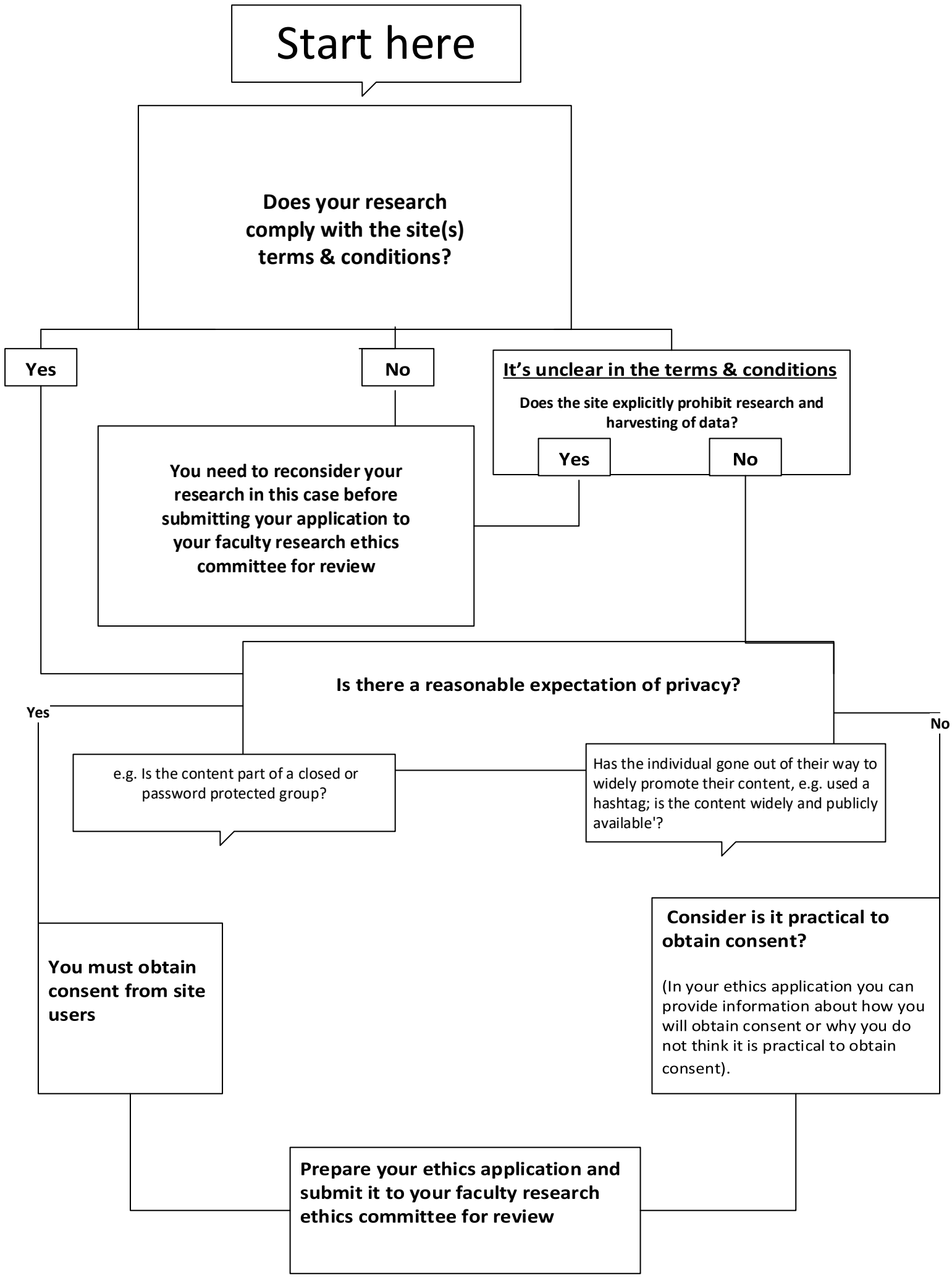
Flowchart


Start here
Does your research comply with the site(s) terms & conditions?
Yes
No
It's unclear in the terms & conditions
Does the site explicitly prohibit research and harvesting of data?
Yes
No
You need to reconsider your research in this case before submitting your application to your faculty research ethics committee for review
Is there a reasonable expectation of privacy?
Yes
No
e.g. Is the content part of a closed or password protected group?
Has the individual gone out of their way to widely promote their content, e.g. used a hashtag; is the content widely and publicly available'?
You must obtain consent from site users
Consider is it practical to obtain consent?
(In your ethics application you can provide information about how you will obtain consent or why you do not think it is practical to obtain consent).
Prepare your ethics application and submit it to your faculty research ethics committee for review