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EN 5.0 Ecology – Evidence Guidance

EC 4.0 folder to contain the following three submissions:

Submission 1 – PDF stating what level is being targeted.

Submission 2 – HPI Ecology Option B checklist filled out, signed and stating what measures are being targeted.

Submission 3 – Folder containing individual folders for each measure being targeted. Each folder should be labelled after the corresponding number of the measure (1.1, 2.4, 4.1 etc.). Each folder to contain the following evidence:

Note: only relevant drawings to be uploaded to each folder. If one drawing is showing multiple measures, it can be uploaded to just one folder but should be noted in the folders for the other measures where the drawing can be found. Avoid large pdf files with multiple drawings as these can be hard to open and examine the drawings.

1. A bird box for every unit
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Site map – showing location of every bird box. • Site photos – showing a sample of installed bird boxes.
2. A habitat for specified insects in the landscaping (e.g. water striders and other aquatic insects in the pond)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Site map – showing location of habitat and stating what type of habitat it is. • Evidence from an ecologist or an established and recognised ecological organisation/publication outlining what insects benefit from the habitat. • Site photos – showing the habitat.
3. Bat boxes in the development
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Site map – showing location of bat boxes. • Site photos – showing a sample of installed bat boxes.
4. No surfaces in the landscaping are sealed, and all surfaces are permeable to water
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Landscape and technical drawings – showing build-up of all external surfaces. • Site photos – showing a sample of external surfaces.
5. All non-paved surfaces within the landscaping have sufficient soil depth and quality for growing vegetables
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Landscape and technical drawings – showing soil depth is at least 450mm deep in line with Royal Horticulture Society advice.
6. All walls, where possible, are covered with climbing plants
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Site map – showing location of climbing plants. • Site photos – showing a sample of installed climbing plants and supports.
7. There is 1 square metre of pond area for every 5 square metres of hard-surface area in the landscaping

- Site map – showing location of the pond(s).
- Calculations – showing the size the pond area and size of the hard surface area.
- Site photos – showing the installed pond(s).

8. The vegetation in the landscaping is selected to be nectar rich and provide a variety of food for butterflies (a so-called 'butterfly restaurant')

Aster, Aubretia, Buddleja, Butterfly Bush, Cornflower, Cosmos, Dianthus, Lavander, Michaelmas Daisies, Phlox, Rudbeckia, Verbena (gromor.ie)

White clover, Blackberry, Lime, Ling heather, Bell heather, Hawthorn, Sycamore, fruit blossom (e.g raspberry) oilseed rape and knapweed (irishbeekeeping.ie)

"Perfect for Pollinators" logo - (Royal Horticultural Society)

- Site map – showing location of the nectar rich vegetation.
- Invoice/delivery docket or equivalent showing what vegetation was planted.
- For vegetation not listed above evidence from an ecologist or an established and recognised ecological organisation/publication outlining that this vegetation is also nectar rich and provides a variety of food for butterflies.
- Site photos – showing a sample of planted vegetation.

9. No more than ten trees or shrubs of the same species per hectare

- Site map – showing location of the different trees.
- Invoice/delivery docket or equivalent showing what trees were planted.
- Calculations – showing the size the site and the ratio of trees planted per species to the overall site area.
- Site photos – showing a sample of the trees.

10. All stormwater flows for at least 10 metres on the surface of the ground before it is diverted into pipes

- Site map – showing location of all downpipes and the distance and path taken by water from their outlets to the storm drains.
- Site photos – showing a sample of the paths taken by storm water across open ground.

11. The landscaping is green, but there are no mown lawns

- Site map – showing landscaping.
- Site photos – showing the landscaping of the site.
- Written proof that the management company of the landscaping will not mow the lawns more than **twice** a year.

12. All rainwater from buildings and hard surfaces in the landscaping is collected and used for irrigation

- Landscape and technical drawings – showing drainage collection and storage system for rainwater.
- Site photos – showing the rainwater collection and storage system.

13. All plants have some household use

- Invoice/delivery docket or equivalent showing all plants that were planted, with notes added on what uses they could be used for.



14. There are frog habitats within the landscaping as well as space for frogs to hibernate
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Site map – showing location of the frog habitat(s). • Evidence from an ecologist or an established and recognised ecological organisation/publication outlining that is a suitable habitat(s) for frogs and would be suitable for hibernation. • Site photos – showing the habitat(s).
15. In the landscaping, there is at least 2 square metres of conservatory or greenhouse for each apartment
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Site map – showing location of the conservatories/greenhouse. • Calculations – showings the useable floor area of the conservatories/greenhouse and the minimum required area. • Site photos – showing the installed conservatories/greenhouse.
16. There is food for birds throughout the year within the landscaping
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Site map – showing location of the food and notes on what is available at what point in the year. • Evidence from an ecologist or an established and recognised ecological organisation/publication outlining that the food available is suitable for birds and outlines when the food would be available. • Site photos – showing samples of the locations of the food.
17. There are at least two different old-crop varieties of fruits and berries for every 100 square metres of landscaping
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Site map – showing location of the different crops. • Invoice/delivery docket or equivalent showing what crops were planted. Alternative evidence accepted that clearly identifies existing planting on site as old crop varieties of fruits and berries. • Calculations – showing that the required densities have been met. • Site photos – showing a sample of the crops.
18. The facades of the buildings have swallow nesting facilities
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Site map – showing location of every swallow nesting facility. • Site photos – showing a sample of the swallow nesting facilities.
19. The whole landscaping is used for the cultivation of vegetables, fruit and berries
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Site map – showing the different usages of the landscaping. • Site photos – showing a sample of the landscaping.
20. The developers liaise with ecological experts
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Written evidence of liaison with ecologist (e.g. report outlining recommendations to the development). EIA and AA reports do not count, liaison must be separate to these.
21. Greywater is treated in the landscaping and re-used
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Site map and technical drawings – showing the location and detailing of the onsite treatment facilities and its connections. • Site photos – showing the treatment facility.

22. All biodegradable household and garden waste is composted
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Evidence that each household has access to a brown bin and/or an onsite compost facility. Site photos – showing brown bins and/or onsite compost facility.
23. Only recycled construction materials are used in the landscaping
24. Each apartment or house has at least 2 square metres of built-in growing plots or flower boxes
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Site/floor map(s) – showing location of the growing boxes. For repeating units only one floor plan is needed per unit type. Calculations – showings the area of the growing boxes meets the minimum required area. Site photos – showing a sample of the installed growing boxes.
25. At least half the landscaping area consists of water
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Site map – showing the different usages of the landscaping. Calculations – showings the area dedicated to water meets the minimum required area. Site photos – showing a sample of the landscaping dedicated to water.
26. All the trees and bushes in the landscaping bear fruit and berries
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Invoice/delivery docket or equivalent showing what trees and bushes were planted, with additional evidence that each breed of tree and bush bears fruit and berries. Site photos – showing a sample of the trees and bushes.
27. A section of the landscaping is left for natural succession (that is, to naturally grow and regenerate)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Site map – showing the dedicated area in the landscaping. Site photos – showing the area dedicated to natural succession. Written proof that the management company will leave this area for natural succession.
28. There are at least 50 flowering Irish wild herbs within the landscaping
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Site map – showing location of the different wild herbs. Invoice/delivery docket or equivalent showing what wild herbs were planted. Alternative evidence accepted that clearly identifies existing planting on site as wild Irish herbs. Site photos – showing a sample of the herbs.
29. All the buildings have green roofs
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Roof plan – of all buildings on site Site photos – of all roofs on the site.