



SIMON TABER BSc (Hons) MSc MCIEEM
ECOLOGY SOLUTIONS, FARNCOMBE HOUSE, FARNCOMBE ESTATE,
BROADWAY, WORCESTERSHIRE, WR12 7LJ

POSITION AT ECOLOGY SOLUTIONS: DIRECTOR

ACADEMIC QUALIFICATIONS

2007 – 2008: MSc Wildlife Management and Conservation, The University of Reading (Distinction)

2004 – 2007: BSc (Hons) Zoology, The University of Reading (First Class Honours)

MEMBERSHIP OF PROFESSIONAL BODIES

MCIEEM Full Member of the Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management

EXPERIENCE AT ECOLOGY SOLUTIONS: SEPTEMBER 2010 - PRESENT

Professional Witness and Strategic Advice

Extensive experience of planning inquiries in England, Wales and Northern Ireland, including preparation of evidence, review of opposition proofs, advice to Counsel and appearance on the stand at inquiry. Experience obtained both as an assistant and as an Expert Witness. Work undertaken with Christopher Katkowski QC, Stewart Beattie QC, Sasha White QC, Christopher Young QC, Gwion Lewis and Thea Osmund-Smith.

Ecological Assessment

Project experience on varying size of sites involving a wide range of issues. Experienced in phase one and two surveys, specifically in identification of planning constraints such as the presence of species protected under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) or under The Conservation of Habitats & Species Regulations 2017, designated sites of conservation importance, non-designated or listed species and habitats of conservation importance and hedgerows of importance under the Hedgerows Regulations 1997. Includes work in Northern Ireland under the separate NI planning system and wildlife legislation.

Mitigation Programmes & Implementation of Mitigation Strategies

Experience of development, consultation and implementation of mitigation and enhancement strategies. Negotiation with statutory nature conservation authorities (Natural England, Natural Resources Wales and Northern Ireland Environment Agency), the Wildlife Trusts and other third parties in regard to dealing with statutory and non-statutory sites of nature conservation, the presence of partially protected species such as common reptiles and fully protected species such as Hazel Dormice, Badgers, bats and Great Crested Newts.

Environmental Statements

Experienced in scoping, managing and preparing Environmental Statements for a wide range of schemes. Skilled in the production of scoping documents through consultation and meetings with Statutory Agencies as well as clients, consultees (statutory and non-statutory) and third parties.

Information to inform Habitats Regulations Assessment

Experience in scoping and producing Information for Habitats Regulations Assessment documents (Shadow HRA) for schemes assessed in line with the requirements of The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017. Extensive knowledge of the guidance, case law and legislative tests associated with the legislation.

BREEAM New Construction and Code for Sustainable Homes

Involvement in assessment of development sites under BREEAM New Construction and Code for Sustainable Homes criteria, carrying out calculations to determine the change in ecological value of the site, advising clients on ways to maximise available ecology credits and production of management plans.

Species Surveys

Vast experience of field surveys for Great Crested Newts, Reptiles (Slow-Worm, Common Lizard, Grass Snake and Adder, as well as for Sand Lizard and Smooth Snake), Badgers, Wintering and Breeding Birds, Bats, Hazel Dormice, Otters, Crayfish, Water Voles and Roman Snails. Holder of protected species licences with Natural England (Class 1) for Great Crested Newts, Bats and Hazel Dormice.

Specific Project Experience

A broad range of project experience with a wide range of clients, including: **Redrow Homes**: lead ecologist advising on a major strategic site for residential development in north-east Cardiff. Involved at Appeal and retained to advise in relation to ongoing ecological issues, including primarily Dormice, non-statutory designated sites and other protected species issues; **Gladman Developments**: provision of detailed advice in relation to the Habitats Regulations for a wide range of schemes throughout the country, including giving evidence at Appeal, negotiating with key stakeholders (including Natural England, the National Trust and Biodiversity Officers), development of bespoke avoidance and mitigation strategies, and production of Information for Habitats Regulations Assessments; **Taylor Wimpey**: retained to provide ongoing advice in relation to Naishes Wood SANG, including liaison with stakeholders including Natural England, Hart District Council and Parish Councils.

Additional clients include David Wilson Homes, Linden Homes, Bellway Homes, Bloor Homes, St Modwen Properties, Persimmon Homes, Barratt Homes, St William, SEGRO, Verdion (formerly HelioSlough), Legal & General, Prologis, Landform Estates, Harrow Estates, Reside Developments, Riverdale Developments, EA Strategic Land, Redcliffe Homes, Hertfordshire County Council and Highways England.

PRIOR AND OTHER RELEVANT EXPERIENCE

Highways England – Ecological Advisor (secondment): production of series of ecological tools to assist Project Managers with the delivery of innovative Smart Motorways Project (SMP), including: Ecological Survey Budget Spreadsheet, to aid assessment of proposals for survey work; standardised Ecological Baseline Report template; and Ecological Survey, Mitigation and Licensing Schedule Spreadsheet, to inform and highlight potential risks (to project programmes and budget), ensure survey work is undertaken on time, and assist PMs with ongoing management of the ecological aspects of their schemes (2017/18).

Defence Estates – Assistant Natural Environment Advisor: production of nature conservation management plans for MOD sites, involving desk study exercise, establishing management priorities, identifying management prescriptions and liaising closely with the military client and statutory bodies to ensure integration of plans with operational requirements. Involved fieldwork including extended Phase 1 habitat surveys, protected species surveys and scrub mapping. Responding to requests for information on species and habitats on the MOD estate and liaison with GI team to create sensitivity maps for sites (2009/10).

Wiltshire Wildlife Trust – Water for Wildlife Project & Wiltshire Invasive Plants Project Volunteer Officer: undertaking extensive water vole and invasive plant species surveys on waterways throughout Wiltshire, in addition to coordinating the survey effort of other volunteers. Contacting landowners to obtain access for surveys and providing advice regarding invasive species. Assisted with running of conservation group work parties (2009)

MSc Thesis – Using GIS to map optimal habitat for the hazel dormouse in south Oxfordshire: undertook extensive survey work for Dormice, statistical analysis and use of GIS software to create optimal habitat maps for dormice on a regional scale (2008).

The University of Reading – Cole Museum of Zoology Volunteer: museum curation, including data gathering for creation of electronic catalogue of specimens and restoration and design of new museum cases (2005/6).