



PTS capability

In 2007 MKA Ecology recognised the value of having staff trained under the Personal Track Safety (PTS) certification scheme.

This programme allows our ecologists to apply their wide range of ecological skills within controlled Network Rail land. This is specialised work and complies with strict Health and Safety guidelines.



An example of a lineside environment

The most widespread ecological work in these areas are protected species scoping surveys. These are usually undertaken in response to planned engineering works or works affecting station buildings or other built structures along the line.

The most common protected species encountered in these situations are reptiles, bats, badgers and breeding birds. MKA offers a full service from original baseline surveys, through evaluation and impact assessment of the proposed development, to design, licensing and implementation of mitigation.

Case study: Hackbridge, Greater London

MKA Ecology was approached by the London Borough of Sutton in relation to the replacement of the road bridge adjacent to Hackbridge Railway Station.

We were commissioned to undertake an inspection survey of the bridge to identify the presence or absence of bats within the structure.



Bat Inspection survey of the railway bridge arch using a scaffolding tower

The survey involved a full “possession” of the track, supervised and controlled by an Engineering Supervisor (ES) and a Controller of Site Safety (COSS).

Meetings were held with Network Rail, the ES and site contractors before to the possession to define the method statement and ensure the works ran smoothly and efficiently.

In the event no bats were found during the survey, all gaps were excluded and the engineering works could proceed. With foresight and planning, ecological issues can usually be resolved without any unnecessary delay.