

Ecological Survey Calendar



	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Habitat Surveys	Phase 1 (sub-optimal)			Phase 1 & NVC						Phase 1 (sub-optimal)		
Badgers	Limited sett/ bait surveys	Bait marking & sett surveys			Limited bait marking & sett surveys				Sett surveys		Limited sett/ bait surveys	
Bats	Inspection of hibernation roosts		Limited activity	Survey for summer roosts & activity surveys					Limited activity	Inspection of hibernation roosts		
	Potential roost and internal building surveys are possible throughout the year											
Birds	Wintering surveys		Breeding and migrant species surveys		Breeding bird surveys		Low activity (sub-optimal)		Migrant species surveys		Wintering surveys	
Dormice	Gnawed hazel nut search			Nest tube survey from April to October Optimal gnawed hazel nut search September to December								
Great Crested Newts	Newts hibernating		Pond surveys					Larval survey			Newts hibernating	
	Habitat suitability assessments are possible throughout the year											
Otters	Searches for field sign can be carried out throughout the year											
Reptiles	Reptiles hibernating		Sub-optimal surveys	Optimal survey period (July to Aug constraints due to high temperatures)					Limited activity	Reptiles hibernating		
Water voles	Low activity		Field sign & activity surveys (evidence may be limited by vegetation cover)								Low activity	
	Surveys for habitat suitability can be undertaken throughout the year											
BREEAM & Code for Sustainable Homes	Survey, review, calculations and credits carried out throughout the year											

Optimal Survey Period	Sub-optimal survey period	Surveys not possible
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Protected Species Surveys



- The Great Crested Newt (*Triturus cristatus*) is the UK's largest newt, is highly protected and is a European Protected Species.
- Surveys are undertaken during the breeding season to assess the presence or likely absence of Great Crested Newts (GCN) on or within a 500m radius of a proposed development. Habitat Suitability Index (HSI) surveys can be undertaken all year round.
- A GCN survey requires four visits. Two additional visits are needed to evaluate the population size when GCNs presence is confirmed.
- Development of a GCN site can be made legal by the granting of an appropriate Natural England license that we can apply for on your behalf. PJC can develop and undertake the mitigation measures required by the licence.

- Reptile surveys are constrained to spring, summer and autumn and depend on weather conditions.
- Typically, a reptile survey is undertaken by using artificial refugia (e.g. roofing felts & tins). 7 visits and 1 day set up is required in order to establish presence or likely absence.
- Appropriate mitigation measures will be needed to prevent the intentional killing or injury of the four common reptile species (adder, grass snake, common lizard and slow worm). An EPS licence would be required for the UK's rarer reptiles.
- Mitigation for common reptile species involves the setting of a reptile-exclusion fence in target areas, followed by trapping and translocation of animals to suitable receptor sites. PJC Consultancy can undertake all of the above works.



- Badger surveys can be undertaken at any time of the year, but bait marking is restricted to spring and autumn. Setts may need to be monitored over a period of time to confirm activity.
- If a survey uncovers an active sett on a site an appropriate mitigation scheme will need to be designed and implemented. This will involve the retention and protection of the sett. On rare occasions that this is not possible a sett closure programme will need to be designed under a license from Natural England.
- There are various mitigation measures that can be implemented across development sites.
- A license is required before the commencement of any development works that are conducted near an active sett, as it is an offence to disturb badgers or damage an active sett.

Protected Species Surveys



- Bat surveys normally include an internal bat survey, bat emergence surveys or a bat activity survey and a dawn survey. These bat surveys will aim to assess the presence of bats within bat roosting structures such as buildings, bridges and trees.
- A Bat Development License, granted by Natural England, is required before the commencement of any development that might affect bats or their roosts. PJC can apply for a license on your behalf and develop a detailed mitigation strategy for the site.

- The water vole survey looks for water vole field signs such as droppings and latrines, burrows, grazed lawns around burrow entrances and feeding remains.
- The water vole is the largest of Britain's native vole and it is protected under UK law.
- It is an offence to damage water vole burrows or kill/injure individuals. Even handling voles is illegal without a license. Mitigation strategies must be designed prior to any works, and a license will be required whenever a disturbance to water voles or damage to their burrows is likely to occur.



- Dormouse surveys are undertaken following best practice in ecology. They are seasonally-constrained, and can take up to six months to be completed over the summer and the autumn. Dormouse surveys can include the use of nest tubes, hair tubes and nest boxes, with hazel nut and nest searches also undertaken.
- A Development License is required before the commencement of any development that might impact on dormice or dormouse habitats. PJC Consultancy can apply for a license on your behalf and provide a mitigation strategy applicable to individual sites.
- PJC Consultancy can also develop woodland management plans to enhance your site for dormice, including establishing dormice boxes, planting schemes, traditional woodland management techniques and monitoring.

Further Services Provided



- **BREEAM and Code for Sustainable Homes**

- BREEAM assessments can be undertaken for various types of site such as industrial sites, offices, retail, multi-residential, and bespoke. The Code assessment is undertaken for residential developments. PJC Consultancy has experience of working in all areas on projects of all sizes and are 'SQE' to undertake such assessments.

- **Ecological Impact Assessment (EcIA) & Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA)**

- Ecological Impact Assessment (EcIA) is used to predict and evaluate the impact of developments on ecosystems and their components (habitats and species).
- Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) has emerged as a key to sustainable development by integrating social, economic and environmental issues. Ecological Impact Assessments have a major part to play as a component of Environmental Impact Assessments. PJC Consultancy ecologists have considerable experience in developing and writing Ecological Impact Assessments.



- **Natural England Licensing and Protected Species Licensing**

- PJC Consultancy ecologists can provide you with advice on Natural England licensing and our consultants hold Natural England licenses for bats, dormice and great crested newts. We can apply for Natural England licenses on your behalf where necessary.

- **Ecological Clerk of Works (ECOW)**

- As Ecological Clerk of Works PJC can act as an external consulting body on advising on matters for on going projects or the monitoring of completed projects with on going ecological issues.
- PJC ecologists have extensive experience in acting as ECoW for large civil engineering companies advising on ecological issues, monitoring development projects and supporting CEEQUAL initiatives.



- **Expert Witness**

- PJC ecologists can act as expert witnesses and provide proof of evidence for companies during planning appeals and public enquiries for development projects.

