

Ecological Impact Assessment

An Ecological Impact Assessment (EclA) is a term which is applicable to a number of separate studies and is typically the term given to the ecology chapter within an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) for those developments which meet the criteria under the The Town and Country Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) (Amendment) Regulations 2015 (EIA Regulation). An EclA can also be the term given to a document submitted as part of planning application for non-EIA developments.



The process of preparing an EclA for a EIA is a formal process and subject to the relevant EIA Regulations, although whether for EIA or non-EIA developments, EclA's are produced following the guidelines as set by the Chartered Instituted for Ecology and Environmental Management (CIEEM) in their 'Guidelines for Ecological Impact Assessment in the UK and Ireland: Terrestrial, Freshwater and Coastal, 2nd edition CIEEM (2016)'.

In essence an EclA, whether for EIA or non-EIA developments is a process of identifying and quantifying potentially significant effects of a development on sensitive ecological receptors and where significant effects are identified, proposing avoidance, mitigation or compensation measures to reduce the significance of those effects. Typically, an EclA will follow on from a Preliminary Ecological Appraisal (PEA) or can be a standalone document which incorporates the PEA. The Ecological receptors taken through the EclA process is determined through specific survey work and consultation with statutory consultees such as Natural England as well as the Local Planning Authority. For formal EIA developments, the scope of any EclA is usually determined by the Local Planning Authority at the screening stage, based on the findings of an initial PEA and with input from the developers appointed ecologist.

The value of an EclA both from the developers perspective and from a nature conservation value is dependent on a collaborative and iterative design approach between all disciplines involved within a scheme.



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