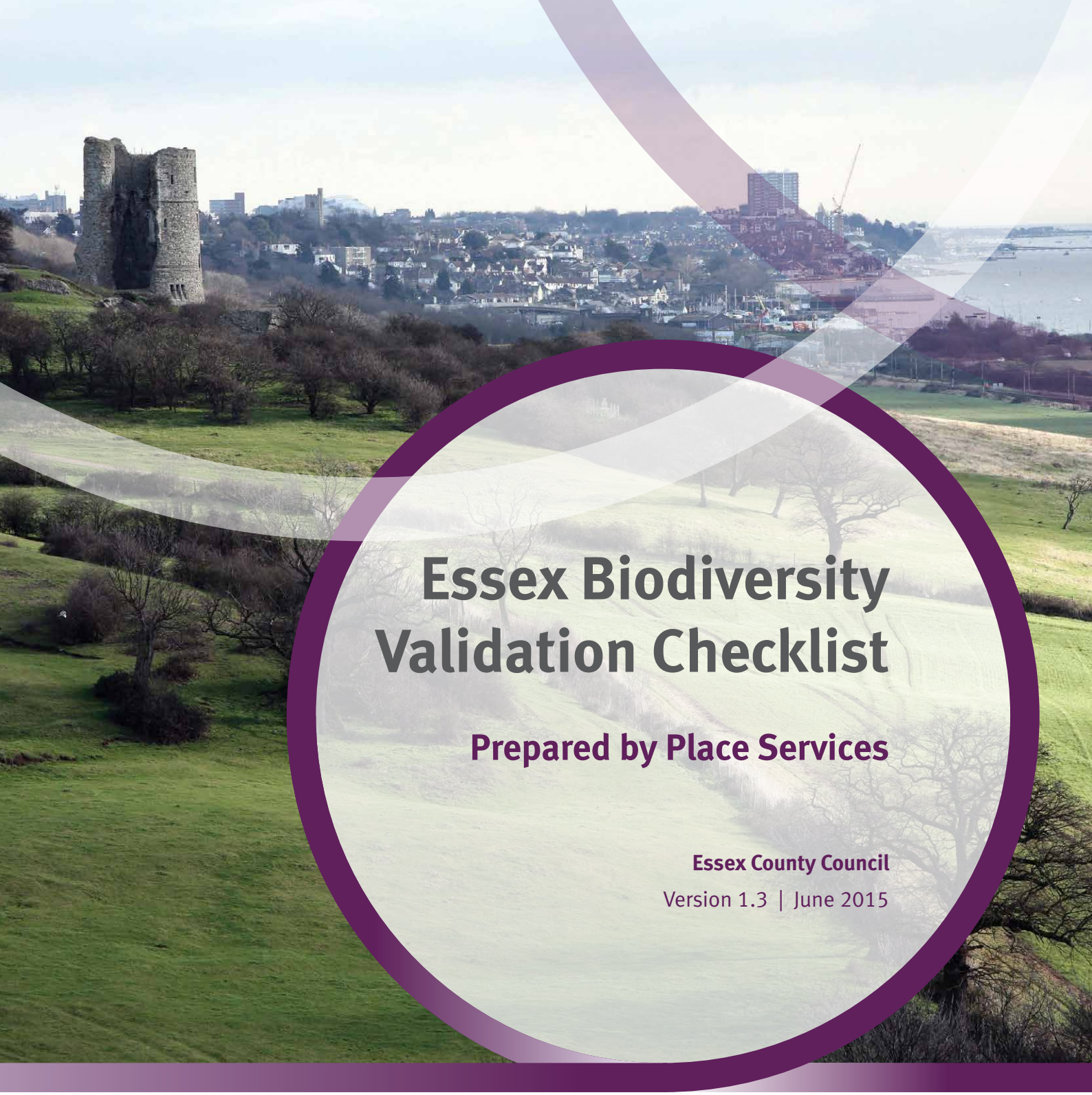


Essex Biodiversity Validation Checklist

Prepared by Place Services

Essex County Council

Version 1.3 | June 2015

Essex Biodiversity PROJECT ...working for a better quality of life

place services

Essex County Council

Introduction

This checklist is a requirement for all planning applications to Essex County Council (ECC) considered a major development as defined by Article 8(7) of The Town and Country Planning (General Development Procedure) Order 1995. ECC is the determining planning authority for mineral, waste and Regulation 3 applications.

The assistance of a professional ecologist will be necessary to complete the checklist.

For other applications not defined as a major development, applicants are strongly encouraged to use the checklist where there may be adverse effects on the natural environment. It should be noted that applications not considered a major development will still be reviewed by a planning authority ecologist.

For some developments an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) maybe required. In these cases this checklist must still be completed and used to inform the content of the Ecology Chapter of the Environment Statement subject to any Scoping Opinion issued by the planning authority.

This checklist aims to provide a clear, transparent process for both applicant and Local Planning Authority (LPA) and ensure conformity with **British Standard 42020:2013 for Biodiversity (Code of practice for planning and development).** Its correct application will help the applicant and LPA comply with national biodiversity policy and legislation; thereby reducing the likelihood of delays resulting from the submission of inadequate information.

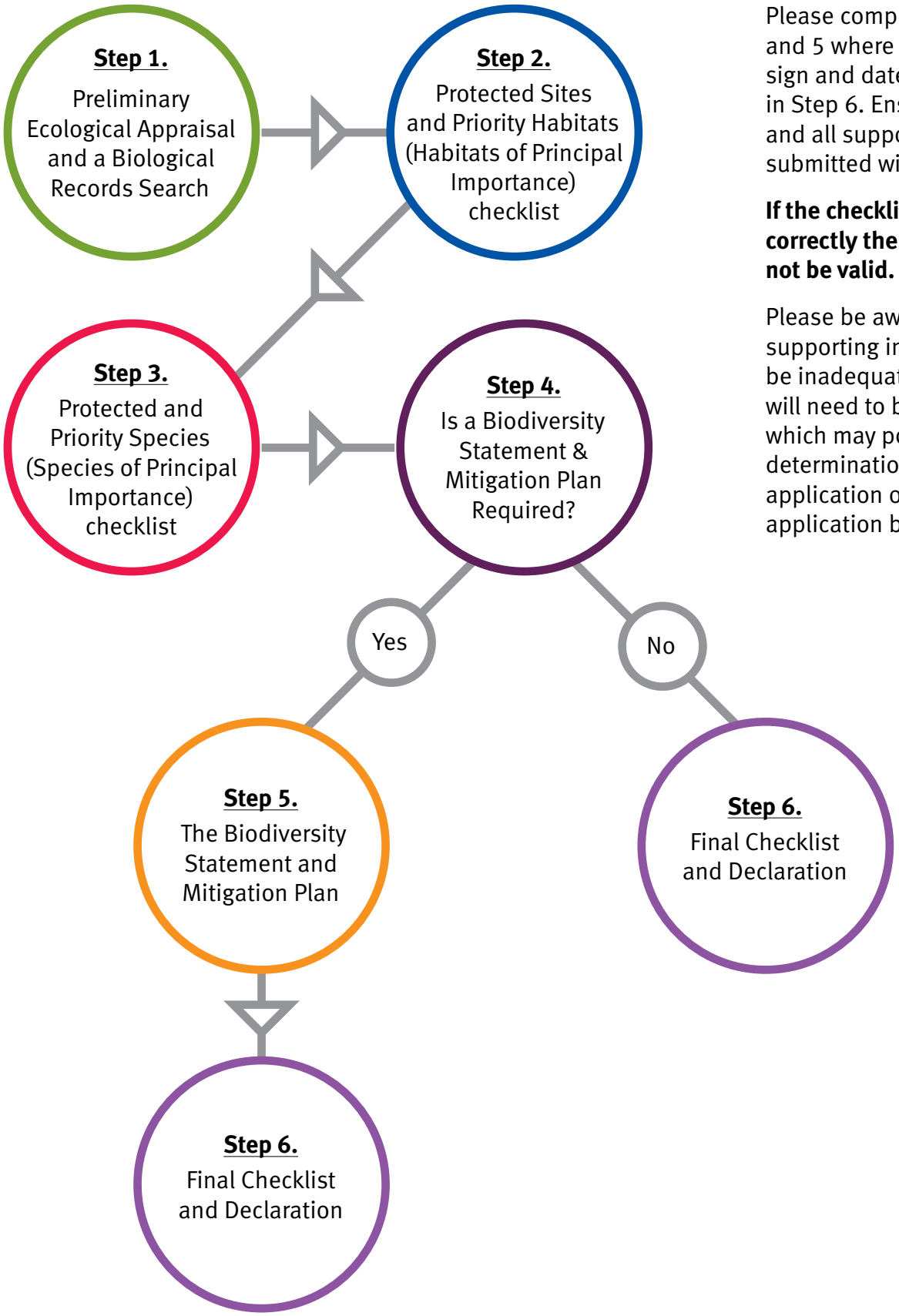
The checklist does not attempt to provide a detailed account of the legislation and policy that underpin biodiversity conservation in England. Further information can be obtained from Natural England and links have been provided in the text to external sources of information where appropriate. A glossary is also included at the end of the checklist.

The checklist is supported by Natural England's local Land Use Operations team and endorsed by the Essex Biodiversity Project.

The checklist is a component of Essex County Council's Supplementary Guidance for the Submission of Planning Applications. It has been produced with funding provided by Natural England.

The Six Steps

The checklist comprises 6 steps:



Please complete steps 1 to 4 - and 5 where necessary - then sign and date the declaration in Step 6. Ensure the checklist and all supporting information is submitted with your application.

If the checklist is not completed correctly the application may not be valid.

Please be aware that if the supporting information proves to be inadequate further evidence will need to be provided, which may potentially **delay** determination of the planning application or lead to the application being **refused**.

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Step 1. Preliminary Ecological Appraisal and Biological Records Search

A Preliminary Ecological Appraisal (PEA) of the application site must be completed in a format consistent with the '**Guidelines for Preliminary Ecological Appraisal**' published by the Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management (CIEEM).

The PEA and any subsequent Biodiversity Statement & Mitigation Plan should be prepared by a competent and qualified Ecologist. To find a suitable Ecological Consultant please contact **CIEEM** in the first instance.

The PEA must include a description of any recent works, such as vegetation clearance, that have been undertaken at the application site prior to the ecological appraisal that may affect its findings.

The PEA must include a biological records search of the application site and a 2 kilometre area extending from the sites boundary. It should encompass the following biodiversity features as a minimum:

Protected Sites

- Special Areas of Conservation (SAC), Special Protection Areas (SPA) & Ramsar sites
- Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI)
- Local Sites (i.e. Local Wildlife Sites – LoWS and Special Roadside Verges)

European Protected Species

- Species protected under the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010 (as amended)

National Protected Species

- Species protected under the Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981 (as amended)
- Badgers (The Protection of Badgers Act 1992)

Priority Habitats and Species

- Habitats of Principal Importance in England (Priority Habitats)
- Species of Principal Importance in England (Priority Species)

Relevant data can be obtained from the following sources:

- Natural England **www.magic.gov.uk**
  Interactive map displaying information about SPA, SAC, Ramsar, SSSI and Ancient Woodland sites
- Essex Field Club **www.essexfieldclub.org.uk/portal/p/Datasearch**
  Main source of species records
- Essex Wildlife Trust Biological Records Centre **www.essexwtrecords.org.uk**
  Holds site, habitat and species records including information about Local Wildlife Sites
- Essex Biodiversity Project **www.essexbiodiversity.org.uk**
  The Essex Biodiversity Action Plan can be viewed at this site

Using the results of the Preliminary Ecological Appraisal and Biological Records Search please complete **Steps 2 - 5** which will determine whether further survey and assessment work is required.

Step 2. Protected Sites and Priority Habitats (Habitats of Principal Importance) Checklist

Please complete Column 2 of Table 2.1 below. Links to more information have been provided for each site or habitat in column 1.

Table 2.1 - Sites and Habitats Checklist

1. Question	2. Please tick as appropriate
Is your development within 10km of a **Special Area of Conservation** (SAC), **Special Protection Area** (SPA) or **Ramsar Site**?	*Yes ☐ No ☑
Is your development within 2km of a **Site of Special Scientific Interest** (SSSI)?	Yes ☑ No ☐
Is your development within 250m of any **Habitats of Principal Importance**; **Ancient Woodland** and/or **Local Site**?	Yes ☑ No ☐

**If you answer yes to this question additional detail maybe required by the LPA and Natural England to enable the completion of a Habitat Regulations Assessment (HRA). It is strongly recommended that you seek advice from Natural England prior to submitting your application, and submit details of any relevant correspondence with your checklist and application.*

If you have answered **'yes'** to any of the questions above please complete **Table 2.2 (Sites and Habitat Evaluation)** before proceeding to **Step 3.**

If you have answered **'no'** to all of the questions above please proceed directly to **Step 3.**

Please complete Column 2 of Table 2.2 below, followed by Column 3 as appropriate.

Table 2.2 – Sites and Habitats Evaluation

1.	2.	3.
Site/habitat	Is there a 'reasonable likelihood' that the development will affect (either directly or indirectly) a site or habitat in column 1 prior to applying mitigation? (Tick as appropriate)	Where you have answered **'yes'** name the site(s) or habitat(s) and summarise any possible direct or indirect effects that may occur during construction or operation. For SPA's this includes 'qualifying species' occurring outside of the designated site boundary. Where you have answered **'no'** please provide a concise statement to support your answer.
SAC/SPA/ Ramsar site*	Yes ☐ No ☑	Refer to Chapter 16 and the Preliminary Ecological Appraisal (Appendix 16.1) of the Environmental Statement.

1.	2.	3.
SSSI*	Yes ☐ No ☑	Refer to Chapters 10 & 16 and the Preliminary Ecological Appraisal (Appendix 16.1) of the Environmental Statement. A number of designated sites surround the airport including Hatfield Forest SSSI to the south and Elsenham Woods SSSI to the north. None of these are considered likely to be significantly affected by the proposed development. Other SSSIs are present within the wider area, including High Wood, Dunmow SSSI (4.5 km east), Quendon Wood SSSI (6.9 km north) and Hall's Quarry (5.4 km north). However, given the small extent of the application boundary and the distance to these designated sites, no adverse impacts are anticipated.
Priority Habitats	Yes ☐ No ☑	Refer to Chapter 16 and the Preliminary Ecological Appraisal (Appendix 16.1) of the Environmental Statement.

**If you have answered 'yes' please seek advice from Natural England.*

1.	2.	3.
Ancient Woodland	Yes ☐ No ☑	Refer to Chapter 16 and the Preliminary Ecological Appraisal (Appendix 16.1) of the Environmental Statement.
Local Wildlife Sites	Yes ☐ No ☑	Refer to Chapter 16 and the Preliminary Ecological Appraisal (Appendix 16.1) of the Environmental Statement.

Step 3. Protected and Priority Species (Species of Principal Importance) Checklist

Please complete Column 2 in Table 3.1 below. Where **'Yes'** is answered a circle in the corresponding row indicates those species with a **'reasonable likelihood'** of being present, and for which further **surveys** may be required. The table has been adapted from the **Natural England Standing Advice for Protected Species**.

1.	2. (Yes/No)	European Protected Species				Nationally Protected Species (for species groups links to the relevant legislation are provided)								Priority Species (Link to national List)				
		Bats	Dormouse	Great Crested Newt	Otter	Badger	Barn Owl	Breeding Birds	Invertebrates	Native crayfish	Other Protected Birds	Plants (inc. fungi, ferns and bryophytes)	Reptiles	Water Vole	Birds	Fungi	Invertebrates	Mammals	Plants (inc. ferns and bryophytes)
Does the application involve modification, conversion, demolition or removal of any of the following features or types of building: • loft space • any roof with gaps or cracks e.g. through uneven tiling • weather boarding • hanging tiles • gable ends • slate roof • clay-tiled pitched roof • wooden cladding • dense climbing plants • Underground structures including but not limited to cellars, tunnels, mines, kilns, ice-houses, air-raid shelters, all bridge structures, aqueducts and viaducts especially over water and wet ground • Agricultural building particularly but not exclusively those of traditional brick, stone or timber construction? • Buildings of pre-20th or early 20th Century construction	Yes ☐ No ☑	●					●	●			●				●				

1.	2. (Yes/No)	European Protected Species				Nationally Protected Species (for species groups links to the relevant legislation are provided)									Priority Species (Link to national List)				
		Bats	Dormouse	Great Crested Newt	Otter	Badger	Barn Owl	Breeding Birds	Invertebrates	Native crayfish	Other Protected Birds	Plants (Inc. fungi, ferns and bryophytes)	Reptiles	Water Vole	Birds	Fungi	Invertebrates	Mammals	Plants (Inc. ferns and bryophytes)
Does the application site contain or is it adjacent to: a lake; river; canal; stream; ditch; marsh; or reedbed?	Yes ☑ No ☐	●		●	●				●	●				●		●			
Does the application involve new lighting of a building/ structure with features suitable for bats or barn owl (e.g. described in row 1 above); or lighting of green space within 50m of woodland, water, hedgerows or tree lines?	Yes ☐ No ☑	●					●												
Does the application site contain or is it within 200m of: semi-natural woodland; scrub thicket; or is it bounded by or adjacent to hedgerows of predominantly native species that are greater than 1m tall and 0.5m wide?	Yes ☐ No ☑	●	●	●		●		●	●		●		●		●		●	●	
Does the application site contain or is it adjacent to a tree/woodland plantation, including of conifers?	Yes ☑ No ☐	●	●	●		●		●			●		●		●			●	
Does the application site contain trees that are older than 100 years; trees with obvious holes, cracks, cavities, rot, loose bark, woodpecker holes; or trees with a girth greater than 1m at chest height?	Yes ☐ No ☑	●					●	●	●		●				●	●	●		

1.	2. (Yes/No)	European Protected Species				Nationally Protected Species (for species groups links to the relevant legislation are provided)									Priority Species (Link to national List)				
		Bats	Dormouse	Great Crested Newt	Otter	Badger	Barn Owl	Breeding Birds	Invertebrates	Native crayfish	Other Protected Birds	Plants (Inc. fungi, ferns and bryophytes)	Reptiles	Water Vole	Birds	Fungi	Invertebrates	Mammals	Plants (Inc. ferns and bryophytes)
Does the application site involve disturbance, modification, demolition or construction on/in: gravel pits; quarries; natural cliff faces; or rock outcrops?	Yes ☐ No ☑	●		●		●		●	●		●	●	●		●		●	●	●
Does the application site contain or is it within 100m of a pond or other water-body (500m for major developments)? It can be permanent or ephemeral (sometimes dries out)	Yes ☑ No ☐			●					●						●		●		●
Does the application site contain or is it adjacent to grassland such as meadows, parkland or pasture?	Yes ☑ No ☐	●		●		●			●			●	●			●	●	●	●
Does the application site contain previously-developed, derelict or brownfield land; or railway land?	Yes ☑ No ☐	●		●		●	●	●	●		●		●		●		●		
Does the application involve the modification, disturbance or removal of: mature or over-grown gardens; rough grassland; scrubland or allotments?	Yes ☑ No ☐	●	●	●		●		●			●	●	●		●		●	●	●
Does the application involve disturbance or removal of a compost heap?	Yes ☐ No ☑												●						

1.	2. (Yes/No)	European Protected Species				Nationally Protected Species (for species groups links to the relevant legislation are provided)									Priority Species (Link to national List)				
		Bats	Dormouse	Great Crested Newt	Otter	Badger	Barn Owl	Breeding Birds	Invertebrates	Native crayfish	Other Protected Birds	Plants (Inc. fungi, ferns and bryophytes)	Reptiles	Water Vole	Birds	Fungi	Invertebrates	Mammals	Plants (Inc. ferns and bryophytes)
Does the application involve the modification, disturbance or removal of arable field(s) with hedgerow and/or grass margin?	Yes ☐ No ☑							●											●
Does the application site contain or is it within 50m of coastal habitats including estuary, rocky shore, sand dunes and saltmarsh, grazing marsh?	Yes ☐ No ☑				●				●					●			●		
Does the application site contain or is it adjacent to heathland?	Yes ☐ No ☑		●	●		●		●	●		●	●	●		●	●	●	●	●

If you have answered 'yes' to any of the questions above please complete Table 3.2 (Species Evaluation) on the following page.

If you have answered 'no' to all of the questions above please proceed to Step 4.

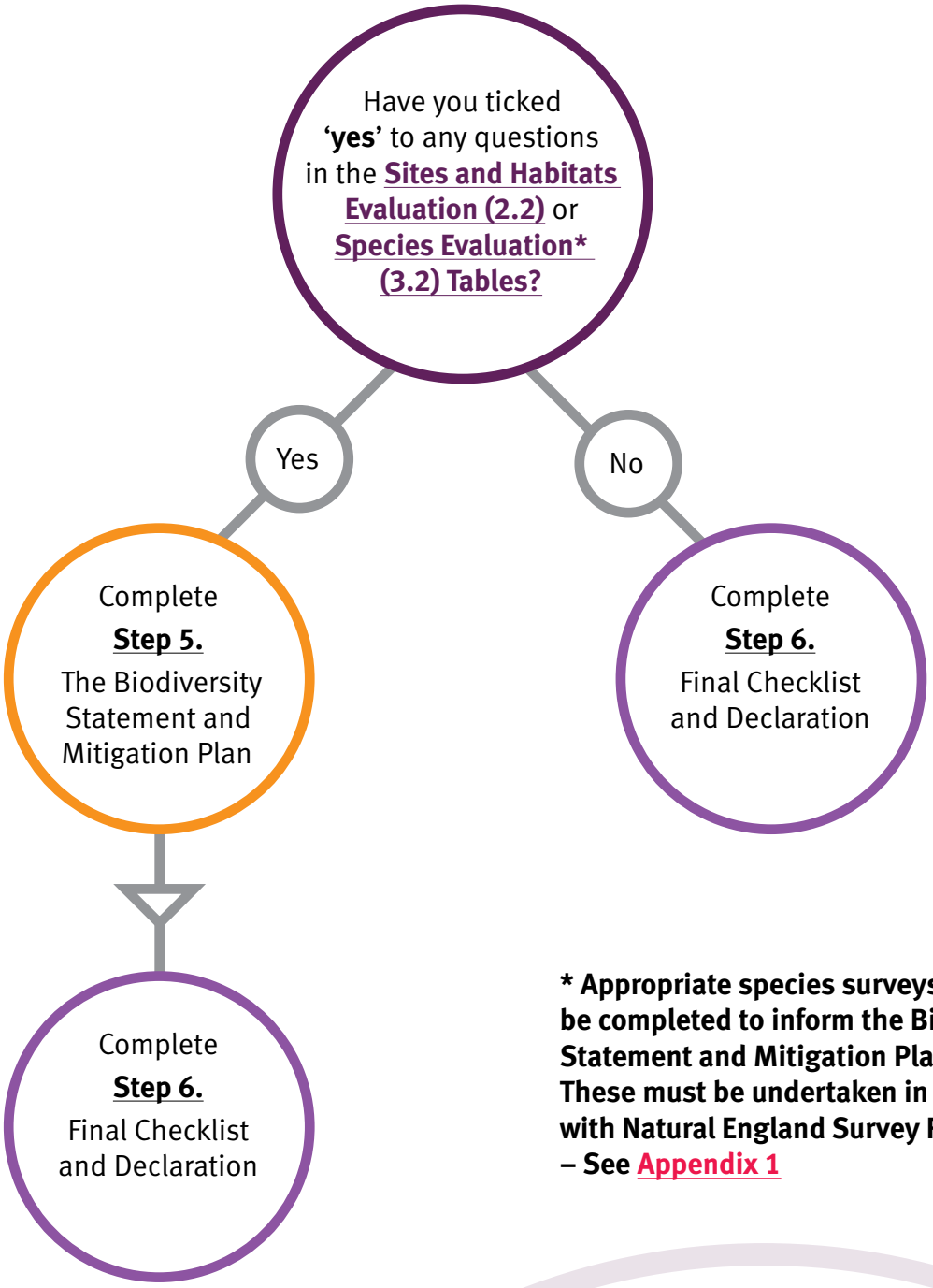
Please complete column 2 of Table 3.2 below followed by column 3 as appropriate.

Table 3.2 – Species Evaluation

1.	2.	3.
Species (Identified following the completion of Table 3.1)	Is there a **'reasonable likelihood'** that the development will affect a species in column 1 **prior** to applying mitigation? (Tick as appropriate)	Where you have answered **'yes'** name the species and summarise any possible direct or indirect effects that may occur during construction or operation. **Appropriate species surveys will need to be completed to inform the Biodiversity Statement and Mitigation Plan (Step 5). These must be undertaken in accordance with Natural England Survey Requirements – See Appendix 1** Where you have answered **'no'** please provide a concise statement to support your answer.
European Protected Species	Yes ☑ No ☐	Refer to Chapter 16 and the Preliminary Ecological Appraisal (Appendix 16.1) of the Environmental Statement.

1.	2.	3.
Nationally Protected Species	Yes ☑ No ☐	Breeding birds, Great Crested Newts, and reptiles. Refer to Chapter 16 and the Preliminary Ecological Appraisal (Appendix 16.1) of the Environmental Statement.
Priority Species	Yes ☐ No ☑	Refer to Chapter 16 and the Preliminary Ecological Appraisal (Appendix 16.1) of the Environmental Statement.

Step 4. Is a Biodiversity Statement and Mitigation Plan Required?



*** Appropriate species surveys will need to be completed to inform the Biodiversity Statement and Mitigation Plan (Step 5). These must be undertaken in accordance with Natural England Survey Requirements – See Appendix 1**

Step 5. Biodiversity Statement and Mitigation Plan

If you have answered **'yes'** to any questions in the **Sites and Habitats Evaluation (2.2)** or **Species Evaluation (3.2) Tables** you must submit a Biodiversity Statement and Mitigation Plan incorporating the findings of the Preliminary Ecological Appraisal.

The Biodiversity Statement and Mitigation Plan must include the following:

1. A map showing the location of protected sites on or within 2km of the application site boundary (see **Appendix 2**).
2. An Extended **Phase 1 Habitat Survey** which shows the location and extent of habitats that could be affected by the proposals; together with the features associated with Protected or Priority species.
3. Relevant Protected and/or Priority Species Surveys including results and methods* in accordance with Natural England's Standing Advice for Protected Species Survey Requirements (See **Appendix 1**).
4. A qualitative evaluation of the value and likely impacts/effects upon each biodiversity feature (habitat, species or, where appropriate, species assemblage). This should adopt the same approach to the evaluation and identification of impacts as recommended by the Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management (CIEEM) in their **Ecological Impact Assessment (EcIA) Guidelines**.
5. If you have answered **'yes'** to any questions in **Table 2.2 Sites and Habitats Evaluation** - a quantitative evaluation of the application site's habitats using Defra's **Biodiversity Offsetting Metric** i.e. a calculation showing the number of Biodiversity Units within the application site boundary before and after development. An **impact calculator** for developers is available on the Environment Bank **website**.
6. For each biodiversity feature that will be adversely affected a Mitigation Plan detailing:
   a. How adverse impacts will be avoided**, reduced and/or mitigated***.
   b. How any residual impacts that cannot be avoided and/or mitigated will be compensated*** for off-site.
   c. Where appropriate, how mitigation or compensation measures will be managed, resourced and monitored post-permission. Detailed guidance about the format of long-term mitigation and habitat management plans can be provided upon request.
7. Proposals for biodiversity enhancements. This is strongly encouraged for all developments, but especially for applications that occur within recognised local ecological networks such as a **Living Landscape Area** or the **Greater Thames Marshes Nature Improvement Area (NIA)**.

   All habitat creation or restoration measures should be focused upon local conservation priorities as defined by the **Essex Biodiversity Action Plan**.

This should clearly describe the survey work undertaken. Simply stating national survey guidelines were followed is not sufficient.

***where the final location or design of the development is not necessarily the least harmful to biodiversity, the overriding technical reasons for this choice must be clearly evidenced.*

****Habitat mitigation and/or compensation measures must be expressed in Biodiversity Units (See Defra's Biodiversity Offsetting Metric).*

Supporting Notes

BS 42020 – a code of practice for biodiversity in planning and development

BS 42020 is a standard developed by the British Standards Institution (BSI) in association with biodiversity experts and stakeholders from across all sectors. The standard provides clear recommendations and guidance to ensure that actions and decisions taken at each stage of the planning process are informed by sufficient and appropriate ecological information. The BSI has produced a smart guide that provides an introduction to the benefits of BS 42020 smart guide.

European Protected Species

Please note that for European Protected Species a mitigation licence may be required – post planning permission - in order to carry out the development should permission be granted. It is important that you refer directly to Natural England the licensing body for further guidance, and submit any relevant correspondence with this checklist.

However, The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010 requires the Local Planning Authority (LPA) to consider 'Three Tests' when determining a planning application that may affect a European Protected Species. These 'tests' can be summarised as follows:

- Is there a genuine need and 'purpose' for the proposed development?
- Are there any satisfactory alternatives to delivering and meeting the need in the way proposed?
- Will there be any adverse effect on the conservation status of the species concerned?

If there is a risk of European Protected Species being impacted by the development the applicant must submit sufficient evidence to enable these tests to be satisfactorily addressed by the LPA.

Further guidance is provided in the Natural England publication '**European Protected Species and the Planning Process**'.

European Protected Species are those animals listed under Schedule 2 or plants listed under Schedule 5 of the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010. The term European Protected has **not** been used for 'Nationally Protected Species' with no protection under the Regulations, but which are listed under Schedule II and/or V of the European Habitats Directive. For example the native crayfish.

Wild Birds

Reg 9A(8) of The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010 states that "a competent authority in exercising any function in the UK must use all reasonable endeavours to avoid any pollution or deterioration of habitats of wild birds". Applicants must demonstrate clearly how any such deterioration or pollution of wild bird habitat will be avoided by the proposed development.

Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA)

Where a formal Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) is required under the **EIA Regulations** the Biodiversity Statement & Mitigation Plan should be incorporated in to the Ecology chapter of the Environmental Statement subject to any Scoping Opinion issued by the Planning Authority.

Biodiversity Offsetting

The Biodiversity Offsetting Metric provides a standardised and transparent approach to ensuring mitigation and compensation measures are sufficient to secure no-net-loss of biodiversity. The metric is a stand-alone tool – its use does **not** assume a need for off-site compensation. Indeed, it can be used to quantify the positive benefits of onsite mitigation or enhancement measures.

Natural England Discretionary Advice Service.

Natural England has a Discretionary Advice Service (DAS) which operates to provide advice for applications prior to submission. This service includes a limited amount of free Initial Advice, followed by Charged Advice for more complex requests. It is strongly recommended that you contact them to discuss the advice you require prior to submitting your application.

Further details are available on their **website**.

Please go to **Step 6**.

Step 6. Final Checklist and Declaration

This must be submitted along with every application to ECC, if the checklist is not completed correctly the application may not be valid.

	Applicant Only		*Office Only*	
Step	**Item**	**Tick if Included**	**Required**	**Included**
Step 1	Preliminary Ecological Appraisal*	✓	✓	
	Biological Records Search *	✓	✓	
Step 2	Table 2.1 Sites & Habitats checklist	✓	✓	
	Table 2.2 Sites & Habitats evaluation	✓	✓	
Step 3	Table 3.1 Species checklist	✓	✓	
	Table 3.2 Species evaluation	✓	✓	
Step 5	Biodiversity Statement & Mitigation Plan **	✓		
	Correspondence from Natural England/Environment Agency/ Other Conservation Body			

**Should be incorporated in to the Biodiversity Statement & Mitigation Plan where one is required.*

***Must be incorporated in to the Ecology chapter of an ES if an EIA is required.*

Signed: Agent

Date: 22/02/2018

Name: Alistair Andrew

Address: London Stansted Airport, Enterprise House, Bassingbourn Road, CM24 1QW

Please note that in all circumstances legislation pertaining to protected species still applies and it is the responsibility of the developer to ensure that protected species and sites are not adversely affected as a result of development.

Thank you for completing this checklist. Please submit it, along with all supporting information, with your application.

Appendix 1 – Guidelines for Surveys

Links to Natural England's Standing Advice for Protected Species (Survey Requirements):

- What should detailed survey reports for protected species include?
- Great Crested Newt
- Badger
- Bats
- Barn Owl
- Birds
- Dormouse
- Invertebrates

  Due to the recognised value of invertebrate assemblages associated with brownfield sites in Essex, Natural England have produced specific local Standard Advice which is available here.
- Native crayfish
- Otter
- Reptiles
- Water Vole
- Plants

Other Guidance:

Natural England has produced Standing Advice for Ancient Woodland and Veteran Trees and this should be referred to in the preparation of the Biodiversity Statement where Ancient Woodland and/or Veteran Trees are likely to be affected.

The Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management 'Sources of Survey Methods' (SoSM) should be referred to for survey methodologies for Priority Species not covered by Natural England's Standing Advice.

Appendix 2 – Biodiversity features that must be shown on an Ordnance Survey base map at an appropriate scale

- Special Protection Area (SPA)
- Special Area of Conservation (SAC)
- Ramsar Site
- Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI)
- National Nature Reserve (NNR)
- Ancient Woodland
- Local Wildlife Site (LoWS)
- Special Roadside Verge

Glossary

Ancient or veteran tree: A tree which, because of its great age, size or condition is of exceptional value for wildlife, in the landscape, or culturally.

Ancient woodland: An area that has been wooded continuously since at least 1600 AD.

Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP): Biodiversity Action Plans (BAPs) arose from the signing of the Convention on Biological Diversity in 1992, an international treaty signed by 150 nations including the UK, pledging to conserve biodiversity. BAPS are broken down into Species Action Plans (SAPs) and Habitat Action Plans (HAPs) and cover species and habitats considered threatened. These are known as 'Priority' species and habitats. Each Plan contains a definition of the habitat or species, describes the threats they face and the objectives and targets need to be met to conserve them. BAPS currently cover 1149 Priority species and 65 Priority habitats.

Ecological networks: These link sites of biodiversity importance.

Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA): A procedure to be followed for certain types of project to ensure that decisions are made in full knowledge of any likely significant effects on the environment.

European Protected Site: This includes candidate Special Areas of Conservation, Sites of Community Importance, Special Areas of Conservation and potential Special Protection Areas, and is defined in regulation 8 of the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010.

International, national and locally designated sites of importance for biodiversity: All international sites (Special Areas of Conservation, Special Protection Areas, and Ramsar sites), national sites (Sites of Special Scientific Interest) and locally designated sites including Local Wildlife Sites.

Living Landscapes: Living Landscapes are large landscape-scale areas of the countryside, such as river valleys, estuaries, forested ridges, and grass and heath mosaics, which form ecological networks. The networks allow wildlife to move through them and increase their resilience to threats such as climate change, floods, drought, sea-level rise and development pressure. There are 80 Living Landscapes within Essex.

Local planning authority: The public authority whose duty it is to carry out specific planning functions for a particular area. All references to local planning authority apply to the district council, borough council and county council to the extent appropriate to their responsibilities.

Nature Improvement Area: Inter-connected network of wildlife habitats intended to re-establish thriving wildlife populations and help species respond to the challenges of climate change.

NPPF: National Planning Policy Framework. This document sets out the government's planning policies for England and how they are expected to be applied. It provides guidance for local planning authorities and decision-takers, both in drawing up plans and making decisions about planning applications.

Previously developed land: Land which is or was occupied by a permanent structure, including the curtilage of the developed land (although it should not be assumed that the whole of the curtilage should be developed) and any associated fixed surface infrastructure. This excludes: land that is or has been occupied by agricultural or forestry buildings; land that has been developed for minerals extraction or waste disposal by landfill purposes where provision for restoration has been made through development control procedures; land in built-up areas such as private residential gardens, parks, recreation grounds and allotments; and land that was previously-developed but where the remains of the permanent structure or fixed surface structure have blended into the landscape in the process of time.

Priority habitats and species: Species and Habitats of Principal Importance included in the England Biodiversity List published by the Secretary of State under section 41 of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006.

Qualifying species: Those plants or animals found on the legal list of qualifying species for which a Special Area of Conservation, Special Protection Area or Ramsar site has been selected and is managed.

Ramsar sites: Wetlands of international importance, designated under the 1971 Ramsar Convention.

Special Areas of Conservation: Areas given special protection under the European Union's Habitats Directive, which is transposed into UK law by the Habitats and Conservation of Species Regulations 2010.

Special Protection Areas: Areas which have been identified as being of international importance for the breeding, feeding, wintering or the migration of rare and vulnerable species of birds found within European Union countries. They are European designated sites, classified under the Birds Directive.

Site of Special Scientific Interest: Sites designated by Natural England under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981.

Stepping stones: Pockets of habitat that, while not necessarily connected, facilitate the movement of species across otherwise inhospitable landscapes.

Wildlife corridor: Areas of habitat connecting wildlife populations.

This information is issued by
Essex County Council, Place Services.
You can contact us in the following ways:

By email:
ecology.placeservices@essex.gov.uk

Visit our website:
http://www.placeservices.co.uk

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03330 136840

By post:
Essex County Council, Place Services
PO Box 11, County Hall, Chelmsford, Essex CM1 1QH

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