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Project Name:
Bathing Waters Improvement Programme

Client:
South West Water

Commencement: June 2013

Keywords: Preliminary Ecological Assessment, Phase 1 habitat survey, Protected species survey, invasive non-native species survey, mitigation strategies



Summary:

Tamar Ecology (then Tamar Consulting) was commissioned by South West Water (SWW) Ltd to undertake ecological surveys and impact assessments at a suite of sites throughout Cornwall, Devon and Dorset. The surveys were required to inform a fast and high-pressure programme of improvement works driven by the European Union revised Bathing Waters Directive. Investment by SWW continues the long term transformation of bathing water quality in the South West. The programme includes increasing storage tank capacity, upsizing sewers and surface water separation.

Sites included a wide variety of habitats, including coastal, farmland, woodland, riverine and urban habitats. Tamar Ecology undertook extended Phase 1 habitat surveys and ecological walkovers across the various sites and provided ecological support for the proposed engineering works required for each scheme. This included providing advice relating to designated sites, protected species, invasive non-native species and appropriate mitigation. Due to the pace of the programme a fast turnaround was required alongside flexibility as sites were added and dropped from the scheme, and engineering solutions were amended to adapt to a wide range of site constraints.