

## Habitat Surveys

In some cases The Northern Ireland Environment Agency (NIEA) will recommend that a habitat (flora and fauna) survey is carried out before a planning application is considered to provide information on the nature conservation value of a site. This information will be used to assess the potential impacts of the proposal on the ecology of the site.

If NIEA, Natural Heritage requests a habitat (flora and fauna) survey the following guidelines should be used:

- Surveys should be carried out by an experienced, appropriately qualified person. The surveyor should have relevant experience which is deemed acceptable to NIEA. For example, an ecological consultant with experience of, and/or qualifications in, ecological surveying.
- Surveys should be carried out at an appropriate time of year, or as specified by NIEA.
- Surveys should be carried out well in advance of any planned construction works.
- The date and time of the survey and the qualifications of the surveyor(s) should be included in the survey report.
- The type of survey required is an 'Extended Phase One Habitat Survey'. The survey should describe habitats and fauna observed on site, and any field signs noted. It should identify areas which have the potential to support protected species. An appropriately scaled habitat map with target notes should be produced.
- The survey should identify any Northern Ireland or European Priority Habitats and Species which may be present on the site.
- Depending on the findings of the survey further, more detailed, survey work may be required such as National Vegetation Classification (NVC) or protected species surveys.
- Further information can be obtained from our website at:  
<http://www.doeni.gov.uk/niea/land-home/plan/surveys.htm>
- Information on UK Habitats Classifications can be found on the JNCC website at:  
<http://www.jncc.gov.uk/page-1425>

**NIEA reserve the right to determine whether the survey information submitted is adequate or when additional information is required.**