

CAPABILITY STATEMENT



Working with the Public Sector

BSG Ecology provides a range of services in support of development management and strategic planning for the public. These include a flexible/tailored ecological survey and advice service for Local Authorities and other public bodies with regard to their land / property, and support in relation to other biodiversity duties such as Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA), wildlife site selection and site management.

Overview

BSG Ecology provides a flexible and tailored ecological survey and advisory service for Local Authorities and other public bodies with regard to their land / property, and support in relation to other biodiversity duties such as Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA), wildlife site selection and site management.

We have established long term relationships and are on the approved supplier lists for a number of public bodies, and are also working with Faithful & Gould to provide specialist sub-consultancy services to public sector clients under the national SCAPE framework.

Ecology Services to Support Policy and Planning

We provide a range of ecology services in support of development control and strategic planning services. These include development control advice (including minerals and waste), ecological appraisal of planning applications, independent technical review of ecology chapters in Environmental Statements, interpretation of the relevant country national planning policy (including the NPPF, Planning Policy Wales and Scottish Planning Policy), and accompanying guidance.

We regularly provide and interpret information to assist public bodies in carrying out Habitats Regulations Assessments, in their role as competent authorities, as required under The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010 (as amended).

We provide ecological input to emerging local planning policy and plans, including site survey allocation recommendations, identification of site restoration, management requirements and representation at Examinations in Public (EIP) for plans.

BSG Ecology has developed significant experience in providing the role of Ecology Expert Witness representation at public inquiries, planning hearings and EIP.

Scope of Public Sector Ecology Support

Our team works with and across a range of technical disciplines. We offer a flexible service that can be tailored to meet specific needs and budgets, which may range from the provision of one-off assistance to more regular inputs.

Examples of services we provide include:

- Provision of expert ecological support and review inputs;
- Provision of regular suitably experienced staff support to cover local authority staff absences so that continuity in their ecology service is maintained;
- Provision of ecological survey and reporting associated with the renovation or development of local authority land, built assets and infrastructure projects both under SCAPE and directly with local authorities;
- Preparation of screening templates for protected species to assist non-ecologist staff to carry out basic ecological site appraisals;
- Preparation of biodiversity checklists tailored to local authority areas and local Biodiversity Action Plans;
- Preparation and delivery of bespoke training on key issues;
- Guidance on the on the consideration of impacts on protected areas and sites;
- Development and application of non-statutory wildlife site selection criteria and policies;
- Provision of a comprehensive suite of ecological surveys for habitats and species including support to the local development planning process;
- Biodiversity research for government, SNCOs and local authorities;
- Preparation of Biodiversity Action Plans, Biodiversity Implementation and Monitoring Plans for Local Authorities and Biodiversity Forums; and
- Conservation management plans for nature reserves.