

Ecological Survey Season

The ecological survey season is fast approaching and the opportunity to ensure that sites are fully appraised for the presence of protected species is limited to a few short months. The attached survey season calendar sets out indicative survey windows for various protected species found in the UK.

PPS9: Biodiversity and Geological Conservation and guidance published by Natural England require all issues related to protected species to be resolved prior to the granting of planning permission. This means that where protected species may be present that surveys must be completed up front and appropriate mitigation included within proposals. Planning conditions are no longer seen as an appropriate means by which to address ecological issues.

Developers and landowners should also bear in mind that ecological survey reports only have a shelf life of up to two years. Existing reports should be refreshed with new surveys if they are intended to support an upcoming planning application. Delays of several months are common where ecological issues have not been properly addressed or out-of-date reports have been submitted to local authorities, and where the only course of action is to wait until the next available survey window.

Of particular significance in the North West are Great Crested Newts, which are protected by European law and common in the Cheshire area. The survey season for newts runs from mid-march to mid-June and a full survey requires at least four weekly visits to establish the extent of the population, with at least two of these visits being between mid-April and mid-May. As such, it is imperative that a suitable ecologist is appointed over the next few weeks to allow sufficient time to carry out a comprehensive survey.

HOW works closely with a number of experienced and commercially focused ecological consultants and can obtain quotations on your behalf. For further information please contact:



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Ecological Survey Planner

	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
Badgers	Sub-optimal	Optimal	Optimal	Optimal	Optimal	Sub-optimal	Sub-optimal	Sub-optimal	Optimal	Optimal	Sub-optimal	Sub-optimal
Bats activity	Sub-optimal	Sub-optimal	Sub-optimal	Sub-optimal	Sub-optimal	Sub-optimal	Sub-optimal	Sub-optimal	Sub-optimal	Sub-optimal	Sub-optimal	Sub-optimal
Bats hibernation	Optimal	Optimal	Sub-optimal	Sub-optimal	Sub-optimal	Sub-optimal	Sub-optimal	Sub-optimal	Sub-optimal	Sub-optimal	Sub-optimal	Sub-optimal
Birds breeding	Sub-optimal	Sub-optimal	Sub-optimal	Sub-optimal	Sub-optimal	Sub-optimal	Sub-optimal	Sub-optimal	Sub-optimal	Sub-optimal	Sub-optimal	Sub-optimal
Birds winter	Optimal	Optimal	Sub-optimal	Sub-optimal	Sub-optimal	Sub-optimal	Sub-optimal	Sub-optimal	Sub-optimal	Sub-optimal	Optimal	Optimal
Crayfish	Sub-optimal	Sub-optimal	Sub-optimal	Sub-optimal	Sub-optimal	Sub-optimal	Optimal	Optimal	Optimal	Optimal	Sub-optimal	Sub-optimal
Dormouse	Sub-optimal	Sub-optimal	Sub-optimal	Sub-optimal	Sub-optimal	Sub-optimal	Sub-optimal	Sub-optimal	Sub-optimal	Sub-optimal	Sub-optimal	Sub-optimal
Great Crested Newts breeding ponds	Sub-optimal	Sub-optimal	Sub-optimal	Sub-optimal	Sub-optimal	Sub-optimal	Sub-optimal	Sub-optimal	Sub-optimal	Sub-optimal	Sub-optimal	Sub-optimal
Habitats/Detailed Flora	Sub-optimal	Sub-optimal	Sub-optimal	Sub-optimal	Sub-optimal	Sub-optimal	Sub-optimal	Sub-optimal	Sub-optimal	Sub-optimal	Sub-optimal	Sub-optimal
Hedgerows	Sub-optimal	Sub-optimal	Sub-optimal	Sub-optimal	Sub-optimal	Sub-optimal	Sub-optimal	Sub-optimal	Sub-optimal	Sub-optimal	Sub-optimal	Sub-optimal
Otter	Optimal	Optimal	Optimal	Optimal	Optimal	Optimal	Optimal	Optimal	Optimal	Optimal	Optimal	Optimal
Reptiles	Sub-optimal	Sub-optimal	Sub-optimal	Sub-optimal	Sub-optimal	Sub-optimal	Sub-optimal	Sub-optimal	Sub-optimal	Sub-optimal	Sub-optimal	Sub-optimal
Terrestrial Invertebrates	Sub-optimal	Sub-optimal	Sub-optimal	Sub-optimal	Sub-optimal	Sub-optimal	Sub-optimal	Sub-optimal	Sub-optimal	Sub-optimal	Sub-optimal	Sub-optimal
Water Voles	Sub-optimal	Sub-optimal	Sub-optimal	Sub-optimal	Sub-optimal	Sub-optimal	Sub-optimal	Sub-optimal	Sub-optimal	Sub-optimal	Sub-optimal	Sub-optimal

MATERNITY ROOSTS

MATING/SWARMING

NEST TUBE SURVEYS

HAZELNUT SEARCH

Key

- Surveys optimal
- Surveys sub-optimal
- Surveys cannot be undertaken/results unreliable