

Biodiversity Update

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Thomson Ecology



Thomson Ecology

- UK's leading independent ecology consultancy
- Ecology Surveys & Assessments
- Protected Species Licences
- Design of Ecological Mitigation
- Translocation of protected species
- Experienced on large construction projects
- Monitoring & research contracts
- Based in Guildford (HQ), Yorkshire and Cardiff
- In-house Arboriculturists offering full BS5837 service
- Thomson Habitats
- Thomson Unicomarine



UK Legislation Update

- **Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended)**
- **Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010 (replaces Habitat Regulations 1994)**
- **Protection of Badgers Act (1992)**
- **Town and Country Planning (Development Management Procedure) (England) Order 2010**
- **The Red Tape Challenge**



Policy Update



- **The Natural Environment White Paper (due Spring 2011)**
- **The Lawton Report: Making Space for Nature**
- **Biodiversity Offsetting**
- **Green Infrastructure**
- **The Economics of Ecosystems and Biodiversity (TEEB Report)**
- **Natural England Standing advice**

Case Law



- **Thurrock Marshes**
- **Dilly Lane**
- **Wooley Ruling**
- **Morge Case**



**So how can I preserve
biodiversity without it costing
the earth?**

5 essential tips!

1. Make ecology part of the design process

- **Involve ecologist in the early design stages of a project, rather than as after thought**
 - **maintain biodiversity**
 - **minimise ecology costs**
 - **contribute towards biodiversity conservation and enhancement**
 - **Improve acceptability of application**





2. Surveys and mitigation can be seasonal and lengthy

- Certain times of the year when you cannot survey or mitigate for protected species.
- Times vary according to the species and their lifecycle/ habits.
- Incorporate surveys, and possibly mitigation, into project plans.
- May be more than one survey visit



3. Include biodiversity report at planning application stage

- Legislation and planning policy (GDPO)
- Failure to consider biodiversity at this stage can lead to delays, penalties and even permission being overturned.



4. Don't leave land unmanaged



- **Unmanaged sites acquire ecological value**
- **But ensure you don't damage the existing ecology of a site which could breach legislation**
 - **Tree Preservation Orders**
 - **Protected Habitats and Species**
- **Maintain the status quo, with professional advice**



5. Incorporate biodiversity enhancements

- Not enough to avoid, mitigate and compensate; must now enhance too.
- Often simple, cost effective measures are all that are required
- Section 40 of NERC Act 2006 and mentioned in PPS9 and supporting documents