

Paul Howden-Leach BSc(Hons) PGCE MIEEM Senior Ecologist

Academic qualifications

BSc (Hons), Countryside Recreation Management, Sheffield Hallam University, 2000.

PGCE in Further Education, University of Huddersfield, 2001.

Full Member of the Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management.

Work profile

Paul has been working as an ecological consultant since 2001. During this time he has gained a wide range of ecological experience in protected species, including bats, badgers, water voles, reptiles and great crested newts. He also has experience in habitat surveying, landscape management and invasive weed control. He currently holds a Natural England science and education license for bats and great crested newts.

Paul is experienced in managing a wide range of large and small contracts for a variety of clients including private homeowners, small and large development companies and local authorities. He has also been a speaker at educational workshops on invasive weed control and identification, aimed at developers and local authorities as well his main interest on bats. Paul has led workshops at the BCT National Bat conference and delivers the only accredited training course on the SM2BAT remote monitoring device.

Over the years Paul has specialised in a variety of bat survey techniques within trees, including undertaking aerial endoscopic assessments of tree canopies. He has recently undertaken research in the application and use of real-time remote bat detectors (SM2) and is author of the SM2BAT field guide. He is the treasurer of the South Yorkshire Bat Group and a Natural England Volunteer Bat Worker.

Employment history

Baker Consultants Ltd (March 2010 – present)

Paul is a senior ecologist whose responsibilities include, undertaking a wide range of species and habitat surveying, protected species licensing, management of contracts, and carrying out clerk of works for a variety of sites. These include both small and large-scale housing developments, new and existing local authority developments and large-scale industrial sites such as opencast mines and quarries.

Baker Shepherd Gillespie (2008 - 2010)

As a senior ecologist, Paul was responsible for managing both large and small contracts and all aspects of species licensing for both bats and great crested newts. Other duties included carrying out Phase 1 Habitat Surveys, specialist protected species surveys and writing reports, management plans and Environmental Impact Assessment chapters.

Hallam Environmental Consultants (2001 – 2008)

Paul was employed as senior consultant with Hallam Environmental Consultants, managing a small team of ecologist and ecological sub-contractors, undertaking a wide range of ecological surveys. His main duties included carrying out specialist surveys for protected species (including aerial endoscopic surveys), Phase 1 Habitat Surveys, extended Phase 1 Habitat Surveys, landscape/habitat management schemes, management plans and informal enquiries for planning applications.

Sheffield Hallam University (2000 – 2003)

Associate lecturer teaching a variety of courses on aspects of ecology, conservation management, landscape history and physical geography.

Bishop Burton College (2000 – 2002)

Associate lecturer teaching a variety of courses on aspects of ecology, conservation management and landscape history.

South Yorkshire Biodiversity Research Group (2000 – 2002)

Project manager. Duties included the setting up and delivery of a number of environmental/ ecological educational workshops for disadvantaged community groups.