

# Wychwood Biodiversity Limited



## Summary of Services 2022



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#### About Wychwood Biodiversity

Wychwood Biodiversity works with land owners and managers to improve biodiversity on their land. Our team of ecologists is passionate about biodiversity and our core strengths lie in habitat creation and management. Our specialty is renewable energy sites, but we work with all land uses.

We've developed a range of services to support organisations at all stages of the project cycle, from pre-planning through to the long-term management of sites. We offer convenient and effective means to improve biodiversity, from a single site to your entire portfolio.

We offer **technical services** including input to planning applications, development of management plans and monitoring. Our **corporate services** help businesses to develop biodiversity policies and strategies. Our **supporting services** include staff training, education, scientific research and marketing. These are detailed below.

#### Our services

1. Wychwood's **technical services** include the following:
  - **Planning:** we provide a full range of ecological surveys and reports in support of planning applications, enabling developers to meet and exceed the policy requirements of the NPPF and the new biodiversity net gain targets.
  - **Compliance:** we assess sites according to their planning conditions. First, we review a site's planning literature and develop a checklist against which the site is assessed through a site visit. We then provide a summary 1-page report highlighting problems and opportunities, and a roadmap for resolving outstanding issues.
  - **Biodiversity management plans (BMPs):** We identify existing biodiversity value and the opportunities for improvement. We recommend habitats and species suitable for the site and crucially, a step-by-step guide on how to establish and manage them going forwards. We use annotated maps as the most effective means of communicating with stakeholders. Our BMPs include detailed cost estimates and timelines for the work.
  - **Implementation:** we undertake habitat creation work, from wild flower meadows to hedgerows to ponds and wetlands. Sometimes we partner with trusted landscape managers where specialist equipment is needed.
  - **Surveys and monitoring:** Wychwood's team is experienced in surveying protected and high value species groups including botany, birds, amphibians, reptiles, selected invertebrates and mammals, including bats. We have developed systems of wildlife monitoring for renewable energy sites and are able to tailor monitoring depending on the company's needs, from simple walk-over surveys and fixed-point photo surveys to systematic wildlife surveys. We can assess ecosystem services and natural capital using the latest tools.

2. Our **corporate services** are as follows:

- We can help you develop a **policy on biodiversity** for your organisation. This can be a short aspirational statement which lays out what the organisation aims to achieve in broad terms, or a more technical framework from which specific targets can be developed. As a starting point we recommend several short workshops with senior management and representatives from different levels of the organisation to help identify what the key drivers for biodiversity are. These are then drafted into key points, to be reviewed and agreed before a full policy statement is drafted. From this point it is straightforward to develop strategy and procedures.

3. Our **supporting services** include the following:

- **Training** and building in-house capacity: Developing a biodiversity policy often necessitates some awareness-raising within the organisation. We can help build your team's understanding of biodiversity and biodiversity management through more formal presentations and workshops in the office and less formal team-building activities on site.
- **Research:** We work with several UK Universities to pursue research questions, drawing upon PhD and MSc studentships and academic internships. Currently we're working with the Lancaster University team to develop SPIES (Solar Park Impacts on Ecosystem Services) - a decision support tool for solar farm management. We are pursuing a range of research questions on natural capital, including how a solar farm influences soil carbon, pollination and water cycling, amongst many others.
- **Education:** we are not education specialists, but we work with several excellent service providers who have solar farm-based activities for school children that fit into the National Curriculum. We are able to support educational visits with activities such as building bug hotels or undertaking wildlife surveys.
- **Marketing:** We are accomplished photographers and recognise the value of strong imagery. We will be happy to share good quality photographs and videos of the work we undertake as well as short blogs or PR pieces for corporate literature.



## Summary of services

The below table summarises our main services for each activity.

Service	Activity	Description	Deliverable
Technical services	Planning support	Full range of biodiversity surveys and reports, liaison with LPAs	Ecological Assessments, EIAs, LEMP documents
	Compliance assessment	Assessment against biodiversity-related planning conditions	Compliance summary report (spreadsheet and 1-page summary)
	Biodiversity opportunities assessment	Site walkover to ID existing biodiversity and opportunities	1-page summary report
	Biodiversity Management Plan (BMP)	Development of a BMP including implementation, seed specifications, management activities and estimated costs	10-page report and annotated map
	Implementation	Habitat creation, including land preparation, seeding / planting and management activities for 2 years	Creation / management of BMP habitats
	Surveys and monitoring	Monitoring and tracking biodiversity using scientific methodology and indicator species	10-page summary report
		Monitoring biodiversity through simple site walk-over	1-page summary report and photos
Corporate services	Biodiversity policy	Development of corporate policy, usually including workshops with senior management and representatives from all levels of the organisation	Draft policy document (usually 2-8 pages), with option to develop strategy and procedures
Supporting services	Research	Collaboration with University partners to share data and address key questions	PhD theses; scientific papers
	Training and in-house capacity	Formal presentations to management	Presentation
		Team builds with management on-site	Team build day
	Education	Support to education site visits	Site-based activities
	Marketing	Provision of photos and text	Good quality photos and PR pieces

Visit us at [www.wychwoodbiodiversity.co.uk](http://www.wychwoodbiodiversity.co.uk) for further information. We look forward to hearing from you.