

Suffolk pilot Biodiversity Checking Service (BCS) Oct 2016 - Mar 2017

Appendix 4 – Frequently Asked Questions

What are low impact developments?	<i>See Definition in Section 2.2</i>
Does the BCS cover the input of consultees on designated sites?	No
Does the BCS cover SPA/SAC mitigation e.g. stone curlews and wintering waders?	<i>No, this does not replace the need for a Habitat Regulations Assessment.</i>
Does the BCS cover medium and high impact developments?	No
What is a Suitably Qualified Ecologist (SQE)?	<p>See Section 1.4</p> <p><i>An SQE must:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>hold a degree (or equivalent qualification, e.g. N/SVQ level 5) in an ecology related subject</i> • <i>be a practising ecologist with a minimum of 3 years relevant experience within the last 5 years</i> • <i>clearly demonstrate a practical understanding of factors affecting ecology in relation to construction and the built environment; including acting in an advisory capacity to provide recommendations for ecological protection, enhancement and mitigation measures.</i> • <i>be bound by a professional code of conduct</i> • <i>be subject to peer review</i> • <i>not act or advise outside their professional competencies.</i> <p><i>A full member of one of the following organisations will be deemed suitable: Chartered Institution of Water and Environmental Management (CIWEM); Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management (CIEEM); Institute of Environmental Management and Assessment (IEMA); Landscape Institute (LI).</i></p>
What is a low impact Ecological Impact Assessment (EclA)?	The low impact EclA report includes all mitigation and enhancement measures that need to be secured as a condition of any permission. Where appropriate this should include a detailed method statement for undertaking works that would avoid harm to

	protected species.
<p>What are Protected Species? Is the list correct?</p>	<p>The following are UK Protected Species and need to be considered in planning applications. Click on the species to go to the appropriate website page. See Natural England Protected Species Standing Advice ></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bats, all species • Great crested newts • Badgers • Hazel dormice • Water voles • Otters • Wild birds • Reptiles • Protected plants eg Schedule 8, Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981 • White-clawed crayfish • Invertebrates • Freshwater fish • Natterjack toads
<p>What happens in a BCS site visit?</p>	<p>The BCS ecologist will visit the application site to verify those habitats present and likely to be affected by the development. This will enable assessment of the adequacy of the submitted low-impact EclA report and Biodiversity Mitigation Method Statement to minimise the impacts of the proposed development.</p>