

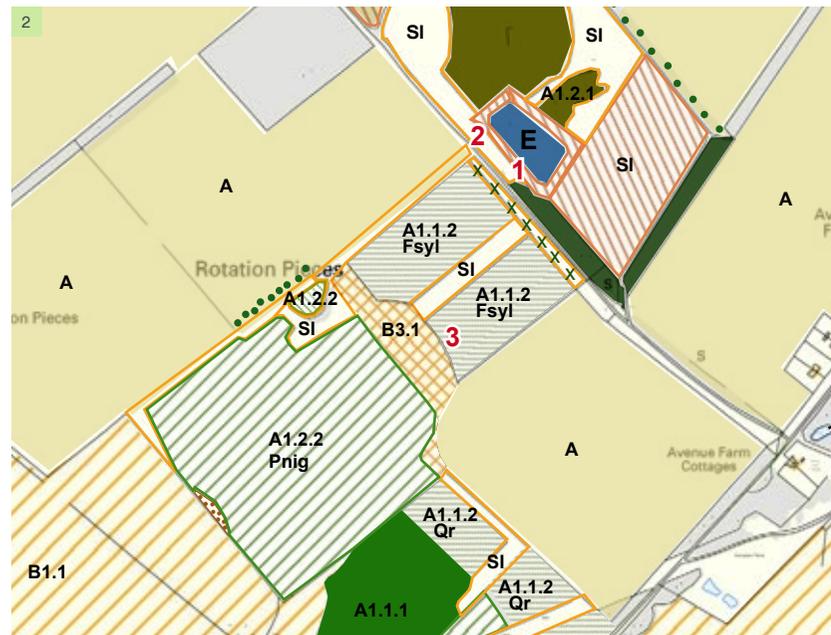
# BS42020: Biodiversity Preliminary Ecological Appraisal

## Biodiversity for 2020

The first British Standard for biodiversity, BS42020:2013 Biodiversity – Code of Practice for Planning and Development, was published in 2013. This stems from the Government document, 'Biodiversity 2020,' which sets out the general objective to halt overall loss of biodiversity by 2020.

BS42020 gives recommendations on professional ethics, conduct and competence, as well as setting out the standard required for ecology survey and reporting, highlighting that:

- appropriately qualified and experienced ecologists should carry out all ecology work
- all relevant legislation should be strictly observed (e.g. regarding protected or invasive species)
- timing is critical when carrying out surveys and mitigation works
- ecological appraisals should be submitted at the same time as planning applications.



1. Chalk grassland  
2. Phase 1 Habitat Survey, Icklingham  
3. Example of woodland habitat

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## Preliminary Ecological Appraisal (PEA)

A PEA is usually required by the local planning authority to support a planning application where wildlife might be affected, whether for small scale (e.g. works to roofs, barn conversions) or major developments (e.g. mineral extractions, residential and commercial development or waste treatment plants).

The Landscape Partnership provides PEA reports to meet the requirements of BS42020:

- all our ecological staff are members of the Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management (CIEEM)
- we carry out our surveys and reports in accordance with CIEEM guidelines
- our PEA reports include desktop studies, using data from the Local Biological Records Centre, and a Phase 1 Habitat Survey of the site
- we clearly set out the relevance of the results and make recommendations, including any biodiversity enhancements that can easily be incorporated
- we identify whether any further, more specific surveys (e.g. protected species) are required (with time constraints highlighted) or state reasons why no further surveys are necessary

## Contact us

PEA can be carried out at any time of year, but if subsequent surveys are necessary, these may only be programmed for particular seasons.

If you need a PEA to support your planning application, or would like an initial discussion about particular circumstances regarding a project or site, contact our ecology team using the details overleaf.

## Benefits of PEA

**PEA is a useful tool for identifying potential ecological constraints and opportunities. When carried out to a high standard and at an early stage, considerable time and money can be saved and a smooth planning process assisted by:**

- **minimising ecological issues arising out of site selection**
- **ensuring that design and layout take account of constraints from the outset, rather than retro-fitting or amending a later point**
- **allowing any further surveys to be programmed as soon as possible, ensuring that key survey windows are not missed and hence avoiding the risk or project delay**
- **enabling mitigation to be incorporated more easily**
- **offering substantial benefits to the local landscape and amenity**
- **providing a powerful negotiation point**
- **providing certainty and clarity for developers, local planning authorities and other regulatory bodies, enabling good quality decision-making**
- **giving confidence to planning officers and consultees**
- **reducing risks of potential objections, planning appeals or legal challenges**
- **prevent planning conditions from being unnecessarily onerous**

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4. Oxted Sandpit  
5. Example of heathland habitat  
6. Examples of protected species