

# **CLAIRE WANSBURY**

## **1.1 Qualifications and Experience**

- 1.1.1 My name is Claire Wansbury MA MSc FCIEEM CEcol CEnv CMLI. I am an Associate Director of Ecology at Atkins Ltd, based in their London office.
- 1.1.2 I hold an MA degree in Pure and Applied Biology from Oxford University and an MSc in Rural Resources and Environmental Policy from the University of London (Wye College). I am a Chartered Ecologist, Chartered Environmentalist and a Fellow of the Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management. I am also a Chartered Landscape Architect in the Sciences division of the Landscape Institute.
- 1.1.3 I have over twenty five years' experience in ecology in the United Kingdom. Before joining Atkins in 2005, I worked for over five years for government nature conservation agencies and then for a specialist ecological consultancy for over seven years.
- 1.1.4 My first post was with the Countryside Council for Wales, investigating the risks to Welsh Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs) from soil acidification. I then worked for English Nature (now Natural England), initially at their headquarters where I developed site assessment methodologies for grassland, woodland and heathland / moorland SSSIs. Subsequently, I worked within English Nature's Norfolk team for three years. My work included surveys and management guidance on most lowland habitats, particularly ancient woodlands, heathlands, grasslands and wetlands. I also provided English Nature's formal response to statutory planning and water abstraction casework. I represented English Nature on the group approving County Wildlife Site designations. For six months I also dealt with protected species work throughout Norfolk. As a consultant, I worked for a specialist ecology firm, Jaquelin Fisher Associates, before joining Atkins.
- 1.1.5 I manage and provide expert technical input to ecology projects across the UK, particularly in South East England. My technical specialisms include Ecological Impact Assessment, Habitat Regulations Assessment, biodiversity net gain, and designing and implementing mitigation relating to protected species. I have presented evidence as an Expert Witness in Local Plan Inquiries and the Highways Inquiry for the A21 Tonbridge to Pembury Dualling Scheme.

- 1.1.6 I hold survey licences for great crested newts, dormice and bats. I have been licence holder (under DEFRA licences) or named ecologist (under Natural England licences) for licences for development works affecting bats and dormice and have written and / or reviewed licence applications for works affecting all the species where licences are required on the EWR2 scheme. I created the first multi-phase great crested newt licence in the UK, an approach that evolved into the current masterplan-based system for phased development sites. I wrote the method statement for the first draft bat licence for HS2. My recent project work includes the A14 scheme where as ecology design lead I designed mitigation and was responsible for obtaining licences for works affecting badgers, bats, great crested newts and water voles.
- 1.1.7 I have provided specialist ecological input to environmental planning and mitigation schemes for rail and road projects across the UK. I was chair of CIRIA's Project Steering Group producing guidance on biodiversity net gain and am now is representing CIRIA on the British Standard Institute committee creating a new British Standard on biodiversity net gain. I represented CIEEM at the EU consultation UK roundtable on the 'fitness' of the Habitats Directive.

## **1.2 Involvement in the Scheme**

- 1.2.1 I was one of the technical review team supporting Dr Stephanie Wray in reviewing the ecology chapters of the Environmental Statement (ES). I undertook technical checking of all the ecology chapters within Volume 2i and 2ii of the ES, the Further Environmental Information Part I Main Report and technical appendices including those for ecological mitigation and biodiversity accounting. I reviewed the Swanbourne Station roost destruction draft bat licence and the route-wide draft bat licence for low to moderate significance roosts.

## **1.3 Declaration**

- 1.3.1 I hereby declare that I have read the proof of evidence of Dr Stephanie Wray and adopt it as my own.