

Biodiversity survey and report

Many applications will require a protected species assessment as part of the planning application process. Our Local Validation List requires a Protected Species Form to be submitted along with a planning application.

<https://www.peakdistrict.gov.uk/planning/your-application/application-forms>

The Protected Species Form highlights where proposals will require biodiversity surveys and reports. Where a proposed development may have possible impacts on wildlife and biodiversity, information should be provided on existing biodiversity interests to allow full consideration of the impacts of the development. Such assessments should be undertaken by suitably qualified experts.

Further guidance is contained in the Authority's publication [Conservation and Development Practice Note; Protected Species and Development in the National Park](#)

Where proposals are being made for mitigation and/or compensation measures, information to support those proposals will be needed. Where appropriate, accompanying plans should indicate any significant wildlife habitats or features and the location of habitats of any species protected under the:

- [Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981](#)
- [Conservation \(Natural Habitats etc\) Regulations 1994](#)
- [Protection of Badgers Act 1992](#)

Applications that will affect areas designated for their biodiversity interests are likely to need to include assessments of impacts and proposals for long-term maintenance and management.

This information might form part of an Environmental Statement, where one is necessary. Certain proposals which include work such as the demolition of older buildings or roof spaces, the removal of trees, scrub, hedgerows, or alterations to water courses may affect protected species and will need to provide information on them, any potential impacts for them and any mitigation proposals for such impacts.

Government planning policies for biodiversity are set out in:

- [National Planning Policy Framework Feb 2019, Paragraphs 174 - 177](#)
- [Circular 06/05 Biodiversity and Geological Conservation – Statutory Obligations and their implications within the Planning system](#)

Applications should accord with the relevant policies found in:

- [Core Strategy](#) policies L1 and L2
- [Development Management Plan](#) (DMP) in particular policy DMC11

DMP Policy DMC11, Safeguarding, recording and enhancing nature conservation interests, requires the submission of the following to support an application:

- a habitat/vegetation map and description (with identification of plant communities and species), and a description of fauna and geological/geomorphological features; and
- adequate information about the special interests of the site in terms of scientific importance including: size and species population, diversity and richness, rarity, fragility, irreplaceability, naturalness, position in the ecological geographical unit, seasonal presence, potential value, the degree to which it is typical and representative, historical continuity and geological or geomorphological importance; and
- an assessment of the direct and indirect effects of the development including associated visitor pressure, pollution and changes in hydrology; and
- details of any mitigating and/or compensatory measures and details setting out the degree to which net gain in biodiversity has been sought; and
- details of alternatives considered including the 'do nothing scenario' and justification for the choice of the preferred option and for discounting other options; and
- details of provisions made for the beneficial future management of the nature conservation interests of the site. Where the likely success of these measures is uncertain, development will not be permitted.