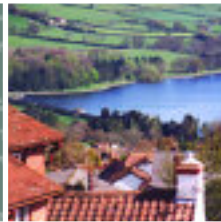
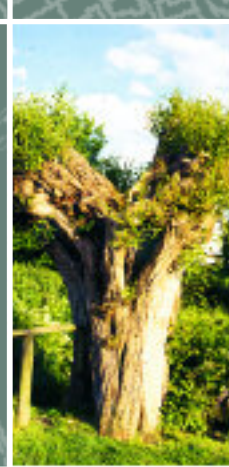


Biodiversity and trees

Supplementary planning document for
developments within North Somerset



This **Supplementary Planning Document**
supplements the policies of
the Joint Replacement Structure Plan
the Adopted North Somerset Local Plan
the Emerging North Somerset Replacement Local Plan

Adopted by North Somerset Council
December 2005

Acknowledgement for photos

Acknowledgement

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Copyright English Nature

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Jane Brewer

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Andrew Edwards

Photos

Water vole

Greater horseshoe bat, dormouse
box and otter

Quarry, Blagdon Lake

Bee orchid, willow tree and butterfly

Bluebells

Veteran tree

Development and various habitats

Land Yeo

Contents

1	Introduction	2
2	Local policies	5
3	Trees and development	6
4	Protected sites	8
5	Protected species	9
6	Objectives	10
7	Minor developments	11
8	Major developments	12
9	Conclusions	17

Annexes

These can be found on the North Somerset Council website:
www.n-somerset.gov.uk

1	North Somerset Local Plan policies
2	Joint Replacement Structure Plan policy
3	North Somerset Replacement Local Plan policies
4	Legislation and policy guidance
5	Tree requirements
6	List of Wildlife Sites
7	Protected species guide
8	Householder leaflet
9	Biodiversity checklist for developers
10	When to survey for various species
11	Regional Policies
12	Notable species
13	List of BAP species and habitats
14	Contact list
15	References

1 Introduction

Biodiversity is a term that has been used since the Convention on Biological Diversity was signed by 159 governments, including the UK government, at the first Earth Summit in 1992 and refers to the variety of life on earth. This life includes all plants and animals as well as the habitats, soils and rocks in which they occur. The wealth and variety of biodiversity is seen in every environment, be it woodland, urban, coastal or open countryside.

Wildlife and development are often assumed to be in conflict. This doesn't have to be the case and this Supplementary Planning Document aims to encourage design for biodiversity gain alongside new development. This can be both within the building design and the adjoining open spaces.

1.1 Purpose

The purpose of this Supplementary Planning Document is to guide those submitting planning applications by supplementing the policies and proposals relating to biodiversity in the adopted North Somerset Local Plan, the Joint Replacement Structure Plan and the emerging North Somerset Replacement Local Plan.

The South West Regional Assembly has confirmed that this document is in general conformity with the Regional Spatial Strategy. This Strategy provides the regional context and policy framework for more local policies and includes policy EN1 'Landscape and Biodiversity' and targets set out in tables 3,4 and 5 (see ANNEX 11).

However, this Document is not part of the statutory development plan. When adopted, it will have the status of "Supplementary Planning Document", having been prepared under the new system of preparing development plans. As such it is anticipated that the Secretary of State will give substantial weight to the guidance set out in the document in making decisions on matters that come before him. It also has relevance to policies that concern landscape as these relate to habitats and designated areas.

It is expected that developers will follow the advice contained in this Supplementary Planning Document. The information provided by developers will be taken into account in the determination of planning applications. Developers are encouraged to consider the potential of their development in making a contribution to the biodiversity objectives and targets for particular types of habitat and species found in North Somerset. In this way the aim of no net loss of biodiversity within North Somerset should be achieved.

1.2 Policies and plans

The policies in the emerging North Somerset Replacement Local Plan will have weight attached to them depending upon the stage of plan preparation, increasing as successive stages are reached, or otherwise in accordance with Government guidance as set out under paragraph 48 of PPG1 General policy and principles.

The relevant policies in the regional, sub regional and local plans are listed in section 2. The plans seek to ensure that development does not cause a net loss in the biodiversity resource of North Somerset.

The Biodiversity and Trees Supplementary Planning Document also has links with the Landscape Character Assessment for North Somerset that expand on the Landscape Character Areas in the local plans, the North Somerset Waste Local Plan, the Mineral Working in Avon Local Plan and the Regional Planning Guidance as set out in RPG10. This Supplementary Planning Document should always be read in conjunction with all other relevant planning policies of the council.

In addition the Planning Policy Statement, PPS9, gives the background to the development plan led system.

Biodiversity policies have an important part to play in the sustainable development of North Somerset.

1.3 Biodiversity action plans

This Supplementary Planning Document seeks to further the actions of the national, regional and local Biodiversity Action Plans. *Action for Nature* is the Biodiversity Action Plan for North Somerset, and developers should consult this document to see where development proposals can fulfil one or more of the listed actions. *Action for Nature* provides information that is essential to this Supplementary Planning Document. *Action for Nature* is available on www.n-somerset.gov.uk, from local libraries, or alternatively a CD or copy can be requested from the Strategic Projects Group (ANNEX 14).

The habitat action plans in *Action for Nature* are:

- ◆ Woodlands
- ◆ Field boundaries and linear features
- ◆ Species-rich grasslands
- ◆ Fen, marsh and swamp
- ◆ Coastal and floodplain grazing marsh
- ◆ Standing open water
- ◆ Rivers and streams
- ◆ Estuary
- ◆ Urban
- ◆ Traditional orchards

The current species action plans in *Action for Nature* include:

- ◆ Otter
- ◆ Water vole
- ◆ Greater horseshoe bat
- ◆ Water shrew

It is anticipated that more species action plans will be produced

Action for Nature has links with the Community Strategy for North Somerset, with the Avon Biodiversity Action Plan, Action for Biodiversity in the South West, Working with the Grain of Nature a Biodiversity Strategy for England and the UK Biodiversity Action Plan.

1.4 Trees as amenity features

Trees are important visual features in urban and rural settings and contribute towards the amenity of a locality. They also provide food for wildlife, nesting sites for birds and roosting sites for bats as well as habitat for numerous invertebrates. Their ecological importance is enhanced when combined with other habitats such as hedgerows. Veteran trees in particular can contribute significantly to the biodiversity of a locality. The importance of trees in the landscape is acknowledged in national legislation and regional policies.

Trees also provide significant direct and indirect benefits for the community. For instance, they can have a positive impact on health by filtering airborne particles, increase the sense of well being and provide shade from solar radiation. Trees also provide wood for products from the Forest of Avon project, or woodchip for mulch or fuel. In addition trees provide a sense of maturity to new developments, can encourage local community involvement and are an important educational resource.



Branched horsetail



Reptile fencing



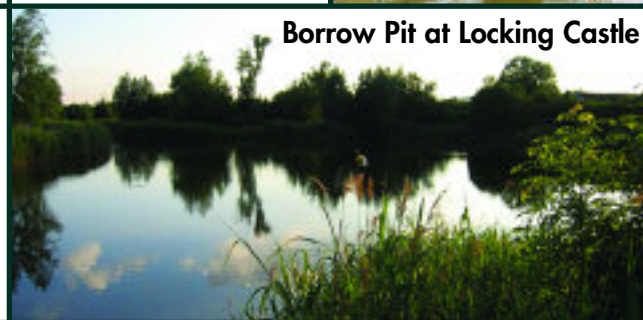
Green Lane



Durnford Quarry



Land Yeo



Borrow Pit at Locking Castle



Roadside hedgerow

2 Local policies

Planning applications will be decided in accordance with the development plans as in section 54A of the Town and Country Planning Act. Details of the policies that are relevant to biodiversity and trees are listed below and given in the ANNEXES. The policies apply in both urban and rural areas.

Regional spatial strategy (Annex 11)

POLICY NUMBER	POLICY TITLE	COMMENTS
EN/1	Landscape and Biodiversity	Targets in tables 3, 4 and 5

North Somerset Local Plan (Annex 1)

POLICY NUMBER	POLICY TITLE	COMMENTS
NE/1	The Forest of Avon	Designated area
NE/2	International Sites	Designated areas
NE/3	SSSIs	Designated areas
NE/4	Sites of Nature Conservation Importance and Local Nature Reserves	Designated areas
NE/5	Protected species	All areas
NE/6	Habitat creation and enhancement	All areas
NE/7	Management of wildlife habitats	All areas
NE/8	Tree planting	Specific schemes

Joint replacement structure plan (Annex 2)

POLICY NUMBER	POLICY TITLE	COMMENTS
18	Nature conservation	All areas

North Somerset Replacement Local Plan (Annex 3)

GDP/3	Promoting good design and sustainable construction	All areas
ECH/8	Landscape Character Areas	Designated areas
ECH/10	Forest of Avon	Designated area
ECH/11	Biodiversity	All areas
ECH/12	Protected species and their habitats	All areas
ECH/13	Wildlife sites of international importance	Designated areas
ECH/14	Sites of Special Scientific Interest and National Nature Reserves	Designated areas
ECH/15	Wildlife and Geological Sites and Local Nature Reserves	Designated areas

A list of relevant legislation, advice or policy documents is given in ANNEX 4.

3 Trees and development

The Town and Country Planning Act 1990 provides local authorities with a duty to ensure that in granting planning permission, adequate provision is made to protect and plant trees through the use of Tree Preservation Orders (TPOs) and planning conditions.

North Somerset Council will make TPOs where appropriate and where a potential threat is evident to important trees. These may be served prior to or on receipt of an application or following the development. A TPO may be made to provide protection for new trees. The making of TPOs before or on receipt of an application is aimed to encourage the developers' project team to consult with the local authority and the Order may be modified before confirmation.

The applicant will be expected to:

- ◆ Undertake a tree survey in accordance with BS 5837:2005 Trees in Relation to Construction Recommendations.
- ◆ Provide layout drawings which show the position of the trees and other landscape features, existing and finished site levels; services and sight lines.
- ◆ Provide an **arboricultural method statement** for works that may affect trees, which should include the type of construction and positioning of protective fencing on a **Tree Protection Plan** and any other techniques to minimise damage, such as details of 'no dig' paved surfaces, site compounds and any arboricultural works.
- ◆ Provide an Arboricultural Implication Study on more complex sites.

Further details are included in Annex 5.

It is essential that trees are considered at an early stage and prior to the submission of a planning application. Potential applications will need to demonstrate this and are strongly recommended to seek advice from a suitably qualified arboriculturalist. Applicants are required to demonstrate that they have followed the recommended flow diagram summarising planning for trees on development sites in figure 1 of BS 5837:2005.



Veteran tree retained and protected adjacent to new development at Ham Green

When considering a planning application, North Somerset Council will take into account how trees relate to the development, for example:

- ◆ The adequacy of tree protection measures.
- ◆ The minimum distance between trees and proposed buildings.
- ◆ The position of trees in relation to gardens and proposed buildings.
- ◆ Justification for any tree removals proposed and mitigation measures where appropriate.
- ◆ The relative positions of trees and windows for light.
- ◆ The aspect.
- ◆ Specific issues relating to tree species eg. Aphid honey dew, fruit drop, density of canopy, leaves and needles.
- ◆ Future canopy and root growth.
- ◆ Future management requirements and accessibility.
- ◆ The quality of trees and their contribution to the local landscape.

This is to ensure that the long term retention of appropriate trees is realistic and that the trees are viewed as an asset by new occupants rather than as an issue of conflict.

Before any demolition of existing buildings, soil level changes or construction takes place, the permitted tree work and any agreed tree removals should be undertaken at the appropriate time of year. Developers should also be aware of the possible need to obtain a felling license.

The Wildlife and Countryside Act (1981), and the Countryside and Rights of Way Act (2000) and the Conservation (Natural Habitats etc) Regulations (1994) protect wild birds, their nests and eggs and other wild animals including bats and their roosts. It is therefore necessary to ensure that any works or felling that is proposed has no impact on any protected species.

A separate leaflet will be produced to provide information for individual householders who wish to undertake more minor works such as the construction of extensions and / or conservatories which may or may not require a planning application.

Mature oak and ash trees protected during housing development at Locking Castle



4 Protected sites

Known sites hosting rare species or a good mix of species in important habitats have statutory protection at varying levels according to their importance as shown in the North Somerset Replacement Local Plan.

It is expected that all development adjacent to any designated site will follow the advice given in Section 8.4, so that a buffer of at least five metres is included.

Type of site	Number of sites	Relevance in North Somerset
Special Areas of Conservation	4	All coastline + 1km consultation zone and other areas / bat consultation area*
Special Protection Areas	1	All coastline + 1km consultation zone
Ramsar Sites	1	All coastline + 1km consultation zone
Sites of Special Scientific Interest	39	
National Nature Reserves	2	
Wildlife sites	199	See Annex 6
Geological sites (RIGS)	70	
Local Nature Reserves	10	
Wildlife features BAP Habitats	N/A	Woodlands, hedgerows, road verges species-rich grasslands, grazing marsh, ponds, rivers, streams, coastal habitats, urban areas, traditional orchards and wildlife corridors.
Conservation Areas (trees)	34	Mostly urban
Tree Preservation Orders	876	Mostly urban

*The bat consultation areas marked on the Proposals Map in the North Somerset Replacement Local Plan are drawn 5km from the candidate Special Area of Conservation for the greater and lesser horseshoe bats, as the bats are known to regularly use this area for foraging. However, greater and lesser horseshoe bats are also likely to be present in other areas from other hibernation and maternity roosts; while all the other British bat species are found in North Somerset and may be using habitats anywhere in the area.

5 Protected species

There are a number of legally protected species, both plant and animal, that may occur in North Somerset, that are a material consideration in planning applications. Details of the protected animal species, together with the various levels of protection may be found in ANNEX 7, where the table outlines the habitats where these species may be found. It also summarises the actions that developers need to take when these species are found to be present.

In addition, there are many other species that have been recorded in North Somerset, that are nationally and/or locally rare or scarce. A list of these notable species and the Avon Biodiversity Action Plan species list (2004) can be found in ANNEX 12.

The presence of protected species on a development site may require a licence for development to proceed, and English Nature or Defra (see ANNEX 4) will be able to advise.



Greater horseshoe bats



Water vole



Otter

6 Objectives

The purpose of this document is to ensure that biodiversity is fully incorporated and best practice observed in development proposals. A five point approach has been suggested by the Royal Town Planning Institute in *Planning for Biodiversity: Good Practice Guide* that is given below:

- ◆ **Information** – questions will be asked to decide if more information is needed on the potential effects of the development and on the expertise required to inform the decision
- ◆ **Avoidance** – wherever possible all the adverse effects on wildlife species and habitats should be identified and avoided
- ◆ **Mitigation** – to minimise any adverse effects and aim to guarantee proposed mitigation with planning conditions
- ◆ **Compensation** – to offset any residual harm and aim to guarantee this with planning obligations or agreements
- ◆ **New Benefits** – what and where are the opportunities to provide new benefits for wildlife?



Bee orchid



Quarry

7 Minor developments

The objectives in section 6 should be applied for all minor developments. These include applications for the erection of 1–9 dwellings, where the site is less than one hectare, or the floor space is less than 1,000 square metres. In addition the principles detailed under 8 Major Developments should be applied for minor applications where appropriate.

A special leaflet has been produced for householder and other minor applications (see ANNEX 8) that will be distributed with the planning application forms, so that biodiversity is considered at the pre application stage.



8 Major developments

Major developments include those applications for 10 or more houses, or for other developments, including industrial, where the floor space is 1,000 square metres or more, or the site 1 hectare or more.

All developers need to use the approach in section 6 and observe the following stages in regard to biodiversity and trees in the proposed development, completing the assessment stages 8.1 to 8.4 below, before the planning application is submitted. The results of this assessment should be incorporated into the design work, together with proposals for habitat enhancement and management and these should all be included in the planning application.

8.1 Screening

◆ **Screen** all applications for existing biodiversity

Each applicant should contact the council (see ANNEX 14) to discuss the biodiversity on individual sites. Where biodiversity interest is identified, the applicant should proceed to 8.2 to highlight work.

8.2 Biodiversity Checklist

◆ **Biodiversity Checklist** complete the form to summarise biodiversity

The biodiversity checklist (see ANNEX 9) should be completed and submitted with the planning application where the screening (8.1) shows there are important issues for biodiversity

8.3 Wildlife Survey – It is important to collect survey information **BEFORE** submitting a planning application

◆ **Survey and appraise** the biodiversity interest on the site and consider linkages with habitats outside the site

Ensure that you provide adequate survey data with the planning application for biodiversity. It is important that an ecological survey is carried out at the appropriate time of year (see ANNEX 10). The level of detail will vary according to the size of the development and the habitats and species on the site. A detailed survey should be carried out by an appropriately qualified professional specialist. A list of local ecological and bat consultants can be obtained from the Ecologist in strategic projects (ANNEX 14).

All survey records submitted to the council will be passed to the Bristol Regional Environmental Records Centre (BRERC), unless the applicant refuses permission. Additional biodiversity records on the area should be obtained from the BRERC (see ANNEX 14), but this will be historical data and does not replace the need to undertake an up to date survey. There may be a fee for the provision of information from BRERC.

8.4 Protect existing habitats and species

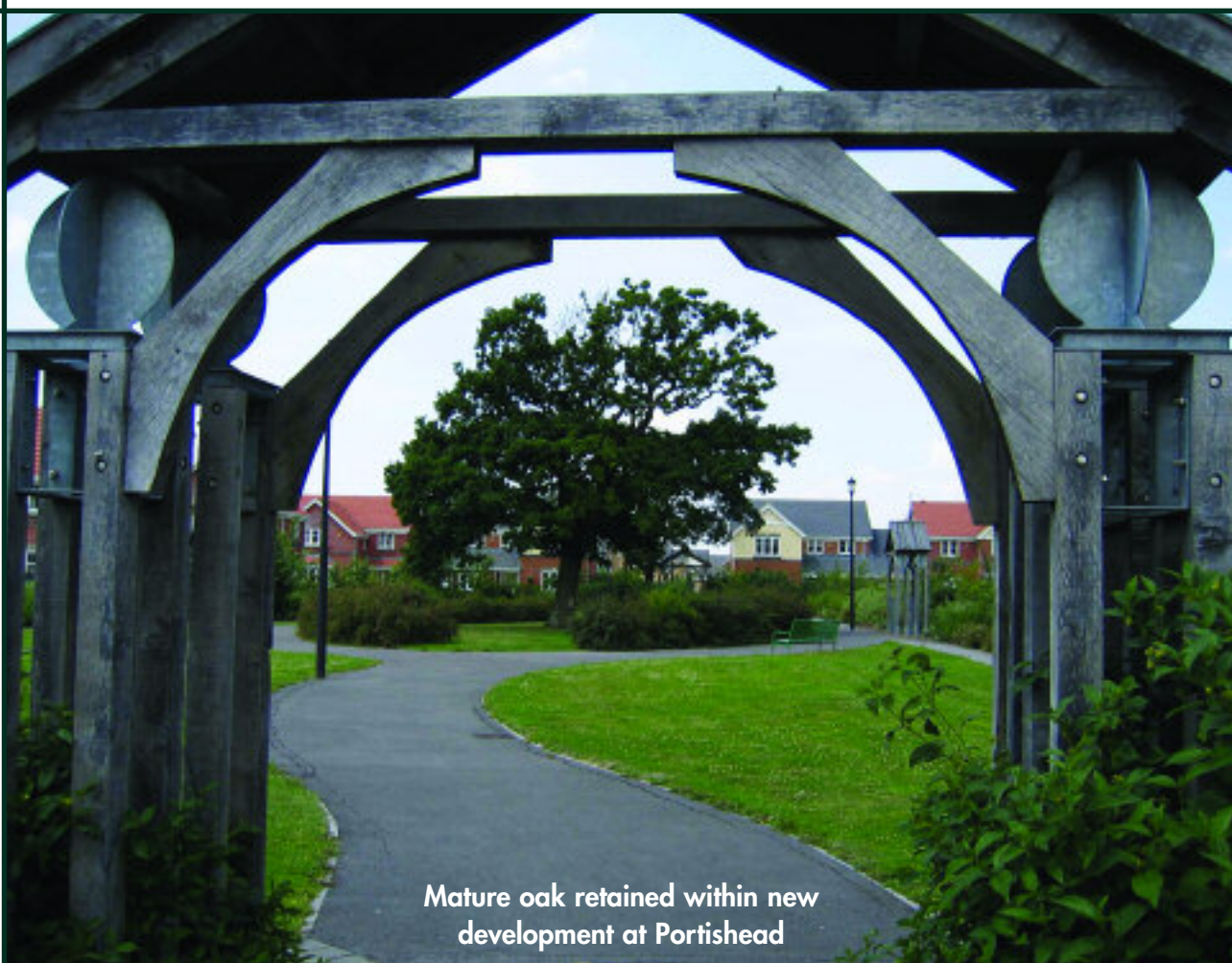
◆ **Protect, retain and manage** the existing key habitats and species

Avoid adverse impact to local, national or international sites, notable species, local or national Biodiversity Action Plan habitats or local or national Biodiversity Action Plan species (see ANNEXES 12 and 13).

Site layout and design should retain existing habitat features of benefit to wildlife. It is important to keep existing features, but to avoid leaving isolated fragments of semi natural habitat. Therefore, wildlife corridors and linking habitats are encouraged and a plan showing these should be provided at an early stage. These retained habitats should always be outside the individual householder boundaries and proposals for management must also be included (see 8.6). At least a five metre strip and sometimes a 10 metre strip for all water courses, hedges and woodlands should be retained to allow for management. However, where the Internal Drainage Board maintains the rhynes, an eight metre maintenance strip must be included.

The Forestry Commission will be consulted on any development proposals that affect ancient semi natural woodlands. Developers should be aware that there may be a need to obtain a felling license if they intend to fell trees in the area not included in the area within the red line of the planning application.

It is also vital that the existing habitats are protected from damage during the construction period. Therefore protective fencing must be erected around all wildlife features to be retained before any work commences on site. The protective fence for trees should be erected outside the area covered by the tree canopy. These details must be provided as part of the planning application and agreed



Mature oak retained within new development at Portishead

with the council. The timing of works must also be agreed with the council, especially where bats or nesting birds are on the development site, and comply with statutory duty.

Protected species may also be an issue here and a plan will be required to show how they will be protected. (see Section 5). It is possible that a licence from Defra or English Nature will also be required.

8.5 Enhance – all existing habitats

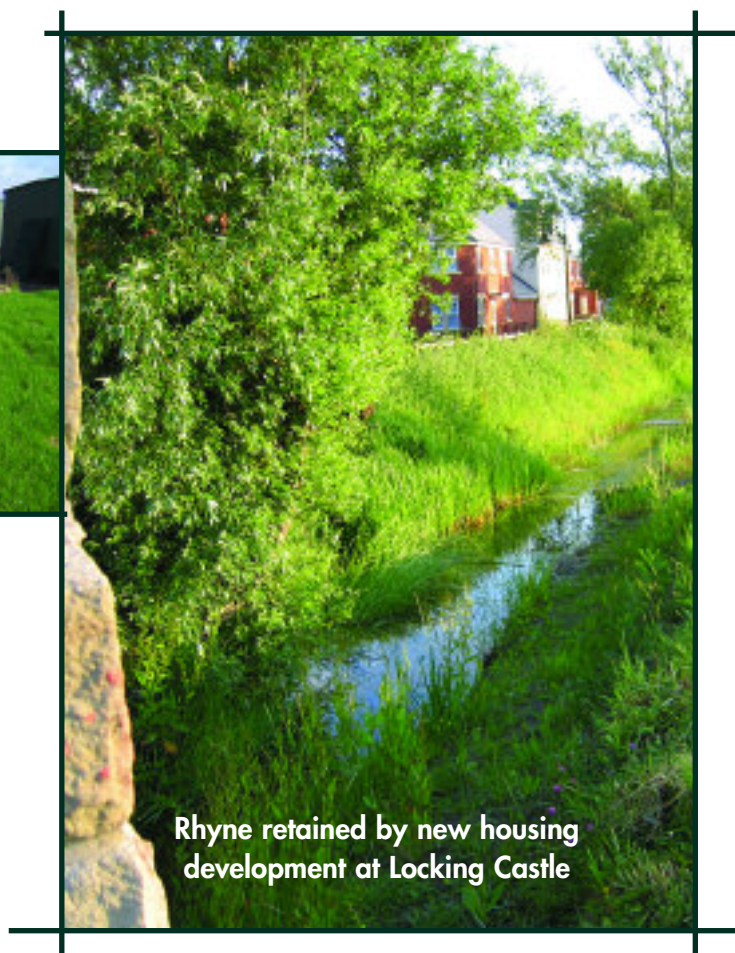
◆ **Enhance** and create habitats using BAP targets

Specialist advice is often required to enhance existing habitats. Native plants and seeds of local provenance should be sought for in new planting, while linkages between habitats and sites should be restored through the proposed management.

8.6 Manage – to maintain habitat integrity

◆ **Manage** existing and new habitats to maintain biodiversity interest

Provision must be made for appropriate management of retained features and for the newly created habitat in perpetuity. A rough guide for the cost of this is twenty times the annual maintenance budget, through agreements or a commuted sum. A management plan will need to be prepared and implemented as agreed. This may involve a charitable trust, a management company or may be adopted by the council, but in every case, the developer is required to make financial provision for the ongoing management.



8.7 Monitor – important species and features

◆ **Monitor** to assess the success of the enhancement, mitigation and compensation



Ivy Broomrape

The developer should arrange to monitor the site for at least 10 years for existing habitats and for the establishment of new or enhanced habitats. Funding should be identified to carry this out.

Monitoring will show the positive or negative effects on the biodiversity of the area and any negative data should result in changes to the long term management of the site for biodiversity. Provision should be made in the management plan to change management where monitoring shows this is necessary.

IN EXCEPTIONAL CIRCUMSTANCES WHERE DAMAGE TO THE EXISTING HABITATS IS UNAVOIDABLE:

8.8 Mitigate – against potentially adverse effects

◆ **Mitigate** to reduce adverse effects

All mitigation proposals should be discussed in detail with the Tree Officer or Ecologist and relevant Development Control Officer of North Somerset Council. Planning conditions will be used wherever possible where they are in accordance with Circular 11/95 for the mitigation agreed on a development site. Alternatively a Section 106 agreement will be signed with the developer to agree an appropriate level and type of mitigation, especially where ongoing management will be required to maintain the habitats. All section 106 agreements must be couched in terms of Government policy set out in Circular 1/97. Changes to the design, methods or timing of works can only take place with the agreement of the North Somerset Council.



Creating a lake

8.9 Compensate – where damage is unavoidable

◆ **Compensate** with new features as a last resort

Where damage to habitats or species is unavoidable, the developer can enter into a planning agreement to re-create habitat either on or adjacent to the site. Alternatively, the developer may wish to make financial contributions for long term enhancement of nearby sites, to enable creation of new habitats and / or management of existing and / or new habitats.



Creating a wetland



Bund by track



Creating a scrape

8.10 Comply – with all conditions and agreements

◆ **Comply** with all conditions or obligations

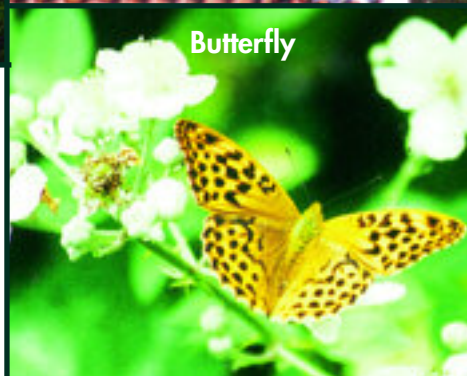
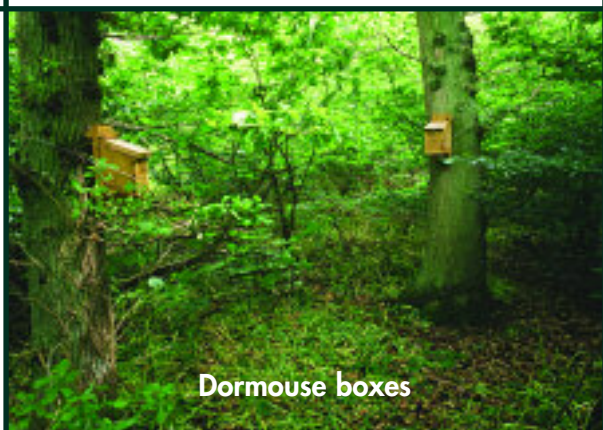
It is vital that all the agreed creation and management of habitats, mitigation, enhancement and compensation is undertaken and if you do not comply, enforcement may be required to ensure this. Monitoring may also show that enhancement, mitigation and / or compensation have failed. In this instance changes to the management and / or additional habitat creation may be required.

9 Conclusions

Planning applicants must satisfy the council that development can be successfully reconciled with the interests of the biodiversity as well as the amenity of the trees on the site and its surroundings.

The proposal should be planned so that existing habitats, species and 'wildlife corridors' are protected and there is no net loss to the biodiversity resource.

In addition, specific works or measures to conserve, protect and / or benefit the species or habitats present, as well as provision for future management, may need to be agreed between developers and the council.



If you require this information
in another format, such as Braille,
large type, tape or in another
language please call **01275 882 181**

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North Somerset Local Plan Policies

Policy NE/1

The Council will support and assist the creation of the Forest of Avon and will encourage landowners and developers within the defined area to do so. Where development is permitted the Council may impose conditions or seek planning obligations requiring the design and materials of any buildings, and any related landscaping and planting, to reflect the woodland setting and assist in establishing the forest.

Policy NE/2

Development which is likely to adversely affect the integrity of a site of international importance (i.e. potential and classified SPA's, candidate and designated SAC's and Ramsar sites) will not be permitted.

Policy NE/3

Development within or near a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) that is likely to have an adverse effect, directly or indirectly, on its nature conservation or geological interest will not be permitted unless measures are included or can be secured by condition or planning obligation to mitigate that effect to an acceptable level, or unless other material considerations outweigh the loss of nature conservation or geological value.

Policy NE/4

When considering proposals for development or other use of land in or near Local Nature Reserves or Sites of Nature Conservation Importance that are not within SSSI's the Council will seek to ensure that the nature conservation or geological value of the designated area is not lost or unacceptably harmed.

Policy NE/5

When considering proposals for development that would be likely to harm those plants and animals protected by law or the habitat used by such a species the Council will take into account the extent to which that particular harm could be avoided or mitigated and the species protected by the use of planning conditions or planning obligations.

Policy NE/6

Development will be expected to fully consider nature conservation. Where development is permitted the Council will seek to ensure that:

- i) important woodland, trees, hedgerows, watercourses, ponds, wetland habitats, geological features and other major natural features, habitats or wildlife corridors are retained and protected during construction work;
- ii) compensatory provision of at least equivalent nature conservation value is made where the loss of habitats or features of importance to wild flora and fauna is unavoidable;
- iii) habitat features attractive to wildlife including those which meet the needs of particular species, are, where appropriate, incorporated in the development;

provision is made for the future management of retained and newly created features of importance to wildlife.

Policy NE/7

The Council will where necessary and opportune seek arrangements for or undertake the management and enhancement of landscape features which are of major importance for wild flora and fauna.

Joint Replacement Structure Plan

18 Local Plans shall seek to further the objectives of nature conservation through the protection of sites subject to existing national and international designations, together with other policies and initiatives designed to safeguard and increase the size and number of key habitats and species.

Major areas where the fragmentation of natural habitats should be halted and reversed should be identified in Local Plans. Habitats should be managed so as to maintain their conservation status, and their management should include such conservation measures necessary to ensure that sites and landscape features function as stepping stones or linear features capable of supporting the migration, dispersal and genetic exchange of wild flora and fauna.

In order to ensure no net loss of biodiversity interest, Local Plans should set out policies to ensure that new development assists in the retention of existing habitats, important species, buffer areas and landscape features of major importance for wildlife. Priority should be given to enhancing the overall ecological quality, extent, capacity, structure and functioning of locations and the surrounding ecological network by creating new habitats, buffer areas and landscape features. Such effort should be concentrated in those locations where habitats and/or species have been identified as being particularly vulnerable.

North Somerset Replacement Local Plan Policies

Detail of policies

The policies stated are those that appear in the second deposit draft version of the North Somerset Replacement Local Plan.

Policy GDP/3 Promoting good design and sustainable construction

A high standard of planning and design is expected of all development; poorly designed proposals will be rejected. In determining applications for planning permission, account will be taken, wherever relevant, of the following design objectives:

- i) important features such as areas of ecological, amenity or heritage value, views of public importance across the site and rights of way are safeguarded and integrated within the development as appropriate;
- ii) the siting, levels, layout, density, form, scale, height, massing, detailing, colour and materials are appropriate for the use, having regard to the characteristics of the site and its surroundings and the need to minimise potential adverse impacts within the site and upon adjoining areas through, for example, overlooking or shading;
- iii) external areas form an integral part of the design for the site and are of a scale and character appropriate to that of the development proposed and the surrounding landscape and townscape;
- iv) hard or soft landscaping is of an appropriate standard and features such as trees, hedges, walls or buildings that contribute positively to the character of the site are taken into account;
- v) account is taken of opportunities to reduce the incidence of crime and the fear of crime against both property and the person, ensuring a clear distinction between public and private areas;
- iv) suitable provision is made for private and emergency vehicular access, having regard to the nature of the use, visibility, loading, turning and parking requirements in accordance with the Council's adopted standards;
- vii) convenient, safe and attractive access is provided for pedestrians (including those with physical and sensory disabilities), cyclists and, where appropriate, for public transport, including provision for integration with wider networks;
- viii) appropriate provision is made for the storage and collection of waste and recyclable materials;

- ix) a high level of energy saving is sought, taking account of siting, orientation, built form, design and materials, including an appraisal of how sustainable construction principles will be incorporated into the development;
- x) regard is had to the protection of users from inclement weather and from excessive sun.

Mixed use schemes will be encouraged, particularly within town and district centres, provided that the proposed uses are compatible with each other and with adjacent areas.

Proposals for the development of a site that could reasonably form part of a comprehensive development of a larger site will be resisted unless it can be demonstrated that the proper development of the larger site would not be prejudiced.

Policy ECH/8 – Landscape Character Areas

Within the Landscape Character Areas, development will be permitted if it will not adversely affect significantly the particular character of the landscape.

Policy ECH/10 – Forest of Avon

Within the defined area of the Forest of Avon, landowners and developers will be encouraged to promote its aims and objectives. Where development is permitted, conditions may be imposed or planning obligations sought requiring the design and materials of any buildings, and any related landscaping and planting, to reflect the developing woodland setting, assist in establishing the Forest or otherwise not conflict with community forest projects.

Policy ECH/11 – Biodiversity

All development proposals will be expected to fully consider the implications for biodiversity, and in particular should ensure that no net loss of biodiversity, and that species and habitats set out in the UK and local biodiversity action plans will be protected and where possible, enhanced. Where development is permitted the Council will seek to ensure that:

- i) important woodland, trees, hedgerows, watercourses, ponds, wetland habitats, geological features, rhynes and other major natural features, habitats or wildlife corridors are retained and protected during construction work; and
- ii) compensatory provision, within the site itself, or immediate vicinity if practicable, of at least equivalent biodiversity value is made where the loss of habitats or features of importance to wild flora and fauna is unavoidable; and

- iii) habitat features attractive to wildlife including those which meet the needs of particular species, are, where appropriate, incorporated in the development; and
- iv) provision is made for the future management of retained and newly created features of importance to wildlife; and
- v) where necessary and opportune, arrangements will be made to undertake the management and enhancement of landscape features which are of major importance for wild flora and fauna as part of the development proposals; and
- vi) local character will be maintained by appropriate planting of native species of local provenance wherever possible.

Development which has the potential to have an adverse impact on biodiversity will not be permitted unless there is an overriding need for the development in the proposed location or measures can be introduced to mitigate such an impact. Such development proposals will be required to be accompanied by, as part of the application details, a full biodiversity impact assessment to include the following details:

- a) a description of the biodiversity interest of the site, having regard to the Natural Area; and
- b) the nature and extent of the impact on biodiversity of the proposed development or change of use of land; and
- c) the steps to be taken to protect, enhance, and where appropriate, manage, retain and incorporate the biodiversity interest into the proposals; and
- d) where possible, link existing habitats which could potentially be of importance for wildlife; and
- e) where appropriate, the mitigation and compensation measures required to restore habitats and / or create new habitats.

Policy ECH/12 – Protected species and their habitats

Development which could harm, directly or indirectly, nationally or internationally protected species of flora or fauna or the habitats used by such species will not be permitted unless that particular harm could be avoided or mitigated and the species protected by the use of planning conditions or planning obligations.

Policy ECH/13 – Wildlife sites of international importance

Development which would be likely to have a direct or indirect adverse effect or which conflicts with the conservation objectives of a potential, candidate or designated Special Protection Area, Special Area of Conservation, or Ramsar Site will not be permitted.

Policy ECH/14 – Sites of Special Scientific Interest and National Nature Reserves

Development within or near a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) or National Nature Reserve that is likely to have a direct or indirect adverse effect on its biodiversity or geological interest will not be permitted unless:

- ◆ other material considerations outweigh the loss of biodiversity or geological value.

Policy ECH/15 – Wildlife and Geological Sites and Local Nature Reserves

When considering proposals for development or land use change in or near to and likely to have a direct or indirect effect on Local Nature Reserves, Wildlife or Geological Sites, the Council will seek to ensure that the biodiversity or geological value of the designated area is not lost or unacceptably harmed.

Legislation and policy guidance

Legislation

Conservation of Seals Act 1970
Countryside Act 1968
Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000
Deer Act 1991
Environment Act 1995
Environmental Protection Act 1990
Forestry Act 1967
Forestry Act 1979
Land Drainage Act 1991
Land Drainage Act 1994
Local Government Act 2000
National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act 1949
Protection of Badgers Act 1992
Town and Country Planning Act 1990
Water Industry Act 1991
Water Resources Act 1991
Wild Mammals Protection Act 1996
Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981

Policy Guidance

British Standards Institution BS 3998:1989 Recommendations for Tree Work

British Standards Institution BS 5837:2005 Trees in Relation to Construction. Recommendations.

Circular No 04/01 Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2001

Planning Policy Statement 9: Biodiversity and Geological Conservation August 2005

Biodiversity and Geological Conservation – Statutory obligations and their impact within the planning system: ODPM Circular 06/2005 and Defra Circular 01/2005

The Conservation (Natural Habitats &c) Regulations 1994, SI 1994 No 2716

The Hedgerows Regulations 1997, SI No 1160

The Town and Country Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) (England and Wales) Regulations 1999, S.I.

Town and Country Planning (Trees) Regulations 1999, SI 1999 No 1892

Tree requirements

Tree survey

A tree survey plan and schedule should include the following information:

- ◆ Land surveys should provide level measurements and accurately position trees on the site and those which overhang the site
- ◆ The accurate crown spread should be indicated for individual trees, any uneven canopy spread should be shown
- ◆ The external spread should be shown where trees have been indicated as groups or where woodland is present
- ◆ Tree constraints plan showing root protection areas and above ground constraints
- ◆ The species, age class, vigour, condition and tree category (as referred to in BS 5837:2005) should be included
- ◆ Defects or hazardous trees and comments on any special values (including likely bat roosts) and rarity should be provided
- ◆ The height and trunk diameter measured at 1.5m and calculation of Root Protection Areas in accordance with BS 5837:2005 are required
- ◆ The survey should also include full details of tree work required
- ◆ Reasons for felling should be provided

Submitted scheme

A submitted scheme should include the tree survey plan and schedule.

A scaled site plan of proposals informed by the tree constraints plan and survey and an **arboricultural method statement** should indicate clearly:

- ◆ the position and accurate crown spread of trees planned for retention and removal
- ◆ trees should generally be numbered individually, but group numbering is acceptable if the trees within these are not affected by the development and when no development is proposed within the canopy spread of the edge trees
- ◆ position and design of protective fencing and any other methods to minimise damage on a Tree Protection Plan
- ◆ position of existing and proposed underground and above ground services
- ◆ proposed location for the storage of materials and equipment on site
- ◆ proposed location of the site office, where appropriate
- ◆ on site parking where appropriate
- ◆ access for construction vehicles
- ◆ ground level changes
- ◆ potential crown spreads of trees in proposed landscape scheme
- ◆ foundation design to be to take into account the proximity to existing trees and landscape proposals

List of wildlife sites

Parish/town	Site no.	Location (grid ref.)	Description/notes
Abbots Leigh	57/06	Bristol and Clifton Golf Course and Fifty Acre Wood (532720)	Unimproved and semi-improved calcareous grassland, with semi-natural broad-leaved woodland.
Abbots Leigh	57/09	Ox House Bottom and Markham Brook (524732)	Ancient semi-natural and semi-natural broad-leaved woodland with unimproved neutral grassland.
Abbots Leigh	57/11	Old Park Wood and Vowles Bottom (534739)	Ancient semi-natural and semi-natural broad-leaf woodland, with unimproved neutral grasslands.
Abbots Leigh	57/10	Sandy Lane and Fish Pond Wood (533732)	Species rich hedge with trees, standing water (pond) and running water (stream), with semi-improved neutral grassland and mixed woodland plantation.
Abbots Leigh	57/12	Avon Gorge and Leigh Woods (549741)	Ancient semi-natural and semi-natural broad-leaf woodland, with mixed and broad-leaved plantation, unimproved and semi-improved calcareous and neutral grasslands.
Abbots Leigh	57/13	Fields west of Blackmoor Road (532747)	Unimproved neutral grassland.
Backwell	56/18	Oatfield Pool (508667)	Semi-natural broad-leaved woodland (carr), and swamp, with standing water and scrub.
Backwell	46+56/03	Garleys Wood (500663)	Ancient semi-natural broad-leaf woodland.
Backwell	46+56/01	Cheston Combe and Backwell Hill (496677)	Semi-natural broad-leaved woodland with semi-improved neutral grassland.
Backwell	56/19	Hyatt's Wood (503671)	Ancient semi-natural broad-leaf woodland.
Backwell	47/19	Watercress Wood (498703)	Ancient semi-natural broad-leaf woodland.
Backwell	56/20	Oatfield Wood (508663)	Ancient semi-natural broad-leaf woodland, and semi-improved neutral grasslands.
Backwell	46+56/02	Heall's Scars (496667)	Semi-natural broad-leaved woodland with semi-improved neutral grassland.

Parish/town	Site no.	Location (grid ref.)	Description/notes
Banwell	36/17	Fields and rhynes west of Moorland Farm (391608)	Semi-improved neutral grassland and standing water (ditches) with associated marginal habitats.
Banwell	35+36/01	River Banwell (part) (398609)	Running water (river) with associated marginal habitats.
Banwell	35/22	Fields from Whitley Head to Winthill House (389584)	Unimproved and semi-improved calcareous grassland, with exposed rock and broad-leaved plantation.
Banwell	36/07	Grumplepill Rhyne (part of) (371610)	Standing water (ditch) with associated marginal habitats.
Banwell	45/01	Banwell Wood (407590)	Ancient semi-natural and semi-natural broad-leaf woodland, with mixed and broad-leaved plantation, unimproved neutral grasslands.
Banwell	35/23	Banwell Hill (387587)	Semi-natural broad-leaf woodland.
Barrow Gurney	56/46	Steven's Farm Fields (529676)	Unimproved neutral grassland.
Barrow Gurney	56/07	Barrow Tanks (540677)	Ancient semi-natural broad-leaved woodland with mixed and broad-leaved plantation, standing water (reservoir) and semi-improved neutral grassland.
Barrow Gurney	56/15	Rock Lane Fields (534663)	Semi-improved neutral grassland and calcareous grassland.
Barrow Gurney	56/17	Batches Wood (519676)	Ancient semi-natural and semi-natural broad-leaved woodland.
Barrow Gurney	56/04	Crossgrove Wood (526687)	Ancient semi-natural broad-leaved woodland.
Blagdon	55/03	Merecombe Wood (515580)	Ancient semi-natural and semi-natural broad-leaved woodland.
Blagdon	45/08	Rigeon Wood (491593)	Semi-improved neutral grassland and semi-natural broad-leaved woodland.
Blagdon	46/25	Aldwick Wood (493612)	Ancient semi-natural broad-leaved woodland.
Blagdon	55/01	Grassland south of Blagdon (503582)	Unimproved neutral grassland.
Blagdon	55/02	Swancombe Wood and Fields (508582)	Semi-natural broad-leaved woodland with semi-improved neutral grassland.
Blagdon	45/07	Burrington Combe and Fullers Hay (493587)	Semi-natural broad-leaved woodland with mixed plantation and scrub.
Bleadon	35/08	Ponds at Summerways Bridge (325567)	Standing water (ponds) and associated marginal habitats.

Parish/town	Site no.	Location (grid ref.)	Description/notes
Bleadon	35/14	South Hill (343566)	Unimproved and semi-improved calcareous and neutral grassland, scrub and broad-leaved woodland.
Bleadon	35/07	Coombe Farm drains and adjacent land (328576)	Semi-natural broad-leaved woodland, unimproved and semi-improved neutral grassland, semi-improved calcareous grassland.
Bleadon	35/15	Hellenge Hill to Loxton Wood Complex (354570)	Unimproved and semi-improved calcareous grassland, and neutral grassland, and semi-natural broad-leaved woodland, with scrub.
Bleadon	35/09	River Axe (part of) (329559)	Running water (river) and associated marginal habitats.
Bleadon	35/10	Ditches to the west of Purn Farm (328571)	Standing water (ditch) and associated marginal habitats.
Bleadon	35/12	Bleadon Hill Fields (337575)	Semi-improved calcareous grassland, with scrub.
Bleadon	35/25	Scrub west of Christon Plantation (364577)	Semi-improved calcareous grassland, with scrub.
Bleadon	36/01	Severn Estuary and adjacent land (310581)	Coastal habitats and marshy grassland.
Brockley	46/11	Brockley Combe, Cleeve Hill and Goblin Combe (475666)	Ancient semi-natural broad-leaved woodland with plantation scrub, heath and limestone outcrops.
Brockley	46/12	Chelvey Wood (483674)	Ancient semi-natural broad-leaved woodland.
Brockley	46/06	Field south west of Chelvey (463682)	Semi-natural broad-leaved woodland and standing water (ditch).
Butcombe	56/51	Blagdon Lake and tributaries (511611)	Standing open water, running water and associated marginal habitats.
Butcombe	56/27	May's Grove Coppice and adjacent field (507632)	Semi-natural broad-leaved woodland.
Butcombe	56/39	Sutton Long Ground and Pole Ground (511616)	Unimproved neutral grassland.
Butcombe	56/38	Butcombe Bottom (517621)	Unimproved neutral grassland with scrub, stream and mire with bats.
Butcombe	56/40	Sage's Farm Fields	Unimproved neutral grassland.
Butcombe	56/36	Round Wood (504610)	Semi-natural broad-leaved woodland with dense scrub.
Butcombe	56/35	Long Wood (506610)	Semi-natural broad-leaved woodland.

Parish/town	Site no.	Location (grid ref.)	Description/notes
Butcombe	46+56/05	Hanging Wood and adjacent field (501612)	Ancient semi-natural broad-leaved woodland with semi-natural neutral grassland.
Churchill	45/05	Churchill Batch (444591)	Unimproved calcareous grassland and semi-natural broad-leaved woodland, with a quarry and dense scrub.
Churchill	45/06	Dolebury Warren and Mendip Lodge Wood (468589)	Ancient semi-natural woodland, unimproved calcareous grassland.
Churchill	46/24	Yanal Bog and adjacent Rhyne (424607)	Valley mire (calcareous lowland mire) and marshy grassland, with standing water (ditch).
Churchill	45/04	Knowle Wood (439592)	Ancient semi-natural broad-leaved woodland.
Clapton-in-Gordano	47/11	Cockheap Wood, Dunhill Wood and Parsonage Wood Complex (469732)	Ancient semi-natural and semi-natural broad-leaved woodland.
Clapton-in-Gordano	47/12	Nicholas Wood (469736)	Ancient semi-natural broad-leaved woodland.
Clapton-in-Gordano	47/09	West Park Wood – North of M5 (456730)	Ancient semi-natural broad-leaved woodland.
Clapton-in-Gordano	47/08	Woodland east of Clapton Wick (447728)	Semi-natural broad-leaved woodland.
Clapton-in-Gordano	47/14	Black Horse field (473737)	Semi-improved acidic grassland with scattered scrub.
Clapton-in-Gordano	47/13	Field north of Clevedon Lane (470740)	Unimproved calcareous grassland.
Cleeve	46/10	Fields west of Littlewood Lane (458666)	Unimproved neutral grassland with standing water (pond).
Clevedon	36/01	Severn Estuary and adjacent land (393709)	Coastal habitats and marshy grassland.
Clevedon	47/06	Clevedon Court Estate (426720)	Ancient semi-natural and semi-natural broad-leaved woodland, with mixed woodland plantation.
Clevedon	37/01	Wain's Hill LNR (391707)	Semi-natural woodland, semi-natural grassland and scrub.
Clevedon	47/02	Strawberry Hill Wood Clevedon (413720)	Semi-natural and replanted ancient semi-natural woodland.
Clevedon	37/02	Church Hill LNR, Clevedon (395709)	Unimproved neutral grassland and scrub.

Parish/town	Site no.	Location (grid ref.)	Description/notes
Clevedon	47/01	Severn Estuary and adjacent land (407728)	Coastal habitats and marshy grassland.
Congresbury	46/14	Rhynes south of Dolemoor Lane (419635)	Standing water (ditches), semi-improved neutral grassland and marginal habitats.
Congresbury	46/16	King's, Urchin, Ball and Corporation Woods (463642)	Ancient semi-natural broad-leaved woodland, with mixed woodland plantation.
Congresbury	36+46+56/01	Congresbury Yeo, adjacent land and rhynes (428640)	Running and standing water with associated marginal habitats, unimproved and semi-improved neutral grassland, unimproved calcareous grassland and semi-natural broad-leaved woodland.
Congresbury	46/15	Congresbury Station Dismantled Railway south of Moor Bridge, (431636)	Semi-natural broad-leaved woodland.
Dundry	56/47	South Dundry Slopes (558657)	Unimproved and semi-improved neutral and calcareous grassland.
Dundry	56/43	Valley View Fields (553677)	Unimproved neutral grassland with scrub wet flush and stream.
Dundry	56/09	Dundry Down and adjacent land (552668)	Semi-natural neutral and calcareous grassland, with semi-natural broad-leaved woodland.
Dundry	56/14	Field south-west of Castle Farm (545664)	Semi-improved neutral grassland.
Dundry	56/08	Fields east of Barrow Tanks (544673)	Semi-improved neutral grassland, with standing water (pond).
Dundry	56/10	Dundry Hill Grasslands (583668)	Unimproved and semi-improved neutral grassland, unimproved calcareous grassland and semi-natural broad-leaved woodland.
Dundry	56/11	Fields south of East Dundry (574660)	Semi-improved neutral grassland with stream.
Easton-in-Gordano	47/01	Severn Estuary and adjacent land (519766)	Coastal habitats and marshy grassland.
Easton-in-Gordano	57/17	Field east of Court House (513761)	Unimproved neutral grassland and marshy land.
Easton-in-Gordano	47+57/05	Portbury Dock Wood (501767)	Semi-natural broad-leaved woodland.
Easton-in-Gordano	57/53	River Avon (part of) (534757)	Running water (river) and associated marginal habitats, including salt marsh and scrub.

Parish/town	Site no.	Location (grid ref.)	Description/notes
Easton-in-Gordano	57/18	Summer House Wood, Hails Wood and A369 road verge (512747)	Ancient semi-natural broad-leaved woodland and unimproved neutral grassland.
Easton-in-Gordano	57/16	Field east of M5 Motorway, Lodway (517763)	Marshy grassland and semi-improved neutral grassland, with stream and pond.
Flax Bourton	56/01	Bourton Combe (507681)	Ancient semi-natural and semi-natural broad-leaved woodland with mixed woodland plantation and scrub.
Flax Bourton	56/03	Cambridge Batch road verges (520692)	Semi-improved neutral grassland.
Flax Bourton	56/02	Breach Hill Wood (515690)	Ancient semi-natural broad-leaved woodland.
Hutton	35/13	Oldmixon to Upper Canada Scarp (337583)	Ancient semi-natural broad-leaved woodland, with planted mixed and coniferous woodland, scrub, unimproved and semi-improved neutral grassland.
Hutton	35/24	Elborough Hill and Bridewell Lane (368583)	Semi-improved neutral grassland, and semi-natural woodland, with hedges and scrub.
Hutton	35/26	Benthills Wood (373586)	Ancient semi-natural broad-leaved woodland.
Hutton	35/16	Elborough Wood (364589)	Ancient semi-natural broad-leaved woodland, with semi-improved calcareous grassland, and scrub.
Kenn	46/01	Colehouse Pond (405694)	Standing water (pool) with associated marginal habitats and semi-natural broad-leaved woodland.
Kenn	46/02	Rust Lane Borrow Pool and meadows (409685)	Standing water (pool) with associated marginal habitats swamp and semi-improved neutral grassland with semi-natural broad-leaved woodland.
Kewstoke	36/01	Severn Estuary and adjacent land (330647)	Coastal habitats and marshy grassland.
Kewstoke	36/15	Middlehope fields (343666)	Unimproved and semi-improved calcareous grassland, with semi-improved neutral grassland, and scrub.
Kewstoke	36/12	Meadows and rhynes at Kewstoke (334639)	Unimproved and semi-improved neutral grassland, with marshy grassland, standing water (ditches) with associated marginal habitats.

Parish/town	Site no.	Location (grid ref.)	Description/notes
Kingston Seymour	36/16	Rhyne along Back Lane (393681)	Standing water (ditch) and dry ditch with marginal habitats.
Kingston Seymour	36/01	Severn Estuary and adjacent land (376678)	Coastal habitats and marshy grassland.
Locking	35/17	Pond and marshy field south east of Locking (370595)	Standing water with marginal habitats and semi-improved neutral grassland.
Long Ashton	56/06	Hanging Hill Wood (556694)	Ancient semi-natural broad-leaved woodland.
Long Ashton	57/55	Dawsons Walk and Lyn Brook (542700)	Semi-natural broad-leaved woodland, running water and unimproved and semi-improved neutral grassland.
Long Ashton	57/02	Ashton Hill Plantation (523706)	Ancient semi-natural and semi-natural broad-leaved woodland, with unimproved and semi-improved neutral grasslands.
Long Ashton	56/50	South Bank Meadow, Yanley (555696)	Unimproved neutral grassland.
Long Ashton	57/04	Long Ashton Golf Course (542709)	Unimproved and semi-improved calcareous grassland, standing water; and semi-natural broad-leaved woodland.
Long Ashton	56/05	A370 (Long Ashton By-pass) and Ashton Brook (543694)	Semi-improved neutral grassland, with geological interest, running water (stream) and standing water (reservoir), with semi-natural broad leaved woodland and scrub.
Long Ashton	57/03	Fenn's Wood (530705)	Ancient semi-natural broad-leaved woodland.
Long Ashton	57/54	Ashton Hill Fields (532714)	Translocated unimproved calcareous and neutral grassland.
Long Ashton	57/45	Ashton Court Estate (542718)	Unimproved and semi-improved calcareous and neutral grassland, with semi-natural broad-leaved woodland, mixed and broad-leaved woodland plantation.
Loxton	35/19	Higher Leaze Woods (372574)	Semi-natural broad-leaved woodland, with mixed broad leaved and coniferous plantation.
Loxton	35/21	Barleycombe and M5 motorway cutting (381576)	Broad leaved and coniferous plantation, a spring, and unimproved neutral grassland.

Parish/town	Site no.	Location (grid ref.)	Description/notes
Loxton	35/20	Little Common and field west of Barleycombe Lodge (376578)	Semi-natural broad-leaved woodland, semi-improved neutral grassland, with rock exposures and unimproved calcareous grassland.
Nailsea	46/26	West End Meadows (458691)	Damp acidic grassland, overlying peat.
Nailsea	46+47/01	Nailsea and Tickenham Moors (444705)	Marshy and semi-improved neutral grassland with standing water (ditches and rhynes).
Nailsea	46/07	Fields along Youngwood Lane (467695)	Marshy grassland and standing water.
Nailsea	46/04	Batch Farm Meadow (450692)	Semi-improved neutral grassland, and marshy grassland.
Nailsea	46/05	Nursebatch Farm Fields (453691)	Unimproved and semi-improved neutral grassland, with marshy grassland.
Portbury	57/20	Bulling's Wood (504751)	Semi-natural broad-leaved woodland, with mixed woodland plantation.
Portbury	47+57/01	Birch Wood and Prior's Wood (495742)	Ancient semi-natural broad-leaved woodland, with mixed and coniferous plantation.
Portbury	47+57/02	Fields between A396 and M5 Motorway (501756)	Marshy grassland and reed beds.
Portbury	47+57/04	Drove Rhyne (497765)	Swamp, standing water (ditches), and semi-improved neutral grassland.
Portbury	47/22	Conygar Hill and Stream (498749)	Unimproved calcareous grassland, and intact species-rich hedge.
Portbury	47/26	Fields west of Lower Caswell House (480748)	Marshy grassland.
Portbury	47/30	Portbury Wharf Nature Reserve (485764)	Marshy grassland, open water and associated habitats.
Portbury	47/31	Portbury Wharf (488768)	Marshy grassland and rhynes.
Portbury	47/25	Fields north of Upper Caswell Farm (483750)	Marshy grassland.
Portbury	47/24	Fields on Caswell Moor (490753)	Marshy grassland.
Portbury	47/23	Fields adjacent to M5 Motorway (494753)	Semi-improved neutral grassland.
Portbury	47/01	Severn Estuary adjacent land (485773)	Coastal habitats and marshy grassland.

Parish/town	Site no.	Location (grid ref.)	Description/notes
Portbury	57/07	Old Hill and New Forest (504729)	Semi-natural broad-leaved woodland.
Portbury	57/21	The Mount (502750)	Semi-improved neutral grassland.
Portbury	57/22	Buddings Wood and Windmill Hill (504739)	Ancient semi-natural broad-leaved woodland.
Portbury	57/19	Longlands Wood (507751)	Semi-natural broad-leaved woodland, with mixed woodland plantation.
Portbury	47+57/03	Fields between railway line and A369 (503758)	Marshy grassland and reed beds.
Portishead and North Weston	47/01	Severn Estuary and adjacent land (454768)	Coastal habitats and marshy grassland.
Portishead and North Weston	47/29	Portishead Down (Police H.Q.) (448753)	Semi-improved neutral grassland and scrub.
Portishead and North Weston	47/28	Weston Big Wood – Nightingale Valley and area (458755)	Ancient semi-natural broad-leaved woodland, semi-improved neutral with unimproved calcareous grassland.
Portishead and North Weston	47/27	Fore Hill (462757)	Semi-improved neutral grassland.
Puxton	46/13	Puxton Moor (416627)	Unimproved and semi-improved neutral grassland, standing water (ditches) and associated marginal habitats.
Tickenham	47/16	Summerhouse Wood (469720)	Ancient semi-natural broad-leaved woodland.
Tickenham	47/15	Abbot's Horn (469724)	Semi-natural broad-leaved woodland.
Tickenham	47/10	Tickenham Hill – Cadbury Camp – Chummock Wood Complex (456724)	Ancient semi-natural and semi-natural broad-leaved woodland, unimproved and semi-improved calcareous grassland, with semi-improved neutral grassland, and dense scrub.
Tickenham	47/17	Towerhouse Wood and adjacent fields (474718)	Ancient semi-natural broad-leaved woodland.
Walton-in-Gordano	47/01	Severn Estuary and adjacent land (421741)	Coastal habitats and marshy grassland.
Walton-in-Gordano	47/03	Walton Castle area (418730)	Replanted ancient semi-natural woodland, mixed woodland plantation and semi-improved neutral grassland with scrub.

Parish/town	Site no.	Location (grid ref.)	Description/notes
Walton-in-Gordano	47/04	Walton Common to Severn Acre Wood (429740)	Ancient semi-natural and semi-natural broad-leaved woodland, unimproved neutral and calcareous grassland with scrub.
Weston-in-Gordano	47/01	Severn Estuary and adjacent land (431750)	Coastal habitats and marshy grassland.
Weston-in-Gordano	47/05	Gordano Valley, Clapton Moor, Middle Bridge and rhynes (453738)	Unimproved and semi-improved grassland, marshy grassland and associated marginal habitats, with semi-natural broad-leaved woodland (including carr).
W-s-M	26/01	Steep Holm (228608)	Estuarine and island habitat, steep cliffs, scree, pebble beach and limestone grassland.
W-s-M	36/11	Worlebury Hill (323627)	Ancient semi-natural and semi-natural broad-leaved woodland.
W-s-M	36/13	Worle Hill and Worlebury Golf Course (344632)	Semi-improved and unimproved calcareous grassland, ancient semi-natural and semi-natural broad-leaved woodland.
W-s-M	36/06	Borrow Pit at Banwell Road Bridge (365622)	Standing water (borrow pit), with associated marginal habitats.
W-s-M	36/09	Apple Farm Meadow (372623)	Unimproved neutral grassland.
W-s-M	35/04	Uphill Great Rhyne (part of) and meadow east of Uphill Manor (322588)	Unimproved and semi-improved neutral grassland, semi-natural broad-leaved woodland and standing water (ditch) habitats.
W-s-M	35/03	Salt Marsh and fields (314581)	Salt marsh and wet grassland.
W-s-M	36/14	Fields north of Balmoral Way, Milton (344628)	Semi-improved and unimproved calcareous grassland, dense scrub and broad-leaved woodland.
W-s-M	35/05	Bridgwater Road verge and Oldmixon Bridge Tips (325583)	Semi-improved neutral grassland, semi-natural broad-leaved woodland and standing water (ditch) habitats.
W-s-M	36/03	Uphill Great Rhyne (part of) (325600)	Standing water (ditch), with associated marginal habitats.
W-s-M	36/04	Borrow Pit at Railway Triangle (349612)	Standing water with associated marginal habitats.
W-s-M	36/18	Beach Lawns (316602)	Relic sand dune community with nationally and locally rare plants.
W-s-M	36/08	Borrow Pit at Bristol Road Bridge (370626)	Standing water (borrow pit), with swamp and marginal habitats.

Parish/town	Site no.	Location (grid ref.)	Description/notes
W-s-M	35/06	Ditch south of the Grange, near Uphill (319577)	Standing water (ditch), with associated marginal habitats.
W-s-M	36/01	Severn Estuary and adjacent land (316608)	Coastal habitats and marshy grassland.
W-s-M	36/02	Ellenborough Park (319608)	Coastal grassland with rare species.
W-s-M	35/02	Weston Golf Course and fields below Uphill (314589)	Semi-improved calcareous and neutral grassland, with unimproved neutral grassland, saltmarsh, sand dunes, and scrub.
W-s-M	36/05	Borrow pit at Moorlane Bridge (359619)	Standing water (borrow pit), with associated marginal habitats.
Wick St Lawrence	36/01	Severn Estuary and adjacent land (357667)	Coastal habitats and marshy grassland.
Winford	56/37	Winford Brook and adjacent land (part of) (548645)	Running water (stream) and standing water (reservoir) and associated marginal habitats with semi-improved neutral grassland, and semi-natural broad-leaved woodland.
Winford	56/32	Fields west of Lower Strode (537612)	Unimproved neutral grassland.
Winford	56/22	Court Farm Field (544651)	Semi-improved neutral grassland.
Winford	56/21	Felton Hill and Common (518652)	Semi-improved and unimproved acidic grassland, with unimproved calcareous grassland and scrub.
Winford	56/26	Land around Redding Pit Lane (535638)	Unimproved and semi-improved neutral grassland, and semi-natural broad-leaved woodland and bats.
Winford	56/33	Plaster's Green Grasslands (535610)	Unimproved neutral grassland.
Winford	56/41	Upper Strode Meadows (532615)	Unimproved neutral grassland.
Winford	55+56/02	Babylon Brook (5406050)	Running water (stream) and associated marginal habitats and semi-natural broad-leaved woodland.
Winford	56/31	Chewstoke Brook (part of) (540614)	Running water (stream) and associated marginal habitats and semi-natural broad-leaved woodland.
Winford	56/25	Bitham's Wood and meadows (560643)	Ancient semi-natural broad-leaved woodland, with unimproved and semi-improved neutral grassland, calcareous grassland, running water (stream) and associated marginal habitats.

Parish/town	Site no.	Location (grid ref.)	Description/notes
Winford	56/30	Field east of Whiting Street (546623)	Unimproved neutral grassland.
Winford	56/48	Spring Farm Grasslands (546638)	Unimproved marshy, acidic and neutral and acid grassland.
Winscombe and Sandford	45/10	Max Bog, Winscombe Brook and adjacent fields (407575) woodland	Marshy grassland and running water habitat, with ancient semi-natural broad leaved.
Winscombe and Sandford	45/03	Sandford Hill and Lyncombe Wood (430591)	Ancient semi-natural broad-leaved woodland, broad-leaved plantation and unimproved and semi-improved calcareous and neutral grassland.
Winscombe and Sandford	45/13	Stream east of Blind Barn Farm (434569)	Running water (stream) marshy grasslands with semi-improved neutral grassland.
Winscombe and Sandford	45+46/01	Towerhead Brook (part of) and adjacent (408598)	Running water (river) with associated marginal habitats, unimproved and semiland improved neutral grassland.
Winscombe and Sandford	35+45/03	Barton Hill to Church Knoll (393562)	Semi-improved calcareous grassland, with semi-natural broad-leaved woodland and scrub.
Winscombe and Sandford	35+45/02	Lox Yeo River (388572)	Running water (river) with associated marginal habitats.
Winscombe and Sandford	35+45/01	Meadows on Wavering Down (404561)	Semi-improved and unimproved calcareous grassland, with semi-improved neutral grassland and scrub.
Winscombe and Sandford	45/12	Hale Coppice and fields on Callow Hill (429562)	Ancient semi-natural broad-leaved woodland, calcareous and neutral grassland, and scrub.
Winscombe and Sandford	45/02	Dismantled railway and adjacent fields (418578)	Semi-improved neutral calcareous grassland and with scrub.
Winscombe and Sandford	45/11	Winscombe Hill Wood (416561)	Semi-natural broad-leaved woodland.
Winscombe and Sandford	45/09	Mooseheart Wood (416578)	Mixed woodland plantation.
Wraxall and Failand	47/20	The Sidelands, Wraxall (493720)	Semi-natural broad-leaved woodland.
Wraxall and Failand	47/18	Lodge Hill fields (486711)	Unimproved and semi-improved neutral grassland, and standing water.
Wraxall and Failand	57/06	Bristol and Clifton Golf Course and Fifty Acre Wood (531722)	Unimproved and semi-improved calcareous grassland, with semi-natural broad-leaved woodland.

Parish/town	Site no.	Location (grid ref.)	Description/notes
Wraxall and Failand	47/17	Towerhouse Wood and adjacent fields (475718)	Ancient semi-natural broad-leaved woodland.
Wraxall and Failand	57/24	Field east of Sandy Lane (514740)	Unimproved acidic grassland, with dense scrub.
Wraxall and Failand	47/21	Breach Wood (491731)	Ancient semi-natural broad-leaved woodland.
Wraxall and Failand	57/08	Alder Bed Wood (520733)	Alder plantation and broad-leaved woodland with diverse ground flora.
Wraxall and Failand	57/23	Field west of Sandy Lane (511740)	Unimproved neutral grassland, with hedge and running water (stream).
Wraxall and Failand	57/25	Gable Wood (503703)	Ancient semi-natural broad-leaved woodland.
Wraxall and Failand	57/09	Ox House Bottom and Markham Brook (524732)	Ancient semi-natural and semi-natural broad-leaved woodland, coniferous woodland plantation with semi-improved neutral and calcareous grassland.
Wrington	36+46+56/01	Congresbury Yeo (472619)	Running and standing water with marginal habitat.
Wrington	46+56/04	High Wood, Lulsgate (499641)	Ancient semi-natural broad-leaved woodland.
Wrington	46/17	Simshill Wood (468635)	Ancient semi-natural broad-leaved woodland with conifers.
Wrington	46/22	Woodland south of Broadfield Farm (488641)	Semi-natural broad-leaved woodland and coniferous plantation.
Wrington	46/21	Little Horts Wood (486633)	Ancient semi-natural broad-leaved woodland.
Wrington	46/19	Prestow Wood and Shippenhays Wood (477634)	Ancient semi-natural broad-leaved woodland.
Wrington	56/29	Scars Wood and adjacent field (505628)	Ancient semi-natural broad-leaved woodland with unimproved and semi-improved neutral grassland.
Wrington	56/28	Lye Wood (504632)	Ancient semi-natural broad-leaved woodland.
Wrington	46/23	Horts Wood (490631)	Ancient semi-natural broad-leaved woodland with coniferous plantation.
Wrington	46/18	Little Plantation (473635)	Semi-natural mixed woodland.
Wrington	46/20	Tucker's Grove and Whitley Coppice (482632)	Ancient semi-natural broad-leaved woodland.

Parish/town	Site no.	Location (grid ref.)	Description/notes
Yatton	46/09	Cadbury Hill Fort, Congresbury (441651)	Ancient semi-natural broad-leaved woodland and unimproved neutral grassland, with scrub.
Yatton	46/08	Horsecastle Pond (421660)	Standing water (pond) with associated marginal habitats.

Protected species guide

Summary of information in

'Think wildlife – protected animal species – quick reference guide for planning officers (2002)'

Avon Wildlife Trust

For information and guidance only

7.1 Type of development and protected species that may be affected

Development application affecting the following:	Protected species to be considered
Buildings ◆ Conversion of outbuildings ◆ Extensions keying into roof ◆ Roofing	Bats Barn owls Nesting birds
Caves	Bats
Quarries	Peregrines Barn Owls
Any application ◆ Removal of hedgerows or scrub ◆ Removal or major work to trees	Dormice Bats Badgers Nesting birds
Pond Standing water body Water course	Great Crested Newts Otters Grass snakes Water voles White-clawed crayfish Nesting birds
Brownfield site	Badgers Nesting birds Grass snakes Adders Slow worms Common lizards

If the above species are thought to be present by the local authority ecologist or the applicant, undertake survey and if any protected species is found to be present, follow the suggested action below.

This is not a complete list of all protected species, but these are the most frequently encountered.

7.2 Protected animal species, their level of protection and suggested action

Species	Level of protection	Suggested action
Bats Dormice Great crested newts Otter	European protected species Full protection	Consult English Nature and ensure that mitigation is agreed. A licence from Defra will be required for any work affecting these species.
Barn owls Peregrines	Full protection to birds and nest and eggs	Consult English Nature and agree mitigation with them.
Nesting birds	Full protection to all nests and birds while nesting until young have fledged	Undertake work from October to February wherever possible. From March to September, check for nesting birds by qualified ecologist.
Badgers	Full protection to setts and badgers, against intentional and 'reckless' interference	Consult English Nature and apply for licence if necessary. Work is usually licenced only for the period from July to November.
Adders Common lizards Grass snakes Slow worms	Protection from intentional killing, injury and sale	Consult English Nature and agree mitigation with them.
Water voles	Protection against damage for places of shelter and when water voles are in places of shelter	Consult English Nature and agree mitigation with them.

Advice for householder and other minor applications

This guidance may help you if you are considering applying for planning permission for minor developments.

Section 1 – Protected species

Some animals and plants are legally protected and are known as protected species. North Somerset Council has a statutory duty to consider the presence of protected species in the course of determining planning applications.

It is important that you consider the effects your proposal may have on protected species because steps may need to be taken to conform to legal requirements. The presence of protected species does not prevent development, but you may need to think about the timing of works or how to incorporate simple mitigation measures.

Please use the table below to help you decide if your development is likely to affect a protected species. Then refer to the notes underneath for further information, appropriate action and a list of useful contacts.

Type of Minor Development ¹	Protected species most likely to be affected in North Somerset
Conversion of barns, outbuildings, cellars, derelict houses	Bats, barn owls, nesting birds, (especially swallows, swifts, house martins)
Demolition of properties	Bats, barn owls, nesting birds, (especially swallows, swifts, house martins)
Extensions to houses which may key into the roof	Bats, barn owls, nesting birds, (especially swallows, swifts, house martins)
Any roofing work, e.g. loft conversion, dormer window or remedial timber treatment.	Bats, barn owls, nesting birds, (especially swallows, swifts, house martins)
Any development requiring removal of hedgerows, scrub or trees.	Bats, dormice, badgers, nesting birds, slow worms, adders, common lizards
Any development affecting ponds or other standing water or the surrounding land	Great crested newts, grass snakes, nesting birds, water voles, water shrews

¹ These include applications for the erection of 1–9 dwellings, where the site is less than 1.5 hectares or the floor space is less than 1000m²,) (for guidance for major developments, please refer to North Somerset Council's Supplementary Planning Document for Biodiversity and Trees).

The Wildlife and Countryside Act, 1981 offers protection for a range of species including barn owls, peregrines, wild birds, bats, dormice, grass snakes, adders, common lizards, slow worms, great crested newts, otters and water voles as well as certain plants. This is now amended by the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 that makes it an offence to “recklessly” disturb protected species and their places of rest or shelter.

Bats, dormice, great crested newts and otters are also protected under the Conservation (Natural Habitats, &c.) Regulations 1994, Schedule 2. Where proposals affect these species North Somerset Council has a legal obligation to consult with English Nature. A licence from the Department for the Environment, Fisheries and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) may be required before development work which would affect these species can go ahead.

Badgers and their setts are protected under the 1992 Protection of Badgers Act.

Bats

Bats and their roosts are protected from disturbance or damage at all times and access to roost sites must not be blocked up. Bats can take up residence in your house or outbuildings, arriving from April onwards and leaving by the Autumn. They may be found in crevices in walls, in lofts and roof spaces or behind roofing materials in old and new buildings. Winter hibernation roosts may be found in cellars, ice houses, mine shafts and tunnels or caves.

Bats also roost in suitable trees, especially old trees with hollows and cavities. If you plan to fell or manage such trees, it is advisable to arrange for a professional survey for bats beforehand. You will also need to check whether trees are protected by a Tree Preservation Order (TPO) or are within a Conservation Area. Please ask the Tree Officer at North Somerset Council for further advice.

If you are planning to carry out works to your house or any outbuildings or to trees and you notice bats or bat droppings then please consult English Nature (please see contact list in ANNEX 14), who can provide advice on licensing requirements, and put you in touch with local surveyors. Please note that a licence is needed from English Nature to enter a known bat roost. You might consider installing bat boxes or bat bricks as part of your proposal. If bats are found or suspected, no work should be started until you have sought advice from English Nature.

Barn owls

If present appropriate mitigation must be agreed with English Nature before planning permission is granted. The Hawk and Owl Trust can provide advice on sympathetic land management and designs for ‘owl windows’ that can easily be incorporated into any designs for converted barns. They can also provide owl nest boxes, practical advice regarding their positioning and

will survey buildings for signs of use by barn owl prior to any conversion.

Nesting birds

All birds, their nest and eggs are protected while nesting and until the young have fledged.

The main nesting season runs from February to August so try to plan work to fall between September to the end of January if possible. Any work affecting hedgerows and trees should be undertaken outside of the nesting season.

As swifts, swallows and house martins have lost many nest sites in North Somerset, you may want to consider adding special boxes or ledges into your proposals to help them.

Dormice

Applications which lead to a loss of species rich hedgerows, or which create breaks in hedges for access roads or footpaths, can isolate populations of dormice and threaten the long term viability of a colony. Mitigation must be agreed with English Nature if dormice are thought to be present. Consider installing dormouse nest boxes or planting native trees and climbers such as hazel and honeysuckle to enhance the habitat. Please note that a licence is needed from English Nature to handle dormice.

Badgers

A licence will be required where any work may affect badgers or their setts. Licences for the purposes of development are administered by English Nature and are not generally issued for work during the badgers breeding season, between 1 December and 30 June.

Slow worms, adders, grass snakes, common lizards

Grass snakes may be found near damp grassland or garden ponds whilst slow worms, adders and common lizards prefer rough grassy areas. Potentially all of these could be found in gardens and if found, English Nature should be consulted.

Great crested newts

Great crested newts ideally prefer ponds that are between 100-300 square metres in size without fish, with a good range of plants and with areas of open water. Clusters of ponds close to each other can provide a range of conditions. The land area up to 500 metres surrounding a pond should be considered as possible newt habitat. If newts are thought to use a site or are likely to be present a survey by a suitably qualified person is recommended. A licence from English Nature is needed to survey for great crested newts and mitigation should also be agreed with English Nature.

Water voles

If your site contains a stretch of watercourse or a pond, which contains water all year, and has thick vegetation like reeds, rushes and dense grasses which can provide food and shelter it could provide potential habitat for water vole. Applications which could lead to the culverting of water courses for access purposes or which require bank side reinforcement need to consider the potential impact on water voles and it would be sensible to commission a survey from a specialist. If water voles are present, appropriate mitigation must be agreed with English Nature

Water Shrews

These are usually associated with clear, fast-flowing, unpolluted rivers and streams as well as ponds, drainage ditches and reedbeds but may occasionally be found visiting woodland and grasslands. Nests are formed from balls of vegetation in extensive burrow systems in the bank above water level. Bankside engineering and maintenance works can destroy burrows and remove the bankside vegetation that provides cover from predation.

Section 2 - Protection and enhancement of habitats

Your site may already have areas of habitat and features that are valuable for wildlife, such as hedgerows, trees and ponds. Always try to retain these as part of any proposals if possible.

You can take simple steps to increase the wildlife value of your site. The following examples may give you some ideas

- ◆ Consider planting a hedge of mixed, native species as a garden boundary. Many small mammals use hedgerows as corridors that they can travel along and native plants can produce berries and fruits that are a useful source of food for birds, mammals and insects. Link up to existing hedges to allow wildlife to travel further.
- ◆ Avoid cutting garden hedges and trees during the nesting season which runs from February to August.
- ◆ Create an area of long grass in your garden and let it flower. This will attract insects such as grasshoppers, butterflies and moths and will shelter amphibians. Cut in late summer and let the hay dry before removing to provide a food source for birds.
- ◆ Put up bird and bat boxes in suitable locations. Avoid very sunny locations or south facing surfaces. Remember that a licence is needed to inspect boxes which are known to contain bats.
- ◆ Create a wildlife pond with gently sloping sides and a marshy area. Even a small water feature will attract frogs, toads and dragonflies into your garden and

provide a place for birds to drink and bathe in.

- ◆ Piles of logs or rocks, rough grassland or heaps of grass cuttings can all create suitable habitat for amphibians, and grass snakes.
- ◆ Include some native plants in your borders and tubs or sprinkle wildflower seed in less fertile areas. Remember it is illegal to uproot native wildflowers. Try and purchase native plants from reputable local sources.
- ◆ Use alternatives to peat based compost to protect wetland areas elsewhere.
- ◆ Slug pellets can kill thrushes and hedgehogs as well as slugs so try and use alternatives.

Contact List

See Annex 14

Acknowledgements

Thanks to Avon Wildlife Trust for adaptation of 'Think Wildlife – protected animal species' – quick reference guide for Planning Officers.

Biodiversity check list for proposed development site

Applicant

Location

Type of development

Within development area – Please indicate below the habitats and / or species that you know exist on the proposed development land:

Habitats:

Cave, tunnel and / or mine

☐

Floodplain grazing marsh

☐

Heath

☐

Hedgerow

☐

Marsh and fen

☐

Orchard

☐

Parkland

☐

Pond, lake or reservoir

☐

Reed bed

☐

Rhyne and / or ditch

☐

River and / or stream

☐

Road verge

☐

Scrub

☐

Species rich grassland

☐

Severn Estuary or land within 1 km

☐

Stone wall

☐

Trees

☐

Veteran trees

☐

Wetland

☐

Woodland

☐

Species:

Site used for:

Protected species (see list in annex 7)	Dispersal/ migration	Nesting/ roosting	Breeding	Feeding/ hunting	Hibernation
Other BAP species					

Indicate if the proposed development will affect the following:

Water courses	
Designated sites	
Wildlife corridors	
Habitat isolation	
Woodland	

Outside development area

Tick the boxes where these sites or features are adjacent to the proposed development:

Internationally important site	<input type="checkbox"/>
SSSI	<input type="checkbox"/>
Wildlife Site	<input type="checkbox"/>
Local Nature Reserve	<input type="checkbox"/>
Regionally Important Geological or Geomorphological Site	<input type="checkbox"/>
Isolated natural habitat	<input type="checkbox"/>
Water course	<input type="checkbox"/>
Wildlife corridor	<input type="checkbox"/>
Woodland	<input type="checkbox"/>

Further measures

Indicate below if any of the following are planned during or after the proposed development

Retention of existing habitat	<input type="checkbox"/>
Restoration or enhancement of existing habitat	<input type="checkbox"/>
Habitat protection during construction	<input type="checkbox"/>
Habitat creation	<input type="checkbox"/>
Wildlife corridors	<input type="checkbox"/>
Habitat management	<input type="checkbox"/>
Management plan	<input type="checkbox"/>
Monitoring of species / habitats	<input type="checkbox"/>

Notes: Please add on separate sheets

- ◆ details of any surveys relating to biodiversity that have been done, or have already been commissioned
- ◆ amounts of habitats to be affected, for example length of hedgerow
- ◆ details of consultation with English Nature, Environment Agency, Avon Wildlife Trust, Forestry Commission or other relevant bodies or individuals
- ◆ any other information which may relate directly to the biodiversity of the proposed development site
- ◆ any proposed mitigation or compensation
- ◆ relevant maps

Summary of biodiversity for site

Please indicate which box would apply to your site after development

Net gain ☐ Net loss ☐ No change ☐

Signature

Date

When to survey for species

Optimum times for species survey – shown by shaded areas

Species	Optimum period											
	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
Birds-breeding												
Birds-wintering												
Reptiles												
Great crested newts												
Badgers												
Water voles												
Otter												
Dormouse												
Bats - breeding												
Bats - hibernating												
Slow worm												
Grass snake												
Adder												
Common lizard												
Crayfish												
Invertebrates												
Flora												

- ◆ The shaded areas are the optimum times for survey
- ◆ It may be possible to undertake an assessment for protected species outside of these months
- ◆ Bats use different sites for hibernation, maternity roosts and summer roosts
- ◆ Wintering birds are found along the Severn Estuary

With acknowledgements to Avon Wildlife Trust
(from Think Wildlife – Protected Animal Species)

SW Regional policies

The Natural Environment

4.1 The environment of the South West is a key strength. The varied and dramatic landscapes, the rich and diverse wildlife, the attractiveness of many of its cities, towns and villages and the overall sense of place and quality of life for which the region is renowned, are of immense value to the people who live in, work in and visit the area.

4.2 The Regional Spatial Strategy addresses how best to accommodate development that meets the social and economic objectives of a successful region, while ensuring that the South West's stock of environmental assets is maintained and expanded. Environmental protection must be integrated with other policy objectives. There is a direct relationship between the region's environment and its economic health: the environment has been identified as a key driver of the regional economy by the South West Regional Development Agency and it has been estimated that environment related activity contribute around 100,000 jobs and £1.6 billion to the region.

Landscape and Biodiversity

4.3 The region is rich in areas, sites and structures that contribute to its distinctive character. The strategic environmental areas of the South West and the national and international designations are mapped. A key objective of the Regional Spatial Strategy is to safeguard and enhance the quality and diversity of the natural, cultural and built environment across the region, giving the highest level of protection to designated areas and features of national and international importance. Advice on achieving such protection is given in the Planning Policy Statement 9: Biodiversity and Geological Diversity (Oct 2005)

4.4 The landscapes of the region range from high moorlands, heath and grasslands, to limestone hills, deep gorges and wooded valleys and a diverse and attractive coastline. These rural and coastal landscapes are important for tourism, as well as often forming important biodiversity resources. Many areas have qualities that make them special to their locality. The open green spaces within, around and between towns all have particular value and large tracts of north and west Devon and east Cornwall form one of the largest remaining "areas of tranquillity" in England.

4.5 The Countryside Agency and English Nature have identified and mapped the distinctive "character areas" for the South West as part of the testing of a new approach to "environmental

capita" being promoted by the Countryside Agency, English Heritage, English Nature and the Environment Agency.

4.6 The maintenance and enhancement of biodiversity – the variety of life – is essential to achieving the overall aim of sustainable development. The objectives of the UK Biodiversity Action Plan are being taken further at the regional level and by local action plans. It is necessary to ensure that change does not result in net loss in either the quality or quantity of biodiversity in the region and instead, wherever possible, contributes positively to its enhancement.

4.7 Areas benefiting from statutory protection as natural resources represent a selection of the best examples of wildlife habitats, maritime environments, geological features and landforms. The list of protected sites does not, however, represent the full extent of remaining natural and semi-natural habitats in the South West. It is therefore important that development plans continue to protect important sites and, using information in local biodiversity action plans and natural area profiles, refine regional biodiversity targets to give more specific local targets as set out in tables 3, 4 and 5. The context for such targets is set out in English Nature's document Natural Areas in the South West Region.

4.8 Policy EN1: Landscape and Biodiversity states:

- ◆ Local authorities and other agencies in their plans, policies and proposals, should: provide for the strong protection and enhancement of the region's internationally and nationally important landscape areas and nature conservation sites;
- ◆ draw up policies for the protection of nature conservation interests of regional and local significance;
- ◆ encourage the maintenance and enhancement of the biodiversity resources of the region, having particular regard to the targets set out in tables 3, 4 and 5;
- ◆ promote the restoration and expansion of depleted and vulnerable biodiversity resources in order to reverse fragmentation and create continuous viable habitats;
- ◆ indicate that the protection and, where possible, enhancement of the landscape and biodiversity should be planned into new development;
- ◆ have regard to the significant landscape joint character areas of the region set out in this RPG (Map 4) and aim to conserve and enhance local character;
- ◆ take measures to protect the character of the countryside and the environmental features that contribute towards that character, including the minimisation of light pollution."

Table 3: Coastal and Marine Spatial Habit Targets (extracts)

Habitat Type	Protection Targets	Restoration Targets
Estuaries	Maintain current extent of habitat	Recreate fringing habitats where feasible
Sand Dunes	Maintain current extent of habitat	Manage all sand dune systems >5ha for wildlife
Sea Cliff and Slope	Ensure natural erosion processes continue to operate	Manage cliff habitats for wildlife

Table 4: Spatial Habitat Targets (Extract)

Character Areas	Habitat Type	Projection Targets	Retoration Targets
Somerset Levels and Moors	Coastal and Floodplain Grazing Marsh	Maintain current 76,000ha	Rehabilitate 5,000ha By 2005
Severn and Avon Vales	Reedbeds	Maintain current 600ha	Create 600ha by 2005

Table 5: Other Habitat Targets (Extract)

Habitat Type	Protection Targets	Restoration Targets
Lowland meadows (subject to review)	Maintain current 9,000ha	Restore 1,800ha by linking and buffering by 2010
Rivers and streams	Maintain 40,000km of linear resource	Enhance value of rivers and streams in the south west
Standing Open Water	Maintain current areas of open water	Create 2,000 new ponds by 2010
Ancient woodland (eg Ash-Maple woodland)	Maintain current c3,657ha	Increase area of woodland by 10% by expanding existing habitat adjacent or close to semi semi-natural woodlands by 2010
Wood pasture and parkland	Maintain current 11,000ha	Restore 5,500ha of pasture and parkland (50% by 2000)
Field boundary systems and field margins	Full extent unknown	
Species rich and ancient hedges	Full extent unknown	Achieve favourable management of species-rich hedges within any district: 50% by 2005

Source of tables: *Action for Biodiversity in the South West, SW Biodiversity Partnership, June 1997*

ANNEX 12

Notable species

The Notable Species list for the old Avon area is available to download from the BRERC website at

www.brerc.org.uk/articles/downloads_other.htm

ANNEX 13

Biodiversity action plan species and habitats

NATIONAL LISTS are available to download from the UK BAP website at:

www.ukbap.org.uk/default.aspx

Species action plans can be found under Plans and the Species Action Plans Search at : www.ukbap.org.uk/species.aspx

Habitat action plans can be found under Plans and the Habitat Action Plans Search at: www.ukbap.org.uk/Habitats.aspx

Contact list

Avon Wildlife Trust

32 Jacobs Wells Road
Bristol BS8 1DR

Tel: 0117 917 7270

Web page: www.avonwildlifetrust.org.uk

Bristol Regional Environmental Records Centre (BRERC)

Ashton Court Visitors Centre
Ashton Court Estate, Long Ashton
Bristol BS18 9JN

Tim Corner (*Manager*)

Tel: 0117 953 2140

Defra Helpline

Tel: 08459 335 577

English Nature

Somerset and Gloucestershire Team
Roughmoor, Bishop's Hull
Taunton, Somerset TA1 5AA

Linda Tucker (*Protected Species*)

Bob Corns (*Estuary*)

Karen Pollock (*North Somerset*)

Tel: 01823 283 211

Environment Agency

North Wessex Area
Rivers House, East Quay
Bridgwater
Somerset TA6 4YS

Francis Farr-Cox (Technical Officer)
(Biodiversity) Tel: 01278 457 333

North Somerset Council

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Tel: 01275 888 551

Jane Brewer (Tree Officer)

Tel: 01275 888 522

Wendy Thomas (Assistant Tree Officer)

Tel: 01275 888 532

Forestry Commission

South West England Conservancy
Bank House
Bank Street
Coleford
Gloucs GL16 8BA

Tel: 01594 810 983

Fax: 01594 810 628

Forest of Avon

Ashton Court Visitors Centre
Ashton Court Estate
Long Ashton
Bristol BS41 9JN

Tel: 0117 953 2141

The Arboricultural Association

Arboricultural Association
Ampfield House
Ampfield
Nr Romsey
Hampshire SO51 9PA

Tel: 01794 368 717

Fax: 01794 368 978

Website: www.trees.org.uk

Arboricultural Advisory and Information Service

Forest Research Station
Alice Holy Lodge
Wrecclesham
Farnham
Surry GU10 4LH

Tel: 0142 022 022

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