Charlotte Peacock Associates

ENVIRONMENTAL CONSULTANCY

Contact Details

Key Contacts

Charlotte E Peacock
Managing Director

Leanne Moses
Senior Ecologist

Postal Address

Head Office:
CPA Ltd
Longridge
Barmoor
Morpeth
Northumberland
NE61 6LB

Telephone

Tel: 01670 513242
Fax: 01670 503107

Email

info@cpalimited.com

Website

www.cpalimited.com

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Company Profile

Charlotte Peacock Associates Ltd. (CPA) is a multi-disciplinary environmental consultancy operating throughout the UK. CPA has expert knowledge of Ecological and Environmental Surveying and Impact Assessment as well as planning regulations and consenting regimes across a broad range of sectors.

CPA offers a comprehensive service covering the environmental and consenting aspects associated with private, commercial and industrial development on all scales including:

- Community Housing
- Building Renovation
- Commercial Building Extensions/Conversion
- Residential Extensions/Alterations
- Public Sector Buildings incl. Schools and Crematoria
- Highways
- Aviation
- Overhead Lines
- Biofuels
- Business Parks

By drawing on the skills of ourselves and our associates we are able to tailor our service to suit our client's needs, while maintaining a high quality and cost effective service.

Our employees are members of a number of professional bodies including, ***The Institute of Ecological and Environmental Management (IEEM)***; and ***The Institute of Environmental Management and Assessment (IEMA)***. We have qualified ***CEEQUAL*** Assessors and also surveyors who have completed specialist health and safety and competency training courses including the ***Basic Electrical Safety Competence (BESC)*** course and the **Construction Skills Certification Scheme (CSCS)**.

Environmental Services

CPA Ltd offers a range of specialist environmental services. These services cover pre and post planning surveys, assessments and management plans across a broad range of disciplines including:

- Ecology and Ornithology– please see our Ecological Services Capability
- Geology, Hydrology and Hydrogeology
- Noise
- Air Quality
- Traffic and Infrastructure
- Archaeology and Cultural Heritage
- Landscape and Visual
- Contaminated Land

Environmental Assessment has become an increasingly critical element of the development process. Although such assessment remains voluntary for smaller projects, it provides a mechanism to reduce risk to clients and financing organisations. Furthermore, many forms of assessment such as Environmental Impact Assessment are mandatory for larger scale projects.

Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) is also becoming an excellent tool for managing longer term impacts of development and allows a sustainable approach to be adopted by aiding the development of policies, plans and development programmes as required by the EU Directive 2001/42/CC.

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Environmental Impact Assessment

Service	Summary
Screening	This stage determines the need for an EIA. We help our clients to obtain screening opinions to determine whether an EIA is required.
Scoping	This stage identifies the surveys and assessments required as part of the EIA. Our experience of various types of development allows us to develop a scope of work which minimises costs while ensuring legal compliance and a responsible approach to development.
Consultation	Effective consultation with stakeholders is often the key to a successful project. CPA can assist with stakeholder mapping, public and other stakeholder consultation and the development of communication strategies.
Data collection	CPA are able to undertake a range of surveys to inform any impact assessment.
Impact Assessment and Mitigation Design	Mitigation is an essential part of EIA so that the negative impacts of a proposed development can be reduced or even entirely removed. CPA use our expertise to develop appropriate mitigation strategies which can be implemented at the design, construction and operational stages of a development as required.
Monitoring	CPA can carry out monitoring of sites at all stages of development to ensure that the environmental information remains up to date and that the impacts and mitigation measures predicted are accurate and effective.

The need for an Environmental Impact Assessment is dictated by the Town and Country Planning (Environment Impact Assessment) (England and Wales) Regulations 1999, SI 1999 No 293. Some types of development (Schedule 1) will always require an EIA, where as others (Schedule 2) should undergo screening to determine whether an EIA is needed.

CPA can assist in determining whether a full EIA is required for your development or whether an Environmental Assessment would be acceptable to the Local Authority. An EIA or Environmental Assessment may even be required under permitted development rights and we can also assist in determining this.

CPA can provide a comprehensive EIA service spanning all of the potential impacts associated with large and small scale residential, industrial and commercial development.

CPA can also lead public consultation and stakeholder engagement appropriate to the nature and size of a development.

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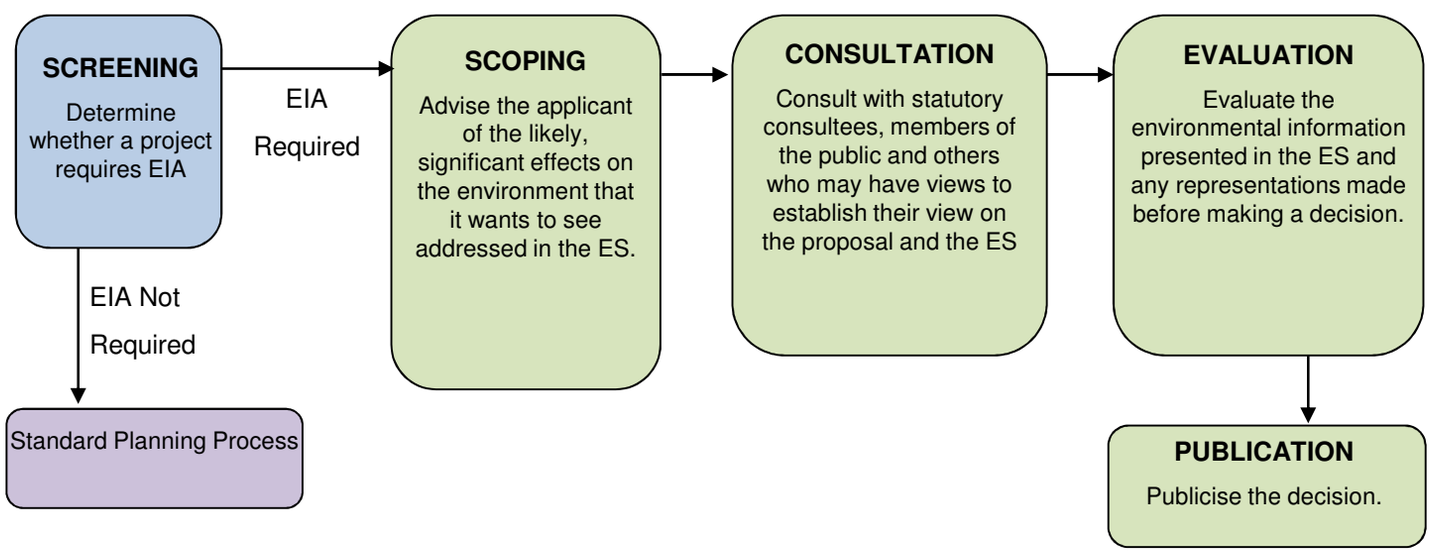
Environmental Services for the Planning Sector

Service	Summary
Screening Opinion	Using expert working knowledge of the EIA Directive and Town and Country Planning Regulations, CPA can provide an advisory service, assisting determining authorities in providing a screening opinion.
Review of scoping documents and advice regarding a scoping opinion.	CPA can assist a determining authority to identify the scope of environmental work required whether it be a comprehensive Environmental Impact Assessment or select environmental surveys and assessments. Drawing on years of experience, expert knowledge of many specialist sectors and an understanding of which consultees will be able to add value to the process, CPA can review scoping documents and proposed work schedules submitted to the planning authority and provide advice and input to allow the planning authority to feel confident that a well informed scoping opinion has been provided to the developer.
Review of Environmental Statements (ES) and Environmental Reports	Following the identification of a scope of work for any environmental assessments, the quality and content of the documents submitted may still prove inadequate to address all potential environmental impacts. CPA offer a review service and can advise the planning authority where there appears to be gaps in the data assessed or inconsistencies between the findings presented and any mitigation proposed.

In the UK, environmental issues have long been taken into account during the planning process, whether via the Town and Country Planning Regulations (England and Wales) 1999 or other legislation and regulations such as those relating to protected species and contaminated land. Under the Town and Country Planning Regulations a local authority has responsibilities as part of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) process. These responsibilities are outlined below.



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Cemeteries and Crematoria

Services Summary
Site investigation and risk assessment. Assessment of geology, hydrogeology, hydrology and drainage for a proposed burial site.
Options study of mercury abatement installation
Feasibility study into sustainable alternatives for powering crematoria. Looking at the possibility of utilising solar power, wind energy, and diesel and biodiesel powered generators.
Compilation of tender specifications for mercury abatement equipment installation
Technical evaluation

The burials and cremation sector is responsible for managing and controlling various environmental impacts. The establishment and management of burial grounds require consideration of land-take and protection of groundwater and watercourses, following guidelines from the Environment Agency (EA) and the Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA). Cremation installations need to consider energy use and emissions to air, which are controlled under Local Authority Pollution Prevention Control (LAPPC). A particular concern for the cremation sector currently is the issue of mercury abatement. Directly as a result of considerations on mercury abatement, the majority of cremation authorities will need to consider the engineering and architectural aspects of upgrading abatement technology.

CPA are able to offer a wide range of environmental services relating to this sector. We can assess the potential impacts and reductions in emissions as a result of new equipment and technology and whether the option is viable for your site. We can also assess the potential impacts of installations at new sites.

CPA and our Associates are also able to assist with civil, structural, mechanical and electrical engineering, and architectural services. We have extensive experience in multidisciplinary design, and project and facilities management of public sector buildings, hospitals, law courts, educational establishments, industrial and commercial buildings. Our capability in the design of intelligent and energy efficient buildings results in lower operational costs, structured maintenance and reduced whole-life costings.

CPA can also provide a qualified CEEQUAL assessor who can work hand-in-hand with designers to ensure sustainable buildings. Our associates also include qualified BREEAM assessors.

Ecological Services

The UK has a number of laws and legislation designed to protect important and/or notable habitats and species. As the UK is also part of the European Union it is also subject to European laws and legislation. Penalties for breaking these laws could involve a fine of up to £5000 per offence or a 6 month custodial sentence. Due to this, it is important that organisations are aware of the potential risks to their project so that offences can be avoided. The lifecycles of UK wildlife also have the potential to constrain projects as their presence or absence may only be confirmed at certain times of the year meaning that the next survey period may not be until the following year. Therefore, it is vital that potential ecological issues are given due consideration when planning a project.

Details of the ecological surveys which we offer are included in pages PS1 – PS10 of this booklet.

Some sites may require additional management once works have been completed, to ensure that mitigation and enhancement measures are correctly implemented and successful. This can range from a simple checking of newly planted vegetation to make sure it is flourishing to more in-depth work such as species monitoring for a number of years. CPA can put together a comprehensive species, habitat and site management plan or action plan for your site which can be used to satisfy internal procedures or planning conditions. We would also be able to conduct any site checks or monitoring which may be required.

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Extended Phase 1 Habitat Surveys

Type of Survey	Optimal Time of Year
Extended Phase 1 Habitat Survey	April - September

Extended Phase 1 Habitat Surveys

This survey is the most common ecological survey. The purpose of the survey is to identify the habitats present within the survey boundary and identify the likelihood that these habitats would support any UK, European or internationally protected flora and fauna.

The results of this survey can then be used to determine the need for any further species specific surveys.

Survey Methodology

The survey involves a walk-over of the survey area, during which vegetation classifications are mapped following the guidance within Joint Nature Conservation Committee (2010) Handbook for Phase 1 Habitat Survey – a Technique for Environmental Audit. Reprinted by JNCC, Peterborough.

The potential for the habitats present to support a number of protected species would also be noted and evidence of their presence noted. Species would include:

- Badger
- Bat
- Great Crested Newt
- Reptiles
- Hazel Dormice
- Invertebrates
- Breeding Birds
- Wintering Birds
- Water vole
- Otter
- Crayfish

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Vegetation Surveys

Type of Survey	Most Suitable Time of Year
National Vegetation Classification (NVC)	April - September
Tree Survey	April - September
Hedgerow Survey	April - September

National Vegetation Classification (NVC) Survey

NVC surveys are used on site where there is considered to be important or potentially important habitats and floral species. This survey provides additional details to the Extended Phase 1 Habitat Survey, including full floral species lists and the categorisation of habitats in accordance with floristic tables in *British Plant Communities* (Rodwell, 1998).

Tree Surveys

Tree surveys are conducted on all sites where trees are present regardless of whether they are scheduled for removal or not. The reason for this is that many construction activities have the potential to damage root systems and impact on the health of the tree. The surveys are conducted to British Standard "Trees in relation to construction - Recommendations" BS5837:2005. These surveys record the size, age and health of the tree and inform any protection measures which need to be implemented.

Hedgerow Surveys

Hedgerows within or surrounding a site can be assessed to determine whether they are classified as ‘important hedgerows’ under the Hedgerows Regulations 1997. This is based on a number of criteria including age, number of species and adjacent habitats. It is illegal to remove important hedgerows or sections of them without the consent of the Local Authority.

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White-Clawed Crayfish

Type of Survey	Optimal Time of Year
Presence \ Absence	July - September
Population Estimates	July - September

Legislation

White-clawed crayfish are listed on Schedule 5 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended). This makes it illegal amongst other things to:

- Intentionally kill or injure these wild animals;
- Intentionally or recklessly to damage, destroy or obstruct the places these animals use for shelter and protection; and
- Intentionally or recklessly to disturb these animals when they are using such places.

They are also listed under Section 41 of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities (NERC) Act 2006 as well as on the UK Biodiversity Action Plan (UKBAP) and some Local Biodiversity Action Plans (LBAPs) making them a priority for conservation efforts.

Preferred Habitat

White-clawed crayfish favour hard-water rivers and streams but can be found in various water bodies such as lakes and reservoirs. Their numbers have declined significantly due to competition and disease from the introduced North American signal crayfish.

Survey Methodology

Surveys are completed in accordance with Natural England Guidance (Peay, 2003). Initially one survey is required with a checking survey completed a couple of weeks later. Surveys usually involve manual searches of the section of water which may be effected by the proposed works, both directly and indirectly, as well as a buffer zone. However, if the conditions are not suitable for manual searches such as the water being too deep then torch surveys and trapping can also be carried out.

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Reptile Surveys

Type of Survey	Most Suitable Time of Year
Presence / Absence Survey	7 surveys in April, May and/or September.
Population Survey	A minimum of 20 surveys in April, May and/or September.

Legislation

There are four common reptile species in the UK; adder, grass snake, slow worm and common lizard. These species are protected under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended). Two other rarer species, the sand lizard and the smooth snake, also have additional protection from the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010.

This makes it illegal to amongst other things, kill or injure any of these reptile species. In addition it is also illegal to disturb a sand lizard or a smooth snake.

Preferred Habitat

Reptiles can be found in a variety of habitats ranging from upland moors to gardens. Numbers are usually higher in the south of the UK due to the higher temperatures and longer summers.

Guidance and Survey Methodology

The guidance regarding reptile surveys can be found in Froglife Advice Sheet 10: Reptile Survey (1999).

A presence /absence survey and population estimate surveys can be carried out site in April, May and/or September when morning and evening temperatures are usually between 9˚C and 18˚C. This involves a visit to a site to place artificial refuges such as roofing felt that reptiles will use for shelter. These are left to 'bed in' for two weeks before surveys commence. These surveys are heavily weather and temperature dependent.

If reptiles are present within a site then the mitigation will depend upon the species, number of animals found and type of works. This can range from habitat manipulation to make the area unsuitable for reptiles to a full translocation of individuals to a nearby receptor site.

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Great Crested Newts

Type of Survey	Most Suitable Time of Year
Habitat Suitability Index (HSI)	All year
Presence / Absence Survey	4 surveys with at least 2 surveys between mid-April and mid-May and the rest completed by mid-June.
Population Survey	An additional 2 surveys to the presence / absence surveys to be completed by mid-June.

Legislation

The great crested newt is one of three native species of newts found in the UK. All newts are amphibians and spend most of their life cycle on land but require water to breed. In recent years both terrestrial and aquatic habitat used by great crested newts have experienced significant decline. Due to this, great crested newts are protected under both UK and European law in the form of the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010 and the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended).

This makes it illegal amongst other thing to:

- kill or injure a great crested newt;
- damage, destroy or obstruct the places used for shelter and protection; and
- disturb great crested newts when they are using such places.

Preferred Habitat

Great crested newts will utilise static water bodies including ponds and ditches to lay their eggs.

Young great crested newts and adults which are not breeding also use terrestrial habitat. Woodland, rough grassland and scrub are preferred and this species will commute to these areas along hedgerows and other features.

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Great Crested Newts Continued.....

Survey Methodology

HSI Survey

The Habitat Suitability Index (HSI) is used as a way of rapidly assessing waterbodies to determine their potential to support GCN. The methodology was developed by Oldham *et al* (2000).

These surveys require one visit at any time of the year and are usually conducted in conjunction with an Extended Phase 1 Habitat Survey. However, the most accurate results are obtained in the spring or summer when vegetation and invertebrates are easily seen.

The assessment will assign a category to the waterbody ranging from unsuitable to excellent and indicate whether further surveys will be required. This assessment alone is not sufficient to facilitate development or to apply for a development licence.

Presence / Absence Survey

The guidance used for these surveys can be found in English Nature's (now Natural England) *Great Crested Newt Mitigation Guidelines* (2001).

Surveys to determine whether the species are present or absent on a site are conducted over a relatively short period with at least two of the four surveys needing to occur within the critical period of mid-April to mid-May. If the species is found to be present then a population survey is required.

There are four recognised techniques of which a minimum of three must be used each visit. The techniques are: bottle trapping, torch survey, egg search and netting.

Population Survey

A population survey follows the same guidance as the presence / absence surveys and involves an additional two surveys (i.e. six in total) which must also be completed by mid-June.

Licensing and Mitigation

Licences are granted by the relevant statutory nature conservation organisation (SNCO) (i.e. Natural England, Countryside Council for Wales or Scottish Natural Heritage). These licences involve submitting details of the surveys undertaken, an assessment of the potential impacts and the details of mitigation measures which will be taken to minimise the impacts which could range from habitat manipulation to translocating individual newts to another site.

This is a particularly detailed document which can take a number of months to complete depending upon the complexity of the project. The SNCOs also need time to consider the application which is likely to add further time to the project. It should be noted that any works including site clearance can not commence until a licence has been granted.

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Bird Surveys

Type of Survey	Most Suitable Time of Year
Breeding Bird Survey	3 surveys undertaken between March and August
Wintering Bird Surveys	3 surveys undertaken between September and February
Nesting Bird Survey	Undertaken immediately prior to vegetation removal/construction
Vantage Point (VP) Survey	36 hours per VP over the breeding and/or wintering period

Legislation

All UK birds are protected under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 as amended which protects them from killing and injury as well as protecting the eggs and nests from damage and destruction. Some species have additional protection which makes it an offence to disturb these species while they are nesting, this ranges from the building of a nest until the young fledge.

Breeding Bird Surveys/Wintering Bird Surveys

These surveys follow the guidance within the Common Bird Census and are usually used to determine which species are present within and adjacent to the site. Three surveys are usually conducted over the breeding season which runs from March to July/August or the wintering season from September to February depending upon the habitats and the type of development. These surveys are heavily weather dependant.

Nesting Bird Surveys

These are used to check for individual birds which are nesting, or in the process of nesting construction on a site. This is usually conducted immediately prior to activities such as vegetation clearance commencing on the site. If birds are breeding then work cannot commence until the young have fledged.

Vantage Point Surveys

Vantage Point (VP) surveys can be required prior to the construction of wind turbines to determine commuting routes over the area and therefore the species and numbers which may be impacted. These can be carried out throughout the year but may be required over specific periods depending on the site location.

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Bat Surveys

Type of Survey	Most Suitable Time of Year
Emergence/re-entry Surveys	3 surveys undertaken between April and September
Activity Surveys	3 surveys (or 6 in the case of some wind farms) undertaken between April and September

Legislation

All species of bats and roost are protected under both UK and European law in the form of the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010 and the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended).

Habitat Preference

There are 18 species of bat within the UK. Bats have suffered in recent years from loss of habitat, both foraging habitats and roosting. A number of structures can be used for roosting such as houses, barns, bridges, caves and trees. This varies depending upon the species and time of year. The type of survey required depends upon a number of factors such as the type of development and available habitat.

Emergence/Re-entry Surveys

All roosts usually involve an external and where possible an internal survey (in the case of buildings, caves etc.) to look for signs of usage such as droppings. These can be conducted throughout the year but adverse weather can wash away signs so the optimal time to conduct them is throughout the spring/summer. If the structure is a potential summer roost then this is followed by an emergence/re-entry survey using bat detectors. Three surveys are usually required and these are conducted over the active period from the end of April to the beginning of September.

Activity Surveys

If the site has the potential to support foraging bats then a transect survey is carried out. Surveyors will walk a pre-determined route around the site stopping at certain key features which bats tend to use such as hedgerows and ponds. These surveys are also conducted three times over the activity period and are weather dependant.

Licensing and Mitigation

Depending upon the species, the type of activity and the impact of the development then a European Protected Species licence may be required prior to works commencing. This is a detailed document which may take several months to obtain. Mitigation may include planting forging habitat or providing new roosting opportunities.

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Water Vole and Otter Surveys

Type of Survey	Most Suitable Time of Year
Presence / Absence Surveys	One survey undertaken between March and October

Legislation

Otters are listed on Schedule 2 of the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010 making them a European Protected Species. They are also protected under Schedule 5 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) along with water voles. This makes it illegal amongst other things to:

- Kill or injure an otter or water vole;
- Disturb otters or water voles; and
- Damage, destroy or obstruct any place otters or water voles use for shelter.

Both species are listed on the UK Biodiversity Action Plan (UKBAP) and many Local Biodiversity Action Plans (LBAPs).

Preferred Habitat

Water vole and otter surveys are usually carried out simultaneously as these species tend to utilise similar habitats. They can be found in rivers, streams and ponds.

Otters will use a variety of resting places including areas of long grassland, scrub and under tree routes as short-term shelters which will be used for resting while feeding or while otters are commuting. For breeding, female otters require an area near to a water course. Often the entrances are concealed beneath the water surface. Otters can travel significant distances over land between potential food sources and areas where they rest on these journeys can also be considered to be protected. Water voles use water as a cover to escape predators and as such do not venture as far from water as otters. Water voles dig burrows along the banks of water bodies.

Presence / Absence Surveys

The surveys can be conducted throughout the year but mid summer is best avoided as the vegetation cover is at its heaviest making signs of these two species difficult to find.

Licensing and Mitigation

A development licence may be required depending upon the type of development and the habitat. If it is necessary to apply for a development licence then this is a detailed document which can take a considerable time to produce as well as requiring additional time for the relevant Statutory Nature Conservation Organisation (Natural England, Countryside Council for Wales or Scottish Natural Heritage) to consider the application. Mitigation can range from habitat manipulation to translocating individual animals.

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Hazel Dormouse Surveys

Type of Survey	Most Suitable Time of Year
Hazelnut Search	Mid-August to December
Box and Tube Survey	Erected in March/April with surveys May to October

Legislation

This species is listed on Schedule 5 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) as well as Schedule 2 of the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010 making them a European Protected Species. This makes it illegal to amongst other things:

- Kill or injure a dormouse;
- Disturb a dormouse; and
- Damage, destroy or obstruct access to areas used for breeding and/or resting.

Preferred Habitats

The hazel dormouse lives in areas of woodland, hedgerows and scrub and is mainly found in southern England. They feed on nuts and fruits from a variety of species as well as invertebrates. Hazel dormouse hibernate from late October to May. Hazel dormouse numbers have declined due to habitat loss, fragmentation and inappropriate woodland management.

Surveys

The surveys that can be carried out to establish if hazel dormice are present depends upon the time of year. From March boxes and tubes can be erected in potentially suitable areas with checks being carried out from May to October. A nut search can be carried out from September to November to establish if feeding signs are present.

Licensing and Mitigation

If dormice are found to be present on the site then a development licence may be required from the relevant Statutory Nature Conservation Organisation (SNCO). These licences are detailed documents containing the survey results as well as information on the potential impacts and mitigation measures which will be taken to reduce these. Due to this, these documents can take a significant amount of time to produce. The SNCOs also need time to consider the application. All of this time must be taken into account in the works schedule as no works can commence on the site until the licence has been granted.

Mitigation measures may range from habitat manipulation and reinstating hedgerows to planting areas of woodland.

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Badger Surveys

Type of Survey	Most Suitable Time of Year
Presence / Absence Surveys	One survey undertaken between March and October
Bait marking	Between February and April Between September and October

Legislation

Badgers are protected under the Badger Act 1992 which makes it illegal to amongst other things:

- to kill, injure, or take any Badger; and
- Damage, destroy or obstruct access to a sett, or disturb a badger whilst it is occupying a sett.

Preferred Habitat

Badgers can travel large distances and have a variety of setts ranging from a main sett with several entrances and obvious signs of occupation to a single hole with no obvious signs. As badgers use different setts throughout the year a sett may still be classified as in use even if a badger has not used it recently. Setts are often associated with farmland and woodland but can also occur in other areas such as verges and gardens.

Presence / Absence Surveys

An initial assessment is usually undertaken in the form of an Extended Phase 1 Habitat Survey although this can be undertaken separately. The survey will determine sett locations and signs of badger occupation across the site. These can be undertaken at any time of the year but dense vegetation in summer can make it difficult for signs that badgers are using the area to be seen.

Bait Marking

This is used to determine the territory of a sett by placing coloured plastic pellets in bait. These pellets are then deposited throughout the badger's home range in their droppings. This information can be needed if a licence is required. This survey usually requires access to neighbouring land as badger territories tend to be larger than the average development site.

Licensing and Mitigation

If badgers are found to be within a development or in close proximity to it then a detailed development licence to close the sett may be required from the relevant Statutory Nature Conservation Organisation (SNCO).

Mitigation could range from planting additional food sources to construction of an artificial sett which may need to be proved to be in use before works commence.

Other Services

CPA Ltd and our Associates are also able to provide the following services:

Agriculture and Forestry
Assistance with agricultural and forestry schemes – please see further details on page AF1.

Transport Assessment and Traffic Modelling
Transport assessments for all types of development incorporating junction analysis, and traffic modelling as required using TRANSYT, ARCADY and/or PICADY to assess capacity and safety factors. We are also able to provide expert drawing services.

Glint and Glare Assessments for Solar PV Development
3D modelling and analysis of potential glint from proposed Solar Park developments, identifying residential, road and amenity receptors which may experience glint and the duration and timing of any glint. Our reports also detail proposed mitigation to reduce any potential impacts.

Economics
High level investment appraisal and lifecycle cost analysis for all types of development, with particular experience in power generation developments, including CCGT, coal-fired plants, geothermal plants, wind farms, photovoltaic systems and biomass plants.

Due Diligence
Environmental and economic due diligence of development projects and technology on behalf of developers and funding organisations.

Project Management
Project management services incorporating the planning, organisation and management of resources to ensure the completion of a development and/or project on time and within budget. CPA has extensive experience of managing multi-disciplinary and multi-contractor development projects, providing programme management, document and drawing review and tender review and adjudication.

For further details of these services please visit our website: www.cpalimited.com or contact us by telephone, post or email.

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Agriculture and Woodland Schemes

Woodland Creation Grant

The Woodland Trust can offer grants to plant new woodland. The exact amount depends on various factors such as the location and whether the public have access but this can be up to £1800/ha for broadleaved woodland. Additional grants may be available for income foregone as a result of changing farm land to woodland. These grants need to be applied for before any planting commences. The scheme is usually over 10-15 years. CPA can provide input into these options to maximise the chances of acceptance onto the scheme.

Grants for Existing Woodlands

There are a number of grants available for existing woodlands from the Woodland Trust. These grants are available for activities such as assessing woodlands to inform management decisions and to benefit the public. These schemes also last 10-15 years and payment levels vary. CPA can carry out the assessments for these schemes as well as on going monitoring.

Entry Level Stewardship

The Entry Level Stewardship (ELS) scheme is administered by Natural England and is based on a points system where payments are made depending upon the number of points obtained. It is available to all landowners in England which meet the minimum required points. The options available to score points are deliberately diverse to encourage uptake of the scheme and range from providing arable margins and winter stubble to hedgerow management and ditch clearance. Many of these practises are already carried out by landowners and can involve very little additional time. Typical funding is approximately £30/ha/yr. The Organic Entry Level Stewardship (OELS) scheme is very similar to the ELS with typical funding of £60/ha/yr.

The Upland Entry Level Stewardship (UELS) scheme is available to landowners within Severely Disadvantaged Areas as defined by Natural England reaching the minimum points requirement. As with ELS, there are a number of management options available ranging from stonewall and building maintenance to winter livestock removal and haymaking. Payments can be up to £62/ha/yr.

CPA can assess the current status of the land and advise on which points can be best achieved for each farm while contributing to local and national objectives.

Higher Level Stewardship

The Higher Level Stewardship (HLS) scheme also administered by Natural England is only available to those who have already signed up to the ELS within certain areas of England. This is a competitive scheme and only those providing the greatest gains will receive funding, therefore not all applications will be successful. The Agreements last 10 years and it is not possible to provide a typical payment as these vary from £7/ha to £700/ha depending upon the options available to the landowner. There is no separate scheme for organic farmers with the HLS. CPA can provide input into which options may be most appropriate.

Charlotte Peacock Associates Limited is a company registered in England and Wales Company Registration number: 07513357

Longridge, Barmoor, Morpeth, Northumberland, NE61 6LB