



Dr CAROLINE CHAPMAN BSc(Hons), PhD, FCIEEM – Director

Summary CV

Caroline is an experienced specialist in the transposition, application, implementation and interpretation of, and compliance with, the Birds and Habitats Directives. She has also developed a specialist interest in air pollution effects on ecosystems. Caroline has a B.Sc. (Hons) degree in Biochemistry from the University of Bath and was awarded a Doctor of Philosophy degree in Environmental Plant Biochemistry by the University of Reading, in 1999. Caroline is an elected Fellow of the Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management, having been nominated by her peers in recognition of her significant contribution to the field.

Caroline began her working career as an Area Habitats Directive Coordinator with the Environment Agency Thames Region from 2000 to 2002. She then joined English Nature (now Natural England), as the Regional Review of Consents Officer coordinating Natural England's input to the Environment Agency's review of consents work for the Southern region under the provisions of the Habitats Regulations. This required the provision of technical and procedural advice and training to local staff, liaison between the Agency and Natural England at a regional level, and developing a command of the implementation and interpretation of EC Directives across a broad range of regulatory procedures and project types. During this time Caroline developed an increasing interest in the effects of air pollution on ecosystems and was a founder member of the Air Quality Technical Advisory Group (AQTAG).

In 2003 Caroline was promoted to a national role to project manage Natural England's input to the Environment Agency's review of consents project across England, and also to act as Senior Specialist for Natural England's air pollution interests. In this role Caroline liaised with the Environment Agency and Countryside Council for Wales (as they were then) at national level. She was responsible for relevant joint guidance; overseeing the development of procedural, technical and policy guidance to staff; advising on the requirements for assessments at individual sites; resolving difficult casework in consultation with appropriate specialists and local staff and the provision of support and management to the Regional Officers. The role also included supervision and steering of research programmes aimed at developing standards and assessment criteria appropriate to Habitats Regulations Assessments (HRA). Caroline was lead author of Natural England's guidance on the concept of site integrity, which is still used by staff today.

In her role of providing specialist advice on air pollution she was responsible for the promotion of air pollution policy both internally and externally with government departments and other agencies; development of policy and associated guidance and training to assist staff in areas of work affected by air pollution issues; provision of support to local staff and regional specialists on air pollution policy and casework; and representing the organisation on air pollution issues including membership of relevant groups. Caroline was a member of the original Steering Group to establish the the now widely used Air Pollution Information System website (www.apis.ac.uk).

Caroline joined David Tyldesley and Associates in November 2009 as Senior Specialist on the Habitats Directive. She was promoted to full Associate status in 2014. Whilst working at DTA she was involved in a broad range of commissions including the frequent provision of strategic and policy level advice to public bodies such as the statutory nature conservation bodies in England and Wales (through ongoing call-off contracts in place with these organisations), local planning authorities and other competent authorities. The scope of the work covered a range of activities from the assessment of Local Development plans, through port related development, to off shore wind farms. Caroline also advised on the application of the Habitats Regulations to airfields and has established a growing casework portfolio regarding the effects of residential development on SAC rivers.

Caroline is also co-Director of DTA Publications Limited, a company established in 2013 to produce and maintain the 'Habitats Regulations Assessment Handbook' (of which she is co-author) and associated 'Journal'. The Handbook for England and Wales and their territorial waters was published in September 2013 with updates being issued from June 2014. The Handbook includes a detailed methodology for the assessment of plans and projects, based on over 180 uniquely generated 'principles' drawn from statutory provisions, case law in Europe and the UK and other published guidance. Together with a growing list of consultancies, lawyers and practitioners, current subscribers include key decision makers such as Government, Natural England, Environment Agency, Natural Resources Wales, Marine Management Organisation, Planning Inspectorate and the Joint Nature Conservation Committee. At the 2014 Good Practice awards of the Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management, the Handbook won both categories in which it was entered, for '*Innovation*' and for '*Knowledge Sharing*'.

In April 2015 Caroline set up [DTA Ecology Ltd](#) to continue the work of David Tyldesley & Associates (DTA) after David Tyldesley took a decision to step back following 31 years of professional practice. DTA Ecology aims to build upon the reputation established by DTA and to continue to provide the high quality service that clients have come to expect from the DTA brand. **As a company policy DTA Ecology only accepts work from a public sector client base.** Since its inception DTA Ecology have been commissioned by an extensive number of public sector clients across the UK, advising on all aspects of the interpretation and application of the Habitats Regulations, including: The Welsh Government; The Department for Agriculture Environment and Rural Affairs (Northern Ireland); Natural England; Natural Resources Wales; The Marine Management Organisation; Marine Scotland; The Environment Agency, The Crown Estate; and a long list of local planning authorities. DTA Ecology also works closely with the Wildlife Trusts and National Park Authorities, with the public sector client base continuing to grow.

DTA Ecology continues to offer specialist advice in respect of the interface between air pollution and the application of the Habitats Regulations, and has developed a growing reputation in this complex area. Having been commissioned by Natural England to develop an approach to their advice to competent authorities on the assessment of road traffic emissions under the Habitats Regulations (2018), a DTA Ecology led consortium was subsequently awarded the contract to draft a decision making framework for the assessment of air quality related effects on habitats (2019). DTA Ecology is also closely involved in the provision of advice in respect of the effects of ammonia from agricultural activities and has been advising Government and statutory bodies in Northern Ireland on this sensitive issue since 2017.

Caroline provides bespoke training on the interpretation and application of the Habitats Regulations to an impressive range of public sector bodies across the UK (including Government Departments, Planning Inspectorate staff and numerous competent authorities) alongside the delivery of specialist Masterclasses on a range of topics relevant to HRA.