

# why use **edp** ecology?



## The 2009 Protected Species Survey Season – Plan Ahead!

In the challenging business year ahead we recognise that it is more important than ever for you to negotiate a way through the requirements of the planning system in a cost-effective manner.

Ecological issues especially – due to their seasonal nature and potentially substantial cost – are an area where commercially aware and timely advice from a pragmatic consultant is vital. Late or incomplete protected species surveys can mean delays of up to 12 months in a planning application being

registered, especially following the introduction of the application verification procedures last April.



The 2009 protected species survey season starts soon! May we encourage you therefore, to give some early thought to your project requirements for the year and to give us a call if you wish to discuss timescales, tactics or likely costs.

## Our successes

EDP Ecology's successes arise as a combination of our commitment in two respects:

- In the field, we deliver competent, tailored and focused surveys, where necessary, by licensed surveyors. We avoid overly onerous survey scopes which are balanced against the delivery risks of a particular project.
- Thereafter, we are effective as part of multi-disciplinary project teams and we negotiate hard for your interests with consultees such as Natural England, the Environment Agency, Local Authority Ecologists and the Wildlife Trusts.

As reflected by examples of our successes below, EDP's ecologists work equally effectively whether '**booted**' or '**suited**'!



- **Inquiry Successes:** We delivered successful ecological outcomes on every major planning inquiry in which we participated, including a large residential development in Bicester, Oxfordshire, and two large-scale windfarms in Scotland.
- **Major Mixed Use Development Inputs:** We are trusted by a wide range of developer clients to progress the ecological issues for over fifteen major mixed use development areas throughout the UK, which vary from 500 to almost 10,000 dwellings with associated commercial, industrial, educational, community, transport and sustainable energy infrastructure.
- **Succeeding Where Others Have Failed:** We solved ecological issues on several projects where previous ecological work undertaken by other consultancies had been sub-standard, lacked sufficient experience or had defined overly onerous scopes of work. Recently, this includes projects for a Premier League football team and a major development corporation.
- **Resolving Ecological Differences:** We resolved ecological objections from Natural England and the Wildlife Trust to a development in Oxford. The objections related to insufficient information relating to reptiles, bats and great crested newts. We managed to resolve these objections within six weeks of receipt. In addition, we managed to convince the consultees that development licences for bats and great crested newts would not be required, hence saving the client significant time and costs.

- **Successful Track Record With Natural England:** We convinced Natural England that a full Environmental Impact Assessment was not required on ecological grounds for a development in the London Borough of Bexley. The planning application was subsequently submitted. EDP then successfully avoided any objections from Natural England and has enabled the removal of Environment Agency objections. This is despite the site being adjacent to two non-statutory designations and supporting several protected species constraints, including reptiles and water voles.
- **Success in Wales:** We avoided approximately 50% of the development footprint of a site in Swansea being sterilised by the presence of a large, active badger sett. EDP successfully managed to negotiate a strategy with the Countryside Council for Wales (CCW), the Local Authority ecologist and local badger group which minimised significantly the "non-developed" area. Subsequently, we have avoided any ecological objections to the planning application despite a significant constraint to development.

- **Tackling Third Party Objections to Development:** We removed a Natural England objection relating to bats for a development in Surrey within two weeks of receipt due to having taken early proactive action. The proposals were for a new private dwelling with a combined floorspace of over 1,200m<sup>2</sup>. The scheme was subsequently approved and EDP's ecologists are now preparing the Natural England development licence for bats.
- **BREEAM Recognition:** We enabled a development in Croydon achieve all the ecological credits available from a BREEAM assessment. The development subsequently won the 2008 BREEAM award for industrial development.



## Contact us...

When you need our service and advice, please do not hesitate to call us for an initial consultation or visit our website [www.edp-uk.co.uk](http://www.edp-uk.co.uk) to find out more about our range of services. We will deliver a service that is tailored, focussed and responsive to these commercially challenging times.

To assist with your project planning needs for 2009 we include our survey planner which many of our clients have found invaluable. We look forward to hearing from you shortly, particularly given the impending start of the Great Crested Newt survey season in late March.

		JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUNE	JULY	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	edp Ecology Survey Seasons
<b>BADGERS</b>		Optimal	Optimal	Optimal	Optimal	Optimal	Optimal	Optimal	Optimal	Optimal	Optimal	Optimal	Optimal	
<b>BATS</b> SUMMER ROOST & ACTIVITY		Sub-optimal	Sub-optimal	Sub-optimal	Optimal	Optimal	Optimal	Optimal	Optimal	Optimal	Sub-optimal	Sub-optimal	Sub-optimal	
<b>BIRDS</b> BREEDING		Sub-optimal	Sub-optimal	Sub-optimal	Optimal	Optimal	Optimal	Optimal	Optimal	Sub-optimal	Sub-optimal	Sub-optimal	Sub-optimal	
<b>BIRDS</b> WINTER		Optimal	Optimal	Optimal	Sub-optimal	Sub-optimal	Sub-optimal	Sub-optimal	Sub-optimal	Sub-optimal	Optimal	Optimal	Optimal	
<b>CRAYFISH</b>		Optimal	Optimal	Optimal	Optimal	Sub-optimal	Sub-optimal	Optimal	Optimal	Optimal	Optimal	Optimal	Optimal	
<b>DORMOUSE</b>		Optimal	Optimal	Optimal	Optimal	Optimal	NEST TUBE SURVEY		Optimal	Optimal	HAZEL NUT SEARCH		Optimal	
<b>GREAT CRESTED NEWTS</b> BREEDING PONDS		Sub-optimal	Sub-optimal	Sub-optimal	Optimal	Optimal	Sub-optimal	Sub-optimal	Sub-optimal	Sub-optimal	Sub-optimal	Sub-optimal	Sub-optimal	
<b>REPTILES</b>		Sub-optimal	Sub-optimal	Optimal	Optimal	Optimal	Sub-optimal	Optimal	Optimal	Optimal	Optimal	Sub-optimal	Sub-optimal	
<b>WATER VOLES</b>		Optimal	Optimal	Optimal	Optimal	Optimal	Optimal	Optimal	Optimal	Optimal	Optimal	Optimal	Optimal	
<b>HEDGEROWS</b>		Optimal	Optimal	Optimal	Optimal	Optimal	Optimal	Optimal	Optimal	Optimal	Optimal	Optimal	Optimal	

SURVEYS OPTIMAL
  SURVEYS SUB-OPTIMAL
  SURVEYS CANNOT BE UNDERTAKEN/RESULT UNRELIABLE



**The Environmental Dimension Partnership**  
 14 Inner Courtyard, Whiteway Farmhouse,  
 The Whiteway, Cirencester, Gloucestershire GL7 7BA  
 t 01285 640640 f 01285 652545 w [www.edp-uk.co.uk](http://www.edp-uk.co.uk)

who to contact



**Rob Rowlands - Partner**  
 BSc (Hons), PhD, MIEEM, CEnv

t 01285 640640 m 07920 027569  
 e [robertr@edp-uk.co.uk](mailto:robertr@edp-uk.co.uk)