

Orkney Islands Council
Biodiversity Form for Planning Applications
 To be completed and submitted alongside planning applications

Planning reference or address of development:	
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Date of form completion:	
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Person/company completing form:	
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Baseline - what's there

– Please provide photographs to give an overview of the habitats and features present on site, and, referring to the photographs, describe below the dominant habitat type and most recent land use. If the land use has recently changed please also describe the previous known land use. List any species of note that use the site.
 (Example level of information: grass, grazed field, brown hare and curlew; coastal heath, rough grazing for sheep, Arctic skua; heather moorland, unmanaged, short eared owl; livestock fodder crops, agricultural field, geese; unmanaged meadow, previously livestock grazing field until farm changed hands last year, unknown; urban brownfield site previously with flats on it (demolished 5 years ago) within existing settlement, none as it's a concrete slab; etc).

– Please provide a site layout plan that shows the location of existing broad habitat types and biodiversity features such as wetter/drier areas, ditches, watercourses, trees and shrubs, stone walls, ditches, invasive plant species, etc, both within and adjoining the proposed development site. The biodiversity features should be marked on a site layout plan that shows all elements of the proposed development, including infrastructure such as roads, paths, services, drainage, electricity lines, etc. (This is to enable assessment of how the existing biodiversity features might be affected by the construction and use of the proposed development. It can also be helpful to include photographs of the biodiversity features and their context within the site.)

Please submit referenced files alongside this form

Baseline - what's there

Minimising effects on existing biodiversity (conserving and restoring)

- Referring to the plan provided above, please describe below how you have minimised adverse effects on existing biodiversity through siting, design and layout that retains existing habitats and features of biodiversity value, and where this has not been possible, please explain why.
- Where relevant, please also describe how degraded existing biodiversity features are going to be restored. (Restoration will not be applicable to all sites.)

Enhancement of biodiversity

- Please list below what enhancement measures have you intend to include and explain what they are seeking to achieve. Please include common and latin names of plant species and where the plants or seeds will be sourced from. (This is to check that species appropriate to the site and Orkney conditions are used.)
- Please provide a site layout plan that shows the location of enhancement measures. The enhancement measures should be marked on a site layout plan that shows all elements of the proposed development, including infrastructure such as roads, paths, services, drainage, electricity lines, etc. (This it to enable assessment of how the construction and use of the proposed development might interact with the proposed enhancement measures.)

Monitoring and maintenance of biodiversity retained and enhanced

– Please describe below how will the retained and enhanced biodiversity features and measures be monitored and maintained in the longer term to ensure they continue to benefit biodiversity, and who will be responsible for monitoring and maintenance. (Where detailed information on monitoring and maintenance will be provided in a landscaping or other site management plan to be submitted with the planning application, please provide the document title, author and date, and summarise the information below.)

Advice

- If you have sought or received advice about what is present on or makes use of the proposed development site and / or how to safeguard, restore and enhance biodiversity, please list below who has given you advice. (For example, an ecological consultant, others with relevant local knowledge, etc.)
- Where advice has been received, please summarise it below and provide a copy if advice was given in writing.

– Please describe how have you incorporated any advice you received into the proposed development, and if not, please explain why not.