

Surveys not possible

Limited survey period

Optimal survey period

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Habitats/ Vegetation	Phase I (sub-optimal) No other detailed plant surveys Mosses and lichens only			Detailed habitat assessment surveys National Vegetation Classification Surveys for higher plants and ferns Mosses and lichens in April, May and September only						Phase I (sub-optimal) No other detailed plant surveys Mosses and lichens only		
Badgers	Limited sett/bait surveys	Limited Activity			Limited bait marking and sett surveys				Sett surveys			Limited sett/bait surveys
Bats	Inspection of hibernation, tree and building roosts			Limited Activity	Summer roost emergence and activity surveys (Maternity roosts start to form in May, females give birth in June, Mating starts in September)					Limited Activity	Inspection of hibernation, tree and building roosts	
	Note: Potential roost and internal inspection surveys are possible all year round. Trees are best surveyed in winter.											
Birds	Winter species		Breeding birds/migrants species		Breeding birds		Low activity		Migrant species		Winter species	
Dormice	Gnawed hazelnut search (sub-optimal)		Nest tube / cage trap survey from April to November Nest searches (optimum time September to March)					Gnawed hazelnut search (optimum November to December)				
Great Crested Newts	Newts hibernating		Pond surveys for adults / Terrestrial surveys / Egg surveys April to mid-June / Larvae surveys from mid-May				Terrestrial habitat and larvae surveys		Terrestrial habitat survey		Newts hibernating	
Freshwater Pearl Mussel	Surveys not possible			Optimal survey period							Surveys not possible	
Fish	For coastal, river and stream dwelling species, the timing of the surveys will depend on the migration pattern of the species concerned. Where surveys require information on breeding, the timing of surveys will need to coincide with the breeding period, which may be summer or winter months, depending on the											
Natterjack Toad	Hibernating			Surveys of breeding ponds for adults. Surveys for tadpoles from May onwards Surveys for adults on land.					Surveys for adults on land		Hibernating	
Otters	Limited by vegetation cover and weather conditions rather than seasons											
Pine Martins	Surveys may be conducted all year round weather permitting. Optimum time is spring and summer. Surveys for breeding dens from March to May.											
Red Squirrel	Surveys may be conducted all year round weather permitting. Optimum time is spring and summer. Surveys for breeding females from December to September.											
Reptiles	Reptiles hibernating		Peak survey months are April and May			Reduced basking time reduces effectiveness of refugia survey		Peak survey month	Limited activity	Reptiles hibernating		
Water Voles	Low activity	Initial habitat survey	Habitat and field signs / activity surveys May be limited by vegetation cover and weather							Initial habitat survey	Low activity	
White-clawed Crayfish	Reduced activity			Searching Torching Trapping	Breeding torchlight survey only (no handling due to females releasing their young)		Substrate search by hand Torchlight and trapping surveys				Reduced activity	

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Note: This survey calendar should be used as a reference guide only with advice being sought from a qualified ecologist as site and project specific circumstances may alter seasonal windows