

## **Introduction to Wildlife Law 8th – 10th November 2017**

This course is designed for those whose jobs require them to understand the practical impact of the legislation surrounding wildlife. It will concentrate on enabling participants to make the best use of the law on the ground and to avoid the pitfalls that accompany such a technical subject as the law.

Particular emphasis will be placed on the practical rather than the academic impact of the law. The experienced team of course tutors will seek to make the issue come alive by reference to real casework situations and thus to take away some of the mystique attached to law and to de-mystify some of the jargon. We hope that the course will help participants regard Wildlife Law as a tool which they can use to safeguard sites and species, rather than as the sole preserve of solicitors, lawyers and other legal specialists.

### **COURSE OBJECTIVES**

By the end of the course it is anticipated that participants will:

- have gained an overview of the law on the protection of wildlife (including protection of individual animals and plants and EC law) **Note that until repealed the legislation transposing EC Directives and Regulations into national law remain in force.**
- have an understanding of general legal concepts that are relevant to nature conservation
- know how to work most effectively with a solicitor, if they end up having to take a case to court

### **Course Tutors:**

Andrew Baker, Director, Baker Consultants Ltd

Bernie Fleming, Fleming Ecology Consultancy

Tom Huggon, Consultant for and ex-partner at Browne Jacobson Solicitors

Wyn Jones, ex-Head of Habitats Advice and EC Directives, Joint Nature Conservation Committee (now retired)

## **TRAINING METHODS**

Because of the nature of the topic, there will be a degree of formal input to the course. Much of the detailed information will be distributed to participants as printed notes. In response to feedback from previous courses, a high priority has been given to providing time for participants to work through case studies and to solve realistic problems (including examples arising from their own work). There will be plenty of time for discussion and for participants to share experiences about incidents in which they have been involved. The course tutors will provide guidance on how to obtain further information and advice where necessary.

## **SUPPORT MATERIALS**

The following will be provided to participants:

- a set of detailed lecture notes;

The following will be available for reference by participants on the course:

- one reference copy of each of the relevant Acts and EC Directives;
- paperwork relating to a range of case studies.

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## **Programme**

### **Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> November**

12.30	<b>Arrival and registration</b>
13.00	Lunch
13.30	<b>Introduction to the course and its objectives</b>
14.00	<b>Introduction to Wildlife Law</b> – a brief overview of the scope and role of wildlife law in the UK and its international context
14.30	<b>Species protection law part 1.</b> This session will look at the law relating to individual animals and plants, concentrating on the criminal offences (and the defences) set out in the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 and Habitats Regulations.
15.00	Tea
15.15	<b>Species protection law part 2</b>
16.15	Break
16.30	<b>Species protection law part 3</b>
17.30	Break
17.45	<b>Laws of evidence/work of a Police Wildlife Liaison Officer</b>
18.45	Close

## Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> November

- 9.00                    **Species protection and the law in practice (licensing).** This session will concentrate on how the species legislation is put into practice through the licensing process.
- 10.00                    Break
- 10.15                    **A brief introduction to the Protection of Badgers Act 1992**
- 10.45                    **Species protection law - case studies.** Working in groups participants will examine 2 different case studies and prepare a strategy for licence applications.
- 11.15                    Coffee
- 11.30                    **Species protection law - case studies continued**
- 12.30                    Lunch
- 13.30                    **Site protection law.** This session will look at the law relating to terrestrial designations and the protection afforded to them and will address NNRs, SSSIs, European and Ramsar sites.
- 14.30                    Break
- 14.45                    **Site protection law part 2**
- 15 45                    Tea
- 16.00                    **Site protection law part 3.**
- 17.30                    Close

## Friday 10<sup>th</sup> November

- 9.00                    **Site case studies**
- 10.00                    Break
- 10.15                    **Site case studies continued**
- 10.45                    Coffee
- 11.00.                    **Wildlife law from a lawyer's perspective**
- 12.30                    Course review
- 13.00                    Lunch
- 13.30                    Close