

Alexander Leishman

Principal Ecologist

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Alex has over 14 years' experience working as an ecological consultant and is a Full member of the Chartered Institute of Ecology & Environmental Management (CIEEM).

He has experience of providing tailored ecological input into a wide variety of projects for private and public sector clients across the UK.

Alex leads on GIS spatial mapping within the team, including Biodiversity Net Gain assessments, and has had key involvement in planning policy and regulatory work including Habitat Regulation Assessments for local plans and Local Nature Recovery Strategies.

He has extensive skills in coordinating and carrying out a range of ecological surveys from preliminary ecological appraisals and UK Habitat Classification to specialist surveys for protected species. He specialises in bats, with experience in licensing and on-site mitigation work.

Key Skills

Ecological surveys, assessments for planning, licensing and site supervision. Technical input into strategic planning projects, including using use of Geographic Information Systems (GIS) for mapping and spatial analysis of data. Ecological Impact Assessments (EIA), UK Habitat

Classification surveys and Hedgerow Regulations Assessment. Protected species surveys including bats, birds, reptiles, badgers, amphibians (great crested newts), water vole and otter, Preparation of mitigation strategies, Construction Ecological Management Plans (CEcMPs) and EPSL licence

applications for protected species. On-site supervision of mitigation works affecting protected species including licensed works involving bats and great crested newts. Biodiversity Net Gain assessments, BNG Condition Assessments, GIS mapping and habitat management plans.

Protected Species Licences

WML-CL18 Bat Survey Class Licence Level 2

WML-CL08 Great Crested Newt Class 1

Professional Memberships

Graduate Member of the Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management

Academic Qualifications

MSc Environmental Management – University of Reading – 2009-2010

BSc (hons) Environmental Biology – University of Reading – 2006-2009

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Professional Experience

Principal Ecologist Burton Reid Associates

July 2019 – present

Alex manages multiple projects as the main point of client contact and is also involved with scoping new projects and providing quotes. His skills range from carrying out Preliminary Ecological Appraisals, surveys for a range

of protected species including preliminary bat roost assessments and breeding bird surveys through to providing input to inform appropriate mitigation schemes and supervision of site mitigation work. He leads on aspects of projects requiring specialist spatial mapping input, being proficient in QGIS and applying this to create high quality mapping and analysis of spatial data including for local policy work. He has extensive experience of carrying out on-site surveys to inform Biodiversity Net

Gain assessments including habitat condition assessments, completing BNG Metrics and advising clients on achieving mandatory net gain targets.

Ecologist Ecology Services Ltd.

December 2017 – June 2019

Ecological consultant taking on project management of projects for clients in a range of different sectors including local planning authorities and utilities companies. Additional experience gained during this role included:

- Supervision of soft-demolition of buildings under EPSM licences for bats.
- EPSM licence method statements preparation for Great Crested Newts.

Freelance Ecologist Self-employed

June 2017 – December 2017

Worked as a sub-consultant for a number of ecological consultancies in south Cumbria and north Lancashire carrying out ecological appraisals, preliminary bat roost assessments and bat activity surveys, and produced a Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP) for a small hydropower project.

Ecologist Hankinson Duckett Associates

September 2012 – June 2017

Working as a consultant for HDA, Alex provided ecological input into a variety of schemes, ranging from works on single residential dwellings to large mixed-use developments, predominantly across the south of the UK. This involved the preparation of ecological appraisals, protected species surveys, mitigation

strategies and method statements for protected species, habitat management plans, Biodiversity Impact Assessment (biodiversity offsetting) matrix calculations, on-site supervision, BREEAM non-domestic and Code for Sustainable Homes assessments, and assisting in the preparation of Environmental Impact Assessments and EPSM licence applications.

Graduate Ecologist ACD Ecology

April 2012 – September 2012

Carrying out and leading surveys for protected species, primarily Great Crested Newts, bats and reptiles. Preparation of ecological appraisals including Phase 1 habitat surveys and desk top studies. Code for Sustainable Homes reporting and providing advice to clients on habitat enhancement. Reptile translocation work.

Field Ecologist Hankinson Duckett Associates

March 2011 – April 2012

Assisting with a wide range of protected species surveys, including Great Crested Newts, bats and reptiles, as well as carrying out on-site mitigation works including species translocations and supervising destructive searches.