

ECOLOGY CALENDAR

This calendar is a guide for the best times to carry out ecological surveys for particular species.



SPECIES	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December
Preliminary Ecological Assessment	Phase 1 only (sub-optimal)				Phase 1 and NVC					Phase 1 only (sub-optimal)		
Badgers	Sub-optimal sett / bait surveys	Bait marking and sett surveys			Sub-optimal bait marking and sett surveys				Sett surveys		Sub-optimal sett / bait surveys	
Bats	Hibernation survey			Sub-optimal activity survey	Summer roost emergence + re-entry and activity surveys					Sub-optimal activity survey	Hibernation survey	
	Initial assessments are possible all year round											
Birds	Winter non-breeding survey		Breeding birds / Migrant species surveys		Breeding birds surveys		Low activity / sub-optimal surveys for all birds		Migrant species surveys		Winter bird surveys	
Dormice	Gnawed hazlenut search			Nest tube survey from April to November Gnawed hazel nut search - best from September to December								
Great Crested Newts	No survey (Newts hibernating)		Pond surveys for adults / terrestrial survey / egg surveys from April to mid-June / larvae surveys from mid-May			Habitat larvae surveys		Habitat surveys		No survey (Newts hibernating)		
	Habitat Suitability Index of ponds can be carried out year round											
Otters	Can be surveyed all year around (subject to vegetation density and weather conditions)											
Red Squirrels	Scoping survey and drey counts		Feeding sign survey and hair tube survey			Sub-optimal			Feeding sign survey and hair tube survey		Scoping survey and drey counts	
Reptiles	No survey (Reptiles hibernating)		Peak survey months April, May, June			Surveys temperature dependent (sub-optimal)		Peak survey month	Limited activity	No survey (Reptiles hibernating)		
Water Voles	Low activity	Initial habitat survey	Habitat and field signs / activity surveys. May be limited by vegetation cover and weather conditions								Initial habitat survey	Low activity
Whiteclawed Crayfish	Habitat suitability assessment only					Manual torch, search light counts and trapping			Habitat suitability only			

Recommended period for survey
 Sub-optimal survey
 Surveys not possible