



Department of the Environment,
Sustainability, Climate Change
and Heritage

HM Government of Gibraltar

Flora Survey Guidelines

General Guidelines for the carrying out of flora surveys, in Gibraltar.

Department of the Environment and Climate Change

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The Department of the Environment and Climate Change has produced this guidance document to aid individuals, or companies, who require further clarification regarding the type of information expected when a flora survey has been requested. A flora survey is an assessment of the plant life present within a defined area, namely the development site.

Please note that tree surveys are not captured by these guidelines. Tree surveys are discussed in the *Tree Assessment Template* document.

The information provided below is for guidance purposes only. The following list is by no means exhaustive and definitive.

General Information Required

- ▶ Planning application Number (where relevant)
- ▶ Location / site,
- ▶ Report prepared by whom and when,
- ▶ Reference and guidance documents referred to, and
- ▶ Scope of report

Methodology and Reporting Format

- ▶ Date and time of survey
- ▶ Data collection methods used
- ▶ Photographs of the location of survey
- ▶ Photos onsite of each species identified
- ▶ Map highlighting location and distribution (if any species are identified at multiple locations) within the site
 - This is particularly important should any protected species be recorded
- ▶ Results of the surveys
- ▶ Conclusions
- ▶ Recommendations
 - When best to proceed with proposed works
 - Watching brief for workers, especially when concerning nesting birds
 - Installation, or inclusion in design of property, of green areas
 - Guidance on any further information relevant to the client
 - Any other information specific to the site

Landscape Strategy

To ensure there is no loss of green area and encourage biodiversity enhancements to the flora on site, the following information will also be required:

- ▶ Flora planned for removal and reasons why
 - Information to be presented in list format where more than one species is planned for removal
 - Map showing location of all flora to be removed

- ▶ Flora planned for conservation
 - Information to be presented in list format where more than one species is planned for conservation
 - Map showing location of all flora to be conserved

- ▶ Planned, or required, actions to treat or improve soil quality
- ▶ Proposed planting scheme
 - List of species to be planted
 - Location of these
 - Reasoning

- ▶ Any other considerations taken into account for the overall benefit of the landscape strategy

- ▶ Any other information specific to the site