Dear <Salutation>

I am a qualified bird ringer[[1]](#endnote-1) with the British & Irish Ringing Scheme which is run by the British Trust for Ornithology (BTO) based in Thetford, Norfolk. Bird ringing is an important conservation tool, helping scientists to understand the reasons behind population changes by monitoring the survival of birds and studying both long distance and local movements. At a site level, bird ringing can provide information about what species occur on a site, when they are present and how they use the site (to breed, on passage, to feed and so on).

I live in <XXX> and am looking for a local site on which to undertake some ringing. I recently spotted your premises on Bing Maps[[2]](#endnote-2) and wondered whether you would be willing to let me visit to see whether it has potential as a ringing site?

There are a number of techniques for catching birds, but I am looking for a site to use mist nets; fine mesh nets attached to poles, placed in gaps between vegetation[[3]](#endnote-3). Bird ringing is usually most productive when carried out early in the morning. If the site does have potential, and you are willing to allow me to ring there, I would most likely be looking to ring on weekend mornings (probably starting at around 6 am)[[4]](#endnote-4). I will be more than happy to provide you with regular updates as to what I catch on site if you would like me to, and a more formal written report on an annual basis (or more regularly if required) if this would be of interest.

More information about the BTO ringing scheme, including a detailed explanation of why we ring birds, can be found on the BTO website ([www.bto.org/ringing](http://www.bto.org/ringing)).

If you would like to discuss this before making a decision, I can be contacted on <XXX> or via the above email address.

I look forward to hearing from you.

1. You may wish to include how long you have been ringing for or how many birds you have ringed. [↑](#endnote-ref-1)
2. Alter as appropriate – Google maps, OS map of the area, seen whilst driving past etc. [↑](#endnote-ref-2)
3. You may wish to talk about different catching techniques (if others are likely to be used) and discuss the potential for undertaking habitat management if this is likely to be required (particularly if you are considering a CES on site). You may also want to make it clear that you have your own equipment and are not looking for the landowner to provide you with money for equipment. [↑](#endnote-ref-3)
4. Particularly worth including if you are asking to ring on a business premises (in case weekend access is not available) or if you are looking to ring at someone’s home who is not familiar with the potential unsociable hours associated with ringing. You may also want to reassure a landowner that you are proficient at dealing with members of the public if the site has public access.

   Some of these issues may be better discussed in person when you meet a potential landowner. [↑](#endnote-ref-4)