

Ecology Report Template

Please read the following before completing the report:

- This report template is to be used by Suitably Qualified Ecologist's providing reports which address Ecology 1, 2, 3 and 4 issues. It is a mandatory requirement that this document is completed in a Code for Sustainable Homes submission of evidence (CSH 2007 p 187).
- The appointed, licensed Code assessor is to pass this document to the appointed ecologist who conducted/ will conduct the ecology work.
- The appointed ecologist is to complete all sections of this report and return it completed with all relevant documentation in the Appendix to the assessor.
- An ecologist may have been appointed to carry out ecological site surveys and to produce an ecology report without being aware that a Code assessment has been, or is to be conducted. In this instance, the ecologist should fill in the relevant details required for the Code in this report template.
- The assessor is to use this report in conjunction with the latest version of the relevant Code Guidance and information provided by the developer / client, to carry out the assessment for the Ecology Category issues stated above.
- There are 6 sections (sections A - F) in this document.
- Section A1 requires contact details for the ecologist and developer / client; section A2 requires the development details.
- Section B1 determines whether the appointed ecologist is 'suitably qualified' (under the Code); and if not, section B2 determines whether the report has been verified by an ecologist who is 'suitably qualified'.
- Section C determines whether the findings of the report have been based on data collected from site surveys conducted at appropriate times of the year to determine whether different species are evident. (Note: If 'No' is recorded for either Section B or C then the contents of the ecology report cannot be used to determine compliance with the Code requirements).
- Section D provides the assessor with the necessary information to base the assessment on for the various Ecology credits.
- Section E provides details of the documentation / information to be included within the appendix of this guidance.
- Section F requires the signature of the appointed ecologist who has completed this document.



Section A1: Contact Details

Ecologist's Details

Company name:

Company address:

Contact name:

Contact telephone number:

Ecology Report Reference:

Developer / Client Details

Company name:

Company address:

Contact name:

Contact telephone number:

Section A2: Development Details

BRE Reference Number:

Client Reference Number:

Development Name:

Development Address:

Section B1: Suitably Qualified Ecologist’s Qualifications

Do you hold a degree (or equivalent qualification, e.g. N/SVQ level 5) in ecology or related subject?

Yes No

If Yes, please provide details:.....

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Are you a practising ecologist with a minimum of 3 years relevant experience within the last 5 years?

Relevant experience must clearly demonstrate a practical understanding of factors affecting ecology in relation to construction and the built environment and will include acting in an advisory capacity to provide recommendations for ecological protection, enhancement and mitigation measures, e.g. ecological impact assessments.

Yes No

If Yes, please provide details:.....

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Are you bound by a professional code of conduct and subject to peer review*?

A full member of one of the following organisations will be deemed suitable: Chartered Institution of Water and Environmental Management (CIWEM); Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management (IEEM); Institute of Environmental Management and Assessment (IEMA); Landscape Institute (LI).

Yes No

If Yes, please provide details :

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**Peer review is defined as the process employed by a professional body to demonstrate that potential or current full members maintain a standard of knowledge and experience required to ensure compliance with a code of conduct and professional ethics.*

Note: If the answer to any question in Section B1 is 'No' then the ecologist writing the report does not meet the requirements of a *Suitably Qualified Ecologist* under the Code. The ecology report therefore cannot be used in the Code assessment unless it is verified by a 'Suitably Qualified Ecologist'. If this is the case, proceed to Section B2.

If the ecologist does meet the requirements of a *Suitably Qualified Ecologist*, proceed to Section C.

Section B2: Report Verification

If the appointed ecologist does not meet the requirements of a *Suitably Qualified Ecologist*, the report must be verified by an individual who does meet these requirements. Otherwise the ecology report cannot be used in the Code assessment.

1. The person who verifies the report must provide written confirmation that they meet the requirements of a *Suitably Qualified Ecologist* in accordance with Section B1 above.
2. Details on verifying an ecology report for a Code assessment:
 - The individual verifying the report must provide written confirmation that they comply with the definition of a *Suitably Qualified Ecologist* (as detailed above in Section B1).
 - The individual verifying the report must confirm in writing they have read and reviewed the report and found it to:
 - represent sound industry practice
 - report and recommend correctly, truthfully, and objectively
 - be appropriate given the local site conditions and scope of works proposed
 - avoid invalid, biased, and exaggerated statements.

Written confirmation from the third party verifier on all the points detailed under 1 and 2 above (for Section B2) must be included in the Appendix to this report (see Section E).

Section C: Site Survey

Have the findings of the ecology report been based on data collected from a site survey(s)?

Yes No

If yes, please provide details to confirm this (e.g. date(s) and scope of site survey(s))

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Note: If 'No' has been answered to Question 1 of Section C the ecology report cannot be used to determine compliance with the requirements of the relevant Code credits.

On what date did/ will initial site preparation works commence? / /

Note: If the site survey was carried out after initial site preparation works commenced, the ecology report cannot be used to determine compliance with the requirements of the relevant Code credits.

Note to Suitably Qualified Ecologist and the Code assessor: The contents of the ecology report must be representative of the site's existing ecology immediately prior to the commencement of initial site preparation works.

Section D: Details from the Site Survey

Eco 1 Ecological Value of Site

Is the construction zone of low or insignificant ecological value?

The construction zone includes any land used for buildings, hard standing, landscaping, site access and any other land where construction work is carried out (or land being disturbed in any way), plus a 3 metre boundary in either direction around these areas. It also includes any areas used for temporary site storage and buildings.

Yes

No

If yes, is there any land outside the construction zone but inside the development site of ecological value?.

Yes

No

Please give details:

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If yes, is it possible for all areas / features of ecological value to remain undisturbed by the construction works?

Yes

No

Eco 2 Ecological Enhancement

Has the developer / client required you to provide advice and recommendations for enhancing site ecology?

Yes

No

If yes, please provide a brief statement outlining all of your KEY recommendations*:

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If yes, please provide a brief statement outlining all of your ADDITIONAL recommendations*.

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* The client / developer will be required to adopt / implement all KEY recommendations and 30% of ADDITIONAL recommendations.

Eco 3 Protection of Ecological Features

Note: Eco 3 looks at protecting all existing features / areas of ecological value on the site and boundary area. If a feature of ecological value is to be removed as part of the development works, e.g. site clearance, then this credit cannot be achieved. If you have deemed the whole development site to be of poor ecological value then there will be no features of ecological value to protect. If the construction zone is of low ecological value but the wider site is not, give protection measures here. If there is an area(s) or feature(s) of low or insignificant ecological value you wish to advise be retained and enhanced / improved, e.g. a species-poor hedgerow to a species-rich hedgerow, then full details of this advice should be entered as a recommendation under *Eco 2 Ecological Enhancement*.

Are there any existing features/ areas of ecological value on the site or at the boundary of the site?

Yes No

If yes, please provide a brief statement outlining the advice/ recommendations given for protecting all existing features and areas of ecological value:

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Are any ecological features to be relocated on the site?

Yes No

If yes, please provide a brief statement outlining the reasons for relocation and recommendations for protecting the ecological features:

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Eco 4 Change of Ecological Value of Site

Are you able to provide the following information for before and after construction: habitat types and an estimate of the number of floral species present per habitat type (based on appropriate censusing techniques and confirmed planting regimes)?

Yes

No

If yes, please provide the following information:

a. A brief description of the landscape and habitats surrounding the development site

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b. The total site area (*this will be the same both before and after development*): m²

c. Provide details of the site before development in the table below:

Habitat Type*	Area of habitat type (m ²)	Number of species per habitat type

d. Provide details of the site after development in the table below:

Habitat Type*	Area of habitat type (m ²)	Number of species per habitat type

* *Habitat types will include natural areas, e.g. various grasslands and woodlands; as well as areas of the built environment, e.g. buildings, hard landscaping. The area of each habitat type when added together must always equal the total area of the development site.*

Has your client / developer requested you to carry out the calculation for Eco 4 Change in Ecological Value of Site? *The calculation must be carried out in line with the methodology provided in the most current version of the Code Guidance.*

Yes No

If yes, please complete the tables below:

Calculation of the Ecological Value of the Site Before Development

Plot Type	Area of Plot Type [m ²]		Species [No.] (from Table 2 or a SQE*)		Species x Area of Plot Type
		X		=	
		X		=	
		X		=	
		X		=	
		X		=	
		X		=	
		X		=	
		X		=	
		X		=	
		X		=	
		X		=	
(1) Total site area =				(2) Total =	
Species before development =					
Total species x area of plot type / Total site area = (2)/(1) =					

Calculation of the Ecological Value of the Site After Development

Plot Type	Area of Plot Type [m ²]		Species [No.] (from Table 2 or a SQE*)		Species x Area of Plot Type
		X		=	
		X		=	
		X		=	
		X		=	
		X		=	
		X		=	
		X		=	
		X		=	
		X		=	
		X		=	
		X		=	
(1) Total site area =				(2) Total =	
Species after development =					
Total species x area of plot type / Total site area = (2)/(1) =					

* SQE = Suitably Qualified Ecologist

Section E: Appendix

The required documentation to be included within the appendix of this guidance document will include: the ecology report; written confirmation from the verifier of the ecology report (where necessary); and any supplementary documentation, e.g. ecologist’s curriculum vitae; maps, plans, drawings, letters / emails of correspondence, etc. Please include these details along with the appropriate reference to each document in the table below:

Document	Reference

Section F: Signature of Validation

I confirm that the information provided in this document is truthful and accurate at the time of completion.

Name of ecologist

Signature of ecologist:

Date / /