

# ECOLOGICAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT (ECIA)

An EcIA is a systematic, objective assessment of the potential ecological impacts (both positive and negative) of a proposed development, together with recommended mitigation and compensation to redress any significant adverse impacts. An EcIA would generally include the following basic stages:



- **Scoping:** identifying appropriate study limits determined by the nature of the development proposal, the alternatives under consideration and the range and complexity of the issues to be investigated.
- **Baseline Study/Desktop Investigation:** background research is carried out into the ecological character of the area, including known species and habitat information.
- **Species and Habitat Surveys:** initial baseline surveys, followed by detailed species specific surveys provide the necessary data from which a determination of the ecological impacts of the proposal can be made.
- **Impact Assessment:** based on the results of the surveys, the predicted impacts of the proposal are evaluated against a 'do-nothing' scenario'.
- **Impact Mitigation:** It is a legal requirement that significant ecological impacts are mitigated, or where this is not possible, compensation is provided.
- **Impact Evaluation:** The actual ecological impact of the development including the suggested mitigation.
- **Monitoring and Feedback:** The ecological effects of the development during and post-development should be monitored and corrective actions carried out where necessary.

## Our ecologists can provide:

- ✓ All aspects of a thorough and comprehensive Ecological Impact Assessment
- ✓ Negotiation with the Local Planning Authority
- ✓ Species and habitat surveys
- ✓ Identification of potential benefits and constraints of all alternative development options
- ✓ Liaison with other partners in the production of the Environmental Statement
- ✓ Oversight of the implementation of planning conditions and Section 106 agreements

Our ecologists possess extensive experience and knowledge of the Ecological Impact Assessment process and the necessary species surveys, and are members of the Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management (IIEEM) and the Institute of Biology and abide by their codes of professional conduct.



ELMAW CONSULTING

ECOLOGISTS &  
WILDLIFE BIOLOGISTS