

PBANews



‘Building Back Better’

When the new bridge at Pooley Bridge is completed later this year it will permanently reconnect the local community, for the first time since the town’s old bridge was washed away by Storm Desmond in 2015. Cumbria County Council, working with an extensive project team, oversaw the installation of the £5m single span stainless steel bridge, which was lifted into place on 12th May. The original bridge, built in 1764, was one of more than 700 bridges in Cumbria to be damaged by the 2015 storm, which was said to be a 1-in-700-year event.

Located in an ecologically sensitive place with multiple conservation designations, we are proud to have provided ecological & environmental support, from project concept through to final completion. This complex project called upon a wide range of PBA’s in-house services, including baseline surveys, environmental permitting, protected species licensing, environmental management, construction monitoring and mitigation. The new single span bridge will better allow future storm flows to pass.

At Pooley, we have helped build the bridge ‘back better’. Here at PBA we are also working to build our business ‘back better’. With funding support from Leeds City Region Enterprise Partnership, our new AV suite will be a valued legacy of the pandemic. Soon to be connected to the World’s fastest rural broadband network, this new facility is already enabling more productive communication with our business community. Our brand new [website](#) was also launched, just before the Covid-19 lockdown.

Covid-19 response

As a business, we rapidly responded to this unprecedented challenge, issuing the first edition of our Covid-19 Biosecurity & Business Continuity Plan on 6th March. Now a common expectation of all UK employers, PBA’s first Covid-19 Health Risk Assessment was issued on 24th March, well-ahead of the curve. Please take a look at our [website](#) for the latest edition.

Applying our long experience of biosecurity management in the natural world and working from a rural based HQ in the Yorkshire Dales, we have been well-placed to continue to service our clients’ needs throughout the pandemic. The full team returned to ‘Covid-secure’ office-based working on 29th June. To enable a high level of social distancing at work, we have almost doubled our office space. Currently working as a ‘PBA bubble’, we are now busy helping our clients deliver projects into the autumn and winter period.

Consistent with our core values, we were very keen to support our local community through the initial Covid lockdown period. Together with our good friends at Ye Olde Naked Man Bakery and Drake & Macefield Family Butchers, we were able to assist those in need of help at this very difficult time. Two of PBA’s vans were re-purposed to provide grocery deliveries to local households. Driven by volunteers from PBA’s workforce, and at no cost to either the suppliers or customers, we are proud to have made over 750 grocery deliveries during April, May and June.



Accreditations

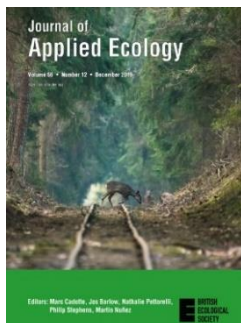
Our recently reaffirmed Acclaim accreditation supports the objectives of SSIP (Safety Schemes In Procurement) to improve health and safety standards across the UK and reduce duplication of paperwork in procurement. PBA also continues to maintain CHAS health & safety accreditation. With our Gold-level Constructionline accreditation, we can respond to requests for information on Builders Profile.



We continue to maintain and further develop our portfolio of targeted businesses accreditations, which together help our clients to reduce the costs of administering, improving & maintaining supply chain compliance & PQQ information.

Congratulations

We are very pleased that our career pathway student is going to read Biology at Oxford University this autumn – we wish him an enjoyable first year and look forward to welcoming Matt back next summer for his placement with us.



Congratulations to Dan, Eleri, Paul & Lawrence whose new paper on invasive signal crayfish is being published in the Journal of Applied Ecology on 13 October 2020. This important research work is highly relevant to everyone working in British rivers.

Contact PBA

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10 Years in the Dales



On 20th August, we celebrated the 10th anniversary of the opening of our first office in Settle with a ‘Covid-19 secure’ barbeque for our ‘PBA bubble’ – an opportunity to relax and recognise a decade of continued achievement. Since opening in Settle, PBA has grown to become one of the UK’s most capable providers of specialist ecology and environmental services.

Ten years on, we still maintain our core founding values; we remain as passionate as ever about providing high-quality services, enabling our people to succeed, and supporting our business community. With an ever-increasing number of clients providing repeat business and referrals, PBA’s reputation continues to grow. Long term relationships alongside the commencement of public and private sector frameworks provide the soundest possible foundations for another ten years of success.



Leaving the EU - legal update

The UK exited the EU on 31 January with the transition period ending on 31 December 2020. In leaving the EU, the UK government has committed to maintaining environmental standards, and to continue to uphold international obligations. This commitment has also been mirrored by the devolved administrations. Hence, all European protected sites and species retain the same level of protection. The environmental assessment regimes that inform planning decisions (SEA/EIA/HRA) continue to apply post EU exit. All permits and licenses issued by UK regulatory bodies continue to apply. Also, the legal framework for enforcing environmental regulations through regulatory bodies and the courts remains unaffected.

This is also a good time to be aware of domestic environmental legislation that underpins most enforcement by regulators. For example, under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended), a person commits an offence if he intentionally or recklessly disturbs bats while occupying a structure or place that is used for shelter or protection, or obstructs access to any such place. Similarly, the Salmon & Freshwater Fisheries Act 1975 makes it an offence to knowingly permit the flow of poisonous matter and polluting effluents into river courses, or to create obstructions to the passage of fish.

We would be happy to help answer any questions on environmental law as the UK prepares to exit from the European Union – do contact us.