



Ecological Survey Timetable

Key Optimal time
 Sub-optimal time

		Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	
Desk Study	Record search	Possible anytime of year												
Habitats	Surveys (Phase 1 and hedgerow)	Sub-optimal survey time			Optimal survey time					Sub optimal survey time				
	Mitigation	Planting and translocation		Not possible							Planting and translocation			
Flora (NVC and other Phase II/ III)	Surveys (woodland)			Sub-optimal time		Optimal		Sub-optimal time						
	Surveys (grassland)			Sub-optimal time			Optimal time		Sub optimal time					
	Mitigation	Planting and translocation		No mitigation for majority of species							Planting and translocation			
Badgers	Surveys	Search for setts can be carried out any time of year but most effective in spring and autumn/ winter. Bait marking possible autumn/ winter. Bait marking possible										Bait marking not possible		
	Mitigation	Building of artificial setts No disturbance of existing setts						Disturbance of existing setts-blocking of entrance holes, sett destruction				See Jan-Jun		
Bats	Surveys	Inspections of hibernation, tree and building roosts			No surveys		Activity surveys and inspection of building roosts, emergence counts				No surveys		Inspection of hibernation, tree and summer roosts	
	Mitigation	Works on maternity roosts		Works on maternity until mid May. Works on hibernation roosts until mid-March. Works on maternity roosts			Hibernation roost works			Hibernation roost works until Nov. Maternity roosts from mid Sept		Maternity roost works		
Birds	Surveys	Winter bird		Breeding birds/migrant			Breeding birds		Breeding birds/migrant			Winter birds		
	Mitigation	See Sept-Dec	No tree, hedgerow or scrub to be removed without a breeding bird survey							Works possible but must stop if breeding birds found				

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Dormice	Surveys	Nut	Nest survey	Hair tube and cage trap surveys to mid-October. Nest surveys. Nut searches								Nut and nest surveys (optimum)	
	Mitigation	No clearance works				Clearance	No clearance works			Clearance works		No clearance works	
Fish	Surveys	Where applicable migration patterns of the species affected will need to be considered. Fish breeding periods vary between species and this may need to be considered when planning surveys											
	Mitigation	Water courses require protection at all times of year. Mitigation for particular fish species will need to be timed to avoid the breeding season.											
Great crested newts	Surveys	No Surveys		Pond surveys for adults. Surveys must include visits undertaken between mid April –mid May. Eggs surveys April-mid June. Larvae surveys from mid-May. Terrestrial habitat surveys			Larvae surveys to mid-August. Terrestrial habitat surveys		Terrestrial habitat surveys		No surveys		
	Mitigation	No newt trapping. Pond and habitat management only		Newt trapping programs in ponds and on land			Newt trapping on land only				No newt trapping. Pond and habitat management only		
Natterjack toads	Surveys	No surveys			Surveys of breeding ponds for adults. Surveys for adults on land. Surveys for tadpoles from May onwards			Surveys for adults on land		No surveys			
	Mitigation	Pond management works			Trapping of adults on land. Trapping of adults in ponds from April-July. Trapping of tadpoles from May to early September					Pond management works			
Otter	Surveys	Surveys can be undertaken year round although seasonal variation in vegetation and weather may affect survey efficiency											
	Mitigation	Mitigation can be conducted at any time of year although breeding otters should not be disturbed.											
Pine martin	Surveys	Survey possible		Den survey can be carried out between March and May						Survey possible			
	Mitigation	Works in area of used habitat and dens		No works in pine martin habitat								Works in areas of used habitat and dens	
Red squirrels	Surveys	Survey possible throughout year		Survey possible throughout year						Survey possible throughout year			
	Mitigation	Avoid all works in known red squirrel habitat									Optimum time for works in red squirrel habitat		See Jan-Sept

