bakerconsultants

ECOLOGY DESIGN SUSTAINABILITY

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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 over twenty 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 completed a public enquiry for a large costal development at Carlyon Bay. Currently his work-load includes a number of renewable energy projects and work on a variety of Appropriate Assessments of both individual projects and Regional Spatial Strategies.

Andrew has a particular interest in wildlife legislation and its interpretation and implementation. For the past five years he has been an active member of the UK Environmental Law Association's Nature Conservation Working Group (UKELA). This group includes many of the key practitioners in this area of law and has the remit of monitoring and influencing the development of nature conservation policy and law. Andrew was convenor of the working group for four years during which time he was responsible for co-ordinating the group's response to some significant legal developments including PPS9 and the NERC Act 2006.

Andrew has written widely on the subject of nature conservation law and its implementation within the UK and lectures about the subject on bespoke courses and at Sheffield University. He is also a director of NCWG Publishing Ltd, which was established with the sole aim of jointly publishing the second edition of A Manual of Nature Conservation Law by Michael Fry along with Brown Jacobson Solicitors. The manual is being regularly updated and new legislation is provided through the publication's associated website.

Andrew also keeps closely up-to-date with both European and domestic case law including attending the High Court to witness key cases. His knowledge is then disseminated throughout the practice to ensure that consultants are entirely conversant with new developments.

Over the years Andrew has amassed considerable experience of public inquiry work from open case coal applications to airports, landfill, leisure and housing projects. This experience informs the whole ethos of the company "*We always keep in mind that on any project our work may be subject to the detailed scrutiny of a public inquiry*".

The optimum outcome at any PI is to successfully negotiate an agreed approach and get objections removed before the inquiry, saving inquiry time and the client money. Through our good relationships with organisations such as Natural England, RSPB and Local Wildlife Trusts we will achieve this in most cases.

For the 10% of times when we simply cannot agree common ground then Andrew will present a well-constructed, concise, science-based case to support his position. Andrew has the advantage of not only understanding the ecological science but through his long involvement in the practical application of nature conservation law, he is able to work with the legal team to help present the most robust case in terms of both law and policy. "*The development of ecological law over the past 20 years has been fascinating. I estimate 90% of our work has some kind of legal backing whether it be protected species, EIA regulations, protection of designated sites or European law. The law and its interpretation through policy is therefore at the heart of most of what we do and a full understanding of its implications is essential."*

Andrew has a reputation of the being thorough and has been described as being "forensically curious". *"I am one of those rare people who actually enjoys being on the stand. I like the intellectual rigor of the inquiry process and the challenge of presenting often complex, scientific evidence plainly and succinctly."*