



As the COVID-19 pandemic unfolds the 2020 environmental survey season has been somewhat impacted. While approaches may need to be revised, this does not necessarily have to affect project programmes. Our specialist team of environmental experts are here to help you navigate through the challenges of progressing projects under lockdown, helping to reduce risks and find new opportunities by challenging what has become the status quo for undertaking environmental surveys.

We believe the following five steps are key to maintaining momentum on project delivery over the coming months.

1 **Utilise the engagement period -**

whilst the regulators are also working from home, this period should be used effectively to engage with the local and regional contacts and planning authorities to establish new, or revised methodologies for assessing environmental risk. Early agreement to revised approaches to delivering projects without the need for surveys where possible will reduce long term project delays. It will also allow delivery to progress on the front foot on our return to the field.



2 **Plan ahead to fill the data gap -**

where environmental data collection is a necessity, early booking of field survey teams is recommended to secure these resources, and ensure cost efficiency. We are programming in postponed surveys to ensure they are duly picked up when the lockdown eases.




3 **Use experience to temporarily define risk-**

development viability still needs to understand the potential impact of environmental risks. Working with our experienced consultants we are in the position to help define the likelihood of risk and project impact until such time as the data is available.



4 **Use data to temporarily define risk -**

the vast majority of our clients hold a significant amount of environmental data from a wide range of projects across various geographies. Centralising this into a data lake will allow our environmental scientists to draw on evidence with the regulators on what can be achieved from utilising that experience.



5 **Go straight to mitigation -**

where mitigation design is inevitable or where mitigation would be more cost effective than project delay, it may be preferential to either temporarily or fully forego environmental surveys. Early engagement with the regulator would therefore be critical to sign off mitigation design early.



We are ready and mobilised at Stantec to support delivery of your projects during these uncertain times.

If you would like to talk to us about how we may support you over the coming months, please contact a member of our environmental team.

Environmental Coordination

Interested in understanding how Stantec could rationalise your EIA strategy? Contact:

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Acoustics and vibration

Stantec's acoustic team have identified potential opportunities to circumnavigate the requirement to collect new baseline data, intrigued? Contact:

Matt Barlow

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Air Quality

The current changes could affect your air quality monitoring programme, interested in understanding how? Contact:

Kiri Heal

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Ecology

Need to discuss practical and pragmatic approaches to ecological survey, assessment or implementation? Contact:

Helen Evriviades

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Landscape

Do you need help to identify effects and required mitigation for a development's design with restricted site visits during the lockdown? Contact:

Natasha Jones

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Flooding and Water

Interested in innovative approaches to flood risk modelling and assessment while topographic surveys are restricted? Contact:

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Ground Conditions

Interested to learn how on-going site monitoring could be affected by the current changes? Contact:

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