



ECOLOGICAL SERVICES

harrisongroup
ENVIRONMENTAL

ECOLOGICAL CAPABILITY

As a result of the growth in the business we now have a dedicated ecological team working within the company. Ecological services can be provided on a stand alone basis or integrated as part of our Environmental Impact Assessment capability.

We can provide services covering all aspects of ecological impact assessment and mitigation. These range from advising clients on biodiversity planning policies, legislation and conducting protected species surveys to ecological mitigation planning and implementation.

Our dedicated professional staff have experience in working with a range of local, national and international projects for a diverse client base. When necessary, we are able to supplement our in-house capabilities, by working with a network of specialist external consultants and academics to offer the best possible service to our clients.

Harrison Group Environmental Consulting offers the following ecological services: -

- Habitat surveys, including classification of habitats adhering to the Joint Nature Conservation Committee (JNCC) Phase 1 Habitat Classification; hedgerow surveys, ditch surveys and initial site assessments suitable for the Code for Sustainable Homes
- Protected species surveys, for the following groups; great crested newts, reptiles, water voles, white-clawed crayfish, bats, barn owls and wild birds

- Mitigation for the potential impacts of development including advice on timing of development work, ecological supervision of site works and translocation of protected species
- Environmental Impact Assessment of proposed developments on ecological receptors including protected species, Biodiversity Action Plan habitats and sites of national and international conservation importance, such as SSSIs, SPAs and SACs
- Recommendations for habitat creation to conserve the conservation status of a protected species, compensate for the loss of habitat or to enhance the ecological value of a site
- Consultation with statutory authorities on behalf of our Clients. These include Natural England, the Environment Agency and conservation organisations such as local wildlife trusts and RSPB.



CLIENTS

Ecological issues affect a wide range of developers and businesses; our clients include: -

- Housing developers
- Paper manufacturers
- Wind farm developers
- Farmers
- Government Institutions
- Food processors





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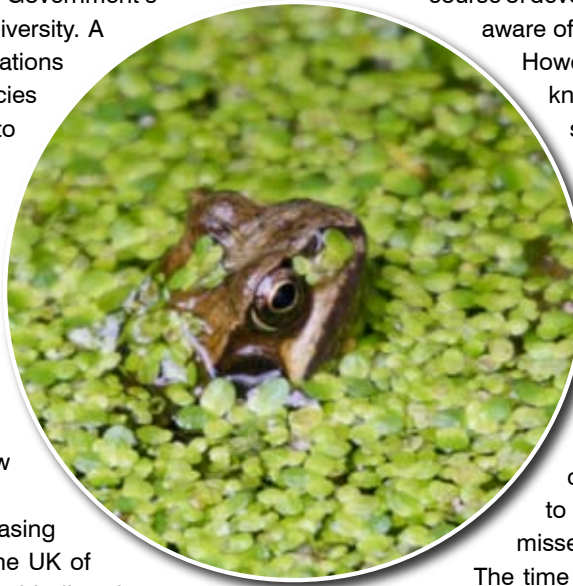
Biodiversity and Development

Biodiversity encompasses the whole variety of life on Earth. The Government recognises the importance of biodiversity and is committed to its conservation, with the UK being a signatory to the Convention on Biological Diversity.

Much of the pressure on biodiversity in the UK is related to development and land use. The loss of biodiversity and the subsequent negative environmental impacts runs contrary to the Government's aims to conserve biodiversity. A number of Acts, Regulations and Planning Policies therefore exist to help achieve the Government's aims for sustainable development.

Developers should have an understanding of the legislation relating to biodiversity and development and how this may affect them.

There is also increasing public awareness in the UK of the need to conserve biodiversity and increasing demand for sustainably produced products. Developers able to show that their activities are carried out in an ecologically responsible and sustainable manner may benefit from increased demand for their products and services.



Biodiversity and Planning Policy

When considering planning applications, local planning authorities should aim to maintain, and enhance, restore or add to biodiversity conservation interests. This includes taking into account the presence of protected species and important habitats on development sites and the potential impacts of developments upon protected sites such as SSSIs, SACs and SPAs. Developers should therefore consider and assess the potential impacts of their activities on ecological receptors at the planning stage of development and may need to seek specialist advice to do so.

Biodiversity and Law

A number of species are protected under UK law, as are certain ecological features such as hedgerows, trees and sites of conservation importance. Developers need to understand the content of the Acts and Regulations under which these ecological receptors are protected. Though the granting of planning permission has the effect of deeming development activities to be legal, conservation legislation still applies throughout the course of development, so developers need to be aware of the implications for their activities.

However, this often requires specialist knowledge and understanding of the species and habitats concerned.

Timing Issues

Certain ecological services, such as protected species surveys or mitigation, can only be carried out at certain times of year, determined by the behaviour of the species concerned. If the season in which to conduct a particular activity is missed, lengthy delays can result.

The time taken to conduct ecological work varies greatly. Some protected species surveys can be completed in less than a day. Other surveys must be conducted over a period of several months. Mitigation work can take even longer, in some cases years.

Due to these implications for the timing of a project, ecological issues should be taken into consideration at a very early stage in the planning of a development.

Benefits to Developers

Conserving and enhancing biodiversity can have a number of benefits for a developer, including improved public relations and increased demand for products and services. Conserving and enhancing biodiversity need not be expensive and can be achieved in combination with other development aims, for instance, through the creation of amenity grassland areas or landscaping. Ecological features can also perform functions, including acting as barriers, storm water storage and effluent treatment.

