

Building lasting partnerships: the benefits of a sustained client relationship

Chevron Green Consultancy has worked with COOMBES Group for several years, providing ecological support in the South of England. We predominantly provide Preliminary Ecological Assessments (PEAs) along the railway and Ecological Clerk of Works supervision on de-vegetation projects.

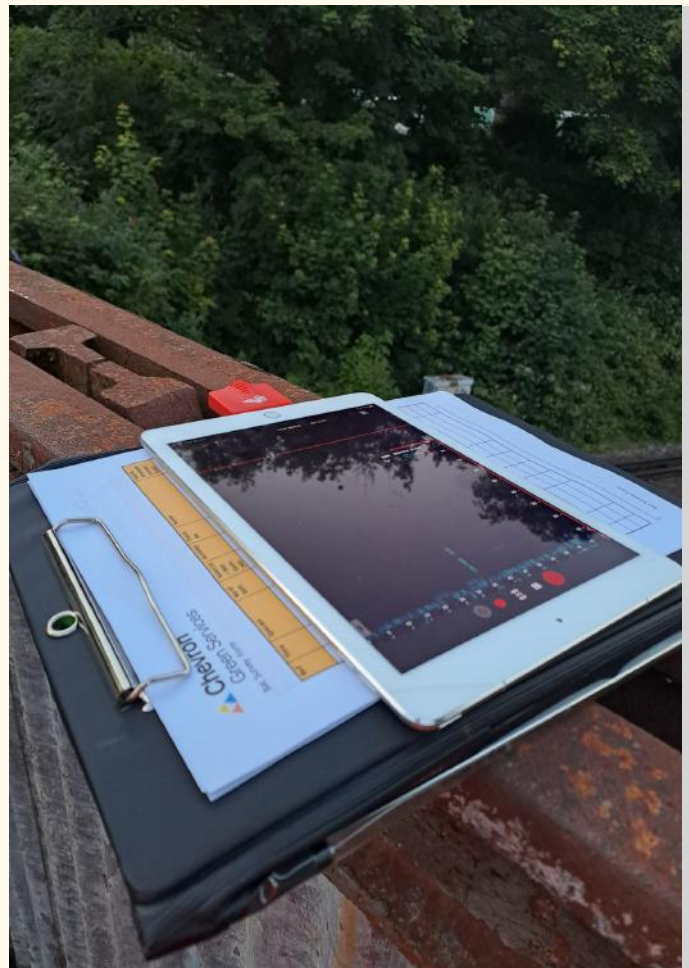
The Project

Our most recent PEAs were around specific railway infrastructure and structures e.g. bridges. As a result of the PEAs, it was determined that further bat surveys were required around predefined bridges and structures on the line.

Working on the railway has different safety requirements compared to working on other locations. We require safety critical staff to accompany us, this includes a Controller of Site Safety who is also the Person in Charge and if the group is larger than two people then we have an additional Site Warden to ensure that we are within our safe working limits. Before we even enter the infrastructure, we have a suite of safety briefs pertaining to the site including access and egress, direction and speed of trains, emergency contacts and procedures.

The Challenge

Working on the railway infrastructure presents several challenges, we have to adapt to each site that we attend, with flexibility to attend while the trains are operating during the day, or in possessions midweek nights, or weekends when services have suspended. Weather conditions, like for any outdoor work, can pose a particular problem in extreme conditions.



Our Solution

Our ecology team is designed to be flexible which means we can be adaptable when conditions or the environment are unforgiving.

Our collaborative approach means that we work with COOMBES to find the best solution for each of their projects. We know one size doesn't fit all.

Having an ongoing relationship means we understand COOMBES' approach and can embody this. Working together in this way has built trust and provided many efficiencies.

Bat mitigation

Our process to confirm bat presence or absence:

- We assess a bridge for potential roosting features and declare it to be of negligible, low, moderate or high potential.
- Depending on the status, we then undertake the relevant number of Phase 2 bat surveys which will determine if bats are emerging from the bridge.
- If we see an emergence, we then classify the location as having bats present.
- Once bats have been confirmed as being present, we have a process to work through. Providing advice and solutions to enable works to take place, whilst still providing suitable protection for the bat habitat.



COOMBES Group is a leading contractor in the Rail and Forestry sectors. For over twenty years, they have been committed to delivering excellent results for their clients, utilising innovative plant and machinery whilst providing industry-leading expertise. COOMBES Group is comprised of five divisions with complimentary capabilities.



“Having the Chevron Green Consultancy team to support our works means we have a professional team working with the same approach to deliver to our clients, acting with integrity for the protection and increase in biodiversity for the habitats and species they are surveying.”

Craig Mills, Environmental Manager, COOMBES

