

APPENDIX 8.1a

ECOLOGY SCOPING REQUEST



Our Ref: PE00166/HS
Date: 1st February 2021

Emma Simmonds Consultant Ecologist
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Sent via Email

FAO: Consultant Ecologist

Dear Ms. Simmonds,

Land off Radwinter Road, Saffron Walden: Ecological, Scoping Request

Introduction

We understand that Place Services provide ecological advice on behalf of Uttlesford Council. Harris Lamb Property Consultancy (HLPC) was commissioned by Rosconn Group Limited to undertake a Preliminary Ecological Appraisal (PEA) at land off Radwinter Road, Saffron Walden (national grid reference TL55793813), hereafter termed the 'site' (see Figure 1 below).

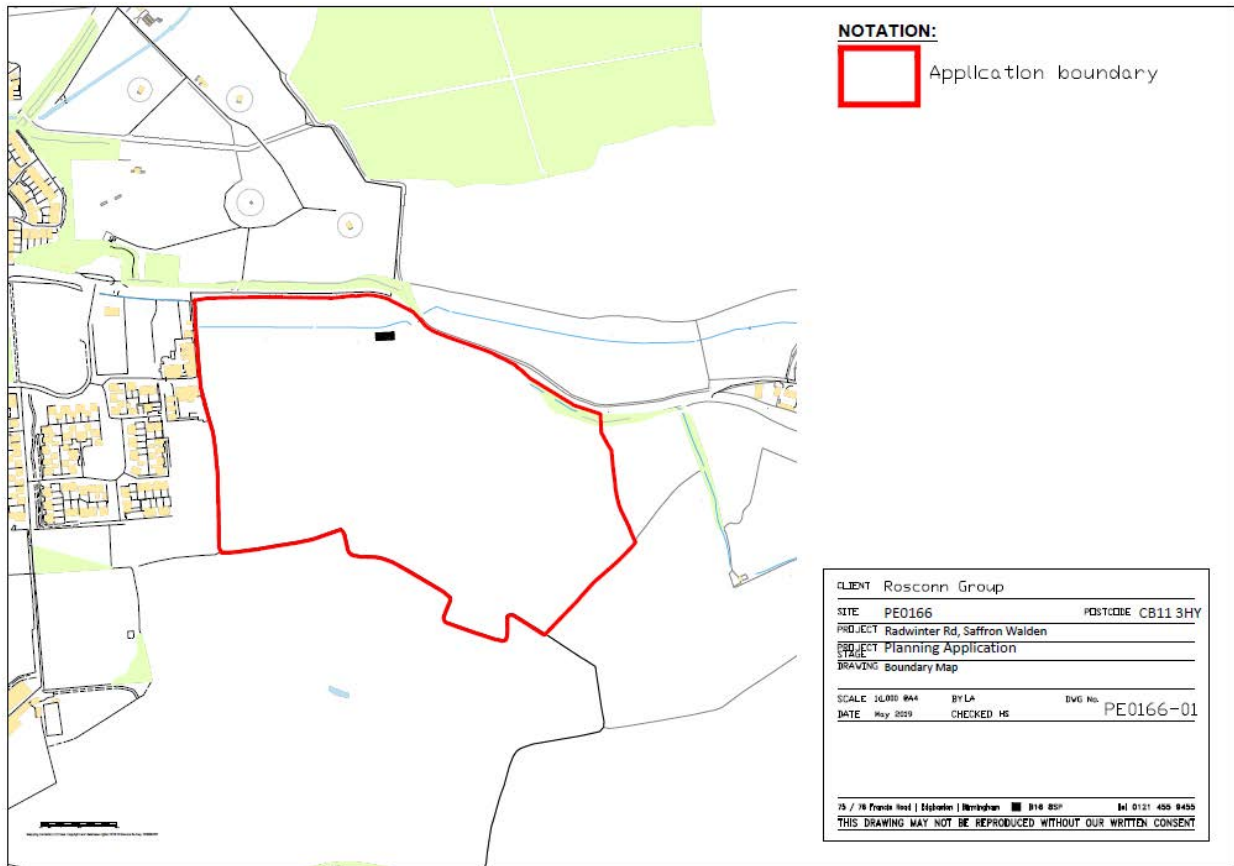


Figure 1: Site location. Not to scale.

The site is surrounded on two sides by agricultural land to the east and south, a new housing development to the west and Radwinter Road (B1053) to the north. The site is dominated by an arable field with a smaller grassland field all surrounded by hedgerows with scattered trees. A metal agricultural building is present on site.

HLPC ecologists worked with the appointed design team to design a residential scheme at the site which maximises habitat retention, habitat connectivity and enhance biodiversity. A copy of the current masterplan is on Figure 2 at the end of this letter.

We are seeking confirmation that the proposed development does not require an Environmental Impact Assessment in relation to biodiversity. In accordance with Regulation 6 of the EIA Regulations In accordance with Regulation 6, Paragraph (2) this statement provides the following information in relation to biodiversity:

- (a) a plan sufficient to identify the land (see Figure 1 above)
- (b) a description of the development, including in particular—
 - (i) a description of the physical characteristics of the development and, where relevant, of demolition works;
 - (ii) a description of the location of the development, with particular regard to the environmental sensitivity of geographical areas likely to be affected;
- (c) a description of the aspects of the environment likely to be significantly affected by the development;
- (d) a description of any likely significant effects, to the extent of the information available on those effects, of the proposed development on the environment resulting from—
 - (ii) the use of natural resources, in particular ... biodiversity;

Baseline Conditions

Baseline conditions were established through data consultation with Essex Wildlife Trust Biological Record Centre (EWTBRC), Multi Agency Geographic Information for the Countryside (MAGIC) website www.magic.gov.uk, OS data, aerial imagery (www.bing.co.uk) and an Extended Phase 1 Habitat Survey by an experienced and suitably qualified ecologist following JNCC (2010) methodology in September 2020.

A summary of the baseline conditions is provided in Table 1 overleaf together with an assessment of ecological value based on CIEEM (2018) guidelines.

Table 1: Summary of identified baseline ecological conditions

Habitat/ Species	Baseline conditions	Value
Internationally designated sites for nature conservation	None recorded in 10km of site	NA
Nationally designated sites for nature conservation	None recorded in 2km of site	NA
Non-designated sites for nature conservation	10 identified within 2km of the site. None on site. Closest site is Pounce Wood Local Wildlife Site (LWS) located c. 180 m north separated by Radwinter Road. Pounce Wood and Martins Wood Ancient Woodland recorded c. 150m north of the site and c. 600m north east of the site respectively.	Local-regional
Arable and poor semi-improved grassland	Site dominated by an arable field dominated by bare ground with areas of tall ruderal habitat in the field margin (c. 1m wide). Smaller field was dominated by grasses which appeared to have been sown in the past. Common species recorded.	Species poor and widespread both locally and nationally. Value to nature conservation at site level.
Hedgerows and trees	The field boundaries are dominated by frequently species-rich hedgerows with scattered mature and semi-mature trees. Several were considered to support sufficient species to potentially qualify as important under the Hedgerow Regulations 1997.	Importance up to a local level, due to the species diversity and habitat connectivity.
Watercourse (ditch)	A ditch partially dry at the time of survey c. 0.5m wide with vegetated bank sides, heavily shaded with a muddy substrate and culverted under the access road.	Value to nature conservation at site level.
Amphibians and reptiles	One pond was identified c. 170 m to the south of the site which was largely dry and offered poor suitability for great crested newts. Low risk of common reptiles being present on site due to suboptimal habitats.	Site level value to reptiles if present.
Birds	Potential for breeding birds in hedgerows and trees and arable/grassland value for foraging.	Value to nature conservation at site level.
Bats	Shed negligible interest to roosting bats. Potential for bats to roost in trees along the boundary of the site and likely to use hedgerows/ditch for foraging.	Value to nature conservation at site level.
Badgers	No setts recorded, Potential for badgers to use the site as highly mobile.	Value to nature conservation at site level.
Hazel dormice	No records of species but hedgerows potentially suitable.	If present site-local
Otter and water vole and white-clawed crayfish	Watercourse considered not suitable for supporting these due to lack of water.	NA
Hedgehogs	Potential for presence due to hedgerows/grassland.	Value to nature conservation at site level.
Invasive species	None recorded	NA

Potential Impacts

A summary of the potential impacts, mitigation and/or compensation and enhancement anticipated at this stage is provided in Table 2 below overleaf.

Table 2: Summary of the potential impacts, mitigation and/or compensation and enhancement

Habitat/ Species	Impacts	Mitigation/ Compensation	Enhancement	Proposed Mechanism for Control
Arable and poor semi-improved grassland	This habitat will be lost to accommodate the proposed development.	Compensation through creation of new areas of grassland.	Potential for increased biodiversity of grassland with appropriate species mix.	Through design
Hedgerows and trees	The majority of hedgerows and trees have been retained except for access.	Replacement of hedgerow tree loss with new native planting.	Planting additional native hedgerows and trees.	Through design
Watercourse (ditch)	Realigned and incorporated into SuDs scheme.	Replacement of watercourse within SuDS scheme.	Potential enhancement with increased watercourse/ waterbody on site and increased in biodiversity through appropriate native planting.	Through design
Amphibians and reptiles	Loss of ditch, arable and grassland habitats. Retention of habitat connectivity.	Replacement of watercourse within SuDS scheme and replacement of grassland/hedgerows .	Potential enhancement with increased watercourse/waterbody on site and increased in biodiversity/habitat provision through appropriate native planting and hibernacula.	Through design
Birds	Loss of ditch, arable and grassland habitats and short sections of hedgerow for access.	Replacement of hedgerow tree loss with new native tree and grassland planting.	Planting additional native hedgerows and trees and woodland. Potential enhancement with increased watercourse/waterbody on site and increased in biodiversity for wider range of bird species.	Through design
Bats	Demolition of building. Loss of	Replacement of hedgerow tree loss	Installation of bat	Planning condition and

Habitat/ Species	Impacts	Mitigation/ Compensation	Enhancement	Proposed Mechanism for Control
	ditch, arable and grassland habitats and short sections of hedgerow for access. Lighting impacts. Retention of habitat connectivity.	with new native planting. Erection of bat boxes on mature trees for any lost. Sensitive lighting scheme on habitat corridors.	boxes. Increased watercourse/ waterbody and new hedgerow planting to increase foraging habitat.	through design
Badgers	Loss of ditch, arable and grassland habitats and short sections of hedgerow for access.	Preconstruction survey to reduce risk as badgers highly mobile. Compensation through creation of new areas of grassland and hedgerow planting.	Limited potential for enhancing habitats for badgers.	Planning condition and through design
Hazel dormice	Loss of short sections of hedgerow for access. Retention of majority of hedgerows and connectivity.	Removal of hedgerow under a Method Statement under supervision of a licensed dormouse ecologist and if appropriate obtain a Natural England licence if dormice found. Replacement of hedgerow tree loss with new native planting.	New hedgerow/ woodland planting to increase habitat.	Planning condition and through design
Hedgehogs	Loss of short sections of hedgerow. Retention of majority of hedgerows and connectivity.	Replacement of hedgerow loss with new native planting. 13cm gaps in new boundary fencing where appropriate to retain connectivity.	Planting additional native hedgerows and more species diverse grassland and woodland areas.	Planning condition and through design

It is anticipated that mitigation, compensation and enhancement above can be controlled through planning condition including a Construction and Ecological Management Plan (CEMP) and Landscape and Ecological Management Plan (LEMP) and control conditions on timing of works to minimise impacts to protected species. An appropriate lighting scheme can minimise impacts to foraging/commuting bats.

No adverse ecological impacts are anticipated that are likely to be 'significant' under the EIA Regulations 2017.

It is anticipated that the proposed development could result in a net enhancement to biodiversity of the site and be national and local planning biodiversity policy compliant.

Approach and method

It is proposed Biodiversity can be scoped out of the Environmental Statement and that the planning application would be accompanied by an Ecological Appraisal following CIEEM guidelines (non-EIA) and the Essex Biodiversity Validation Checklist version June 2015, a draft version of which has been included as Appendix 1 to this document.

Cumulative Impact

A list of identified schemes is appended to this letter. The proposed development retains habitat connectivity to the wider landscape and is not directly connected to any of the identified schemes. The impacts identified with the proposed development can be mitigated and controlled via planning condition. The proposed development is anticipated to enhance the biodiversity of the site. No cumulative adverse impacts are therefore anticipated. We would welcome information on any schemes which you are aware of which may require further consideration.

Consultation

No consultation has been undertaken in respect of biodiversity to date. We would welcome any feedback on the scope of ecological survey and assessment presented.

Conclusion

We would welcome feedback on the proposed approach and confirmation that a non-EIA ecological assessment would be appropriate in this instance.

Yours sincerely



Dr Holly Smith
Director - Environment
Holly.smith@harrislamb.com



Attachment:

Appendix Cumulative schemes
DRAFT Essex Biodiversity Validation Checklist
DRAFT Proposed Masterplan

References

Joint Nature Conservation Committee (2010) Handbook for Phase 1 Habitat Survey. A Technique for Environmental Audit

CIEEM (2018) Guidelines for Ecological Impact Assessment in the UK and Ireland

Site Name & description	Outline Application	Reserved Matters	Site Layout	Distance from the site	Timetable for delivery (according to UDC 5yrHLS Statement April 2020 (Jan 2021))
<p>Land South of Radwinter Road – Up to 230 dwellings including link road and access to & preparation of land for one form entry primary school</p>	<p>UTT/13/3467/OP – Manor Oak Homes</p>	<p>UTT/16/1856/DFO – for 200 dwellings etc. Approved in January 2017 – Linden Homes</p>		<p>Directly adjacent to the west. Furthest point from our site boundary is approximately 650 metres to the west.</p>	<p>The scheme is already being delivered. 98 dwellings already delivered. Remaining trajectory: 2020/2021 – 44 dwellings 2021/2022 – 38 dwellings</p>
<p>Land north of Shire Hill Farm – up to 100 units...in addition to the provision of land to facilitate an extension to the approved Primary School</p>	<p>17/2832/OP – Dianthus Land, approved 14th July 2020</p>	<p>No RM submitted</p>		<p>Directly adjacent to the south west of the site. Furthest point from our site boundary is approximately 650 metres to the south-west.</p>	<p>No published timescale, but we can assume 100 dwellings will be delivered before 2024/25.</p>

<p>Land east of Thaxted Road – up to 150 units</p>	<p>18/0824/OP – Kier. Approved April 2019</p>	<p>RM 19/2355/DFO submitted in September 2019, refused permission in February 2020 – Bellway. Appeal since lodged, validated 5th June. 20/0865/FUL – construction of the Spine Road approved 21st July 2020 - Bellway</p>	 <p>The map shows a residential development site with a central spine road and several clusters of houses. A pink line indicates a boundary or path. A green area on the right is labeled 'Existing woodland'. A note at the bottom of the map reads 'Site with planning consent for 35 new houses'. The text 'Land east of Tha' is partially visible at the bottom right of the map area.</p>	<p>Approximately 590 metres to the south west of our site's south-western boundary.</p> <p>This site's furthest point is approximately 950m away from our site's south-western boundary.</p>	<p>2020/21 – 50 dwellings 2021/22 – 50 dwellings 2022/23 – 50 dwellings</p>
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Essex Biodiversity Validation Checklist

Prepared by Place Services

Essex County Council

Version 1.3 | June 2015

Introduction

This checklist is a requirement for all planning applications considered a major development as defined by Article 8(7) of The Town and Country Planning (General Development Procedure) Order 1995.

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.

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.

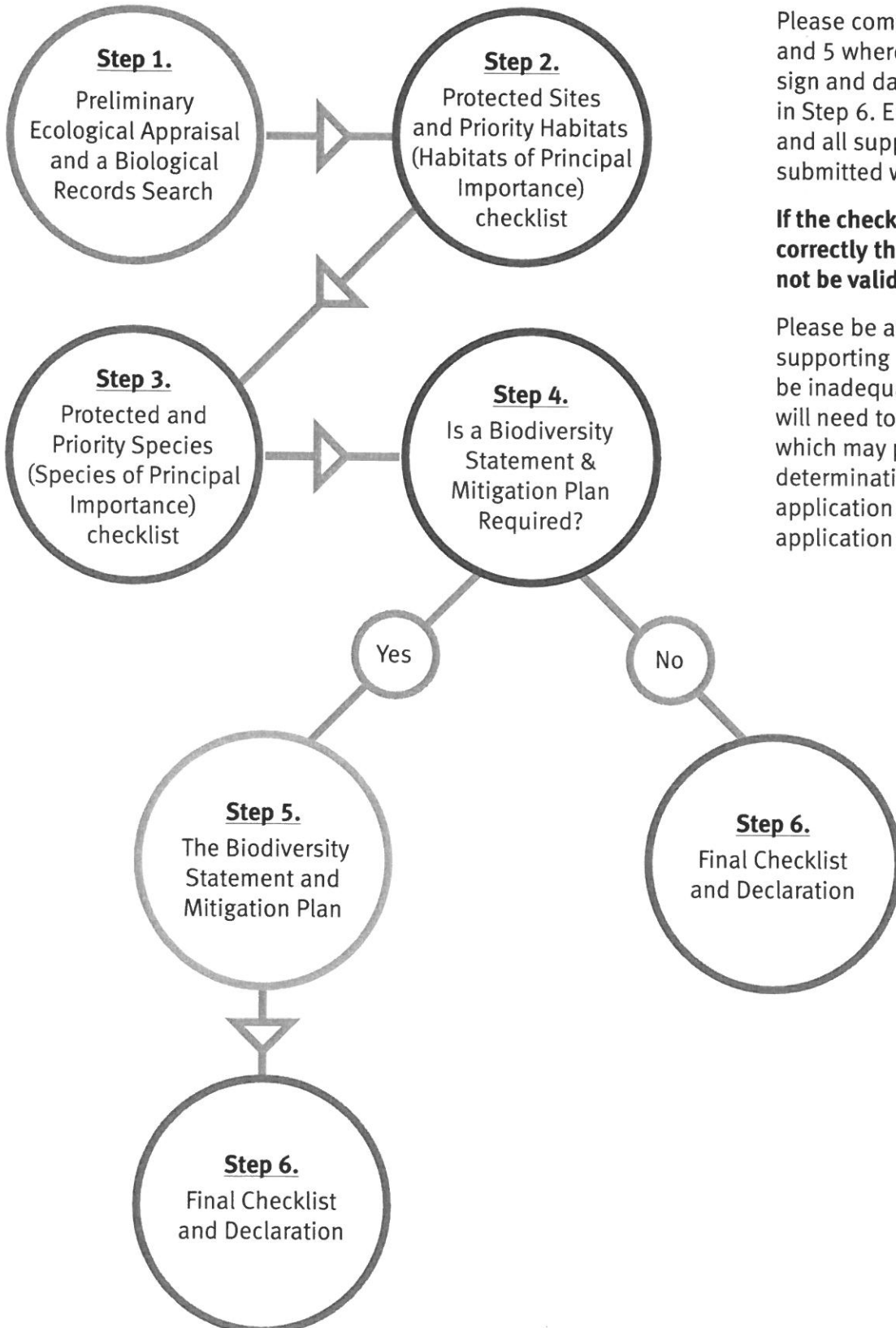
The checklist does not attempt to provide a detailed account of the legislation and policy that underpin biodiversity conservation in England. Further information can be obtained from **Natural England** and links have been provided in the text to external sources of information where appropriate. **A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

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 <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Is your development within 2km of a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI)?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Is your development within 250m of any Habitats of Principal Importance; Ancient Woodland and/or Local Site?	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>

**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	<p>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?</p> <p>(Tick as appropriate)</p>	<p>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.</p> <p>Where you have answered ‘no’ please provide a concise statement to support your answer.</p>
SAC/SPA/Ramsar site*	<p>Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p>	

1.	2.	3.
SSSI*	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Priority Habitats	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	Priority hedgerows on site - largely to be retained

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

1.	2.	3.
Ancient Woodland	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Local Wildlife Sites	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	

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 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	●		●	●				●	●			●		●				
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 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	●					●												
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 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	●	●	●		●		●	●		●	●		●			●	●	
Does the application site contain or is it adjacent to a tree/woodland plantation, including of conifers?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	●	●	●		●		●			●	●		●				●	
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 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	●					●	●	●		●			●	●	●			

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
Does the application involve modification, conversion, demolition or removal of any of the following features or types of building: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	●					●	●		●				●				

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 <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	●		●		●		●	●		●	●		●		●	●	●	●
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 <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>			●				●						●		●			●
Does the application site contain or is it adjacent to grassland such as meadows, parkland or pasture?	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	●		●		●		●			●	●			●	●	●	●	●
Does the application site contain previously-developed, derelict or brownfield land; or railway land?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	●		●		●	●	●	●		●	●		●		●			
Does the application involve the modification, disturbance or removal of: mature or over-grown gardens; rough grassland; scrubland or allotments?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	●	●	●		●		●			●	●	●	●		●	●	●	●
Does the application involve disturbance or removal of a compost heap?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>											●							

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 <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>							●											●
Does the application site contain or is it within 50m of coastal habitats including estuary, rocky shore, sand dunes and saltmarsh, grazing marsh?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>				●			●						●			●		
Does the application site contain or is it adjacent to heathland?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	●	●		●		●	●		●	●	●		●	●	●	●	●	●

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 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	Potential for bats to be present in suitable trees / use site for foraging. Building negligible potential

1. 2. 3.

Nationally Protected Species

Yes No

Breeding birds
Reptiles

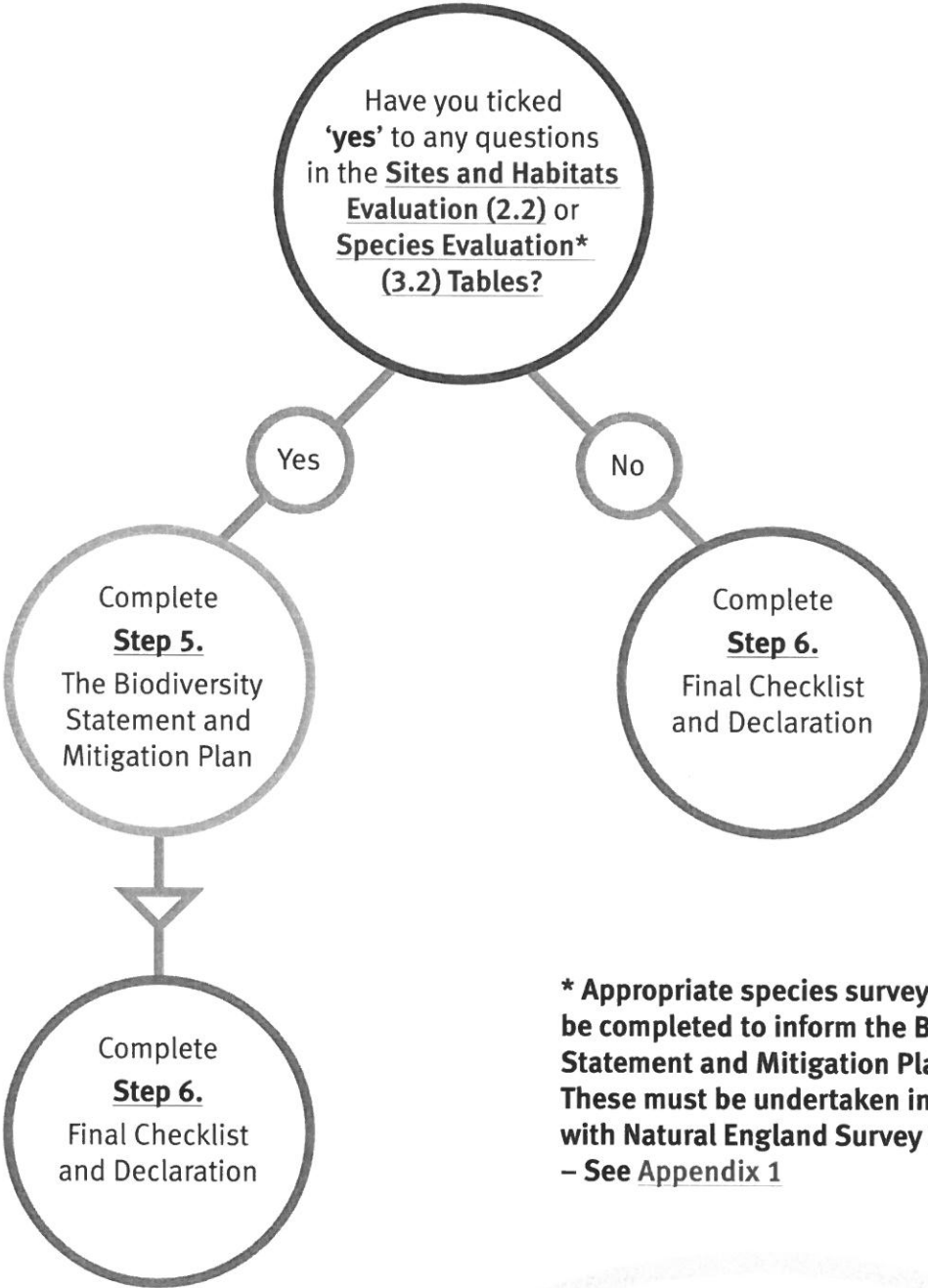
Priority Species

Yes No

Birds, low risk
Reptiles / common
amphibians.
Hedgehogs.

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 \(EclA\) 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*		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Biological Records Search *		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Step 2	Table 2.1 Sites & Habitats checklist		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Table 2.2 Sites & Habitats evaluation		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Step 3	Table 3.1 Species checklist		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Table 3.2 Species evaluation		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Step 5	Biodiversity Statement & Mitigation Plan **		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Correspondence from Natural England/Environment Agency/ Other Conservation Body		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

*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: 
 Applicant/Agent (please delete as appropriate)

Date: 28-1-21

Name: Dr Henry Smith

Address: HARRO LAMB,

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>

By telephone:

03330 136840

By post:

**Essex County Council, Place Services
PO Box 11, County Hall, Chelmsford, Essex CM1 1QH**

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The information contained in this document can be translated, and/or made available in alternative formats, on request.

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LEGEND

- Site Boundary
- 2M Contours
- Public Open Space
- Wetland
- Parkland
- Semi-natural Green Corridor
- SuDS
- Formal Public Open Space
- Green Links
- Trees along Green Links
- Existing Trees / Woodland / Hedgerows
- Proposed Trees / Woodland / Hedgerows
- Street Trees
- Residential
- Development Blocks
- Proposed off-street Pedestrian/Cycle Links
- Existing Public Footpath
- Primary Vehicular Route
- Vehicular Site Access Point
- Formal Play
- Viewing Point

DESIGN PRINCIPLES

- 1** Formal Open Space with play on the high points of development parallel to the ridge.
- 2** Central green corridor with Sustainable Urban Drainage features, informal play and pedestrian / cycle links along the valley between the development parcels. Green corridors using existing utility easements.
- 3** Parkland on higher ground with views to Saffron Walden and countryside, incorporating native tree planting and footpath routes.
- 4** Semi-natural wetland character area providing an attractive green entry to the site and concentrating drainage attenuation on the lowest land.
- 5** New woodland blocks and hedgerows to reflect local landscape character of woodlands and field patterns.
- 6** New native woodland, street trees and informal tree groups are located strategically throughout the site to complement the local landscape character and help screen the development from the wider environs.
- 7** Greener and looser urban form of eastern parcel to provide a sensitive transition to the rural areas beyond.
- 8** Potential pedestrian / cycle links to the west subject to agreement with adjacent landowner.

SCALE 1:2,000

