

Habitat and Plant Surveys

The table below has been prepared to provide guidance with regard to the optimal time periods to carry out surveys for specific habitats and 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

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Hedgerows											
Sub-optimal period for survey			Surveys to determine whether or not hedgerows qualify as 'important' under the Hedgerows Regulations (1997)						Sub-optimal period for survey		
Most terrestrial vegetation and habitat types (grasslands, woodlands, heaths, brownfield sites etc)											
Phase 1 survey possible - limited botanical species listing			Phase 1 survey, Extended Phase 1 survey and detailed vegetation and habitat assessments for higher plants and ferns, including compilation of detailed botanical species lists and full assessment in accord with the National Vegetation Classification (NVC)						Phase 1 survey possible - limited botanical species listing		
Mosses, Liverworts and Lichens											
Full surveys			Less visible as vascular plants more dominant						Full surveys		
River and stream 'corridors'											
Sub-optimal period for survey			Optimal time for identification of bankside and aquatic vegetation						Sub-optimal period for survey		
Habitat Suitability Index (HSI) at ponds											
Can be carried out at any time of year but spring and summer are most productive											