

Guidelines to Optimal Survey and Mitigation Times

		Licence Required	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Preliminary Ecological Appraisal (Phase 1 & Protected Species)		N	Surveys can be conducted at all times of year Habitat assessments may highlight the need for more detailed surveys to be undertaken which may be restricted to certain times of year.											
NVC Woodland		N	Mosses and lichens. No other detailed plant surveys - Phase 1 surveys only (sub-optimal time.			Detailed habitat assessment surveys Mosses and lichens in April, May and September only					Mosses and lichens. No other detailed plant surveys - Phase 1 surveys only (sub-optimal time.			
NVC Grassland		N	Mosses and lichens. No other detailed plant surveys - Phase 1 surveys only (sub-optimal time.			Detailed habitat assessment surveys Mosses and lichens in April, May and September only					Mosses and lichens. No other detailed plant surveys - Phase 1 surveys only (sub-optimal time.			
Hedgerow		N	Mosses and lichens. No other detailed plant surveys - Phase 1 surveys only (sub-optimal time.			Detailed habitat assessment surveys. Mosses and lichens in April, May and September only					Mosses and lichens. No other detailed plant surveys - Phase 1 surveys only (sub-optimal time.			
Badgers	Surveys	1	Possible all year with best times during Spring and Autumn/Winter											
	Mitigation	2	Artificial sett construction. No disturbance of existing setts.						Closure or disturbance of setts					See Jan-June
Bats	Surveys	1	Habitat assessment and inspection of roosts				Activity and emergence surveys an habitat assessment, inspection of roosts				Habitat assessment and inspection of roosts			
	Mitigation	2	Works on maternity and summer roosts until mid-May. Works on hibernation roosts from mid-March.				Works on hibernation roosts only.					Works on maternity and summer roosts only		
Birds	Surveys	N	Winter Birds		Breeding Birds/Migrant Species							Winter Birds		
	Mitigation	N	Nesting habitat clearance		Bird nesting season, no clearance of nesting habitat						Nesting habitat clearance			
Dormice	Surveys	1	Dormouse-eaten nut searches (sub optimal)				Tube or nest box surveys							
											Dormouse nest searches			
											Dormouse-eaten nut searches			
Mitigation	2	Coppicing works – dormice hibernating on ground		No coppicing works – dormice active & breeding over summer. (Removal of coppiced stools during early spring & early autumn when dormice active but not with young)							Coppicing works – dormice hibernating on ground			
Great Crested Newts	Surveys	1	Newts in hibernation		Netting, bottle-trapping, torchlight surveys & egg searches				Terrestrial habitat surveys (not ideal method), larvae surveys to mid-August				Newts in hibernation	
			Newts in hibernation				Newt eDNA water sample collection						Newts in hibernation	
	Mitigation	2	No trapping, pond management only		Trapping / translocation in ponds and on land				Trapping/translocations on land only				No trapping, pond management only	
Otters	Surveys	1	Surveys can be conducted all year round although quality of survey will depend on cover of vegetation and weather conditions											
	Mitigation	2	Can be carried out through out the year although restrictions may apply where otters are found to be breeding											
Reptiles	Surveys	N	Reptiles in hibernation			Reptile surveys			Reptile surveys (sub-optimal) – affected by weather			Reptiles in hibernation		
	Mitigation	N	Habitat modification – cut back vegetation but no earthworks			Capture and translocation (limited by weather)						Habitat modification – cut back vegetation but no earthworks		
Water Voles	Surveys	1	Low activity no surveys possible				Surveys of water course					Low activity – no surveys possible		
	Mitigation	2	Habitat modification to displace water voles & destructive search				Avoid earthworks/ major vegetation clearance in water vole habitat			Habitat modification to displace water voles & destructive search				
White-clawed crayfish	Surveys	1	Low activity		Surveys possible	Avoid surveys (females are releasing young)		Surveys possible (optimum time)				Low activity – no surveys		
	Mitigation	2	No capture			Exclusions can be undertaken	Avoid capture programmes		Exclusions can be undertaken				Avoid capture programmes	
Fish	Surveys	1	Timings depend on species concerned and the information required. Surveys need to coincide with the breeding period of the particular species - this may be summer or winter months.											
	Mitigation	2	Protection of watercourses is required at all times but mitigation activities will need to avoid breeding season of species.											

Survey Activities	
Optimal survey period	
Sub-optimal survey period	
Surveys restricted	

Mitigation Activities	
Mitigation	
Mitigation restricted	

Licence Requirements	
1	If surveys require capture, handling or disturbance of species then only licensed persons can undertake such surveys
2	If mitigation involves killing, capture, injury and/or disturbance of protected species and/or damage, destruction or obstruction of their habitats, a development licence issued by Natural England may be required.
N	No licence required

The information displayed here is intended for guidance only and the exact timings of surveys will be dependent on uncontrollable factors, particularly weather conditions. Please do not hesitate to contact us if you require further details on survey and mitigation techniques and timings. Please be advised that applications for European Protected Species development licences may take in excess of 30 days to be processed by Natural England and must be approved before any licenced mitigation work can be undertaken. Please be advised that applications for development licences to destroy/disturb a badger sett may take in excess of 20 days to be processed by Natural England and must be approved before any licenced mitigation work can be undertaken.