



Lewes District Council

## Appendix 4 - Biodiversity

### **Biodiversity/geological conservation/landscape and natural beauty -**

Applications should indicate any significant biodiversity or geological conservation interests and the location of habitats of any species protected under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981, Conservation (Natural Habitats etc) Regulations 1994 or other animals protected under their own legislation for example the Protection of Badgers Act 1992. Where pre-application discussion has identified the necessity for survey information on protected species or other biodiversity or geological conservation interests, this should accompany the application. Where the development proposal will result in significant harm to biodiversity and geological conservation interests, evidence must be supplied as to why the development cannot reasonably be located on any alternative sites that would result in less or no harm. Where no such alternatives are available, details of proposed mitigation measures should be given.

**A biodiversity and landscape checklist is available to download for completion and submission with an application from our website.**

Following receipt of a checklist you may be required to submit a species survey. Where required, your application will not be valid until a survey is received.

**A biodiversity check list will be required with all major applications and any applications that affect the following:**

- protected species,
- traditional timber framed building (e.g. barn or oast house) or traditional farm building.
- Ponds or slow flowing waterbodies (e.g. ditches) on or within 500m of the site linked by semi-natural habitat (e.g. grassland/pasture, woodland, hedgerows)
- Woodland, including scrub, and hedgerows on, or adjacent to the application site (by hedgerows etc.)
- Rough grassland and previously developed sites ('brownfield sites') on/immediately adjacent to the application site
- Heathland on, adjacent to or linked to the application site by other semi-natural habitat
- Watercourses including rivers, ditches and lakes on or immediately adjacent to the application site
- Meadows, grassland, parkland and pasture on adjacent to or linked to the application site by other semi-natural habitat.
- Buildings with the following features:



| <b>Factors affecting the probability of a building being used by bats in summer</b>       |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Increase probability                                                                      | <p>Disused or little used; largely undisturbed</p> <p>Large roof void with unobstructed flying spaces</p> <p>Large dimension roof timbers with cracks, joints and holes</p> <p>Uneven roof covering with gaps, though not too draughty</p> <p>Entrances that bats can fly in through</p> <p>Hanging tiles of wood cladding, especially on south-facing walls</p> <p>Rural setting</p> <p>Close to woodland and/or water</p> <p>Pre-20<sup>th</sup> century or early 20<sup>th</sup> century construction</p> |
| Decrease probability                                                                      | <p>Urban setting or highly urbanised area with few feeding places</p> <p>Small or cluttered roof void (esp. for Plecotus)</p> <p>Heavily Disturbed</p> <p>Modern construction with few gaps around soffits or eaves (but be aware these may be used by pipistrelles in particular)</p> <p>Prefabricated with steel and sheet materials</p> <p>Active industrial premises</p> <p>Roof shaded from the sun</p>                                                                                                 |
| <b>Factors affecting the probability of trees being used by roosting bats</b>             |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| Increase probability                                                                      | <p>In ancient woodland or parkland</p> <p>Large trees with complex growth form</p> <p>Species that typically form cavities, such as beech, willow, oak or ash</p> <p>Visible damage caused by rot, wind, woodpeckers, lightening strike, etc</p> <p>Loose bark providing cavities</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
| Decrease probability                                                                      | <p>Coniferous plantation with no specimen trees</p> <p>Young trees with simple growth form and little damage</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
| <b>Factors affecting the probability of underground sites being used by roosting bats</b> |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| Increase probability                                                                      | <p>Large enough to develop stable temperature in winter</p> <p>High humidity</p> <p>Undisturbed</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |



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|----------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|                      | Close to woodland or water (but note that bats will also use upland sites)<br>Many cracks and crevices suitable for bats |
| Decrease probability | Small and draughty<br>Heavily disturbed<br>In urbanised areas<br>Smooth surface with few roosting opportunities          |

For information regarding biodiversity and local information the following links may be useful.

Sussex Biodiversity Partnership - the gateway to biodiversity information in Sussex

<https://www.biodiversitysussex.org.uk/>

The Sussex Biodiversity Record Centre collect, manage and disseminate wildlife data for East and West Sussex and Brighton & Hove.

<http://sxbrc.org.uk/>

Multi Agency Geographical Information for the Countryside (MAGIC) provides authoritative geographical information about the natural environment from across government. The information covers rural, urban, coastal and marine environments across Great Britain.

<http://www.magic.gov.uk/>