

EIA

COVID-19 Lockdown



Whilst the country experiences lockdown and other social distancing measures, Lichfields is still able to provide you with the best advice in driving forward the largest and most complex development projects; including those requiring Environmental Impact Assessment. Our deep understanding of the issues associated with preparing legally robust, accessible and integrated documentation can help you identify and troubleshoot the challenges that arise.

Lockdown challenges

- Reduced ability to conduct site visits
- Meeting regulatory requirements
- Engaging with and gathering information from stakeholders
- Longer term challenges from gaps in seasonal survey work

For more information please contact your local Lichfields office.

Getting ahead

The most significant projects inevitably have the longest lead in times. By continuing to press ahead with necessary assessment work now, we can help to ensure that the country emerges from the lockdown ready to progress those developments able to make the biggest difference in meeting needs.

There are complex critical paths involved in gathering information, appraising development and ensuring that decision takers have what they need to make timely decisions for large scale schemes. In addition, assessments need to be conducted in accordance with a framework of legislation and best practice. Finally, it is important to ensure that development continues to tackle the ongoing challenges of protecting the environment, achieving sustainable development and addressing the Climate Emergency.

It is important to identify and troubleshoot issues now to avoid storing up problems for projects later. This will require pragmatic and flexible solutions and close engagement with technical specialists, decision makers, lawyers and stakeholders through the lockdown.

How can Lichfields assist?

Lichfields is aware of both short and long-term issues that are affecting projects including EIA. We can help you in the following ways by applying our comprehensive knowledge of the process, and of the role of EIA, in both the iteration of the design of development and in the decision making process:-

Short term:

- Keeping you up to date on the latest legal and practical changes during the lockdown;
- Problem solving assessment limitations where on-site surveys are delayed or cannot take place including helping you access local help where needed;
- Liaising with stakeholders via online meetings to drive assessments and decision making forward;
- Applying our knowledge to create pragmatic solutions to challenges that arise before and after submission of documentation;

Long term:

- Project and programme management to reduce potential long-term delays in assessments;
- Careful and proportionate scoping of assessment work to reflect time-sensitive limitations.

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