

## Fauna and Animals Surveys

The table below has been prepared to provide guidance with regard to the optimal time periods to carry out surveys for specific species. The tables have been prepared as a general guide only and the survey window can be protracted or shortened dependent on factors such as weather conditions.

Dark = Optimal timing   
 Pale = Sub-optimal timing   
   = Survey inappropriate

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
<b>Bat species*</b>											
Buildings - Habitat <i>assessment</i> and search for evidence of roosts (not hibernation roosts)											
Inspection and <i>assessment</i> for evidence of roosts			Internal and external inspection and <i>assessment</i> of buildings and other structures (e.g. bridges, culverts etc) for evidence of roosts						Inspection and <i>assessment</i> for evidence of roosts		
Activity Surveys - using electronic ultrasound detectors											
___Not active___			Bat activity surveys - i.e. dusk emergence, dawn swarming, commuting, and foraging surveys						___Not active___		
Trees - Habitat <i>assessment</i> and searching for evidence of roosts											
Daytime inspection and <i>assessment</i> for potential roosts			Daytime inspection and <i>assessment</i> for potential roosts (visibility more precluded by foliage)						Daytime inspection and <i>assessment</i> for potential roosts		
Hibernation Surveys - visual searches											
Bats are in hibernation roosts			___Not possible___						Bats are hibernating		
<b>Badger</b>											
General sett surveys, i.e. determining the location and size of setts, can be conducted throughout the year											
Bait marking, with limited effectiveness		Bait marking and activity monitoring to identify the sett 'type/classification' and extent of the groups range.					Bait marking, with limited effectiveness		___N/A___		
<b>Bird species</b>											
Breeding Birds											
___N/A___		Breeding season						___N/A___			
Wintering Birds											
			___N/A___								
Barn Owl*											
			Searches for evidence of Barn Owl (e.g. pellets and splashed droppings) can be conducted throughout the year, but will be most effective whilst the owls are breeding and territory defending								

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<b>Great Crested Newt*</b>											
Preliminary habitat <i>assessment</i> (Habitat Suitability Index scoring)											
	Pond surveys for <b>Adults</b> : typically 4 to 6 visits required during the breeding season <b>Note:</b> At least 2 visits must be undertaken between mid-April and mid-May.					Netting for <b>larvae</b> possible					

<b>Hazel Dormouse*</b>											
Dormouse Nest Box Search											
	Inspection of boxes and tubes.										
Dormouse Nut Search											
Dormice leave distinctive feeding evidence on hazel nuts. Nut searches can be carried out throughout the year, but...								...nut search results are most reliable when conducted from September to November			

<b>Otter</b>											
Surveys are generally achievable throughout the year, but may be constrained by seasonal variations in vegetation cover, weather conditions and water levels											

<b>Reptile species</b>											
Preliminary habitat <i>assessment</i>											
___Not active___		Refugia searches	Reduced basking time			Refugia searches		___Not active___			

<b>Aquatic Invertebrates (Lesser Silver Water Beetle, dragonfly larvae etc)</b>											
Lesser Silver Water Beetle*											
	All stages can be found by netting ponds during this time, but there are optimum periods for capturing adults and juveniles respectively:- Adults: optimum is April to June inclusive Cocoons and juveniles: May to August/September inclusive										
Most other species											
Suboptimal for most surveys		Suitable for most aquatic invertebrate surveys, but with species-specific variation within this period.							Suboptimal for most surveys		

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<b>Terrestrial Invertebrates</b>											
___Not active___			Optimum time for detecting day-flying invertebrates such as butterflies, dragonflies and bees			___Not active___					

<b>Water Vole</b>											
Preliminary habitat <i>assessment</i> and searches for burrows in banks can be conducted all year round, though this is not applicable for sites with potential reedbed habitats											
___Insufficiently active ___			Surveys for field signs/activity are best conducted whilst Water Voles are active and breeding/territory defending, though may be seasonally limited by dense vegetation cover						___Insufficiently active ___		

<b>White-clawed Crayfish*</b>											
Preliminary habitat <i>assessment</i>											
___Not active___			Adequate for manual surveys	Young are vulnerable so no manual surveys		The best time for manual surveys; it is the time of peak activity and growth			___Not active___		

\*Appropriate survey licence required