

An aerial photograph showing a multi-lane highway with several cars and a large red and white truck. To the right of the highway is a high-speed train traveling along its tracks. Further right is a paved road with a few more cars. The background features a green landscape with trees and a blue body of water under a clear sky.

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Transport Infrastructure
– Highways and Rail

“Most people say that it is intellect
which makes a great scientist.
They are wrong: it is character.”

Albert Einstein

Balancing our clients' objectives alongside our responsibility
to the environment is the manifestation of this statement.

We work with our clients to compliance and beyond.

**Thomson environmental consultants,
enabling business and nature to thrive together**

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Message from our Chair

Welcome to Thomson environmental consultants – your trusted environmental partner in the highways and rail sectors.

At Thomson environmental consultants, we understand the critical role that transport infrastructure plays in connecting people, goods, and services. As environmental specialists, we are committed to helping our clients navigate the complex environmental challenges of transport infrastructure projects.

With years of expertise and a deep understanding of environmental regulations and best practices, we offer comprehensive consulting and contracting services tailored specifically to the needs of highways and rail clients. Our team of highly skilled and experienced professionals is dedicated to delivering innovative solutions that help client achieve project outcomes and deliver a positive environmental legacy.

What sets us apart is our holistic approach, which integrates environmental considerations seamlessly into the planning, design and construction of transport infrastructure. By collaborating closely with our clients, we ensure that environmental objectives are effectively incorporated into project development, minimising risk and delays and maximising environmental benefits.

Our wide range of services encompasses environmental assessments, ecological surveys and mitigation, vegetation clearance and habitat management, arboricultural survey and much more. We strive to provide a comprehensive suite of solutions that address every aspect of your project's environmental requirements.

At Thomson environmental consultants, we recognise the importance of delivering results on time and within budget. We work closely with regulatory bodies, stakeholders, and local communities to facilitate smooth project approvals and build strong relationships. Our commitment to transparent communication, agile resourcing and effective project management enables your transport infrastructure projects to progress smoothly.

Contact Thomson environmental consultants today to discuss how we can assist your next project, enabling business and nature to thrive together.

Nancy Thomson
Founder and Chair

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Highways sector

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We understand the complexity of environmental regulation in the highways environment and will offer you straightforward advice from the start. Thomson have 20 years' experience operating in the sector. From providing environmental surveys for development consent applications on major projects, through to assessments for routine maintenance and upgrade works across the highways network, we can cover any scale of project at every project phase.

We understand the burden of engaging multiple suppliers, so offer the full range of environmental services, allowing you to streamline the management of your next project. Our services cover terrestrial and freshwater ecology, arboricultural consultancy, mapping and geospatial analysis, sustainability and climate change consultancy as well as vegetation clearance and ecological contracting services. A more comprehensive list of services is provided on pages 10–13.

Our accreditations

With HSAS, CHAS and SMAS accreditations you can be confident of our commitment to safety on site. Our team hold CSCS cards, safety critical medicals and Highways Passports. This combined with our central resourcing, means we can deploy rapidly to help you keep your project on the road.

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A photograph of two construction workers standing under a large concrete bridge structure. The worker on the left is wearing a yellow hard hat and an orange high-visibility vest. The worker on the right is wearing a blue hard hat and a yellow high-visibility vest, and is holding a large roll of white paper, likely blueprints. They are both looking towards the right side of the frame. The bridge has multiple concrete pillars and beams, creating a series of arches. The ground is dirt and gravel.

How we work in the highways environment

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As the UK's leading specialist environmental consultancy, we are agile, innovative, and responsive to your needs. Whether it's a routine maintenance scheme, highways improvements or a major infrastructure project we provide the services and support you need, and we have a track record of doing so, at scale.

We understand the challenges of road space booking and traffic management, and work flexibly with our clients to rapidly respond to changing programs. We will work collaboratively with other contractors on site to maximise the road space opportunity. We know that road space is often only available at night and are experienced in delivering our works during nighttime closures. The majority of our services can be delivered in this way, from preliminary ecological appraisals to vegetation clearance under clerk of works supervision.

Innovation is at the heart of everything we do. Our Thomson Interactive Mapping (TIM) system has proved invaluable for clients on large highways schemes. Clients have immediate access through their own secure link to see live updates of project progress and early sight of any potential environmental constraints identified by our teams. This early view helps to reduce the risk of project delays and associated costs.

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Highways case studies

A358 Dualling Scheme.

We carried out Arboricultural Surveys of trees that were considered veteran or potentially veteran in four, separate survey areas of the A358 dualling section. Trees were surveyed in accordance with BS5837:2012. Notable trees were recorded in accordance with RAVEN (Recognition of Ancient, Veteran and Notable trees) assessment methodology. On completion of survey works, we produced a Tree Constraints Plan together with an Arboricultural Impact Assessment to inform design and ongoing site works.

M1 Upgrades, Northamptonshire.

We supported our client with vegetation clearance under Ecological Clerk of Works supervision. Vegetation clearance was undertaken with precautionary methods of working established for a variety of protected species as well as invasive, non-native plants. Vegetation works were critical to the timely installation of new safety infrastructure.

M27 Upgrades, Fareham to Southampton.

We supported the client with a suite of survey and mitigation works for the major improvement scheme. Activities for the client included: invasive species walkover surveys, badger surveys and mitigation, dormouse surveys and mitigation as well as great crested newt surveys and mitigation works. Surveys were used to inform final design and mitigation was implemented in advance of works commencing on site.

Stubbington Bypass, Hampshire.

We were commissioned by our client to undertake a suite of protected species surveys and mitigation work. We undertook otter and water vole surveys, and conducted mitigation for reptiles and water voles on site. As works progressed, we provided Ecological Clerk of Works (ECOW) support for vegetation clearance and soil stripping activities. Our input addressed ecological constraints associated with the project.

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Highways testimonials

I have dealt with [your Birmingham Office Manager] and his team mostly and I cannot fault them. [He] and the team are always very approachable and have played a pivotal role in finding solutions to specific ecological issues during the detailed design process. In addition, the quality of work has been great and often delivered in tight timescales.

Environmental Planning Consultant, Sweco

Over the last five weeks I have been dealing with [Senior Project Manager] who has been a pleasure to work alongside and delivered on the time scale that he promised. Site team were great worked efficient and to a great standard.

Operations Manager, Volker Highways

I have found Thomson environmental consultants to be very professional, supplying ecological resources and undertaking environmental surveys in a timely manner to assist with maintaining the contract program. They were proactive and offered advice and guidance on a range of ecological matters including Hazel dormice, GCN and vegetation clearance. I would have no hesitation using them again on future projects.

Site Agent, BAM

Thomsons came to site very quickly despite late notice, delivered a thorough ecological survey and offered pragmatic advice.

Site Agent, Eurovia

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Services to highways and rail sectors

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We offer a broad range of environmental consultancy and contracting services to meet the needs of a range of clients in the highways and rail sectors.

Geographic Information Systems (GIS) and mapping

Our GIS and Mapping team provide high end mapping output and GIS capability. We undertake complex data visualizations (including 3D), analysis and mapping using state of the art GIS tools to provide our clients with real insight that enables business critical decisions to be made more accurately and quickly.

We provide a range of GIS, data and innovation services including:

- Ecological data capture
- Habitat mapping
- Spatial Analysis and Data Visualisation
- Interactive project mapping
- Drone surveys and analysis
- Digital innovation for environmental project data
- Application of artificial intelligence and deep learning to environmental data

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Terrestrial ecology

Our ecology and biodiversity expertise covers all terrestrial ecosystems. We undertake baseline data surveys, project specific impact assessments, design and implementation of pragmatic and proportionate mitigation solutions, and post mitigation monitoring.

We provide a full range of ecological services, such as:

- Preliminary ecological appraisal (PEA)
- Baseline ecological survey and mapping of habitats and species
- Protected species survey, licensing and mitigation
- Ecological impact assessment (EclA)
- Biodiversity net gain (BNG) assessment and consulting
- Consultancy and advice on legislation and planning policy
- Ecological monitoring
- Expert witness
- Ecological clerk of works (ECoW)

Freshwater ecology and hydrology

We have specialists with expertise in all aspects of water resource management, water quality, hydrogeology, hydrology and aquatic ecology.

Our freshwater ecology and hydrology services include:

- Freshwater ecology surveys
- Freshwater impact assessments
- Freshwater surveys and monitoring
- Catchment management
- Hydrology and hydrogeology
- Surface water drainage consultancy
- Water quality monitoring and assessment

Habitat creation, restoration and management

As specialist ecological contractors, Thomson environmental consultants have the experience and knowledge needed when it comes to delivering a range of habitat management services.

Our habitat services include:

- Ancient woodland translocation
- BNG implementation works
- Habitat maintenance and monitoring
- Habitat design, creation, and restoration, for projects of any size
- Invasive non-native species management
- Protected species translocation
- Terrestrial habitat creation, including for protected species
- Vegetation management and vegetation clearance
- Wetland, pond and river restoration and creation
- Wildlife fencing including newt, reptile, badger, water vole and otter
- Woodland design and planting

Arboricultural services

We offer services in relation to trees and development from feasibility advice through to site supervision and post completion support.

Our arboricultural consultancy services include:

- Arboricultural impact assessment and method statements
- Arboricultural Clerk of Works (ACoW)
- Capital Asset Value for Amenity Trees (CAVAT) assessment
- Expert witness in relation to trees for planning appeals and public inquiries
- Tree risk surveys
- Tree risk management policies and plans
- Tree management strategies
- Tree planting advice and recommendations
- Tree surveys for planning to BS5837:2012 standards
- Tree Preservation Order (TPO) advice

Climate change and sustainability

We can help businesses understand their climate change impacts through a range of services. Whether our clients require a specific focus on carbon and climate change or the development of a broader sustainability strategy, we can deliver innovative tailor-made solutions.

We provide a range of climate change and sustainability services including:

- Climate change strategy
- Climate risk and resilience assessment
- ESG strategy
- EU Taxonomy reporting – biodiversity & ecosystems
- Decarbonisation plans
- Weather resilience and climate impact assessment
- Whole life and embodied carbon assessments

Get in touch with us about your next project.

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Rail sector

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We understand the complexity of environmental regulation in the rail environment and will offer you straightforward advice from the start. We support clients in the rail sector on over 200 projects annually, delivering cost-effective solutions to environmental issues, safely.

We understand the burden of engaging multiple suppliers, so offer the full range of environmental services, allowing you to streamline the management of your next project. Our services include ecology and tree surveys, digital mapping, hydrology and climate resilience assessment, vegetation clearance and habitat creation. With a complete offering under one roof, make Thomson your go-to environment partner.

Our accreditations

With RISQS accreditation, a large number of PTS certified professionals and central resourcing, we can deploy rapidly to help you keep your project on track. Our experience and capability extend to provision of Controllers of Site Safety (COSS) and to organising possessions and line blockages to facilitate surveys and works in a safe and timely manner.

Thomson[ec.com](https://www.thomsonec.com)



How we work in the rail environment

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As the UK's leading specialist environmental consultancy, we are agile, innovative, and responsive to your needs. Whether it's a routine maintenance scheme or major infrastructure project we provide the services and support you need, and we have a track record of doing so on the largest of projects.

We understand the challenges of managing safe access within the rail environment. We can work collaboratively with clients to meet program requirements using their line access, or can provide our own line access, safety critical documentation and staff to deliver works. We are well versed in sharing access with other contractors ensuring that we progress our works without hindering theirs. This ensures time on the line is maximised. We know that line access is often at night, and are well versed in delivering robust ecological assessment in these conditions. The majority of our services can be delivered in this way, from preliminary ecological appraisals to vegetation clearance under clerk of works supervision. With delivery of over 200 rail projects each year, Thomson is a trusted provider of environmental services in the sector.

Innovation is at the heart of everything we do. Our Thomson Interactive Mapping (TIM) system has proved invaluable for clients on major rail schemes. Clients have immediate access through their own secure link to see live updates of project progress and early sight of any potential environmental constraints identified by our teams. This early view helps to reduce the risk of project delays and associated costs.

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Rail case studies

High Speed 2 (HS2) ecology consultancy and contracting services

We have delivered over £20 million of ecology works on HS2 since 2012. Throughout all our work on HS2, we have provided our clients with survey and technical support for the development. We have developed method statements under the HS2 route-wide licenses, and coordinated with the design teams, HS2 and Natural England to find pragmatic solutions to mitigate potential impacts on protected species and habitats.

Our team have conducted over 12,000 surveys for bats, reptiles, great crested newt, water vole, otter, white-clawed crayfish and barn owls. Our habitat contracting team undertook 6.3ha of ancient woodland translocation – the largest ancient woodland translocation project at the time. In addition, we have supported the biodiversity enhancement and mitigation schemes in various locations across the route, constructing 61 ponds, creating 16 hectares of wildflower meadow and planting over 55,000 trees. Our long term involvement on the project includes maintainance of Ecological Mitigation and translocation sites in accordance with site specific plans.

Central Rail Systems Alliance ecological support

We have provided significant levels of ecological support to Central Rail Systems Alliance (CRSA) projects. We have carried out over 400 trackside preliminary ecological surveys as well as surveys for great crested newts (GCN) on waterbodies across over 40 sites. This required large volumes of surveyors to deliver the works in accordance with project programs.

Following the surveys we supported the client with ongoing delivery works. This included preparation for precautionary methods of works (PMoW) for protected species and ecological clerk of works (ECow) for vegetation clearance and soil stripping works. Where required, we also supported the client with district level licensing (DLL) for GCN, submitting applications to Natural England.

Network Rail Ecology Advice

We are a framework supplier for ecology advisory services to Network Rail. We have delivered over 330 packages of work across the UK since 2022, from preliminary ecological assessments to protected species surveys and licensing. We are able to mobilise rapidly to support works packages from routine maintainance to capital works. An example of our speedy mobilisation for the client was the resourcing of five surveyors for weekend ECoW shifts with just two days notice. This rapid response allowed works to continue to schedule, avoiding potential delays owing to ecology constraints.

Badger survey, Milton Keynes

We responded to an emergency request from our client for an urgent badger survey of a site. The presence of existing outlier setts on site were preventing the delivery of a multi-million pound rail investment scheme. We deployed to site with 24 hours notice, undertaking a badger sign survey and subsequent remote camera survey. We were able to conclude with confidence that the existing setts were no longer active and advised the client of precautionary methods of working to allow the safe closure of the setts. Our swift deployment and robust survey ensured that the scheme could be progressed in accordance with the programme.

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Rail testimonials

It was a pleasure to work with [your ecologist]. Very professional and a very good range of knowledge.

Assistant Project Engineer, VolkerRail

Greatly appreciated the help from [your ecologist] in resourcing the works at such short notice.

Project Manager, Dyer & Butler

Thomson are excellent at dealing with our queries and taking on work/question at short notice.

Thank you for your continued support.

Environmental Advisor, Colas Rail

Super efficient service good contact and updates provided. Went above and beyond where required. Very happy with overall service provided.

Engineer, Network Rail

Managed to do the most amount of surveys in a given timeframe I have seen since coordinating. Great communication and diligent work.

Envionmental Consultant, Temple Group

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Contact us today to discuss your
Transport Infrastructure requirements

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