APPENDIX A1

ADVICE NOTE

ON THE LIFESPAN OF ECOLOGICAL REPORTS & SURVEYS

APRIL 2019

CIEEM

It is important that planning decisions are based on up-to-date ecological reports and survey data. However, it is difficult to set a specific timeframe over which reports or survey data should be considered valid, as this will vary in different circumstances. In some cases there will be specific guidance on this (such as for the age of data which may be used to support an EPS licence application). In circumstances where such advice does not already exist, CIEEM provides the general advice set out below.

For some projects the time taken between commencing the scoping or design and submitting a planning application can be several years, and this can result in the early ecology surveys becoming out-of-date (based on the advice set out below); this can lead to additional costs for developers associated with updating survey data. Nevertheless, there are considerable advantages associated with undertaking surveys early during the scoping or design phases of a project.

Ecological consultants should give careful consideration to which, if any, surveys need to be updated; design their data collection in a way which maximises the benefits of early surveys whilst minimising the costs to developers; and provide clarity on the likely lifespan of surveys in their reports.

AGE OF DATA	REPORT / SURVEY VALIDITY
Less than 12 months	Likely to be valid in most cases.
12-18 months	Likely to be valid in most cases with the following exceptions: • Where a site may offer existing or new features which could be utilised by a mobile species within a short timeframe (see scenario 1 example); • Where a mobile species is present on site or in the wider area, and can create new features of relevance to the assessment (see scenario 2 example); • Where country-specific or species-specific guidance dictates otherwise. Report authors should highlight where they consider it likely to be necessary to update surveys within a timeframe of less than 18 months.
18 months to 3 years	A professional ecologist will need to undertake a site visit and may also need to update desk study information (effectively updating the Preliminary Ecological Appraisal) and then review the validity of the report, based on the factors listed below. Some or all of the other ecological surveys may need to be updated. The professional ecologist will need to issue a clear statement, with appropriate justification, on: • The validity of the report; • Which, if any, of the surveys need to be updated; and • The appropriate scope, timing and methods for the update survey(s). The likelihood of surveys needing to be updated increases with time, and is greater for mobile species or in circumstances where the habitat or its management has changed significantly since the surveys were undertaken. Factors to be considered include (but are not limited to): • Whether the site supports, or may support, a mobile species which could have moved on to site, or changed its distribution within a site (see scenario 1&2 examples); • Whether there have been significant changes to the habitats present (and/or the ecological conditions/functions/ecosystem functioning upon which they are dependent) since the surveys were undertaken, including through changes to site management (see scenario 3 example); • Whether the local distribution of a species in the wider area around a site has changed (or knowledge of it increased), increasing the likelihood of its presence (see scenario 4 example).
More than 3 years	The report is unlikely to still be valid and most, if not all, of the surveys are likely to need to be updated (subject to an assessment by a professional ecologist, as described above).

EXAMPLE SCENARIOS

1

- Trees or buildings on site have been surveyed for evidence of bat roosts and none were found; new roosts may be present, and trees or buildings may have developed new features which were not previously present. An update bat roost survey is likely to be required.
- One or more potential otter resting sites have been identified, although there was no evidence of use at the time of the survey; such features may have been used by otters during the intervening period. An update otter survey is likely to be required.

2

- A badger survey confirmed the presence of badgers on site; new setts may have been excavated within the site. An update badger survey is likely to be required.

3

- An area of grassland was heavily grazed by cattle at the time of the original survey and was considered to be unsuitable for reptiles, although slow-worms were known to be present in the wider area; grazing has since ceased and the grassland has been cut once annually, which has encouraged the development of a tussocky sward which provides suitable habitat for slow-worms. A reptile survey is now likely to be required.

4

- A water vole survey confirmed their absence from the site but identified them as present in the wider area surrounding it; a recovery project is underway in the local area through a mink control programme, which is encouraging the spread of water voles.

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APPENDIX A2

Hydrographic Monitoring
Drogue, Dye and Dye Drogue
Portmarnock and Skerries – undertaken on behalf of FCC in 2012
Portmarnock - undertaken on behalf of Irish Water in 2015

Hydrographic Monitoring – Drogue, Dye and Dye drogue

	FCC	Irish Water
Year	2012	2015
	Dye and Drogue	Dye and Drogue
Date	12th July to 23rd August	20th April to 19th June
1st	26th July Neap tide Portmarnock (C)	20th April Spring tide
	27TH July Neap tide Skerries (A)	
2nd	18th August Spring tide Portmarnock (C)	9th June Neap tide
	19th August Spring tide Skerries (A)	
Wind speed	Hand held anemometer And compass	Same
Dye	Diluted methanol and Distilled water	Same
5 litres	Neap tide	High tide Mid Ebb and Low Water Mid Flood
10 litres	Spring	n/a
Releases	8	8
1 metre below surface		Same
Individual transects - Neap Continuous - Spring		Individual transects
Drogue 3 No. 1 hour + 1 single sub surface		?

2012
FCC Dye Drogue Results

Portmarnock		Skerries
Date	26/07/2012	27/07/2012
Tide	NEAP	NEAP
Ebb flow	5.2km S/SW	7.1km S
4 hour drift		n/a
End up off south Howth Head		End up west Lambay
Flood tide	7.5km N/NW	Flood tide 5.9km N/NW
End up SW Lambay		End up N/E Skerries
		Terminated due to sea condition
Date	18/08/2012	19/08/2012
Drogue run over by boat		
Replace – No GPS		

Tide SPRING	SPRING
(flood?) 6km N	Flood tide 8.5km N
31/2 hour drift	n/a
End up South Lambay	End up NE Skerries
Tide 7km S	Ebb tide 4.2km S
End up SE Howth Head	n/a
21/2 hour drift	2 hours
Terminated – shipping zone	Terminated early deteriorating weather

2012
FCC Drogue Study

Portmarnock 10 releases	Skerries 11 releases
26/07/2012	27/07/2012
NEAP	NEAP
NE/SW axis	N/S axis
Max speed – Flood	Max speed - EBB
Over 3km – 58 mins	Over 2km - 54 mins
Portmarnock 11 releases	Skerries 9 releases
18/08/2012	19/08/2012
SPRING	SPRING
NE/SW axis	N/S axis
Max speed – Ebb	Max speed - Ebb
Under 3 km – 55 mins	
Off bottom drogue dragged by boat on Ebb tide	Terminated due to wind speed

Dye Study

Portmarnock	Skerries
26/07/2012	27/07/2012
NEAP	NEAP
7am – 11am Ebb	7.15 – 9.25 Ebb
Southerly direction	Southerly direction
12.10 – 16.45 Flood	13.10 – 15.46 Flood
Northerly direction	Northerly direction
	Terminated due to sea conditions
Portmarnock	Skerries
18/08/2012	19/08/2012
SPRING	SPRING
8.13- 10.00 Flood	8.18 – 10.30 Flood
Northerly direction	Southerly direction ??
13.32 –	13.47 - ? Ebb
Southerly direction	Southerly direction??
Terminated due to shipping lane	Terminated die to weather

2015 Portmarnock High water Mid Ebb Low Water Mid Flood

20 April 2015
SPRING
Drogue
SE Flood
SE Ebb
Flooding tide – Ireland's Eye west
Ebb tide turbulent Ireland's Eye north shore
Mid water drogue GPS error
Haven't put dye out at low tide
8 drogues
Not full tidal cycle

Dye Release 9.13

1. 2 hour period? - SW – SE. Where did it end up? Low water or F??
2. 11.24 SE – SE/NW – 1 hour to Ireland's Eye. NW Rocks Strong Mid Flood
3. 14.18 SE 4.4km 2 hours. Where did it end up? High water
4. 16.30 SE. Turbulent at Ireland's Eye. North. Dispersed. Mid Ebb

Dye Drogue
Sub surface drogue
Disappeared after 11.30
Release – run over
How many missed cycles?

9 June 2015 Portmarnock
NEAP
High Water Mid Ebb Low Water Mid Flood

DROGUE
SE on approach of Low Water
Reversed before LW and went NW even though Low Tide was not reached
Then from North to SE over flooding cycle
Very vague

DYE

1. 7.30 SE 1.7km to NE Ireland's Eye Turbulent area
2. 9.15 SE reversed NW. Where did it end up?
3. 12.00 NW 1.3km – 2hours Where did it end up?
4. 14.40 SW – E 1.8km – 2 hours Ireland's Eye. Where did it end up?

Dye Drogue
No. 1 of dye release mentions the dye drogue. Then no mention after that.