



## Peak District National Park Protected Species Form

The Peak District's wildlife is a valued characteristic that is important to local people and visitors alike. One of the statutory duties of the National Park Authority is to conserve this natural heritage for future generations to enjoy.

**Applications for Planning (apart from householder applications relating to post 1939 dwellings) and Listed Building Consent will not be registered unless 4 copies of the form are received fully completed and signed by the applicant or agent. Only 1 completed set of forms is required for applications involving both Planning and Listed Building Consent.**

Please include 4 copies of the completed form with your planning application using the notes (page 2) and the flow diagram (page 3) to help you.

Name of Applicant:	Name of Agent:
Address of Applicant:	Address of Agent:
Address of Proposed Development:	
Brief Description of Nature of Proposed Development:	
Planning Portal Reference Number (if applicable): PP _____	

Tick Boxes that apply

I have read the information in this document on Protected species and do not believe a Protected species survey is required for the application

- (i) the proposed development is not a type listed in Box 1 or 2.
- (ii) other reasons - Please specify and attach supporting information (photographs, historical documents etc). Please note if you tick this box the registration of your application will be delayed while confirmation checks are made.

**OR** I have read the enclosed guidance and the proposed development is listed in Box 1 and/or 2 as one which may have an impact on a Protected species.

- (iii) I enclose 4 copies of a relevant Protected species survey and mitigation report (where presence is confirmed).

**Signature of applicant or agent:**.....

**Date:**.....

## Protected species form accompanying notes

The Local Validation Checklist sets out the information required to be submitted with a planning application. This sets out that this form is required to be provided with planning applications. Existing planning policies already guide applicants to the need to consider particular wildlife characteristics on a given site. This note explains the process of survey and analysis that will be required where important species are identified. **Where these matters have not been adequately considered within the submitted planning application the Authority will require further details to be submitted before the application can be formally registered.**

Within the National Park certain species (see Boxes 1 and 2 on page 4) enjoy statutory protected species status under UK National and European legislation. All, and in particular bats, may be affected by new development. The presence of a protected species is a material consideration in the decision making process and therefore the planning system has an important role in their conservation.

The underlying principle of the Peak District National Park's process is to seek protected species surveys only where the Authority believes that a protected species is likely to be affected.

### 1. Key aims of the new procedures

- To ensure that measures to conserve Protected species are taken through the planning process.
- To help ensure that applicants do not breach Protected species legislation by addressing this as part of the planning process and to prevent unexpected interruptions to building works due to Protected species being found once applications have been approved.
- To minimise the cost of surveys to applicants by ensuring only the most likely cases require surveys.
- To speed up the application process for applicants.

### 2. What you need to do

**The first step** is deciding if a proposed development will affect any protected species or their habitats. In most cases there will be no impact, but bats and other protected species can be present in certain properties and not evident without the use of specialised survey techniques.

**For all the developments listed in Box 1** an appropriate protected species survey by a suitably qualified ecologist will normally be required. This is because we need to be aware of the possible impact of the work on any protected species. A list of ecological consultants able to undertake such work is available from the PDNPA (there may also be others in the area). **The PDNPA will need to be satisfied that the survey is adequate.** All surveys will therefore need:

- Evidence that they have been carried out by a competent and suitably qualified person (generally someone holding a protected species licence) and that appropriate techniques, time and care has been taken to determine the presence of protected species and signs of their use.
- If protected species are found, the location within the site, a description of the nature of their use, the likely impact of the proposed development and an appropriate mitigation plan.

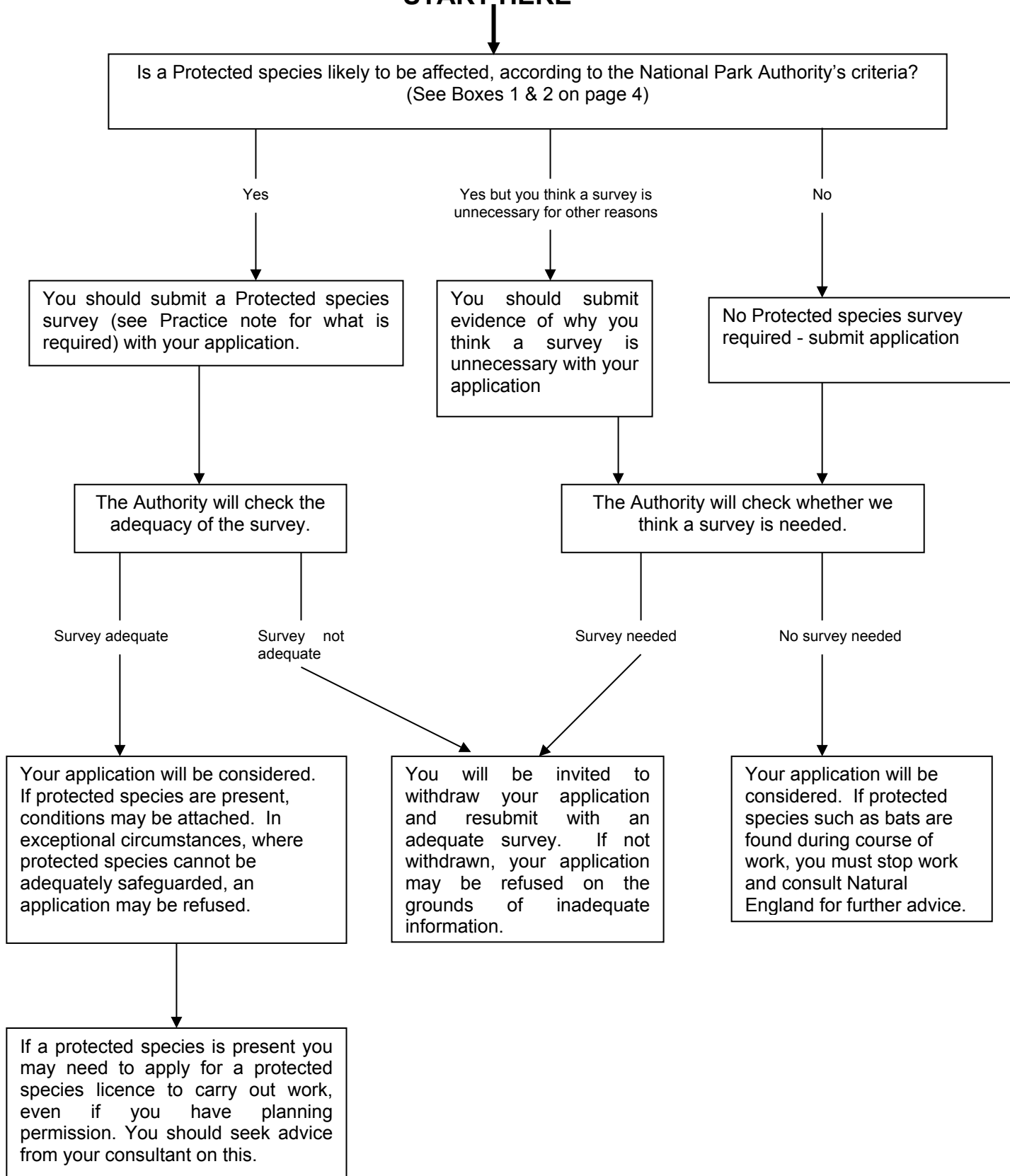
**Do not attempt to exclude or remove Protected species - you may be breaking the law.** Experienced surveyors can often tell if a protected species has been present.

Four copies of the survey should be submitted with the application forms.

**For all developments listed in Box 2** a protected species survey may also be required. You are advised to contact the PDNPA Ecology Team for further advice.

# **PROTECTED SPECIES AND PLANNING PROPOSALS - WHAT YOU NEED TO DO**

**START HERE**



**Box 1 Developments with a possible impact on bats or barn owls**

- (A) **Houses built before 1939** - Changes affecting the roof (e.g. house extensions, loft conversions, re-roofing, etc) or demolitions
- (B) **Barns and other traditional buildings** - Changes to or demolition of other buildings built before 1939.
- (C) **Buildings with complex roof structures of any age** - Changes or demolitions to buildings such as schools, offices, hostels, pubs and hotels, hospitals etc.
- (D) **Developments to listed buildings affecting walls or roof**
- (E) **Developments involving the loss of mature trees**
- (F) **Developments affecting buildings where bats and owls are known to be present**

Exceptions to A -D only (where a Protected species survey is not required)

Minor alterations to the roof

Isolated upland buildings or those more than 200m from the nearest trees

Buildings with missing or metal/prefabricated sheet roofs

Recently re-roofed buildings (last 10 years)

Porches or other minor structure applications and minor changes to existing roofs

Active industrial premises

**Box 2 Developments with a possible impact on great crested newts, otters, breeding birds and water voles**

- |     |   |
|-----|---|
| (A) | <b>All disturbances to rivers, streams, canals, ditches, lakes, ponds and other aquatic habitats.</b> |
| (B) | <b>All disturbances to hedgerows, scrub (10 or more bushes) or woodland.</b>                          |

**3. What if a protected species is found?**

If protected species are found by your ecological surveyor they must include details of MEASURES TO AVOID, MITIGATE OR COMPENSATE FOR POTENTIAL HARM TO THESE SPECIES with the report. This depends on the species found and extent of use but generally it will include recommendations on the timing of operations, the methods used and additional recommendations on how wildlife habitats can be incorporated into the final design.

**The presence of a protected species need not detrimentally affect the potential to gain planning permission.** The survey recommendations will be taken into account in assessing your application. You may have to make some changes to your initial plans and/or apply for an appropriate licence to allow works to proceed. In the majority of cases, however, protected species can be accommodated within development proposals.

**Please note that the species listed and their roosts/breeding sites are protected from destruction or disturbance by the law, irrespective of planning permission. This includes intentional and reckless disturbance (reckless disturbance includes the failure to follow advice regarding known roosts). Only licensed workers are allowed to disturb or handle bats and great crested newts and a licence is required from Defra to enter a known bat roost. Breeding birds are also protected by law.**

## **Appendix 2: Useful contacts**

### **Local and national contacts**

Natural England <https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/natural-england>

The PDNPA Natural Environment Team, Aldern House Baslow Road, Bakewell DE45 1AE. Tel 01629 816200.

Derbyshire Bat Group <http://www.derbyshirebats.org.uk/>

Bat Conservation Trust, <https://www.bats.org.uk/>

Appendix 3: Essential reading