

Ornithological Capabilities

Approach

Who we are

With over 20 specialist ornithologists within the UK and Ireland, RPS undertakes all aspects of ornithological consultancy ensuring that our clients' projects are fully compliant with environmental regulations and statutory requirements. We are market leaders in ornithological survey and evaluation, design, monitoring, impact assessment, mitigation planning, habitat creation and restoration and conservation management.

Where we operate

We operate throughout the UK and Ireland (and overseas) and our clients have access to dedicated ornithologists that have up-to-date knowledge of local issues and extensive local contacts. Our specialist ornithology team collaborates with a network of associates, recognised for their expertise, throughout the UK and Europe.

What we do

We offer diverse expertise and bespoke assistance in all aspects of ornithology. Drawing on a sound and up-to-date knowledge of planning and EIA legislation, together with established relationships with relevant statutory agencies, we assist clients from a wide range of sectors to successfully negotiate the planning and assessment process. We have extensive experience with respect to UK legislation and European Birds and Habitats Directive issues.

Our clients require services in rural and urban settings and in all terrestrial, aquatic and marine habitats. Our extensive experience of field-based research and advisory projects in the UK and abroad is brought to bear to deliver quality results and independent advice to our clients. The development and use of standardised methods that are compliant with relevant best practice guidance ensures a cost effective approach to site survey and assessment.

Our expertise can be applied to achieve positive sustainable solutions at every stage of a project. Our early involvement enables potential issues to be quickly identified and thus significantly improves our scope to contribute to the technical, environmental and financial success of projects.

The ornithological services we provide can be fully integrated with other RPS planning, assessment and technical offerings.



Market Sectors

- Development - residential, mixed use, commercial, retail
- Sport and leisure
- Industry
- Transport - road, rail, air
- Ports
- Government
- Defence
- Power - renewable energy, development and generation
- Oil and Gas
- Water
- Waste
- Minerals
- Natural Resources
- Conservation
- Agriculture





Services

Survey

- **Generic breeding bird surveys** using CBC, BBS and registration mapping techniques
- **Generic winter bird surveys** using WeBS and farmland bird methods
- **Specialist species surveys** – Barn Owl, Black Redstart, Stone Curlew, Woodlark, Dartford Warbler and Nightjar
- **Specialist habitat surveys** – woodland, grassland, upland, marine and coastal
- **Specialist methodologies** – nocturnal surveys using IR monitoring equipment, vantage point surveys, flight line surveys, marine/seabird surveys, radio-tracking and radar studies
- **Monitoring** – mitigation, construction, operation and post-construction environmental management plans, site and species surveillance

Analysis

- Distribution and behavioural analysis
- GIS mapping and predictive modelling
- Distance sampling
- Statistical analysis
- Collision risk modelling

Assessment

- Windfarm collision risk assessment
- Independent Ornithology ES review

- Studies to inform Appropriate Assessment and provision of advice on the EU Birds Directive
- Habitats Directive and Habitats Regulations
- Ornithology Impact Assessment
- Design and implementation of mitigation and compensation

Habitat Creation

- Strategic advice on feasibility and site suitability
- Design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of habitat creation and restoration
- Habitat and species management strategies and plans
- Negotiation with relevant government agencies and other stakeholders
- Mitigation banking

Legislation and Policy

- Advice on conservation legislation and environmental regulations
- Strategic assessment of biodiversity priorities and policies
- Assessment of land-use policies on birds

Expert Witness

- Advice and expert witness at public inquiries and hearings
- Proofs of evidence

Training Courses

- Ornithological survey methodologies
- Collision risk modelling
- Ornithological impact assessment

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