

## Ecological Survey and Assessment Requirements

Ecological survey and assessment carried out to inform development proposals and the development control process should be carried out by suitably experienced, trained and qualified ecological consultants holding, where relevant, protected species licences.

Survey and assessment should be carried out at appropriate times of year, in suitable weather conditions and to published guidelines and methodologies where available.\*

Survey and assessment reports should include the following:

- Objective(s) of the survey and assessment;
- Ecological records at the survey site and in the local area (obtained from Staffordshire Ecological Record) that should inform survey design;
- Description of the survey area and features surveyed;
- Description of the site and its surroundings including detailed description of important features, site designations;
- Field survey methods, dates, times, personnel (to include name(s), experience, licence number where applicable), equipment used
- Weather conditions;
- Constraints and limitations (factors such as time of year, accessibility, influencing survey results);
- Survey results, identifying important habitats and species with reference to legal protection, Biodiversity Action Plans and biodiversity priorities;
- Interpretation and evaluation of the site and its importance;
- Map(s) of survey area with habitats mapped to Phase 1 or other accepted methodology and species location marked as appropriate
- Map should show area on an Ordnance Survey (or similar) base-map
- Cross-referenced photographs of key features (if appropriate)
- Recommendations for further survey if required;
- Interpretation and analysis of ecological records in terms of the proposed development;
- Assessment of the impacts of the development/project on designated sites, habitats and species, within and outside the application boundary;
- Appropriate mitigation or compensation with details of design, techniques and timing of works;
- Justification of chosen approach;
- Licensing provisions where appropriate;
- Monitoring proposals where appropriate



## **Ecological Survey and Assessment Requirements**

\*Examples of published guidelines and methodologies:

Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management (2005).  
Guidelines for Survey Methodology  
<http://www.ieem.org.uk/survey-sources/surveying.html>

Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management (IEEM)  
Guidelines for Ecological Impact Assessment  
<http://www.ieem.org.uk/ecia/index.html>

Institute of Environmental Assessment (1995)  
Guidelines for Baseline Ecological Assessment.

English Nature (now Natural England) (2004)  
Bat Mitigation Guidelines

English Nature (2001)  
Great crested newt mitigation guidelines.  
<http://naturalengland.twoten.com/NaturalEnglandShop/>

JNCC (1993)  
Handbook for Phase 1 Habitat Survey - a Technique for  
Environmental Audit.

Rodwell, J. S. (Edit.) (1991, 1991, 1992, 1995, 2002).  
British Plant Communities Vols 1-5

Bickmore, C. J. (2002).  
Hedgerow Survey Handbook

Department of Environment (1997).  
The Hedgerow Regulations

National Rivers Authority (1992)  
River Corridor



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