Leslie joins NERC Council

In August 2015 the Managing Director and a Principal Consultant of MJCA, Leslie Heasman, stepped into her new appointment as a member of the Council of the Natural Environment Research Council (NERC).   Leslie is passionate about science and the role that good science has to play in informing us about how we can interact with and benefit from the environment without affecting it detrimentally. NERC was created in 1965 when a number of environmental research organisations and surveys were brought together by Royal Charter and has been celebrating its 50th anniversary this year. The vision of NERC is to place environmental science at the heart of responsible management of our planet. NERC science has a critical role to play in carrying out and sharing the outputs from world class science to help the UK deliver innovation and growth with responsible environmental management. The NERC Charter sets out its responsibliities which are:

•*to promote and support, by any means, high-quality basic, strategic and applied research, survey, long-term environmental observation and monitoring and related post-graduate training in environmental and related sciences*

•*to advance knowledge and technology ... and to provide services and trained scientists and engineers which meet the needs of users and beneficiaries ... thereby contributing to the economic competitiveness of the UK, the effectiveness of public services and policy and the quality of life*

•*and to generate public awareness, communicate research outcomes, encourage public engagement and dialogue, disseminate knowledge and provide advice in relation to those activities.*

Leslie is delighted to join the NERC Council and to be able to contribute to the work of the organisation, the knowledge generated by which she has used as a reference source throughout her career to date. NERC publish an excellent quarterly online magazine which summarises some of the work NERC is carrying out:

http://www.nerc.ac.uk/latest/publications/planetearth/