


**First Ecology (S.W.T. (Sales) Limited)**

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Date of issue: 26<sup>th</sup> February 2024Date of expiry: 27<sup>th</sup> March 2024
**Streamside Residents Group, Bishops Lydeard, Somerset, TA4 3NY, ST 17216 29106.**

We operate on a commercial basis to raise unrestricted funds for works undertaken by Somerset Wildlife Trust. Somerset Wildlife Trust is science-led and focused on restoring habitats to support a wide range of wildlife and restoring natural processes that are essential for healthy landscapes and provide vital services such as clean air and water, food, carbon absorption and flood alleviation.

**Fee schedule**

Task	Code	Description	Fee ex VAT
1	GM1	Desk study	£555.00
2	HC1	Local environmental records centre (LERC) search	£210.00
3	GN1	Biodiversity baseline survey <sup>1,2</sup>	£970.00
4	GO1	Biodiversity Enhancement Strategy <sup>3</sup>	£1,795.00

**Timescales**

<sup>1</sup> The survey will be carried out in the main botanical season May to September to ensure that habitats are accurately classified.

<sup>2</sup> The biodiversity baseline survey will include a broad assessment of the stream but will not include a detailed condition assessment of the stream. This service can be provided and would be quoted separately. <sup>3</sup> To complete the Biodiversity Enhancement Strategy task 3 will be required.

Timescales will be confirmed on commission.

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## Site location

**Figure 1.** Site location and survey area.



### 1. Desk study

We will collate information to underpin our land management advice. This will allow us to ensure that the local context of your land and published local nature strategies are considered.

We will search for openly accessible published data on:

- Ecological networks.
- Statutory designated sites.

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- Landscape character and designations
- Ancient woodland inventory sites.
- Habitats of principal importance.
- Soil type, geology and topology.
- Archaeological features.
- Existing management prescriptions.
- Land tenure and public access.
- Local climatic conditions.
- Flood risk zones.
- Any previous relevant reports will be reviewed for site specific statutory and non-statutory designated site information.

On completion of the desk study, you will be provided with an email summary of the findings. We will also arrange a consultation with you to discuss the desk study findings and to talk about your aspirations and possible next steps for your project.

## **2. Local environmental records centre (LERC) search**

There is an additional option to commission a data search from the LERC. These searches include additional information which is not available in the public domain. This information will be used in combination with the desk study to collect information on the context of your land and to inform our advice.

The LERC will be commissioned to conduct a search for statutory and non-statutory designated sites of conservation importance, legally protected species, species of principal importance and protected species consultation zones within 500m of your land.

On completion of the LERC search you will be sent a copy of the data search information for your records.

## **3. Biodiversity baseline survey**

We will carry out a survey of the owned and controlled land which you would like to be assessed. The survey will involve:

- Identifying dominant habitat types (to include hedgerows) present on site in accordance with the statutory biodiversity metric classifications.
- Broadly classifying the stream to include noting bankside vegetation, channel vegetation (where visible from the bank), and overall indicators of river type and health.
- Identifying irreplaceable habitats.
- Noting a representative sample of botanical species present per habitat type and estimating abundance.
- Recording the area and mapping the locations of habitats to the most appropriate minimum mapping unit for site size.
- Where seasonal and/or botanical conditions allow, recording habitat and hedgerow condition scores in line with the statutory biodiversity metric, to describe the quality of the habitat present.
- Recording incidental sightings and/or evidence of protected and notable animal species.
- Recording incidental sightings of dominant, notable and invasive, non-native plant species.
- Recording incidental sightings of features of ecological value (e.g. bird nest sites, bat roost features, compost heaps).

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On completion of the biodiversity baseline survey, we will produce a plan of your landholding and will have a one-hour consultation with you to present the results. During this meeting we will also discuss the possible next steps for enhancement of the site and will agree a range of suitable measures to be taken forwards for presentation in the Biodiversity Enhancement Strategy (BES).

#### **4. Biodiversity enhancement strategy**

On completion of the biodiversity baseline survey a Biodiversity Enhancement Strategy (BES) will be prepared to include:

- An introduction outlining the background to the works, site descriptions and remit and scope of the report.
- A section outlining relevant legislation and biodiversity initiatives.
- A chapter detailing the status of biodiversity across the site including the desk study findings where available and site survey results.
- A representative botanical species list per habitat type with estimated abundance.
- A section outlining opportunities for enhancement and any agreed management measures to be taken to enhance the site.
- Outline specifications for any agreed management measures.
- A section outlining any recommendations for further survey work (where applicable).
- Plans showing the site boundary, survey locations, designated site locations and the habitat types recorded for the site.

#### **Information requested**

For First Ecology to complete the works the following information will be required:

- Site access.
- Project timescales.
- A detailed plan showing the existing layout of the site in pdf.
- Previous relevant reports and correspondence.
- Team details.

If information is not available immediately, or is updated over the course of the project, new information should be sent to First Ecology at the first available opportunity.

#### **Project team**

First Ecology delivers high quality professional ecological consultancy services within agreed timeframes and budgets to achieve desired project outcomes. Our team provide a full range of ecological survey, appraisal, and advisory services to clients, largely in respect to planning, construction and conservation works. Clients range from householders to housing developers, architects, planners, aggregates, utilities, charities, and public sector clients.

Our ecologists are committed to supporting clients to realise and achieve desired project outcomes from concept to completion. From initial and ongoing discussions, we adapt our approach to accommodate site related factors and project team priorities. We use standard and bespoke-specialist survey techniques to collect accurate and reliable data which is interpreted by our expert ecologists to inform project objectives.

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Where impacts are anticipated, a strategy is prepared to achieve necessary consents based on known local planning and statutory authority requirements.

First Ecology will ensure that the most appropriate staff are allocated to the project based on the skills necessary to deliver the requirements of this commission and the expertise and experience of undertaking similar commissions. In line with our ISO 9001:2008 Quality Management system, all activities will be led by a nominated project lead. Full CVs of personnel and all staff involved with the project are available on request.

### Insurance

First Ecology ((SWT (Sales) Ltd) carries full insurance for Professional Indemnity (£2M), Public Liability (£10M), Products Liability (£10M) and Employers Liability (£10M). Full details and copies of documents are available on request.

### Standard terms and conditions

Instruction of our proposal confirms acceptance of our standard terms and conditions which are available on the First Ecology website.

### Acceptance

### Project:

To instruct the works at the fees outlined in this proposal, please complete the details below, noting that instruction confirms acceptance of First Ecology's standard terms and conditions (available at [www.firstecology.co.uk](http://www.firstecology.co.uk)). Invoices will be emailed unless advised to the contrary.

Please delete "Yes/No" as applicable, if neither "Yes" or "No" is deleted, it will be understood that this item has been instructed.			
Task	Code	Description	Confirm
1	GM1	Desk study	Yes/No
2	HC1	Local environmental records centre (LERC) search	Yes/No
3	GN1	Biodiversity baseline survey <sup>1,2</sup>	Yes/No
4	GO1	Biodiversity Enhancement Strategy <sup>3</sup>	Yes/No
Bill payer invoicing details			
Invoice for the attention of:			
Postage address:			
Email address(es) for issuing invoice:			
Finance department/bill payer contact telephone number:			
Purchase order number or reference to be stated:			

If you require any further information, please do not hesitate to get in touch.

Kind regards

*First Ecology*

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