

Biodiversity Checklist

If any of the following are present then the development must include a Biodiversity Mitigation Plan which has been approved by the Local Authorities' Ecologist.

- Designated sites
- Protected species
- National priority species & habitats
- Local priority species & habitats

If statutorily designated sites are present or will be affected by the development then Natural England must be consulted and an Environmental Impact Assessment must be carried out.

If a Local Wildlife Site is present or will be affected by the development then the application should be subject to consultation with the local Wildlife Trust.

Designated Sites

Are there any statutorily designated sites with legal protection such as Ramsar, SSSI, National Nature Reserve, Local Nature Reserve present in the locality? **Yes/No**

Are there any Local Wildlife Sites (non-statutory designation) in the locality? **Yes/No**

Priority Habitats & Species

Does the application site support any protected species, priority habitats and/or species (including local priority), rare species, or good species assemblages? **Yes/No**

Bats

Are there any trees or buildings/structures on the site which could support roosting bats? **Yes/No**

Has the site been surveyed for bats? **Yes/No**

Have the existing buildings/ structures or trees been used by bats? **Yes/No**

Trees that are likely to support roosting bats include old and veteran trees as well as any tree with cracks or crevices. Any trees with these features should be checked for signs of roosting bats and where appropriate bat surveys should be carried out. Further guidance can be found in 'Bat Surveys: good Practice Guidelines' available from Natural England.

Barn Owls

Is the site suitable for barn owls? **Yes/No**

Is there any evidence of nesting or roosting barn owls on site? **Yes/No**

Barn owls often nest in farm buildings, dovecotes, bale stacks, hollow trees and a wide variety of derelict buildings. Further information can be found in 'Barn Owls On site: A guide for developers' available from Natural England.

Breeding birds

Will areas of hedgerow/scrub/woodland/trees/buildings or other features likely to be used by nesting or overwintering birds be affected by the proposal? **Yes/No**

Could the site support nesting Schedule 1 birds, or is there evidence of Schedule 1 birds nesting on site? **Yes/No**

Has the site been surveyed for breeding birds? **Yes/No**

Will the development be carried out in the breeding bird season (March to August depending on the weather)? **Yes/No**



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Want to know more?

Useful contacts & references

Natural England

www.gov.uk/planning-development/protected-sites-species

Cheshire Record Centre rECOrd

www.record-lrc.co.uk

Joint Nature Conservation Committee

jncc.defra.gov.uk

Priority Habitats & Species

jncc.defra.gov.uk/page-5705

UK Government Legislation

www.legislation.gov.uk

Cheshire Wildlife Trust

Bickley Hall Farm
SY14 8EF

01948 820728

info@cheshirewt.org.uk

Registered Charity no. 214927
A company Limited by Guarantee
Registered in England No. 738693
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Badgers

Is there any evidence of badger setts on or within 30m of the application site or are badgers commuting through the application site? **Yes/No**

Do the proposals require the closure of an active badger sett or would they result in the isolation of a sett from foraging areas? **Yes/No**

Badgers use a wide variety of habitats and setts can be found in hedgerows, woodlands, scrub and field margins. Where appropriate, safe routes to foraging area should be incorporated into the development proposals. Further information can be found in 'Badgers and Development' available from Natural England.

Dormice

Is there habitat suitable for dormice? **Yes/No**

Are there any signs of dormice, such as nests or feeding remains on the site? **Yes/No**

Although rare in the Cheshire region Dormice can be found in a wide variety of woodland and scrub habitats. Further guidance can be found in 'The Dormouse Conservation Handbook'.

Amphibians

Are there suitable ponds or ditches for amphibians to breed on site or within 250m of the site? **Yes/No**

Has an amphibian survey been undertaken? **Yes/No**

Have newts or toads been found on the site? **Yes/No**

Amphibians require a variety of connected habitats including suitable breeding ponds, tussocky grassland, woodland, hedgerows, piles of stones, rocks, or fallen wood, stone/brick walls. Further information can be found in 'Great Crested Newt Mitigation Guidelines' and 'Natterjack Toad Conservation Handbook' from Natural England.

Reptiles

Is there habitat suitable for reptiles? **Yes/No**

Has a reptile survey been undertaken? **Yes/No**

Have any reptiles been found on the site? **Yes/No**

Reptiles use a variety of habitats including rough grassland, heathland, allotments, scrub, brownfield sites, field margins and derelict gardens. Further information can be found in 'Reptiles: Guidelines for Developers' available from Natural England.

Protected species associated with waterways and open water

Is there suitable habitat for otters, water voles or white clawed crayfish on/near to site? **Yes/No**

Have surveys for these species been undertaken? **Yes/No**

