ENVIRONMENT
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CONSERVING, PROTECTING & MANAGING ENVIRONMENTS

Working across the UK and internationally our qualified environmental experts play a pivotal role in the welfare of project related environments, making sure plans are fully researched and accurately managed across all areas. Furthermore, the multidisciplinary nature of WYG as a whole means that we are able to identify pragmatic and realistic solutions beyond purely environmental issues.

Our specialist environmental, geotechnical and waste teams support public and private sector developers, landowners and infrastructure managers with a range of services. From ground investigations to environmental impact assessments and waste resource management, we provide a robust framework for coordinated and sustainable development.

Our environmental services include:

- Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA)
- Noise, Air, Light and Odour (NALO)
- Water Management
- Environmental Due Diligence
- Terrestrial, Freshwater, Coastal & Marine Ecology
- Ecology
- Sustainability
- Climate Change Mitigation
- Mineral Management
- Ground Investigation
- Geotechnical Design
- Contaminated Land
- Archaeology & Heritage
- Waste & Resource Management
- Renewables
- Landscape Architecture
- Arboriculture
- Topographical Surveying.
Our experts deliver all stages of the EIA process. We provide screening advice to determine whether formal EIA is required, and a scoping analysis to determine which issues are likely to be significant.

As well as producing the Environmental Statement (ES), we can support the EIA with specialists from all relevant environmental topic areas, as well as technical experts experienced in all major infrastructure and developments sectors. We also undertake reviews of Environmental Statements for determining authorities.

Our EIA expertise has been recognised by the Institute of Environmental Management & Assessment through their EIA Quality Mark scheme. We can help you with the following EIA services:

- environmental baseline condition assessments
- EIA screening
- scoping studies and preparation of full Environmental Statements
- consultation with regulators
- Strategic Environmental Assessment, sustainability appraisals and assessments
- expert witness services for planning inquiries
- ES reviews for Planning Authorities
- production of Construction Environment Management Plans (CEMP).

**GEDLING ACCESS ROAD NOTTINGHAMSHIRE**

We ensured a robust and defensible application was prepared in a limited timeframe for the Homes and Communities Agency (HCA).

Our experts managed the EIA Scoping Report and coordinated the preparation of the Environmental Statement of the proposed 3.8km long, 7.3m wide single carriage way road adjacent to the village of Gedling, Nottinghamshire. This included identifying and agreeing the scope with the internal EIA consultant team, client, and design team.

A range of potential environmental effects were predicted to occur as a result of the GAR development, both positive and negative. However, mitigation measures were identified to appropriately reduce, minimise or offset any potential negative environmental effects.

Following this HCA invited us to coordinate an EIA for the proposed development of 1,050 dwellings on the Gedling Colliery/Chase Farm site. This planning application was submitted to Gedling Borough Council in December 2015.
The archaeological sites and historic buildings and landscapes that surround us are our common inheritance produced by centuries of human activity, and are often a factor in sustainable development.

We have a commercial focus to assessing risk thanks to our team of experienced archaeology and heritage specialists from both fieldwork and consultancy backgrounds.

As consultants, we are objective in our decision making, identifying solutions for our clients which minimise additional costs, including fieldwork.

As a Registered Archaeological Organisation we follow and adhere to best practice standards for the profession.

Our clients can be confident that we will be recognised by consultees as a competent organisation with credibility.

Our expert team can help with:

- built heritage and setting assessments
- historic landscape and conservation management planning
- written schemes of investigation and survey specifications
- mitigation design
- managing sub-contractors for intrusive investigations
- community engagement and outreach.

SAW CLOSE DEVELOPMENT BATH

Our experts were successful in securing resolution to approve Bath’s first modern casino ‘Saw Close’ despite being within a World Heritage Site, Bath Conservation Area and part designation as a Scheduled Ancient Monument.

The development will build on the established cultural and leisure focus of Bath City Centre and comprises a casino, hotel and restaurants. These complementary uses will be set within an enhanced public realm, creating a high-quality destination and usable public space in front of the existing landmark Theatre Royal.

We carefully managed the preparation of the planning and listed building applications, including the production of an Environmental Statement addressing the potential impacts on heritage assets. We were able to ensure that plans conserved and enhanced the heritage assets in and around the site.
Noise, poor air quality, lighting and odour can all act as pollutants which may need to be controlled or mitigated to protect sensitive environments. We offer a comprehensive service to suit individual clients such as developers, businesses, builders and local authorities, as well as to support the wider WYG team on major programmes.

We survey, assess and advise on specific situations, including acting as expert witness at hearings and inquiries. We use innovative computer-based modelling techniques to predict future levels of noise, air and light pollutants and model future development scenarios. We can also advise on the acoustic performance of rooms and spaces for BREEAM and BB93.

We provide a quick response and innovative solutions to noise or pollution constraints, often saving money or enabling greater developable areas by carefully evaluating the best benefiting mitigation or designs.

Our services include:

- environmental noise and vibration, including assessment and developing mitigation measures for buildings, highways, mining and blasting and complex scenarios
- building acoustics
- occupational noise
- air quality assessments
- environmental lighting
- odour assessments
- daylight, sunlight and overshadowing assessments
- right to light assessments
- wind and microclimate assessments
- vibration from traffic, rail and blasting.
We were commissioned to prepare a noise assessment in support of the proposed £168m widening scheme of the A453.

A key deliverable of this was to produce an assessment of the potential noise impacts arising from the proposed widening to support the EIA. A baseline noise survey was also undertaken along the A453 road corridor to establish the existing traffic noise levels along the scheme length and to verify a baseline noise model. The full EIA of noise assessed the effects of changes in the traffic flows and composition along the route length and was able to robustly identify the number of properties that would qualify for noise insulation grants and a calculation of the anticipated cost of the total noise insulation works.

Our team also undertook pre-commencement vibration monitoring to estimate future vibration levels as a result of the operational phase of the development. Vibration monitoring then was undertaken during the construction phase to establish the effects of vibration from construction vehicles.

Further to the noise assessment, our ecologists also supported this project by assessing and monitoring protected species from the outset. We analysed potential risks to and devised mitigation for water voles, badgers and bats which included minimising impacts as a result of noise and lighting.

Our experts undertook noise, air quality and lighting assessments for a proposed distribution depot in Basingstoke.

The results of the noise surveys that were undertaken were used to verify predictions of the short-term and long-term effects of noise and ensure that levels did not exceed the specified relevant criteria.

A comprehensive baseline light survey was also undertaken of the development. Existing sources of artificial light within the development and in the surrounding streets were mapped and lighting measurements were taken at locations representative of all of the surrounding developments likely to be sensitive to changes in light. The assessment also concluded that, provided the specified lighting design that was recommended was implemented, the sky glow levels associated with the development would not have a significant effect on the surrounding dark sky landscape.

The noise assessment considered 24 hour operation of the site and the effects on overlooking residential blocks. From an early stage the design was set out to use the main bulk of the buildings and details on the car deck to act as a major screen for the noise.
Successful sustainable development requires ecologists who have a thorough and up-to-date understanding of ecology, including statutory obligations and predicted changes to policy, and who can communicate and integrate with a design team to achieve your vision.

Our large team of professional ecologists have experience of working across all sectors from small scale housing developments to Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects. The distribution and agility of the team means we deliver national projects with local knowledge and are able to resource significant schemes in-house at short notice, with appropriately qualified and experienced people.

We provide:
- ecological due diligence, preliminary ecological appraisals and extended Phase 1 habitat surveys
- protected species surveys and licence applications
- invasive species surveys including for Japanese knotweed
- Ecological Impact Assessment (EcIA) and Habitat Regulations Assessment (HRA)
- habitat creation and management plans
- BREEAM assessment and ecological design
- Ecological Clerk of Works (ECoW) and species translocation
- expert witness and specialist ecological advice
- aquatic ecology – specialist services for both freshwater and marine environments.

**HORNEDEAN**
**EAST HAMPSHIRE**

We carefully navigated the complex system of nature related legislation and policy to address housing, employment and community needs with a 62.45 hectare scheme that provided 700 homes and a range of community facilities.

Using specialised radio-tracking techniques, we identified the areas of most value to bats, including the rare Bechstein’s, leading to the avoidance and retention of habitats which were incorporated into a network of strategic green infrastructure. Our ecologists’ early involvement and close relationships with the project team resulted in a scheme that protected and enhanced the biodiversity value of the site whilst delivering a high-quality design with strong connections to the local landscape.
Our sustainability services cover a wide range of areas from corporate social responsibility, sustainability appraisals and planning statements, through to sustainable construction advice and resource efficiency. We offer a full range of these services and also have an experienced Environmental Management Systems (EMS) team.

In addition our multidisciplinary team of engineers and scientists can provide a full range of services to help you comply with best practice in relation to climate change. Unless action is taken to adapt existing and future development to cope with changes to rainfall, sea level, temperature and other factors, serious risks may arise. We help reduce the risk of developments, strategies and policies becoming unviable in the long term if not designed to account for climate change. We also advise on energy efficiency and renewable energy, to assist clients in reducing the impact of their activities on the climate.

**SUSTAINABILITY APPRAISAL FOR ALLERDALE BOROUGH COUNCIL CUMBRIA**

Allerdale Borough Council produced a Local Development Framework to set out guidelines for the future development of the Borough. It comprised a number of Development Plan Documents and Supplementary Planning Documents.

As part of this we undertook a combined Strategic Environmental Assessment and Sustainability Appraisal of the Core Strategy Development Plan Document and the Derwent Valley Regeneration Supplementary Planning Document in accordance with the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 and the Strategic Environmental Assessment Directive.

The documents were appraised using the 16 Sustainability Appraisal objectives taken from the Sustainable Development Framework for Cumbria, which was developed by Cumbria County Council’s Sustainability Team.

In addition to the Sustainability Appraisals, we undertook Habitats Regulations Assessment screening of the documents. This summarised the potential effects of the options upon Natura 2000 sites. These included Special Areas of Conservation and Special Protection Areas.
Unlocking the potential of development sites and identifying possible geoenvironmental risks and liabilities associated with land is essential to ensure that projects can proceed quickly and efficiently with all regulatory and legislative requirements accounted for.

Where risks and liabilities are identified, design and implementation of any solution must be carefully managed to ensure all factors and options are considered.

Our geotechnical and geoenvironmental specialists provide a range of services to developers, landowners, industrial operators and infrastructure managers to ensure that everything is taken care of.

Our services in the area include:

- Brownfield regeneration
- Contaminated land and groundwater
- Assessment and remediation
- Ground investigation
- Geotechnical design
- Hydrogeology
- Environmental due diligence.
Our experts have been working on this 25 hectare riverside project since 2006. The project is a major development which will provide approximately 1,000 homes, a new school, commercial offices, retail units and leisure facilities, served by a new railway station just six minutes away from Leeds City Centre.

Appointed by the developer, our geoenvironmental specialists initially provided assessment and interpretation of historic data before completing a robust and comprehensive site investigation to fill geotechnical and contamination data gaps. Detailed quantitative risk assessment (dQRA) was then undertaken to determine the extent of the risks contamination on the site posed to controlled waters and human health and to focus the scope of the remediation works.

A detailed remediation strategy for contamination and obstruction removal was designed specifically to enable a flexible approach to the development whereby any area could be used for either residential or commercial development, allowing for variations in future market demands and masterplanning. This approach was agreed with the Environment Agency and Leeds City Council. Extensive geotechnical design services were also provided, including earthworks strategies, GIR and GDR development for the Local Authority, AIP submission for a new bridge, retaining walls and cantilever platform and retaining wall and foundation design.

A real estate investment client required Environmental Due Diligence (EDD) to be undertaken on a portfolio of 44 commercial and potential development sites across the UK (including Northern Ireland) prior to providing finance to the developer.

Our focus for the due diligence was to identify any potential environmental liabilities associated with the portfolio that could have a material impact on the financing decision. The primarily Brownfield sites had varied previous uses including; former quarries, residential portfolios, shopping centres, a 120 acre former chemical factory, and various commercial and industrial sites.

The transaction timeframe was six weeks therefore our client needed us to assess liabilities associated with land quality, mining, flooding, environmental compliance and regulatory concerns as rapidly as possible.

We prepared a short form report to communicate the primary issues in an efficient manner and utilised our nationwide team to deliver a consistent, commercial and technically robust EDD report for each site.

Our geographical spread of offices enables us to respond to the requirements of multi-site schemes at short notice.
The Water Framework Directive commits European Union member states to achieve good qualitative and quantitative status of all water bodies including groundwater, surface water and marine waters up to one nautical mile from shore. This framework is translated into a variety of statutory UK guidance that our clients must adhere to. We can assist our clients in maintaining or achieving compliance across a wide range of water related activities.

Our professionals have a detailed understanding of the water cycle and the balance that is required to utilise the water environment for human needs such as water supply, food and energy while minimising negative effects such as pollution, flooding and overfishing. We offer:

- water resource studies and development of public water supply schemes
- industrial water supply development licensing
- assimilative capacity studies
- aquifer and source protection plans
- irrigation supplies
- bottled water development and certification
- groundwater modelling
- well rehabilitation
- mineral extraction – impact assessment
- integrated pollution control licensing
- aquatic habitat creation and enhancement
- water quality and level monitoring/compliance monitoring
- flood risk assessment
- geothermal assessment and design
- dewatering assessments
- Water Framework Directive Assessment
- hydrographic surveys.

**RSPB Cliffe Pools**
**Thames Estuary, Kent**

Our team worked with the RSPB and Boskalis Westminster to secure planning permission for the award-winning ecological enhancement of Cliffe Pools to directly benefit waterfowl and saline invertebrates.

This innovative project will sustainably use up to 1 million cubic metres of unwanted clay, sand and silt from large infrastructure projects, to enhance 175 hectares of existing habitat by depositing it in existing saline lagoons, lowering water levels and creating seven habitat zones for saline invertebrates and water birds, as well as other species of conservation importance.

We submitted a planning application and EIA for the scheme with approval subsequently granted.
The way we handle our waste can have a huge effect on the environment and has the potential to leave an unwelcome legacy for future generations. Not only must we manage its disposal correctly but also recognise its value as a potential resource.

Our specialist waste team helps clients to develop new waste resource and management facilities that have the flexibility to maintain full regulatory compliance as requirements change. The range of skills and disciplines we bring together starts with risk and issue assessment and runs through to designing state-of-the-art waste management facilities.

On mineral sites we provide specialist assistance to move developments forward. Through innovative solutions, informed negotiations and expert witness advice we help win planning permissions for complex sites and assist with obtaining the latest regulatory consents.

We also offer a dedicated service preparing waste management plans. Both public and private sector clients benefit from our clear understanding of legislative restrictions and financial drivers, our extensive commercial due diligence experience and our expert procurement advice for local authorities.

WEST THURROCK HOUSEHOLD WASTE RECYCLING CENTRE
THURROCK BOROUGH COUNCIL

As part of a £4.7m plan by the Council to overhaul waste and recycling in the local authority, our experts undertook detailed design and project managed the construction of this new public household waste recycling centre, we also obtained planning permission.

The centre was originally set up to be run by a local non-governmental organisation and designed to include joint venture provision for the refurbishment of Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment recycling (WEEE) and bulky items, such as household furniture.

The final construction integrates a new centralised waste depot and vehicle workshop into the facility and is expected to play an essential role in reducing the volume of domestic waste going to landfill in Thurrock.
WYG EXPERTISE ACROSS A RANGE OF SERVICES

PLANNING
- Planning Applications
- Planning Obligations & CIL
- Compulsory Purchase Orders
- Project Management & EIA Coordination
- Site Assessment & Planning Strategy
- Development
- Plan Representations
- Planning Appeals & Expert Witness
- Planning Policy & Development Management
- Stakeholder & Community Consultation

URBAN & LANDSCAPE DESIGN
- Masterplanning
- Urban Design
- Landscape Architecture
- Landscape & Visual Impact Assessment (LVIA)
- Building Design
- Regeneration
- Visualisation Services & GIS

TRANSPORT
- Transport Assessment & Modelling
- Sustainable Transport
- Road Safety
- Highway, Bridge & Drainage Design
- Highway Construction Supervision
- Pedestrian, Cycle & Public Transport Schemes
- Intelligent Transport Solutions
- Planning Appeals & Expert Witness Services
- Policy Advice and Compliance
- Public Realm
- Infrastructure Design

ENVIRONMENT
- Ecology
- Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) & Environmental Permitting
- Sustainability Appraisal & Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA)
- Noise, Air, Light, Vibration and Odour Assessments
- Archaeology & Heritage
- Hydrogeology & Water Quality
- Geotechnical Design & Assessment
- Site Investigation
- Contaminated Land & Land Quality Assessment
- Environmental Due Diligence & Expert Witness
- Pollution Response & Management
- Remediation Design & Management
- Waste & Resource Management
- Local Authority Waste Services
- Minerals Planning
Our people are designers, project managers, engineers, planners, environmental specialists and business service professionals who together form the teams our clients need to make their project ambitions come to life.

Working from the earliest project stages we offer all the expertise needed to make challenging concepts possible. We then bring together the right teams whenever and wherever our clients need them to make projects happen.

We believe our ability to make a difference through our work and leave a lasting positive legacy is what sets us apart.
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