



FIRST ECOLOGY STATEMENT – CORONAVIRUS

First Ecology is an ecological consultancy which employs professional ecologists and arboriculturists to advise on development and conservation projects across the UK.

Office and site attendance is an essential and unavoidable aspect of business operations and can involve travelling in personal vehicles to complete work during social and unsocial hours. Therefore, in accordance with [government guidelines](#) and exemptions we are “travelling for work purposes, but only where you cannot work from home”.

First Ecology staff are now based from home. Employees who are required to make site visits are following Public Health England guidelines, the Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management (CIEEM) advice, and First Ecology risk assessments and method statements; which include maintaining a 2m distance from others, and hand washing with soap and water often for at least 20 seconds.

Before any site visit, all First Ecology staff assess the need for leaving home against agreed criteria as set out below taking the precautionary principle that a site visit or survey is not necessary at this time unless there are imperative reasons as to why it needs to take place now.

Question 1:

Are you in one of these ‘at risk’ groups: are you pregnant, do you have an existing health condition or weakened immune system, or are you over the age of 70?

If YES to any: You must not under any circumstances undertake the site visit.

Question 2:

Does the site visit involve essential health and safety checks and/or maintenance works that cannot be postponed and have been agreed with your employer?

Question 3:

Does the work involve a business-critical site visit that cannot be postponed and has this been agreed with your employer and client?

Must answer yes to either question 2 or 3.

Question 4:

Do you have a written letter of authorisation from your employer/client explaining the nature of your site visit and the reason why it is deemed critical?

Must be able to answer yes.

Question 5:

Have you incorporated social distance requirements into your work plan and risk assessment?

Must be able to answer yes.