

Proposal Number 661

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● www.EssexEcology.co.uk

This proposal seeks support for the implementation of a comprehensive ecological survey designed to establish a robust baseline understanding of the biodiversity and ecological integrity of the designated study area. The survey will systematically document species composition, abundance, and distribution across multiple groups, while concurrently assessing habitat quality, ecological processes, and key environmental drivers.

The primary objectives are to:

1. Generate high-quality ecological data to inform conservation and land management planning.
2. Evaluate habitat conditions and identify priority areas for protection, restoration, or enhancement.
3. Detect and assess potential ecological threats, including habitat fragmentation, invasive species, and anthropogenic pressures.
4. Provide science-based recommendations that support evidence-driven decision-making.

Methodologically, the project will employ standardised field survey techniques, remote sensing tools, and spatial analysis (GIS), ensuring data accuracy, reproducibility, and comparability with regional and national biodiversity monitoring frameworks.

Stakeholder engagement will be incorporated throughout the project, facilitating knowledge exchange and fostering collaborative stewardship of ecological resources.

The anticipated outcomes of this survey include a detailed ecological preliminary assessment, the identification of conservation priorities, and a suite of practical recommendations to guide sustainable land-use planning and biodiversity management. Ultimately, the project will contribute to the preservation of ecosystem functions, the protection of species of conservation concern, and the long-term resilience of natural systems within the study area.

Proposal for Gallows Green

Thank you for inviting Essex Ecological Services (EECOS), part of the Essex Wildlife Trust, to submit a proposal to undertake a series of habitat and species surveys at Gallows Green, Aldham.

Gallows Green is made up of a mosaic of peripheral grassland and dense central scrub and trees alongside ponds in varying stages of drying up, interspersed with some public footpaths.

The site is currently structurally diverse and seems in pretty good shape for wildlife so any management would be localised, targeted and gradual to support long term maintenance of existing habitats.

The surveys can be undertaken as a whole or in part as funding becomes available.

We recommend A preliminary ecological survey (PEA) is carried out to establish the current habitat condition. An early-stage environmental assessment carried out to identify and record the habitats, species, and ecological features present (or potentially present) on a site, which, in this case, will then inform any rewilding and management plans.

More detailed species surveys should then include:

- Breeding bird survey
- Great Crested Newt eDNA survey
- Reptiles
- Badger survey
- Bat Preliminary Roost Assessment
- Botanical assessment

The outcome from these surveys will be the forming of a practical habitat management and monitoring plan.

Preliminary Ecological Survey

The survey is split into two main parts:

1. **Desk study** – Gathering existing information about the site and surrounding area, such as maps, aerial imagery, local biodiversity records, and designations like protected sites or species.
2. **Walkover survey** – Visiting the site to map habitats, note obvious signs of protected species, and identify any ecological constraints or opportunities.

Preliminary Ecology Assessment

Desk Study and Data Search

To understand the wildlife context of the land and surrounding areas. This will involve consulting open-source web-based data to evaluate any information relating to habitats and any other features of nature conservation interest. Essex Field Club will also be contacted and asked to provide any relevant records relating to protected / notable species occurring on or close to the site.

0.5 day £312.50

Essex Field Club record search and data request

£210.00

Site Visit and Walkover Survey

1.0 day £625.00

Site Visit To include:

- UK Habs survey and condition assessment.
- Records will be made of any species observed during the site visit.
(If species are identified at this stage, we would recommend further surveys as detailed within the purpose section of this proposal).

Report and mapping

2.0 day £1250.00

Production of a detailed report, with mapping of habitats within the red line boundary

Administration / Project Management

£75.00

£2472.50

VAT @ 20%

£494.50

Total

£2,967.00

Species Surveys

	visits	hours	price per hour	total
Breeding Birds				
April to June	3	3	£80.00	£720.00
Report		7.5	£80.00	£600.00
				£1,320.00
			VAT @: 20%	£264.00
				£1,584.00
Great Crested Newts				
May to June	1	1	£80.00	£80.00
eDNA kits	2		£320.00	£640.00
Report		4	£80.00	£320.00
				£960.00
			VAT @: 20%	£192.00
				£1,152.00
Reptiles				
April to June	8	2	£80.00	£1,280.00
Report		7.5	£80.00	£600.00
				£1,880.00
			VAT @: 20%	£376.00
				£2,256.00
Badgers				
Year round	1	2	£80.00	£160.00
Report		4	£80.00	£320.00
				£480.00
			VAT @: 20%	£96.00
				£576.00
Bats				
Preliminary Roost Assessment	1	7.5	£80.00	£600.00
Report		7.5	£80.00	£600.00
				£1,200.00
			VAT @: 20%	£240.00
				£1,440.00