

ATKINS

# Sustainability

Plan Design Enable



At Atkins we offer a wide range of services to help our clients secure sustainability:

- Strategic Environmental Assessment
- Sustainability Appraisal
- Equality Impact Assessment
- Habitats Directive Appropriate Assessment
- Water Cycle Studies and Strategic Flood Risk Assessment
- Sustainable Transport
- Environmental Behaviour Change and Social Marketing
- Cost-Benefit Analysis Integrating Environmental and Social Costs
- Sustainability Funding and Business Case Development
- Energy Demand Assessments and Energy Efficiency Solutions
- Renewable Energy Technologies
- Carbon Footprinting
- Carbon Reduction Strategies and Management Programmes
- Climate Change Impact and Adaptation
- Waste Minimisation and Re-Use and Recycling
- Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems
- Sustainable Building Design
- Environmental Impact Assessment
- Stakeholder Engagement



## Strategic Environmental Assessment

Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) is mandatory for plans and programmes which are likely to have a significant effect on the environment. The aim is to inform the decision making process in a way which will ensure more sustainable and effective solutions.

### Featured Project - [Wey and Arun Canal Restoration Implementation Strategy, UK](#)

Wey and Arun Canal Trust (WACT) commissioned Atkins to prepare a restoration strategy for the already partly repaired waterway creating a new link to make it usable and economically viable. Woody vegetation and marshland extend along almost all of the canal's 36km length.

Natural England was concerned about possible negative effects of reinstatement on habitats established since the canal was abandoned well over a century ago; and also on nature conservation designations related to possible link routes through a floodplain. The restoration strategy was subjected to non-statutory SEA. As part of this process Atkins prepared the SEA Scoping Report and Environmental Report.

This approach provided clear comparison of the environmental impacts of link options, raising awareness of them among both the project promoter, WACT, and the engineering team preparing the restoration strategy.

# Sustainability Appraisal

Local authorities are required to undertake Sustainability Appraisals (SA) for all Development Plan and Supplementary Planning Documents. SA is intended to assess the impact of plan policies from an environmental, economic and social perspective in order to test its performance against the objectives of sustainable development, thereby providing the basis for its improvement.

## Featured Project - [Sustainability Appraisal, Thurrock Riverside, UK](#)

Atkins was commissioned to undertake an SA/SEA to ensure the social, environmental and economic sustainability of the Purfleet and Grays Town Centre masterplans on the River Thames in Thurrock, Essex. Our report contained recommendations to improve the sustainability performance of the plans which were subsequently built into the proposals. The masterplans are intended to deliver sustainable growth and regeneration in their local areas, through a long-term framework promoting a mix of residential and commercial development supported by community facilities and marina development. Both masterplans contained areas that are within the flood plain as identified by the Environment Agency and require particular consideration given the level of development envisaged.

As set out in the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister's 2005 guidance on Sustainability Appraisal, it is possible to carry out a combined Sustainability Appraisal/Strategic Environmental Assessment (SA/SEA) through a single appraisal process, provided that the requirements of the SEA Directive are met.



# Equality Impact Assessment

Equality Impact Assessment (EqIA) evaluates actual, potential or likely impacts of a scheme, policy or project on groups within society with the aim of maximising the positive and reducing or eliminating negative consequences.



Featured Project - [East London Bus Transit System, Transport for London, UK](#)

Atkins conducted an EqIA of the East London Bus Transit Scheme Phase 2 to ensure that TfL meets its obligations under the Race Relations (Amendment) Act 2000 and the Disability Discrimination Act 1985 and Gender Equality Duty. Equality Target Groups focused on, included:

- Women
- Black, Asian and minority ethnic people
- Young people and children
- Older people
- Disabled people
- Lesbians, gay men, bisexuals, trans-gendered
- People from different faith groups

Also assessed due to their potential to become socially excluded were:

- People on low incomes
- Job seekers
- Immigrants
- Refugees and Asylum seekers
- Those without access to a car or van

# Habitats Directive Appropriate Assessment

Appropriate Assessment (AA) is required across the UK under the EU Habitats Directive for all sites of international value for nature conservation:

- Special Areas of Conservation (SAC)
- Special Protection Areas (SPA)
- Wetlands of International Importance (Ramsar sites)
- European offshore marine sites
- Candidate SACs and proposed SPAs

It is a detailed assessment of the effects of a plan or project.

There is specific guidance on the processes of assessment and consultation both for plans and projects. Assessment of in-combination effects and consideration of alternatives is rigorous.

## Featured Project - [Wiltshire County Council - Waste and Minerals DPD Appropriate Assessments, UK](#)

Screening was undertaken on sites proposed in Wiltshire and Swindon's Waste Site Allocation Development Plan Document Issues and Options Report (March 2006); and on proposed mineral extraction sites in the county. It aimed to identify proposals which would have a likely-significant-effect under the Habitats Regulations on Natura 2000 sites. These included Salisbury Plain SAC, SPA and the New Forest SAC, SPA. A simple screening matrix was designed to record the outcome of the screening assessments along with an advisory note to make the process clear. Consultation was conducted with Natural England and other organisations such as the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds.



Featured Project - [Wyre Borough Council - Fleetwood and Thornton Area Action Plan, UK](#)  
Scoping, screening and full Appropriate Assessment were undertaken for an Area Action Plan which involved a range of development options and potential effects on the Morecombe Bay SAC, SPA, Ramsar and its populations of wintering wildfowl and great crested newts. A mitigation strategy for dealing with potentially adverse effects of the proposals was produced and agreed with the client before submission of the full AA report to Natural England.



# Water Cycle Studies and Strategic Flood Risk Assessment

Local Planning Authorities need to carry out Strategic Flood Risk Assessments to inform the development of their Local Development Planning Documents, to feed into Sustainability Appraisals and to inform the site allocation process.

Water cycle studies are used to assess the existing water cycle situation before projecting the likely impact of future developments, particularly:

- Water resources - demand for water and the infrastructure required for its distribution
- Water quality - generation of sewerage and other waste water, collection and treatment systems, risk to the quality of the water environment including its ecology
- Flood risk - the impact of changes in waste water or run-off on flood risk

Featured Project - [Greenwich Peninsula Flood Risk Assessment, UK](#)

A major mixed-use development was proposed for Greenwich Peninsula, including residential, commercial and business premises, plus regeneration of the Millennium Dome. It was estimated that construction would take 15-20 years.

Atkins was appointed by Meridian Delta Limited on behalf of English Partnerships to advise on flood risk and carry out a flood risk assessment on the proposals for the 81 hectare site. Our assessment was developed in consultation with the Environment Agency in line with Planning Policy Statement 25. Greenwich Peninsula is classified as High Risk in the Environment Agency's Indicative Tidal Floodplain.

Working with flood defence engineers, landscape architects and masterplanners to ensure that risks and associated impacts were considered at each design stage, Atkins quantified flood risk and advised on appropriate mitigation measures.





## Sustainable Transport

The creation of sustainable transport networks is a key aspect of sustainable development. Sustainable transport can be encouraged both through the promotion of public transport and non-motorised modes of transport and through the development of less environmentally damaging transportation methods.

Featured Project - [Thames Gateway Transit Environmental Sustainability, Transport for London, UK](#)

Thames Gateway Transit (TGT) is envisaged as a high quality, fast, frequent, reliable bus service - capable of future operation by tram - which will play an important part in the region's social and economic regeneration.

Designed to improve access to employment, education, healthcare and community services, the scheme comprises the East London Transit and Greenwich Waterfront Transit, linking across the proposed Thames Gateway Bridge to provide a comprehensive system. Atkins has been working towards finalising preferred options for both schemes.

We carried out a series of environmental assessments and appraisals to demonstrate the environmental effects of route options. Our work has ranged from a topic-based approach to update the environmental baseline for specific alignments and assessments of the likelihood of significant positive and negative effects, to broad Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) methodology, where route options remained. SEA is particularly powerful at establishing area-wide and cumulative effects of interventions.



# Environmental Behaviour Change and Social Marketing

Atkins undertakes all stages of social analysis, investigation, programme design and management to encourage sustainable behaviours across a range of sectors.

Featured Project - [Phosphates and Water Policy, Review of Projects, UK](#)

As part of a strategic investigation of phosphates and water policy, we reviewed projects aimed at changing peoples' environmental behaviours. A number of studies found that attempts to do this often improved community awareness of issues but failed to achieve behaviour change. Common reasons were lack of focus on "behaviour change", poor audience segmentation, lack of audience understanding and insufficient social and market analysis. Inadequate audience targeting and lack of facilitating infrastructure or support mechanisms also featured. For many projects, investment in a campaign to change behaviours was very cost effective if well targeted; it could save money on infrastructure investment or operating costs.



Featured Project - [Staffordshire Moorlands Post-16 Further Education Pathfinder Study, UK](#)

Atkins was commissioned by Staffordshire County Council to research accessibility problems of post-16 students within further education. This involved comprehensive examination of school, public, community and voluntary transport services in the Moorlands District. GIS analysis was undertaken on student postcodes and accessibility to local transport services.

We staged 12 focus group sessions with students to discuss issues and concerns with transport to and from their choice of further education, following which we met local operators to discuss possible improvements.



# Cost-Benefit Analysis Integrating Environmental and Social Costs

Cost-benefit analysis is a valuable, quantitative method of assessing the likely impact of development and redevelopment proposals. This analysis method allows the direct assessment of a wide range of projected impacts against each other which, using alternative assessment methodologies, might not be possible.

Featured Project - [Replacement and Upgrading of Thames Waters' Mains Network, UK](#)

A Social and Environmental Benefits Valuation of the cost of replacing and upgrading Thames Water's mains network in central and outer London was conducted by Atkins as part of a business case presented at an OFWAT periodic review.

Service; customer satisfaction; security and safety of supply; energy and chemical cost savings; health and safety aspects of reduced risks of major incidents; traffic disruption; problems caused to property, and other construction impacts were reviewed.

To consider investment in sewerage systems for communities not connected to the mains system, Atkins designed and implemented a Willingness To Pay survey of 500 households, assessing the value they placed on consequent environmental improvements.

These issues, along with other property, water, and bank-side-leisure impacts, were covered by a cost/benefits model we developed to prioritise more than 200 S101a schemes for inclusion in a five-year programme.



# Sustainability Funding and Business Case Development

Atkins has developed business cases for investment projects and programmes in Britain and overseas. They include construction and waste recycling facilities; sewage treatment works and sewerage systems; energy efficiency and renewables investment.

## Featured Project - Northern Ireland Water, UK

Atkins undertook a study of a new sewage works for Northern Ireland Water which considers alternative sites and technologies scored against criteria relating to cost, environmental suitability, planning, and social considerations. The study is being undertaken to treasury Green Book standards and meets Northern Ireland guidelines.

## Featured Project - Ty Mawr Business Park, Holyhead, Anglesey, UK

Ty Mawr Business Park is being developed as a 'best practice', energy-efficient, sustainable development; a benchmark for Wales. The Welsh Assembly Government asked us to evaluate methods by which 20% on-site renewable energy generation could be achieved. We overviewed potential renewable technologies and the type of energy network most applicable. Our study covered design of potential schemes with analysis of capital costs, financial savings and payback periods, plus prediction of reductions in energy consumption and carbon emissions.





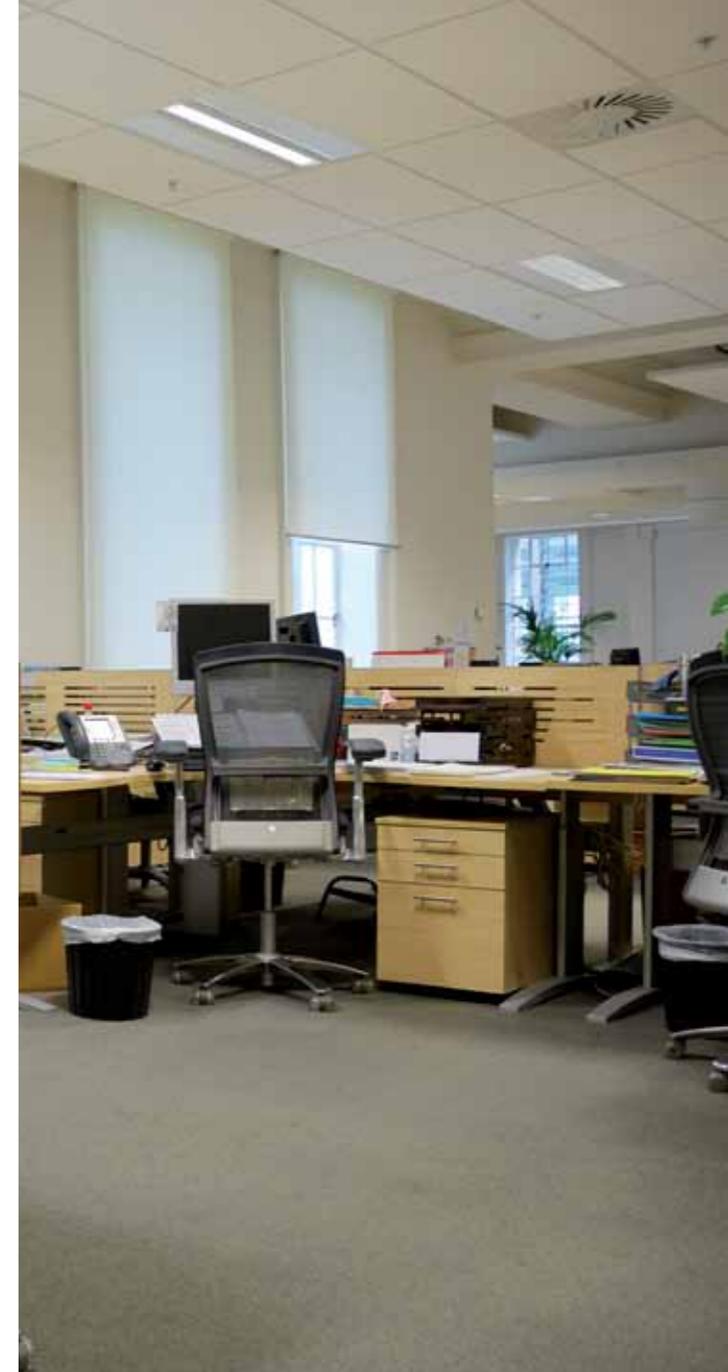
## Energy Demand Assessments and Energy Efficiency Solutions

The assessment of existing and projected energy demand against accepted benchmarks is a vital first stage in the reduction of energy use. A range of techniques can then be used to increase energy efficiency and encourage reduced energy consumption.

Featured Project - [Anglian Water, Energy Efficiency Services, UK](#)  
To help Anglian Water (AW) achieve its ambitious 10 per cent energy reduction targets, Atkins was commissioned to conduct energy audits of office space at around 20 sites ranging from large office buildings to offices at water and sewage treatment works.

Performance was assessed against recognised benchmarks and electricity profiling audits indicated levels of use where this could not be separated from a site's overall consumption.

We reported audit findings, outlined performance levels and recommended improvements. From this, a list of capital projects was made which AW tasked Atkins to complete. It covered a wide range of energy saving and efficiency improvement measures to help achieve targeted reduction levels.



# Renewable Energy Technologies

The development and implementation of renewable energy technologies is a commonly used method for limiting the environmental impact of developments, particularly through the reduction of carbon emissions. With the mounting volume of government legislation on acceptable levels of energy consumption, these technologies are increasingly important.

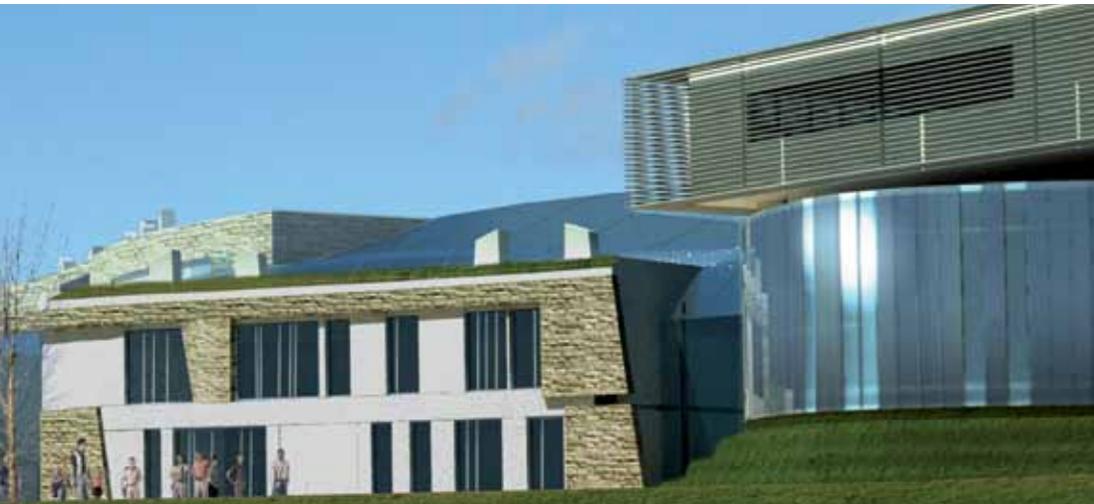
## Featured Project - [UK Department of Trade and Industry, UK](#)

Atkins prepared an analysis and update of the technical and commercial status of thirteen key renewable energy technologies. The status report was used by the DTI as a reference document to feed into policy decisions in the Government's Energy White Paper released in 2003.

## Featured Project - [Renewable Energy Package, Richmond School, North Yorkshire, UK](#)

Atkins proposed a range of carbon saving initiatives as a part of the expansion and refurbishment of this North Yorkshire secondary school based on estimates of electrical and thermal demand.

Measures included GSHP technology using ambient ground temperature and a biomass boiler burning local waste wood to avoid using a conventional gas boiler. Solar thermal technology heated water, self-powering street lamps cut electricity consumption, and free standing wind turbines and roof-mounted units generated electricity for the school while contributing to the national grid. Savings of 140.5 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> were achieved.





# Carbon Footprinting

A carbon footprint is a measure of the impact of human activities on the environment - individuals, events, organisations and products - in terms of the amount of CO<sub>2</sub> they produce. An appreciation of the size of carbon footprint produced by a business or development is a key initial stage in the reduction of detrimental environmental impacts.

## Featured Project - [Carbon Footprint Assessment of Mid Kent Strategic Water Resource Options, UK](#)

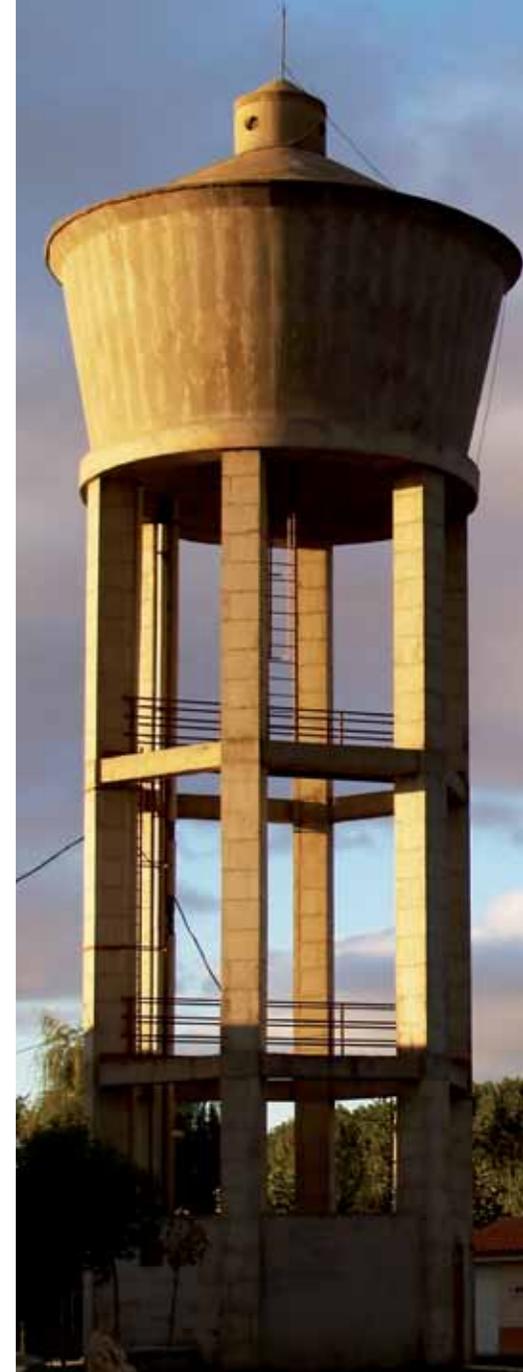
To investigate strategic water resource requirements and make carbon emission sustainability comparisons, Mid Kent Water commissioned Atkins to conduct carbon footprint assessments of over thirty water resource options.

We analysed engineering solutions to identify standardised components covering materials and equipment required in each case. This, with standardised information on works plant, buildings and transport, helped define work packages required for implementation. Carbon emissions for embodied energy of materials and equipment, and energy use in construction/engineering works and transportation were then calculated.

This method, subject to design, enabled us to derive emissions, culminating in a total carbon footprint. Individual footprints subsequently allowed identification of engineering solutions of relatively high carbon intensity.

We also calculated carbon levels for operating each option; analysed energy consumption, replacement equipment and treatment materials; and estimated methane production from reservoirs.

Analysing the elements within each option to produce standardised components provides a database on energy and carbon intensity, revealing a range of potential engineering solutions which can then be reapplied to other projects.



# Carbon Reduction Strategies and Management Programmes

The implementation of carbon reduction strategies and management programmes increases the sustainability of a development or business by shrinking its carbon footprint. Carbon reduction strategies are wide ranging in scale and nature, but generally include initiatives to promote the use of renewable energy technologies and improve energy efficiency.

Featured Project - [Birmingham Climate Change Agency Feasibility Study, UK](#)  
Committed to cutting 20% of its CO<sub>2</sub> emissions by 2010, Birmingham City Council (BCC) established the Birmingham Climate Change Agency (BCCA) to unite stakeholders to deliver reductions. The BCCA's Climate Change Strategy aims to:

- ensure that 90% of city residents are aware of climate change and 50% know what actions are needed
- promote Birmingham as a centre of excellence in reducing CO<sub>2</sub> emissions
- brand Birmingham as a Sustainable City, with a low carbon economy and future for residents

We were commissioned to conduct a feasibility study into setting up the agency. We proposed a set of key objectives; a review of framework models for creation of the BCCA; a review of funding options; an interim set of Key Performance Indicators to focus decision making and action; and an outline of key decisions to be taken by the Birmingham Strategic Partnership (BSP) management team.

Our study offered a scope and evidence base to inform decision making by all BSP consultees and recognised that when established the BCCA will have the potential to deliver real added value across Birmingham, becoming an exemplar for other cities to tackle climate change in the same strategic and coordinated way.



Featured Project - Coatham Carbon Management Strategy, UK

Coatham Links, masterplanned as a tourist destination leisure complex and visitor centre, is Redcar and Cleveland's flagship regeneration scheme. The borough council is working in partnership with Persimmon, who will add 200 sea front apartments and 140 family homes.

Redcar and Cleveland Borough Council commissioned Atkins to devise sustainable solutions for the development.

Our carbon management strategy offered a best practice framework for all partners/stakeholders to engage and endorse. The strategy provided a robust evidence base for establishing an Energy Service Company (ESCO) that helped to inform decisions and allow for an open dialogue with potential developers and key stakeholders.

We also developed a Combined Heat and Power Scheme which picks up both domestic and commercial customers and is being delivered by the ESCO.





## Climate Change Impact and Adaptation

Dramatic global climate change is now widely expected in the coming decades. In the UK, it has been projected that sea levels will rise, storms will become more frequent and temperatures will increase. The impact of this climate change on existing and proposed developments could be considerable and therefore assessments of the possible effects and the inclusion of adaptation and mitigation strategies are increasingly important aspects of development proposals.

Featured Project - [Strengthening Local Action on Climate Change, UK](#)  
Atkins has been working on a major strategic project for the Local Government Association (LGA) to identify the most significant economic opportunities and threats climate change presents to the local economy and to local councils.

Working with economics specialists from Metroeconomica, the project is exploring economic opportunities and providing insight into how threats and opportunities might vary geographically, recognising different local government circumstances.

The initiative is a significant step forward as local authorities are in a key position to make a substantial difference in advocating low-carbon lifestyles and tackling climate change through their pivotal role with the public, private and voluntary sectors. They can also promote and implement actions through sustainable procurement, investment in infrastructure and buildings, waste management, renewable energy, energy efficiency, sustainable development and promoting walking, cycling and public transport.



Featured Project - [Transport Systems Climate Change Impact Assessment, London, UK](#)  
Atkins carried out a climate change impact assessment of London's transport systems for London Climate Change Partnership. Current climate impacts and their costs were appraised as well as future risks.

We made recommendations for adaptations based on four case studies - tidal and river flooding affecting infrastructure in the Thames Gateway; local flooding of the Underground, rail and road infrastructure; damage to national road and rail infrastructure from hot weather; and passenger comfort on the Underground in hot weather.



## Waste Minimisation and Re-Use and Recycling

The sustainability of a development can be enhanced through waste minimisation strategies and the inclusion of waste re-use and recycling technologies from construction through to the operation of a site. These can range from composting and the use of biomass for energy generation to the inclusion of recycled construction materials within building design.

Featured Project - [Construction Waste Management Plan for King Abdullah University for Science and Technology \(KAUST\), Kingdom of Saudi Arabia](#)

To satisfy increasing demand in the Middle East for environmentally sensitive developments the principal contractor required the newly developed KAUST to meet the requirements of the Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) Green Building Rating System™ - the nationally accepted benchmark for the design, construction and operation of high performance green buildings.

Atkins provided advice to the waste management contractor, SEPCO, on the creation and implementation of a Construction Waste Management Plan, to assist in achieving the LEED accreditation and to ensure 75% diversion of waste from landfill. Options for waste minimisation were examined (such as use of precast concrete) and the potential for re-use and recycling of material on site was developed, including re-use of wood for concrete shuttering and hoarding, recycling of metals and extensive waste segregation measures.



# Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems (SUDS)

Sustainable Urban Design Systems are a key method used to manage surface water drainage and reduce flood risk. Their use is promoted by Planning Policy Statement 25 (PPS25) and often encouraged through Regional Spatial Strategies and Local Development Documents. SUDS can include:

- Source control measures including rainwater recycling and drainage
- Infiltration devices to allow water to soak into the ground, including individual soakaways and communal facilities
- Filter strips and swales, which are vegetated features that hold and drain water downhill mimicking natural drainage patterns
- Filter drains and porous pavements allowing rainwater and run-off to infiltrate permeable material below ground providing storage
- Basins and ponds to hold excess water after rain and allow controlled discharge that avoids flooding

## Featured Project - [SUDS for a Residential Site, Allestree, Derby, UK](#)

Atkins was commissioned to provide detailed design of highway and drainage infrastructure for a 5ha housing development close to marshland at Allestree, Derby.

Planning conditions required us to maintain, and where possible improve, the biodiversity and hydrological character of the former recreational-amenity site. We devised a series of attenuation and treatment controls for surface water runoff from the housing development with detention basins as the main means of attenuating flows to greenfield limits, trapping sediments and solids. Flows from the basins feed into a system of swales from which runoff is discharged into the marsh, mimicking the natural pre-development conditions. Derby City Council plan to adopt our SUDS design, which will maintain the natural site hydrology and biodiversity in the region.

## Featured Project - [SUDS for a Commercial Site, West Lakes Science and Technology Park, UK](#)

A 30ha multi-phased extension to West Lakes Science and Technology Park was thought a possible strain on the existing stormwater drainage system if the local authority did not require the additional run off from the extension to be attenuated to greenfield rates. Atkins was commissioned by the private developer to prepare a masterplan, complete with outline and detailed foul, surface water and land drainage designs, we were also to obtain Environment Agency consent.

Improvement of the site's amenities, where possible, was a further aim. We recommended SUDS as a viable alternative to traditional oversized piped drainage for attenuation. For surface water drainage our approach combined traditional piped systems with ponds and wetlands. Landscaping was designed to maximise the ponds' biodiversity and integrate them with their surroundings.





## Sustainable Building Design

The inclusion of sustainable strategies and technologies in the design stages of development and redevelopment results in more sustainable buildings, with dramatically reduced environmental impacts from construction through to operation. Additionally, buildings can achieve elevated BREEAM ratings.

Featured Project - [York Council "Eco Depot", UK](#)

Atkins was commissioned by York City Council to provide sustainable design of their new 'eco depot', planned for a former landfill site.

The office block was to be of FSC (Forest Stewardship Council) certified timber and straw bales; priority would be given to local materials and renewable energy; and photovoltaic panels and wind turbines considered for 'green' electricity. Rain and grey water recycling were to be added to the water system and sustainable drainage considered.

Solar orientation, natural ventilation and thermal mass, were measured for energy conservation; U-values of all building elements were kept lower than required; and thermal modelling and daylight studies were conducted.

To enhance the community's environmental awareness and promote sustainable development, energy levels would be shown in a demonstration room detailing sustainability aspects of the depot.

The Building Research Establishment confirmed potential savings of 476 hectares of Amazonian rainforest due to selection of low-embodied-energy materials.

Green strategies and other design issues proposed for the 'Eco Depot' will help shape a new form of sustainable industrial project committed to reducing detrimental environmental impact.



Featured Project - [DEFRA, Nobel House, Westminster, UK](#)

Atkins' environmentally sustainable 'make-over' of the nine-storey flagship DEFRA (Department for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs) HQ at Nobel House, Westminster, achieved Britain's highest-ever "Excellent" BREEAM rating for new-build or refurbished offices - 79.9%. DEFRA is the government department responsible for sustainable development in the UK.

Completed while Nobel House was fully occupied, the achievement meets 21st century needs in a listed building constructed in the late 1920s and early 1930s. Our brief was to provide a modern, efficient environment for 750 staff.

Cellular offices were transformed into open plan areas. Translucent roofing converted the north light well into a heated atrium space providing a central meeting area and break-out space for conference rooms. Featuring a coffee bar and places to relax, it will be serviced for touch-down and remote working with lap-top computers.

The eighth floor canteen, linked by a bridge to conference suites on the other side of the atrium, was expanded into a restaurant for 120 people.



Featured Project - [Meadowside Primary School, Gloucestershire, UK](#)

The aim was to embed sustainability in the ethos and curriculum of the school, a pilot scheme for Gloucestershire County Council designed and built to sustainable principles. A development plan was included which could double the size of the 210 place, £1.4 million, year-long project.

Sustainability benefits included facilities to encourage all weather pedestrian and cycle access; rainwater captured by porous paving and stored for use in toilets; wind catchers for natural ventilation; sun pipes to light corridors; bamboo for the hall floor; Terrafino Clay plaster finish at higher levels; and visible metering as an example of construction and building services designed as a sustainable teaching aid.



# Environmental Impact Assessment

The EU requires Environmental Impact Assessments (EIA) for certain types of development before approval can be granted. The most important aspect of an EIA is the creation of an Environmental Statement (ES) which describes the likely significant effects of the development on the existing and likely future environment, and proposed mitigation measures. The ES must be subject to, and incorporate the comments arising from, statutory and public consultation.

Featured Project - [EIA of the London 2012 Olympic, Paralympic and Legacy Facilities, UK](#)

Atkins was commissioned by the Olympic Delivery Authority to co-ordinate the Environmental Impact Assessment of the London 2012 Olympic, Paralympic and Legacy Facilities located in the Lower Lea Valley. To accompany the planning application, an Environmental Statement was prepared. The application represented one of the largest ever planning applications in Europe at over 10,000 pages.

The 246-hectare site has been the focus of heavy industry for over a century, and includes waste and recycling uses, railway lines, waterways, an area of housing and pockets of greenspace and wildlife habitat. Consequently the full range of environmental topics required assessment, including land contamination, aquatic and terrestrial ecology, cultural heritage, flood risk, noise and air quality.





## Stakeholder Engagement

Stakeholder engagement and community involvement are central to much of Atkins' work, to ensure that everyone with an interest has an effective say in the development of proposals and to gain their active support. We are also experienced in helping the various stakeholders involved in the development process to reach consensus on contentious proposals. This can include a wide range of methods, from workshops and drop-in sessions to questionnaires and the publishing documents for comment.

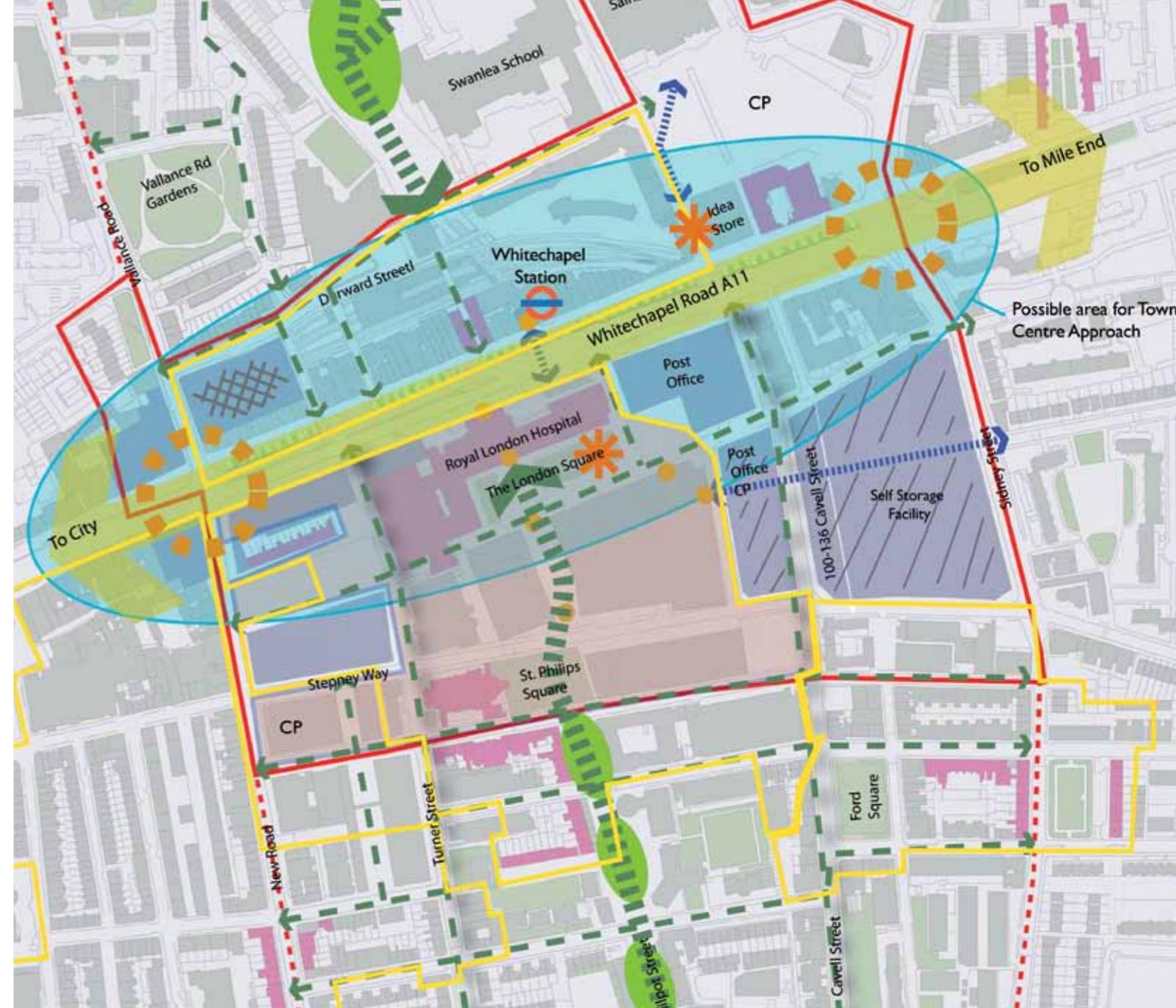
Featured Project - [Whitechapel Masterplan, UK](#)

Atkins was commissioned to produce a visionary masterplan for Whitechapel, in the heart of London's East End. Our brief was to respond to the area's unique character; help solve issues such as social inclusion; and reflect the concerns and aspirations of residents and businesses.

Focusing on and around the street market, the masterplan - now adopted as SPD within the Tower Hamlets Local Development Framework - includes the PFI Royal London Hospital and proposed Crossrail station.

Facilitating social inclusion, not only by engaging as many people as possible in development of the masterplan, but also by ensuring that its proposals made certain that the many separate elements of the community could all access jobs, housing, education, health-care and everything else the area has to offer, was central to our work, which included a formal equalities impact assessment.

We exceeded statutory requirements for consultation which featured drop-in sessions, workshops and presentations at Local Area Partnership meetings.



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