

## **Andrew Baker BSc MIEEM Director**

### **Professional qualifications**

BSc (Hons), Botany, University of Nottingham 1986  
Full Member of the Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management



### **Work profile**

Andrew is an ecologist with twenty-five years' professional experience in ecology and environmental management. Working in the public, private and voluntary sectors he has developed a broad ecological experience, and his specialist areas are ecological assessment, habitat restoration and management, wetland ecology and environmental impact assessment. Andrew has considerable experience of statutory environmental assessments and has compiled environmental statements for a number of flood alleviation, coastal protection and water transfer schemes. Andrew also supervised the implementation of large-scale ecological mitigation and compensation measures, as part of the construction of the second runway at Manchester Airport. He designed and implemented a large-scale habitat creation scheme on the River Trent for Severn Trent Water and has taken the stand at numerous public inquiries including the Carlyon Beach development in Cornwall.

Andrew is an expert in wildlife legislation, its interpretation and implementation. He has published a number of articles on the subject and until recently was convenor of the UK Environmental Law Association's Nature Conservation Group. He jointly published the second edition of 'A Manual of Nature Conservation Law' edited by Michael Fry.

### **Employment history**

#### Baker Consultants Ltd 2009 – present

In March 2009 Andrew formed Baker Consultants Ltd and quickly established a broad client base across all sectors. The company provides ecological consultancy and design, to local authorities, architects, engineers, the leisure industry and the renewable energy sectors. This includes aspects of sustainability consultancy in both small and large-scale construction and engineering and appearing as expert witness at public inquiries.

#### Baker Shepherd Gillespie (1997 - 2009)

Andrew was a founding partner of BSG during which time, taking the role as managing partner, he built the business into one of the UK's leading independent ecological consultancies with four offices across the country and fifty employees. While at BSG, Andrew ran a number of key projects including the ecological works associated with the building of Manchester Airport's Runway 2, a major habitat creation scheme for Severn Trent Water at Witches Oak Waters, he appeared at the Carlyon Bay public inquiry and represented clients throughout the UK.

#### East Midlands Environmental Consultants (May 1995 - June 1997)

As a consultant ecologist Andrew undertook a wide range of projects for clients in both the public and private sectors. Work undertaken included;

- full, statutory Environmental Impact Assessments
- surveys of protected species (badgers, bats, great crested newts)
- advising on the restoration of nine Nottinghamshire collieries
- design of constructed wetlands
- management planning and habitat surveys

#### Freelance Environmental Consultant (June 1994 - May 1995)

Andrew's contracts included undertaking a research project for the Peak District National Park to examine the success of a farm conservation scheme in maintaining the species diversity of hay meadows, and botanical surveys of drain systems at Hatfield Chase for the National Rivers Authority.

#### Environmental Management Consultants Ltd (May 1993 - June 1994)

As a senior member of staff based at EMC's Birkenhead office Andrew was responsible for the management of a number of large consultancy projects. Much of his work involved compiling environmental impact assessments for large flood alleviation and coastal engineering schemes, working alongside civil engineers, liaising with statutory consultees and presenting information to the general public.

#### International Centre of Landscape Ecology (May 1992 - May 1993)

At ICOLE Andrew undertook a range of research based consultancy projects. They included: ensuring strong ecological principles were applied to a plan to re-landscape the approach corridors to Cardiff (Welsh Development Agency), raising the profile of dragonfly conservation in the Midlands in a study for the National Rivers Authority, presenting a review of the limnology of Llangorse Lake, Brecon Beacons and proposing mechanisms for restoration (Countryside Council for Wales) and mapping Japanese Knotweed infestation in Swansea using a Geographical Information System (Swansea City Council).

#### English Nature (Oct 1991 - May 1992)

At English Nature, as Assistant Conservation Officer, Andrew notified two new SSSIs and was responsible for site integrity monitoring, management agreement liaison and SSSI casework (PDO consents, site surveys, planning applications, etc.). Andrew also represented the organisation at meetings with landowners, the National Park Authority, Water Authorities and the National Rivers Authority and was particularly involved with consultation concerning the South West Peak ESA.

#### Peak National Park (April - Dec 1990)

As assistant ecologist Andrew was contracted to carry out baseline surveys and monitoring of management agreement sites. The work including detailed vegetation and community mapping of a wide range of habitats included hay meadows and pasture,

flushes and marshes, lead rakes, rough acid grasslands and moorlands. During this time, in association with the Unit of Comparative Plant Ecology, Sheffield University, Andrew was instrumental in developing a new method for monitoring grasslands.

Waterland Environmental Consultancy (April 1988 - April 1990)

As a founding partner Andrew undertook a number of contracts for the National Rivers Authority, Nature Conservancy Council, County Councils and Local Authorities. Contracts included: river corridor surveys in Lincolnshire (NRA), survey of the River Wye (NCC), Moray Firth river surveys, and preparation of management plans for urban nature reserves (Nottingham City Council).

Nottingham Wildlife Agency (Sept 1986 - June 1987)

Andrew was responsible for the preparation of full ecological management plans for a number of County Trust nature reserves to NCC format and standard. Other duties included site survey, research and casework.

**Additional information**

Andrew has a keen interest in renewable energy systems and sustainable architecture. He is Chairman of the award winning Sustainable Youlgrave, a voluntary group which is in the process of setting up the UK's first community based Anaerobic Digestion plant. He is an active member of his local community and is Chairman of Youlgrave Well Dressing Committee.

Andrew is a tenor in the renowned choir Sheffield Folk Chorale and when not cycling in the Peak District or surfing in Cornwall he can be found designing the finer details of his new house.

Andrew is married with two children.