

LE all

Land use and ecology

All credits

Content:

BREEAM NC2018 allows two routes of assessment in this section. To determine which assessment method is appropriate for your site, complete the [Ecological Risk Evaluation Checklist](#).

Route 1 – Can be used for sites where the ecology of the site is of a level that can practically be understood and addressed by a project team member using general observation, non-specialist knowledge and publicly available resources and information. NOTE: fewer credits are available through this method.

Route 2 – This is the more comprehensive route of assessment and must be conducted by a Suitably Qualified Ecologist. This route is mandatory for more sensitive sites.

If you decide to use the Route 1 methodology, please follow the guidance in [BREEAM GN35](#).

Actions:

- i. Appoint a Suitably Qualified Ecologist
- ii. Ensure the ecologist undertakes **ecological survey and evaluation** before the end of **RIBA Stage 1**
- iii. Hold ecology meetings at each of the **RIBA Stages 1,2,4 and 5**
- iv. Ensure recommendations of the ecology report are incorporated into the site design
- v. Have a **landscape and ecology management plan** in place before occupation

i. Appoint a Suitably Qualified Ecologist

This is an individual who holds a degree (or equivalent) in Ecology or related subject and has a **minimum of three years** relevant experience (**within the last five years**). They must also be covered by a professional code of conduct and subjected to peer review. Members of the following (who also comply with the above) are deemed to be Suitably Qualified:

- a. Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management (CIEEM)
- b. Chartered Institution of Water and Environmental Management (CIWEM)
- c. Institute of Environmental Management and Assessment (IEMA)
- d. Landscape Institute (LI)
- e. The Institution of Environmental Sciences (IES).

Note: This document is intended as guidance only. Consult your BREEAM AP or Assessor to ensure compliance is achieved.

iii. Ecological meetings

Le02 – Identifying and undertaking the risks and opportunities for the project

Data generated from the [ecology survey and evaluation](#) should be [shared](#) with the project team to better inform the site preparation, design and construction works and so the appropriate ecological outcome and options are then selected after meeting with representative stakeholders.

Project team members then should [liaise with each other](#) at appropriate times (RIBA stage 1,2,4 and 5) to support the optimisation of the ecological outcomes for the site. It is important that a relevant project team member also collaborate with stakeholders at the appropriate times (as above). Coordination should be undertaken by a [central project team](#) member with an overview of the project and member involved within the project. Meeting minutes should be taken to be provided as evidence.

Le03 – Managing negative impacts on ecology

Project team members should ensure that [clear roles and responsibilities](#) are in place and are appropriate to the scale of the project. This should allow for the implementation of the solutions and measures, in line with the delivery of the assessment requirement for this issue, incorporating:

- Responsibilities, relationships and management required for implementation, including clear ownership of each task
- Allocation of roles and responsibilities and identification of when these apply
- Allocation of resources (including financial, time, technical and skills)
- Procedures to promote effective implementation, monitoring and feedback for continual improvement
- Alignment with and, where relevant, integration into related activities and processes
- Effective handover and collaborative activities where responsibility is transferred and shared, including transition to long term management and maintenance arrangements.

Relevant project team members should liaise and, where feasible, collaborate with [relevant stakeholders](#) at appropriate times to support optimisation of ecological outcome for the sites. Meeting minutes should be taken to be provide as evidence.

Le04 – Change and enhancement of ecological value

The project team, should liaise and collaborate with representative stakeholders to identify and understand the risks and opportunities for the project and to determine the ecological outcomes for the site. They must also take into consideration data collated and shared and have implemented the solutions and measures selected in a way that enhances ecological value in the following order:

- On site, and where this is not feasible,
- Off site within the zone of influence.

Data collated are provided to the local environmental records centres nearest to, or relevant for, the site.

Meeting minutes should be taken to be provide as evidence.

[Le05 – Long term ecology management and maintenance](#)

See link for details

Note: This document is intended as guidance only. Consult your BREEAM AP or Assessor to ensure compliance is achieved.

Land use and ecology checklist

Report

Appoint a Suitably Qualified Ecologist

Ensure Ecologist undertakes survey BEFORE the end of RIBA stage 1

Hold ecology meetings at RIBA stages 1,2, 4 and 5

Instruct Ecologist to undertake landscape and ecology management plan

Completed

Note: This document is intended as guidance only. Consult your BREEAM AP or Assessor to ensure compliance is achieved.