



**RTPI**

mediation of space · making of place

## GBC/RTPI Draft Biodiversity Summary Form



The summary form below is designed to facilitate Local Planning Authorities (LPAs) in fulfilling their duty to report annually on biodiversity change as a result of their function in issuing planning consents.

The summary form is completed by the consultant ecologist during the process of compiling the ecological report and is then submitted along with the report and the planning application. It is not intended that the amount of survey effort required is increased or that any other changes are made to the normal practices of the ecologist in carrying out their desk studies, field work or report writing. The summary form should act purely as a repository for a summary of information that is contained in the report as it relates to Biodiversity Action Plan habitats and species. An A4 explanatory sheet will accompany the summary form to clear any ambiguities and supply definitions. The information contained will include:

- The intended use of the form and its limitations.
- Definitions for some terms used.
- Clarification that no additional work required.
- The intended use of the proposed, actual and implemented columns.
- The use of the information contained in the summary form and permissions from the client.

Although this form was designed primarily for use by planning officers or their colleagues in reporting annually on biodiversity change as a result of planning consents, a secondary desired outcome is to assist in the facilitation of the release of biodiversity data to Local Record Centres (LRCs) and thence on the National Biodiversity Network (NBN). To that end, modifications have been made to the form to streamline this process. However, it is recognised that to maximise the benefits to the LRCs it will be necessary to include key information for each habitat or species record. Whilst this is not within the remit of the summary document it is anticipated that a spreadsheet that lists these key parameters can be appended to the summary form. The design and detail of this spreadsheet is beyond the scope of this exercise. However, it is anticipated that the design of this will be developed by partners as part of a pilot project.

The summary document and pilot project associated with it are based on the planning system in England. However, once sufficient progress has been made, it will be reviewed by the RTPI policy sections for Scotland, Northern Ireland and Wales with a view to adapting it to make it applicable for all countries of the UK.

Once the Environmental Planning and Protection Network and Development Management Network of the RTPI have been consulted and their views taken into account, a second phase of consultation with other relevant bodies will follow. The organisations to be included in this second round consultation include the Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management (IEEM), Institute of Environmental Management and Assessment (IEMA), Town and Country Planning Association (TCPA), Department of Communities and Local Government (DCLG), Department for Environment Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA), Association of Local Government Ecologists (ALGE), Association of Wildlife Trust Consultancies (AWTC), Association of Local Environmental Records Centres (ALERC) and the National Biodiversity Network (NBN).

**QUESTIONS FOR NETWORK MEMBERS** - We would appreciate your comments on:

1. Clarity and accessibility.
2. Likelihood of use.
3. Usefulness for the required purpose.

Please send your comments to [epp@rtpi.org.uk](mailto:epp@rtpi.org.uk)

Biodiversity Change Assessment Form for Development Management

# BIODIVERSITY AND DEVELOPMENT SUMMARY OF CHANGE FORM

This is not for use in protected species licensing for which standard procedures exist. Please read the guidance document that supports this form. Ensure that an experience ecologist has informed the information supplied. This information is a summary of the ecological report and this should be referred to for supporting data.

**Lead Planning Officer** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date** \_\_\_\_\_ **Application No:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Applicant** \_\_\_\_\_ **Type of Development** \_\_\_\_\_

**Location** \_\_\_\_\_ **Site grid reference** \_\_\_\_\_

Please tick this box if the information contained in this form cannot be released to Local and National Record databases

## Local BAP Habitats

BAP habitat present on site (or impacted/enhanced by development)	Before	Proposed		Agreed		Implemented	
	Area (ha/km)	Area (ha/km)	*Quality change	Area (ha/km)	*Quality change	Area (ha/km)	*Quality change

## Local BAP Species (present or using the site)

When recording summary for species it is anticipated that it may only have been population or supporting habitat data that were measured as appropriate.

All BAP species recorded on site	Local BAP species not currently present but for which the site has potential	Before		Proposed		Agreed		Implemented	
		Population (counts, transects, etc)	Extent of supporting habitats (ha/km)	Population (counts, transects, etc)	Extent and *quality change of supporting habitats (ha/km)	Population (counts, transects, etc)	Extent and *quality* change of supporting habitats (ha/km)	Population (counts, transects, etc)	Extent and *quality change of supporting habitats (ha/km)

- Categories: Increased; unchanged; decreased

## Built Structures

Potentially appropriate species (depending on location)	Species relevant to site? (Yes/no)	Recommended number of roosts (only indicative at this stage)	Number of roosts provided and type
Crevice dwelling bats		1 in 20 structures	
Bats requiring flight space		1 in 5 public buildings	
Horseshoe bats		1 in 5 public dwelling	
Swifts		1 in 40 buildings	
House martins		1 in 50 buildings	
House sparrows		1 in 40 buildings	
Starlings		1 in 100 buildings	
Swallows		1 in 50 buildings	
Barn Owls		1 per development	
Peregrine		1 per development	

## Other Biodiversity Enhancing Measures

(Please tick as appropriate)

	Yes	Supporting documentation attached
Have the measures to conserve and enhance biodiversity been agreed by Conditions or 106 agreements		
Supporting or enabling practical BAP research		
Skills development and training of site staff in biodiversity matters		
Educating the local community on local biodiversity		
Wider monitoring of species or habitats		
Working with local conservation organizations and support for collaborative action		
Other biodiversity enhancing features e.g. green roofs and walls, water features		
Any existing management to enhance biodiversity		
Any additional measures to aid wider (non-LBAP) biodiversity		
Measures to aid in connectivity of the landscape for species movement		