

Curriculum Vitae Katheryn Leggat



Name
Katheryn Leggat

Current Position
Principal Consultant

Education and Qualifications

2006, MSc, Wildlife Biology and Conservation, Napier University
2004, BSc (Hons), Conservation and Countryside Management, University of Derby

Professional Memberships

Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management - Full

Career Summary

2013, Principal Consultant, AMEC Environment & Infrastructure UK
2011, Senior Consultant, AMEC Environment & Infrastructure UK
2010, Senior Consultant, Entec
2008, Consultant, Entec
2006, Assistant Consultant, Entec
2006, Assistant Ecologist, Herpetologic Ltd

Key Expertise

Katheryn is an experienced project manager and ecologist, with a range of field and desk-based skills, particularly relating to ecological assessment and protected species work. She has expertise in carrying out extended phase 1 habitat surveys, followed by detailed species-specific surveys for a variety of taxa, including reptiles, otters, great crested newts, dormice, sand lizards and smooth snakes. She holds Natural England survey licences for the last four.

Katheryn's field data have contributed to research projects and planning proposals, as well as feeding into larger schemes such as Environmental Impact Assessments, often for ecologically sensitive sites. In the latter role, her experience has included the bespoke design and implementation of water vole surveys on uniquely challenging sites, and she has assisted national experts with detailed badger bait-marking and bat radio-tracking studies. Katheryn holds a Natural England Roost Visitor licence, with bats providing one of her main areas of expertise. She has therefore been responsible for managing and leading survey teams for large, complex bat surveys and impact assessments.

Katheryn's experience extends to working closely with design teams to minimise the potential effects of development, and taking responsibility for the design and implementation of mitigation strategies for sites supporting a range of protected species. She has also developed detailed habitat enhancement and management plans to maximise the biodiversity of sites in the long term.

Specialising in bats, Katheryn holds a Class 2 Natural England Bat Survey licence, and has taken responsibility for managing and leading survey teams for large, complex bat surveys and impact assessments.

Selected Project Experience

Bath Road Post Planning Ecology

Bewley Homes

Having been granted planning permission for the development of the Bath Road Reservoir site in Reading for residential housing, Bewley Homes require support to discharge a number of conditions relating to ecology. In her role as Project Manager for the scheme, Katheryn is working closely with the client, delivering practical solutions to prevent unnecessary delays to the commencement of work, while also complying with planning and legislative requirements. Katheryn is responsible for overseeing a team of ecologists working on the project. To date the work undertaken has included production of a Habitat Management Plan for a retained wildlife area, survey work for hibernating bats, the identification and initial assessment of potential reptile receptor sites, the monitoring of badger activity, and supervision of tree clearance works. At every step of the way Katheryn has liaised closely with the Council Ecologist to ensure that the approach taken is considered satisfactory. This has allowed sufficient planning conditions to be discharged to enable Bewley Homes to commence vegetation clearance at the earliest possible stage, with the support of Reading Borough Council.

In summer 2013, Katheryn will oversee the implementation of the Reptile Mitigation Strategy for the site, prior to the start of construction work.

Botany Marshes Habitat Management Plan

Britannia Refined Metals

Katheryn was responsible for leading a programme of ecological baseline surveys within BRM's landholding on Botany Marshes in Kent. Initially she undertook an extended phase 1 habitat survey, to scope the site and map habitats present. Detailed survey work was then undertaken for a suite of taxa (including botany, birds, reptiles, water vole, otter and bats). Further scoping surveys were also completed for invertebrates and amphibians.

The resulting Ecological Baseline Report was used to inform a comprehensive Habitat Management Plan for the site, incorporating both terrestrial and aquatic habitats. Katheryn produced the document in liaison with the client to provide a comprehensive but realistic (in terms of practical and economic feasibility) plan for enhancing the on-site habitats for their biodiversity value, and managing them to maintain that value in the long-term. She incorporated 'pull-out' appendices that provided standalone Method Statements for individual tasks, suitable for provision directly to any contractor undertaking the works.

In spring 2013 the capital works commenced on-site, with Katheryn overseeing a team of ecologists providing assistance to

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the client and contractors on the ground. Early indications suggest that the works have been successful, with water vole from nearby habitat moving into previously unoccupied, newly enhanced ditches.

Camp Hill Wind Energy Development Environmental Impact Assessment

Partnerships for Renewables

Throughout 2011, Katheryn contributed to ecological baseline surveys on this proposed wind turbine site on the Isle of Wight. In addition to assisting with reptile and bat surveys, she led the survey work for dormice on the site. Once the baseline data had been collated, Katheryn acted as technical reviewer for a number of the protected species reports, and then went on to produce the ecological chapter for the Environmental Statement. In undertaking the Ecological Impact Assessment, Katheryn was required to consider potential effects not only on the designated habitats present on and surrounding the site, but also on reptiles, great crested newts, dormice and red squirrels. Most significant and complex however, was the impact assessment required for bats, not least because a number of the UK's rarest species were recorded on or near the site, and are known in nationally important numbers from the locality. Katheryn was required to ensure that the assessment took into account the most up-to-date developments in scientific understanding and research relating to bat interactions with wind turbines. In addition to effects from the proposed scheme, potential cumulative effects from other consented schemes in the local area were also considered.

Stone House Hospital

PJ Livesey

The former Stone House Hospital in Dartford is undergoing redevelopment for residential use, with the original Victorian hospital building being refurbished and split into luxury apartments. Prior to the submission of the planning application for this work, Katheryn designed and led a programme of bat surveys, including external and internal building inspections, and a suite of dusk emergence surveys. The surveys identified a maternity roost of brown long-eared bats, a night time roost for serotine, and three small pipistrelle roosts. Katheryn went on to assist with the development of a comprehensive mitigation strategy designed to avoid negative effects on the bat populations using the site. This included incorporating roosting spaces into the design of the final scheme. The strategy formed the basis of a European Protected Species derogation licence application, which has been granted for the scheme. Katheryn is now providing on-going support and advice with the implementation of the licence, and has been responsible for supervising contractors removing roof tiles so that any bats roosting underneath can be removed to safety. She will also lead post-construction monitoring surveys related to the licence, to ascertain the success of the measures instituted.

Park Plaza Ecological Assessment

The Co-operative

Katheryn was responsible for managing the ecological assessment of this site in Waltham Cross. She undertook an initial phase 1 habitat survey, which identified the need for detailed protected

species survey work. Katheryn led the successful completion of great crested newt presence/absence surveys, a reptile population assessment and bat survey work, keeping the client up to date with progress at regular intervals. Ongoing liaison with the client ensured that they were fully aware of the implications of the survey findings, and Katheryn was able to discuss in detail the options available for progressing with the proposed scheme to develop the site as a business park in compliance with the legislation that protects reptiles in the UK. A potential receptor site was identified for reptiles translocated from the Park Plaza site, and Katheryn took responsibility for assessing the suitability of this, including by carrying out presence/absence surveys for reptiles. An Ecological Mitigation Strategy was designed for the site, alongside a Habitat Enhancement and Management Plan for the proposed receptor site.

University of Greenwich School of Architecture & Construction EcIA & BREEAM Assessment

University of Greenwich

In December 2009, Katheryn acted as project manager for the Ecological Impact Assessment of the University of Greenwich's proposed new School of Architecture and Construction. She undertook an ecological walkover survey to scope for potential ecological receptors, and then assisted with follow up surveys of the buildings to assess any potential bat presence. Katheryn was then able to use the survey data to work closely with the design team such that any potential effects on local ecological resources could be minimised. In addition, they were able to maximise opportunities built into the scheme to deliver an overall benefit to biodiversity. This included the design of green roofs and a sensitive lighting scheme. The final scheme was subject to an Ecological Impact Assessment, and as a result of the measures already built into the scheme during the design process, Katheryn's report was able to conclude that there would be no significant effects on ecology. The final report was also used to inform a BREEAM Assessment.

80 Charlotte Street and 65 Whitfield Street

West London & Suburban Property Investments Ltd

Katheryn managed this project, which required an ecological assessment of a small site in central London. The initial survey highlighted no existing features of ecological interest, therefore it was possible for development to proceed with no further ecological survey work. Katheryn then worked with the project design team so that opportunities for biodiversity could be built into the scheme, such that the number of BREEAM credits obtained for the development could be maximised. Less than a week prior to the proposed submission of the planning application, the LPA highlighted the requirement for an arboricultural survey of the site. The client requested that Katheryn take responsibility for commissioning and managing this element of work within the extremely tight time restrictions. This was achieved successfully and the planning application submitted successfully.