

## **Appendix 6 - Ecological Survey Standards**

The provision of quality ecological information is critical in determining the impacts of development and securing meaningful ecological gains. Survey and mitigation measures must therefore conform to the following principles:

- i) Ecological information must be provided by suitably qualified personnel. Details of their qualifications and experience must be provided with all ecological reports.
- ii) Ecological surveys must answer the following questions; what important features are present, how will these features be affected by the development proposals, how can these impacts be avoided, mitigated or compensated so that there is a net gain to biodiversity.
- iii) Survey methodology must conform with nationally accepted standards. In certain circumstances divergence from these standards may be acceptable but this must be agreed with appropriate officers at the Local Planning Authority or other relevant body before commencement. Unauthorised deviation from these survey standards will not be accepted and may be reported to the Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management (CIEEM).
- iv) Appropriate environmental records searches are expected in support of planning applications. When submitting ecological information it is expected that records & searches, consistent with the rules of the professional body governing ecological consultants (CIEEM), are supplied to enable adequate ecological assessment.
- v) Where European Protected Species (EPS) licences are required, answers to three tests of the licence must be supplied for consideration. Failure to do so will result in applications being refused.