



**Consultancy
Services**

KWT Consultancy Services COVID-19 Statement

KWT Consultancy Services is an ecological consultancy providing advice to our clients and undertaking field surveys.

We take the health and wellbeing of our team and our clients very seriously. That is why we are closely following the advice and guidance of the Government, NHS and Public Health England, supplemented by guidance provided by CIEEM and doing everything we can to protect our colleagues, our customers and stop the spread of this virus.

KWT Consultancy Services has procedures in place for our employees in relation to Covid-19, this includes with utmost importance, communication procedures with our clients. This procedure conforms with Kent Wildlife Trust's evolving Covid-19 protocol, which in turn follows Public Health England guidance.

KWT Consultancy Services is following CIEEM guidance that some site-based ecological work can still be undertaken, but should only be done so where necessary and where there is no clear risk to the ecologists, other workers or the wider public.

We have adopted a Dynamic Risk Assessment approach, making a judgement call on a site-by-site and survey-by-survey basis as to whether a site visit is necessary at this time or whether it can be postponed and whether it can be undertaken in compliance with current government requirements.

We are maintaining close contact with our clients, providing regular updates with regards to the status of ongoing ecological survey work and outlining the implications of any further restrictions that may be imposed on movements. As you will understand this is an evolving situation, and our current approach to survey work may be subject to change at short notice.

We follow the guidance on common symptoms of coronavirus (COVID-19), however mild and advise staff on best practice at work and on site including biodiversity security to reduce the spread of any form of COVID-19.

If you wish to discuss additional measures we are adopting to protect our team and our clients, or if you have any queries about how this may affect work on your site, please do not hesitate to get in touch either with your direct contact or with Vincent Ganley, Managing Director. Tel: 01622 357840 / 07464749503. E: Vincent.ganley@kentwildlife.org.uk

Specific Information on the protective measures we have adopted is outlined overleaf.

KWT Consultancy Services. COVID-19: Protective measures currently in place

Minimise spread of disease

- No surveyors will be undertaking any surveys in any locations where long-distance travel or overnight accommodation would be required.
- Where surveys require more than one person, wherever possible the same surveyors will be kept working as part of the same team on the same surveys. Minimising mixing of survey staff will help to control the spread of the virus should a team member be affected (see also social distancing).
- All surveyors have disposable gloves and hand sanitizers and these will be used regularly in all appropriate situations e.g. for use at petrol stations, and when using cash point machines.
- All surveyors will maintain good hand washing hygiene. This is of paramount importance, especially when eating.
- All surveyors will carry sufficient food and drink during survey work.
- All surveyors will use their own set of field survey equipment and will not share with others.
- All equipment used will be washed between surveys in accordance with current KWT Consultancy Services biosecurity protocol.
- All payments for goods (e.g. at petrol stations / in shops) will be made by card (preferably contactless) avoiding handling cash.

Employ social distancing techniques

- All staff will travel to site in their own vehicles. There will be no car sharing.
- Staff will avoid all face-to-face meetings where possible. KWT Consultancy Services has put in place video conferencing facilities to enable contact with clients.
- Any staff member coming into contact with a client, contractor or member of the public will maintain a safe distance of at least 2m.

Other Issues

- Client contact. Some sites / clients have their own risk assessments / sign in procedures. In these instances staff will maintain regular contact with the client to establish ongoing permission to go on site and whether there are any variations to normal access procedure that need to be followed.
- In the event that KWT Consultancy Services policy diverges with industry advice, e.g. the client advocates a continuation or manner of work that would be in contravention of latest KWT / KWT Consultancy Services guidance then KWT / KWT Consultancy Services guidance will take precedence and surveyors will stop work and inform the client.
- If a member of the survey team becomes infected, and they have come into contact with a clients, Public Health England advice will be followed. KWT Consultancy Services will notify the client so appropriate measures can be actioned.