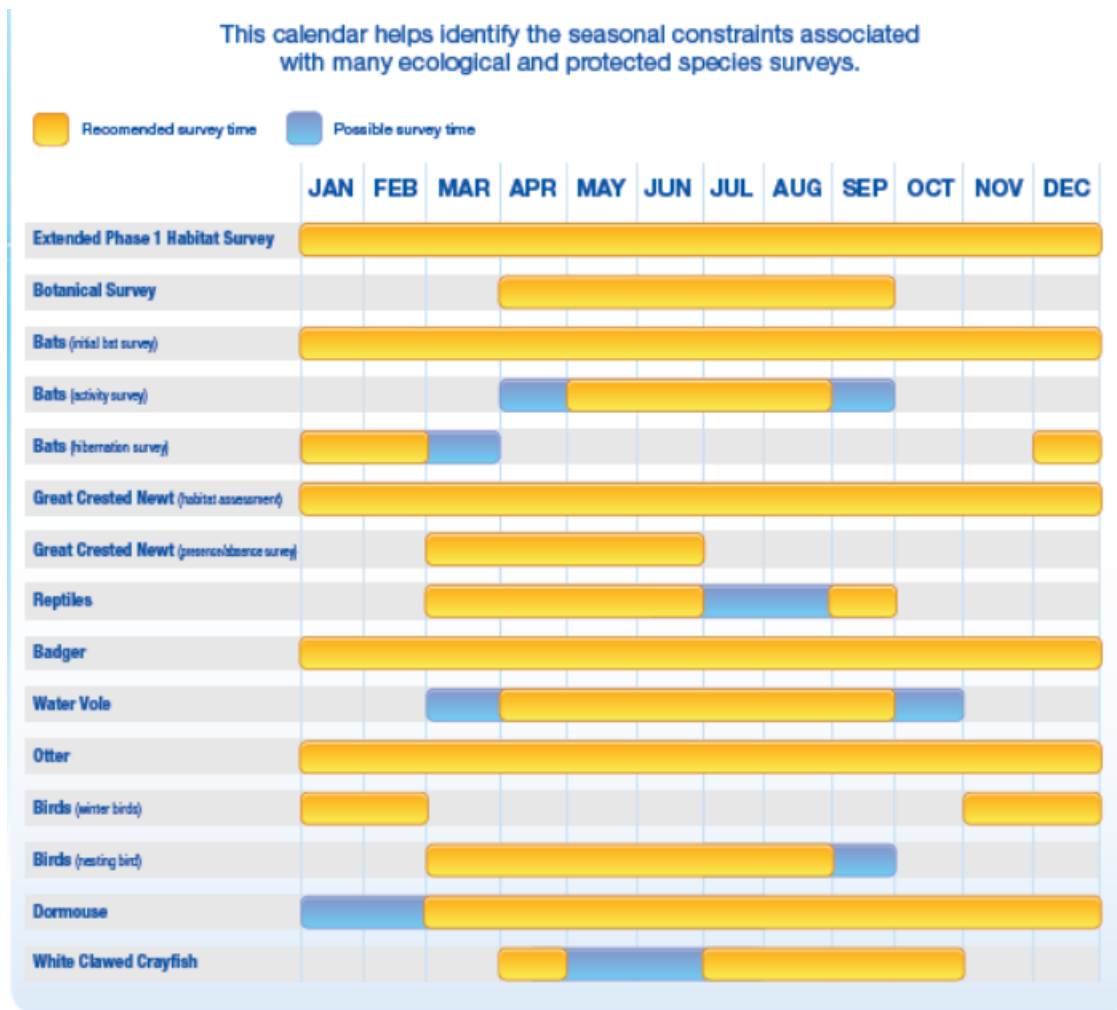
- b) Ecological Impact Assessment (EcIA) report collates the results from the individual habitat and species surveys, assesses the impacts of the proposal and proposes mitigation, compensation and enhancements. Suitable for submission in most cases. Surveys, impact assessment and reports should be carried out in accordance with best practice guidelines (CIEEM): <https://cieem.net/resource/guidelines-for-ecological-impact-assessment-ecia/>

Other types of report such as those to provide specific species survey information (e.g. “Bat Survey” or “Preliminary Building Assessment for Bats” might be sufficient where only certain impacts relating to these species would occur and no other habitat or species would be affected. However, even in these cases, a Preliminary Ecological Appraisal should be conducted first to identify the habitats and species that might be affected by the proposal.

5. When should biodiversity surveys be carried out?

Assessments carried out to inform a Preliminary Ecological Appraisal report can usually be carried out at any time of year. Depending on the outcome of this initial assessment, though, there might be a requirement for seasonally constrained habitat and/or species surveys. This is because there are optimal times of year to survey when there is peak activity, e.g. during the summer months for bat roosts, or when habitats tend to “look their best” and the majority of flowering plants are present, for example, April-May for ancient woodlands. A chart has been provided below to give you an indication of when ecological surveys are most appropriate. However, your ecological consultant would be able to advise you on this as part of the PEA report.

If subsequent surveys are necessary to inform the Ecological Impact Assessment report, then these must be carried out at the appropriate time of year and by a competent (i.e. suitably qualified and/or experienced) person.



6. Where do I obtain existing biodiversity data from?

For householder applications it is unlikely that you would need to pay for data from your Local Environmental Records Centre (LERC) unless you require additional information or would like more certainty about what species occur in the area that could be affected by your proposed development. This would depend on the scale and type of development, what type of habitats would be affected and the outcome of your Wildlife Assessment Check.

The CIEEM Guidelines for Accessing and Using Biodiversity Data may be useful to provide more information on the need and use of biodiversity data:

https://cieem.net/resource/guidelines_for_accessing_and_using_biodiversity_data/

Biodiversity data includes species records (including absence), habitat information and designated site details. Biodiversity data includes information that is freely available online as well as information held by local environmental records centres (LERCs) or other organisations/individuals, which will provide them in response to a data search request, for example local recording groups.

Data can be obtained from a variety of sources such as the following:

- *Gloucestershire*: Gloucestershire Centre for Environmental Records, GCER:
<https://www.gcer.co.uk/datasearch.html>
- *Gloucestershire Geology Trust* (glosgeotrust.org.uk)

- *Oxfordshire*: Thames Valley Environmental Records Centre, TVERC: <https://www.tverc.org/cms/content/data-searches>
- WeBS (Wetland Bird Survey) <http://www.bto.org/volunteer-surveys/webs>
- Multi-agency Geographic Information for the Countryside – MAGIC www.magic.gov.uk
- National Biodiversity Network (NBN) www.nbn.org.uk
- Natural England <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/developers-get-environmental-advice-on-your-planning-proposals>
- Cotswold Water Park Nature Recovery Plan <https://www.cotswold.gov.uk/planning-and-building/landscape/cotswold-water-park/>

7. What is the great crested newt district licensing scheme?

Great crested newts have protected status through UK and European legislation and must be considered as part of the planning application process. Ponds are critical to great crested newts for breeding and, whilst on land, they are also dependent upon other habitats such as woodland, hedgerows, rough grassland and scrub. They are generally found within 500m of ponds, although may travel further than this.

District level licensing is a new way of considering impacts on great crested newts. The councils each hold their own district licence that developers can opt to use instead of commissioning detailed surveys and applying for a separate licence from Natural England. The main benefit of this is that the licensing requirements are dealt with at the same time as the planning application and reduces delays to commencement. For more information please visit <https://naturespaceuk.com/>

For most householder applications this would only be relevant if your home is located within the red impact risk zone and there is a pond within 50 metres or if there are known records of this species within 500 metres of the site. A flat rate fee of £500 is applied by NatureSpace for householder applications.

The “Impact Risk Zone” map is available on <https://naturespaceuk.com/gismaps/impact-risk-map/>

The district licensing scheme is voluntary and is delivered on behalf of the three councils by NatureSpace and The Newt Conservation Partnership.

If you think that you should be covered by the district licensing scheme, please contact NatureSpace who will carry out a free, up-front assessment to determine eligibility by submitting an enquiry form at: <https://naturespaceuk.com/enquiry-form/> You can also call them on 01865 688307 or email: info@naturespaceuk.com

Further information regarding licensing options can be found at:

- Cotswold District Council: <https://www.cotswold.gov.uk/planning-and-building/wildlife-and-biodiversity/great-crested-newt-district-licensing-scheme/>
- Forest of Dean District Council: <https://fdean.gov.uk/planning-and-building/wildlife-and-biodiversity/great-crested-newt-district-licensing-scheme/>
- West Oxfordshire District Council: <https://www.westoxon.gov.uk/planning-and-building/wildlife-and-biodiversity/great-crested-newt-district-licensing-scheme/>

8. What else should be submitted in a biodiversity report?

If mitigation and compensation proposals have been recommended within the biodiversity report, you should illustrate them on your submitted drawings. For example, if a bat loft is recommended

within a 2-storey extension, then you should ensure that the details of its location, dimensions, materials and access points are incorporated onto the submitted plans. This is so that the Local Planning Authority can be satisfied that the mitigation measures can be achieved as part of the development.

9. Is a measured biodiversity net gain required?

A measured biodiversity net gain as defined in the Environment Act 2021 is not applicable to the majority of householder applications. These requirements are anticipated to become mandatory by November 2023 but national guidance on exact requirements has not yet currently been available. However, all applications should still include biodiversity enhancements wherever possible.

In West Oxfordshire, the Sustainability Checklist provides guidance on what types of biodiversity enhancement measures could be incorporated into householder applications and this is reproduced in the guidelines below.

Wildlife gardening general advice:

- <https://www.wildoxfordshire.org.uk/communities/resources/>
- <https://www.bbowt.org.uk/actions>
- <https://www.rhs.org.uk/science/conservation-biodiversity/wildlife/encourage-wildlife-to-your-garden>
- <https://www.wildlifetrusts.org/gardening>
- <https://www.rspb.org.uk/birds-and-wildlife/advice/gardening-for-wildlife/>
- <https://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/features/nine-ways-to-build-a-wildlife-friendly-garden>

Bird and bat boxes:

- <https://www.swift-conservation.org/Nestboxes&Attraction.htm#Built%20in>
- <https://www.rspb.org.uk/birds-and-wildlife/advice/how-you-can-help-birds/nestboxes/nestboxes-for-small-birds/making-and-placing-a-bird-box/>
- <https://www.bats.org.uk/our-work/buildings-planning-and-development/bat-boxes>

Insect boxes and artificial refugia:

- <https://www.bumblebeeconservation.org/gardeningadvice/>
- <https://www.rspb.org.uk/birds-and-wildlife/advice/gardening-for-wildlife/insects-and-minibeasts/>
- <https://butterfly-conservation.org/how-you-can-help/get-involved/gardening>

Hedgehog highways:

- <https://www.hedgehogstreet.org/help-hedgehogs/link-your-garden>
- <https://www.wildlifetrusts.org/actions/how-create-hedgehog-hole>
- <https://ptes.org/success-stories/investigating-the-effectiveness-of-hedgehog-highways/>

Wildlife ponds:

- <https://freshwaterhabitats.org.uk/habitats/pond/>
- <https://freshwaterhabitats.org.uk/projects/clean-water/>
- <https://www.wildlifetrusts.org/actions/how-build-pond>
- <https://www.rspb.org.uk/birds-and-wildlife/advice/gardening-for-wildlife/water-for-wildlife/making-a-pond/>

Grassland restoration and creation:

- <http://www.magnificentmeadows.org.uk/advice-guidance/section/how-can-i-restore-or-recreate-a-meadow>
- <https://www.rspb.org.uk/get-involved/activities/nature-on-your-doorstep/garden-activities/startawildflowermeadow/>
- <https://www.edenproject.com/learn/eden-at-home/how-to-create-a-wildflower-meadow-in-your-garden>
- <https://www.rhs.org.uk/advice/profile?pid=436>
- https://plantlife.love-wildflowers.org.uk/wildflower_garden
- https://www.bumblebeeconservation.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/08/BBCT_Land_Factsheet_4_Grassland_restoration.pdf
- http://www.magnificentmeadows.org.uk/assets/pdfs/Restoration_using_natural_regeneration.pdf

Hedgerow management:

- <https://www.wildlifetrusts.org/how-manage-hedgerow-wildlife>
- <https://hedgelink.org.uk/hedgerows/hedgerow-management-advice/>
- <https://ptes.org/hedgerow/managing-hedgerows-top-tips/>

Tree planting / woodland creation:

- <https://www.woodlandtrust.org.uk/plant-trees/advice/>
- <https://www.rhs.org.uk/garden-inspiration/design/inspiring-woodland-gardens>
- <https://www.gardeningknowhow.com/special/shade/woodland-garden.htm>
- <https://www.wildlifetrusts.org/actions/how-make-woodland-edge-garden-wildlife>
- <https://www.forestresearch.gov.uk/tools-and-resources/fthr/biomass-energy-resources/fuel/woodfuel-production-and-supply/woodfuel-production/forestry-for-woodfuel-and-timber/environmental-benefits-fo-woodland/>

10. Where can I find more information and guidance?

Below are some links to external websites where additional information about biodiversity and related topics can be found. Inclusion on the list below does not infer any recommendation by the councils. The list gives examples of where guidance can be found and is not comprehensive (e.g. only certain species are included). It is provided in alphabetical order by subject.

Also, please check the relevant council's website for a range of Biodiversity Specifications that are being produced to provide guidance to planning applicants and also to use as conditions on planning consents instead of asking for information to be submitted for approval. This includes precautionary working methods and installation of swift bricks. ***Note: these specifications are due to be published in instalments from 2022.***

<https://www.fdean.gov.uk/planning-and-building/wildlife-and-biodiversity/biodiversity-specifications/>

<https://www.cotswold.gov.uk/planning-and-building/wildlife-and-biodiversity/biodiversity-specifications/>

<https://www.westoxon.gov.uk/planning-and-building/wildlife-and-biodiversity/biodiversity-specifications/>

A

Amphibians

- Amphibian and Reptile Conservation (ARC) Trust publications:
 - Common toads and roads: <https://www.arc-trust.org/Handlers/Download.ashx?IDMF=2590c9bf-f39c-4180-8b9f-f32ca13c15ef>
 - Amphibian habitat management handbook: <https://www.arc-trust.org/Handlers/Download.ashx?IDMF=8b3624ae-3aec-4f00-a362-f41d70fe450c>
 - Delivering wildlife-rich communities for future generations (creating and managing sustainable habitats in partnership with housing developers): <https://www.arc-trust.org/Handlers/Download.ashx?IDMF=153a58bf-eaba-4056-a3ec-6ef8ebbefd64>
 - Guidance on building development (England) with respect to amphibians and reptiles <https://www.arc-trust.org/Handlers/Download.ashx?IDMF=cd0b787f-22fd-4aa9-989d-571ab0299f99>

B

Badgers

- Natural England and Defra Standing Advice: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/badgers-surveys-and-mitigation-for-development-projects>
- Planning Portal advice: https://www.planningportal.co.uk/info/200187/your_responsibilities/40/other_permissions_you_may_require/4

Bats

- Bat Conservation Trust, Bat Surveys for Professional Ecologists: Good Practice Guidelines): https://cdn.bats.org.uk/pdf/Resources/Bat_Survey_Guidelines_2016_NON_PRINTABLE.pdf?mtime=20181115113931&focal=none

Best Practice

- CIEEM A Householders' Guide to Engaging an Ecologist: <https://cieem.net/resource/a-householders-guide-to-engaging-an-ecologist/>
- CIEEM Guidelines for Preliminary Ecological Appraisal: <https://cieem.net/resource/guidance-on-preliminary-ecological-appraisal-gpea/>
- CIEEM Guidelines for Ecological Impact Assessment (EcIA): <https://cieem.net/resource/guidelines-for-ecological-impact-assessment-ecia/>
- CIEEM ecological report writing guidelines <https://cieem.net/resource/guidelines-for-ecological-report-writing/>
- CIEEM good practice information for habitats and species: <https://cieem.net/resource/good-practice-guidance-for-habitats-and-species/>
- CIEEM longevity of ecological reports: <https://cieem.net/resource/advice-note-on-the-lifespan-of-ecological-reports-and-surveys/>
- CIEEM Guidelines for Accessing and Using Biodiversity Data: https://cieem.net/resource/guidelines_for_accessing_and_using_biodiversity_data/

- British Standard BS42020:2013 Biodiversity – Code of practice for planning and development
<https://shop.bsigroup.com/products/biodiversity-code-of-practice-for-planning-and-development?pid=000000000030258704>

Biodiversity

- Royal Town Planning Institute guidance (November 2019):
<https://www.rtpi.org.uk/media/1563/biodiversityinplanningpracticeadvice2019.pdf>
- Biodiversity and Planning in Oxfordshire:
<https://www2.oxfordshire.gov.uk/cms/sites/default/files/folders/documents/environmentalndplanning/countryside/naturalenvironment/Wholedocument.pdf>

Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG)

- Planning Practice Guidance (PPG): <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/natural-environment#biodiversity-geodiversity-and-ecosystems>
- Local Government Association, including FAQs:
<https://www.local.gov.uk/pas/topics/environment/biodiversity-net-gain>
- West Oxfordshire District Council – Local Plan Policy EH3; the Sustainability Checklist, BNG and BNG Data Standards guidance documents are available to download at:
<https://www.westoxon.gov.uk/planning-and-building/planning-permission/make-a-planning-application/planning-application-supporting-information/>
- National guidance on using the metric approach: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/biodiversity-metric-calculate-the-biodiversity-net-gain-of-a-project-or-development>
- CIEEM/CIRIA/IEMA Biodiversity Net Gain: Good Practice Principles for Development (2016):
<https://cieem.net/resource/biodiversity-net-gain-good-practice-principles-for-development/>
- CIEEM/CIRIA/IEMA Biodiversity Net Gain Practical Guide (2019):
<https://cieem.net/resource/biodiversity-net-gain-good-practice-principles-for-development-a-practical-guide/>
- CIEEM/CIRIA/IEMA Biodiversity Net Gain Case Studies (2019):
<https://cieem.net/resource/biodiversity-net-gain-case-studies/>
- CIEEM BNG Report and Audit Templates (2021): <https://cieem.net/resource/biodiversity-net-gain-report-and-audit-templates/>

C

Construction Industry Research and Information Association (CIRIA)

- <https://www.ciria.org/CIRIA/Home/CIRIA/default.aspx?hkey=b9b32704-f151-4cb8-83fc-c9da82a10893>

D

Data Searches

- Cotswold and Forest of Dean: Gloucestershire Centre for Environmental Records (GCER):
<https://www.gcer.co.uk/datasearch.html>
- West Oxfordshire: Thames Valley Environmental Records Centre (TVERC):
<https://www.tverc.org/cms/content/data-searches>
- MAGIC: <https://magic.defra.gov.uk/MagicMap.aspx>
- National Biodiversity Network Atlas: <https://nbnatlas.org/>

Dormouse

- Dormouse Conservation Handbook: <https://ptes.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/06/Dormouse-Conservation-Handbook.pdf>
- CIEEM best practice: <https://cieem.net/resource/hazel-or-common-dormice-surveys-and-mitigation-for-development-projects/>
- Natural England Standing Advice: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/hazel-or-common-dormice-surveys-and-mitigation-for-development-projects>

E

Ecological Consultants

- CIEEM directory of 'Registered Practices' - search by geographical area or specialism: <https://events.cieem.net/RegisteredPracticeDirectory/Registered-Practice-Directory.aspx>

Ecological Impact Assessment Checklist and Declaration Form

- <https://cieem.net/resource/ecological-impact-assessment-ecia-checklist/>

F

G

Green Infrastructure and Biodiversity

- Planning Practice Guidance (PPG): <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/natural-environment#biodiversity-geodiversity-and-ecosystems>
- Building with Nature <https://www.buildingwithnature.org.uk/>
- Gloucestershire Green Infrastructure Pledge <https://www.gloucestershirenature.org.uk/green-infrastructure-pledge>
- Cotswold Green Infrastructure Pre-application Advice Note download from: <https://www.cotswold.gov.uk/planning-and-building/landscape/landscape-development-and-planning/>

Great crested newts

- Amphibian and Reptile Conservation (ARC) Trust species information, including identification: <https://www.arc-trust.org/great-crested-newt>
- Natural England Standing Advice: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/great-crested-newts-surveys-and-mitigation-for-development-projects>
- CIEEM best practice information: <https://cieem.net/resource/great-crested-newt-mitigation-guidelines/>
- Conservation Handbook: https://www.froglife.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/06/GCN-Conservation-Handbook_compressed.pdf

Great crested newt district level licensing - NatureSpace UK

- Natural England guidance: https://naturespaceuk.com/wp-content/uploads/2021/06/DLL-Guidance-Document-for-LPAs-NatureSpace-Partnership_March2021.pdf
- NatureSpace Partnership and how the scheme works: <https://naturespaceuk.com/>

- NatureSpace free enquiry form: <https://naturespaceuk.com/contact-us/#Enquiry%20Form>
- NatureSpace - a Practitioner's Guide: <https://naturespaceuk.com/wp-content/uploads/2019/10/A-Practitioners-Guide-to-NSP-District-Licensing.pdf>
- NatureSpace Mitigation Principles: <https://naturespaceuk.com/wp-content/uploads/2019/09/NatureSpace-GCN-Mitigation-Principles.pdf>

Government Policy and Guidance

- National Planning Policy Framework: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/national-planning-policy-framework--2>
- Guidance on the natural environment, including the mitigation hierarchy: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/natural-environment>
- National guidance on protected species and development (Natural England Standing Advice): <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/protected-species-how-to-review-planning-applications>

H

Hedgerows

- DEFRA Hedgerow Survey Handbook: https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/69285/pb11951-hedgerow-survey-handbook-070314.pdf
- <https://hedgelink.org.uk/hedgerows/hedgerow-management-advice/>
- https://hedgelink.org.uk/cms/cms_content/files/30_complete_good_hedge_management_guide_leaflet.pdf
- <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/plant-and-manage-hedgerows>
- <https://ptes.org/hedgerow/managing-hedgerows-top-tips/>
- <https://www.wildlifetrusts.org/wildlife/managing-land-wildlife/how-manage-hedgerow-wildlife>
- <https://www.ceh.ac.uk/our-science/projects/hedgerow-management-and-rejuvenation>
- Forest of Dean District Council hedgerow planting specification: <https://www.fdean.gov.uk/media/rk2dr2ul/hedge-planting-specifications.pdf>

I

Invertebrates

- <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/protected-invertebrates-protection-surveys-and-licences>
- Series of guidance documents by Buglife: <https://cieem.net/resource/good-practice-planning-for-invertebrates/>
- B-Lines: <https://www.buglife.org.uk/our-work/b-lines/>
- Creating green roofs for invertebrates: https://cdn.buglife.org.uk/2019/07/Creating-Green-Roofs-for-Invertebrates_Best-practice-guidance.pdf

J

K

L

M

N

Natural Capital

- Gloucestershire Natural Capital Mapping (ongoing revisions and updates)
<https://naturalcapital.gcerdata.com/>
- Enabling a Natural Capital Approach (ENCA) guidance:
<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/enabling-a-natural-capital-approach-enca>
- Wildlife Trust information on natural capital: <https://www.bbowt.org.uk/wildlife/nature-matters/natural-capital-and-ecosystem-services>
- Building with Nature (green infrastructure standards):
<https://www.buildingwithnature.org.uk/about>
- Interim West Oxfordshire Green Infrastructure Study:
<https://www.westoxon.gov.uk/media/dyyduqtn/interim-green-infrastructure-study-june-2011.pdf>
- CIRIA SuDS Manual:
https://www.ciria.org/Memberships/The_SuDs_Manual_C753_Chapters.aspx
- Oxfordshire Trees for the Future Project: <https://www.oxtrees.uk/mapping>
- Environmental Benefits for Nature tool (beta test version 2021):
<http://publications.naturalengland.org.uk/publication/6414097026646016>

Nature Recovery Network

- Emerging Oxfordshire Nature Recovery Network:
<https://www.wildoxfordshire.org.uk/biodiversity/oxfordshires-nature-recovery-network/>
- Gloucestershire Ecosystem and Natural Capital Mapping, including the nature recovery network map (ongoing revisions and updates) <https://naturalcapital.gcerdata.com/>

Nesting Birds

- National guidance: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/wild-birds-protection-surveys-and-licences>
- CIEEM best practice: <https://cieem.net/resource/guidance-for-bird-surveys-in-relation-to-development-natural-england/>
- British Trust for Ornithology (BTO) summary information:
<https://www.bto.org/understanding-birds/birdfacts/about-birdfacts/key-facts>
- State of the UK's Birds (BTO): <https://www.bto.org/our-science/publications/state-uks-birds/state-uks-birds-2020>
- BS 42021 Biodiversity and the built environment - Specification for the Design and Installation of Bird Boxes (not yet published):
<https://standardsdevelopment.bsigroup.com/projects/2017-03102#/section>
- Natural England reports (birds - protection and conservation):
<http://publications.naturalengland.org.uk/category/40030>

O

Otter

- Natural England Standing Advice: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/otters-protection-surveys-and-licences>
- CIEEM - best practice for monitoring: <https://cieem.net/resource/monitoring-the-otter/>
- Mammal Society (general information): <https://www.mammal.org.uk/species-hub/full-species-hub/discover-mammals/species-otter/>

P

Q

R

Reptiles

- Amphibian and Reptile Conservation Trust publications:
 - Guidance on Building Development with respect to amphibians and reptiles: <https://www.arc-trust.org/Handlers/Download.ashx?IDMF=cd0b787f-22fd-4aa9-989d-571ab0299f99>
 - Reptile Habitat Management Handbook: <https://www.arc-trust.org/Handlers/Download.ashx?IDMF=e32fe83a-fd68-4046-80b4-445708346803>
 - Delivering wildlife-rich communities for future generations (creating and managing sustainable habitats in partnership with housing developers): <https://www.arc-trust.org/Handlers/Download.ashx?IDMF=153a58bf-eaba-4056-a3ec-6ef8ebbefd64>

S

State of Nature Reports

- UK State of Nature Report 2019: <https://jncc.gov.uk/news/uk-state-of-nature-2019-report/>
- Oxfordshire State of Nature report: <https://www.wildoxfordshire.org.uk/stateofnature/>

Sustainable Drainage Systems

- CIRIA Manual: <https://www.gov.uk/flood-and-coastal-erosion-risk-management-research-reports/update-to-the-suds-manual>
- National Standards for Sustainable Drainage (SusDrain): <https://www.susdrain.org/delivering-suds/using-suds/legislation-and-regulation/national-standards-for-sustainable-drainage.html>

T

Trees

- Gloucestershire Tree Strategy: <https://www.gloucestershirenature.org.uk/glos-tree-strategy>
- Oxfordshire Treescape Project: <https://www.oxtrees.uk/>

U

V

W

Wildlife Assessment Check

- <https://www.biodiversityinplanning.org/wildlife-assessment-check/>

Woodlands

- Planning applications affecting trees and woodlands:
<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/planning-applications-affecting-trees-and-woodland>
- Ancient woodland standing advice: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/ancient-woodland-and-veteran-trees-protection-surveys-licences>
- Tree planting and woodland creation advice: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/tree-planting-and-woodland-creation-overview>
- Woodland Trust planning for ancient woodland - planners' manual July 2019
<https://www.woodlandtrust.org.uk/media/3731/planners-manual-for-ancient-woodland.pdf>
- Planning new woodlands in England: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/a-guide-to-planning-new-woodland-in-england>
- England Trees Action Plan 2021-2024:
https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/987432/england-trees-action-plan.pdf
- UK Forestry Standard for Planners
[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/880171/UKFS for Planners.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/880171/UKFS_for_Planners.pdf)