



# News from the Wild Frontier

Newsletter December 2010

Wild Frontier Ecology  
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Welcome to Wild Frontier Ecology's second newsletter, reviewing our project highlights and new developments during the past year.

We have also re-vamped our website [www.wildfrontier-ecology.co.uk](http://www.wildfrontier-ecology.co.uk) and continue to update it with latest news and some meditative blogs.

## WFE PROJECTS SUMMARY

As ecologists we work in a variety of habitats, and they are not all as appealing as one might hope for them to be. However, we were very fortunate in 2010, as we found ourselves working in some fantastic locations. We again assisted Broadland Environmental Services Ltd. with reptile and bat mitigation work in the Norfolk Broads, and we partnered with Halcrow in undertaking natterjack toad and reptile surveys and mitigation plans for a section of North Norfolk Coast seas defences. We also undertook habitat and protected species surveys along several sections of the River Wensum SAC (right).



This past year also saw us undertake protected species and ornithological surveys for several wind farm EIAs, and bat surveys for demolitions and barn conversions throughout East Anglia. We completed Phase 1 habitat surveys and feasibility assessments across the UK, while Will continued his excellent work with multiple BREEAM and Code for Sustainable Homes projects. WFE is continuing with ongoing work on National Nature Reserve Management Plans and LDF Appropriate Assessments.



Seth and the Yes2Wind mascot

One of our more unusual jobs, WFE was commissioned to obtain a great crested newt for a short film to be included in a Japanese nature documentary.

In November, Rob and Seth flew off to attend the RenewableUK 2010 Annual Conference and Exhibition in Glasgow (left). Their goals were to meet with a number of our past and present wind energy clients, to make new contacts, and to generally fly the WFE flag at the largest annual gathering of wind energy developers and consultants. They enjoyed meeting up with familiar faces and were pleased with the outcome of their trip.

## 2010 INTERESTING OBSERVATIONS

- WFE ecologists were again involved with the Broadland Flood Alleviation Project, translocating adders and common lizards out of the areas of the flood defence works. During this project WFE staff witnessed, and managed to photograph and film, the rare sight of two male adders in ritualised combat for access to a female known as, "the dance of the adders".

- The barbastelle (*Barbastella barbastellus*) is recognised as a rare bat throughout the UK. However, WFE's bat specialists have been privileged this past year to record the species from four new locations in Norfolk and one in Bedfordshire.





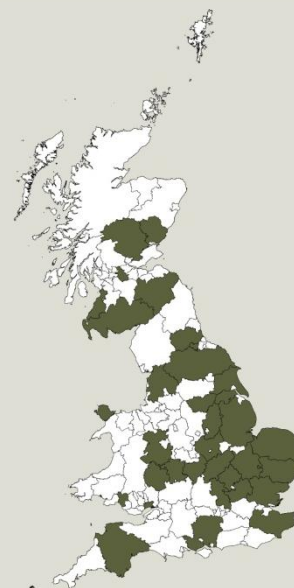
## WFE SERVICES

WFE works throughout the UK, the map (right) illustrates the 27 counties in England, Scotland and Wales in which we worked during the summer of 2010. Our level of involvement in planning applications ranges from providing mitigation advice, to writing ecology and ornithology chapters for Environmental Statements, undertaking Appropriate Assessments, and co-ordinating surveys with specialist sub-contractors and other consultancies.

WFE can provide Protected Species surveys for bats, great crested newts, breeding birds, reptiles, water voles, otters, badgers, natterjack toads and white-clawed crayfish.

We can also offer: arboricultural surveys; BREEAM and Code for Sustainable Homes assessments; Phase 1, Phase 2 and NVC habitat classification surveys; and, Site Management Plans and Biodiversity Enhancement Schemes.

If you would like further information about our services contact:  
[info@wildfrontier-ecology.co.uk](mailto:info@wildfrontier-ecology.co.uk)



## WFE CORPORATE DEVELOPMENT

■ As of 8<sup>th</sup> December, WFE is ISO:14001 accredited for environmental management. This benchmark certifies our environmental credentials, assuring our clients that our activities are carried out in accordance to appropriate environmental standards.

■ Our Cold Blow Farm offices have expanded in size to better accommodate seasonal staff and to host meetings and workshops.

■ This year WFE purchased two Wildlife Acoustics SongMeter SM2 bat detectors (pictured below) with accompanying Song Scope software. The SongMeter SM2 is an automated detector which fills the same niche as the Anabat detectors, but with some sensitivity advantages and a significantly lower price. This is a USA based product which has just started to expand into overseas markets this year. We have not been able to carry out a thorough comparison with our Anabat SD1s as of yet, but we are impressed with the construction of the SM2s and with Wildlife Acoustics' technical support.

■ WFE are looking to extend their range of competency through an association with a co-operative group of local arboriculturalists. Further details to be announced shortly.

■ Susie has obtained a NE great crested newt survey license and John has had his GCN license extended to cover 'take' and 'conservation'.

■ In November Kelly attended a marine mammal observer training course and is now a JNCC registered marine mammal observer. She is very keen to apply her new skills!



*SongMeter SM2 Bat detector*

■ Wild Frontier Ecology staff members have attended numerous other training courses and conferences in 2010 to expand their knowledge and skills including:

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|---|---|
| • Habitat Management for Reptiles                           | • Wildlife Pond Conservation                                      |
| • Non-native Plants (and Animals)                           | • BCT National Bat Conference 2010                                |
| • Ecology and Conservation of Bats                          | • Ecology, Surveying and Conservation of Otters                   |
| • Badger Ecology and Management                             | • Identification and Ecology of Grasses, Sedges and Rushes        |
| • Ecology, Survey and Conservation of White-clawed Crayfish | • Difficult Sonograms and Social Calls - Advanced Anabat Analysis |
| • Mammal Identification                                     | • Project Management  |

## INFO: ECOLOGICAL SURVEY SEASONS

To assist your project planning, we have put together an illustrative calendar of protected species surveys based on industry best practice guidance, this can be viewed on our website. Preliminary feasibility assessments for developments can be made throughout the year.

For more information on this and other issues visit our website [www.wildfrontier-ecology.co.uk](http://www.wildfrontier-ecology.co.uk)