

**Local Development Plan**  
**Ecological Site Assessments in**  
**Monmouthshire**  
**2021**  
**Executive Summary**

To inform the allocation and deliverability of candidate sites through the LDP process in line with relevant policy and legislation, Monmouthshire County Council requires the submission of baseline ecological information. This methodology has been prepared in order to ensure that there is a consistent approach to this submission and that the quality of the information provided is adequate.

Site Appraisals shall be presented in a report and describe the existing ecological value of the proposed LDP sites, principally based on botanical survey but with consideration of other potential Protected or Priority species that may be present. Sites must be also assessed for their potential to qualify wholly or in part as Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINCs) using the Guidelines for the Selection of Wildlife Sites in South Wales adapted for Monmouthshire (Available on the Monmouthshire County Council Website).

Following the site appraisal, an evaluation of status or potential impact on the biodiversity of the site must be made and classified as either: High, Medium or Low value. This status will be quality assured and checked by Monmouthshire County Council through the Candidate Sites Assessment Process prior to the Deposit Plan.

Information gathered from the Monmouthshire County Council Connectivity Assessment (available on the Monmouthshire County Council Website) will also need to be used to help inform the overall value of the proposed LDP Candidate Sites.

In accordance with policy and legislation, site appraisals shall include ecological enhancements that could be delivered through development including ecological connectivity opportunities in line with the 'Dear CPO' letter dated 23/10/2019<sup>1</sup>.

In addition to this, GIS (Geographical Information Systems) data in the format of shape files must be provided to provide visual representation of the ecological status of each site. (A guidance note on this requirement is available on the LDP webpages relating to the ecological site assessments of Candidate Sites on the MCC website.)

**If you have prepared an ecological site assessment in 2019 or 2020 in line with this methodology, it can be used for your submission in 2021.**

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<sup>1</sup> <https://gov.wales/sites/default/files/publications/2019-11/securing-biodiversity-enhancements.pdf>