



LOWER SMITE FARM, SMITE HILL, HINDLIP, WORCESTER. WR3 8SZ. Tel: 01905 754909 Fax: 01905 755868 Email: enquiries@worcestershireswildlifeconsultancy.org

Guidelines to Optimal Survey and Mitigation Times

		Licence Required	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
General Surveys														
Ecological Survey Assessment (Phase 1 and 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.												
Vegetation Surveys														
NVC Woodland	N													
NVC Grassland	N													
Hedgerow	N													
Animal Surveys														
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-Jun	
Bats	Surveys	1	Habitat assessment and inspection of roosts			Activity and emergence surveys and inspection of roosts			Habitat assessment and inspection of roosts					
	Mitigation	2	Works on maternity roosts		Works on maternity and hibernation roosts		Works on hibernation roosts only		Works on maternity and hibernation roosts		Works on maternity roosts			
Birds	Surveys	N	Winter Birds		Breeding Birds/Migrant Species		Breeding Birds		Breeding Birds/Migrant Species		Winter Birds			
	Mitigation	N	Clearance works possible		Bird nesting season, no clearance works				Clearance works possible					
Dormice	Surveys	1	Nut searches (sub optimal)		Nest Searches (April sub-optimal)		Cage traps and hair tube surveys (May - mid October), nut searches (September to December), nest searches (September - March)				Nut searches			
	Mitigation	2	No clearance works			Clearance possible	No clearance works		Clearance works to early October		No clearance works			
Great Crested Newts	Surveys	1	Newts in hibernation		Surveys: adults: Mid March - Mid June, Egg April - Mid June, larvae from mid May.			Larvae (to mid August) and terrestrial habitat.		Terrestrial habitat		Newts in hibernation		
	Mitigation	2	No trapping, pond management only		Trapping programmes in ponds and on land			Trapping 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		Activity surveys Optimal in April/May			Possible but limited by high temperature		Activity surveys Optimal in September		Reptiles in hibernation		
	Mitigation	N	Scrub clearance		Capture and translocation programmes possible (limited by high temperatures during July and August) Scrub clearance								Scrub clearance	
Water Voles	Surveys	1	Low activity	Initial surveys	All survey methods can be used although quality of survey will depend on cover of vegetation and weather conditions							Initial surveys	Low activity	
	Mitigation	2	Avoid all works in water vole habitat		Works possible	Avoid all works in water vole habitat		Works possible		Avoid all works in water vole habitat				
White-clawed crayfish	Surveys	1	Reduced activity		Surveys possible	Avoid surveys (females are releasing young)	Surveys possible (optimum time)				Reduced activity			
	Mitigation	2	Avoid capture programmes		exclusions	Avoid capture programmes	Exclusions				Avoid capture programmes			
Fish	Surveys	1	Timings depend on species concerned and the information required											
	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 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 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 such as animal activities and 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 development licences may take in excess of 30 days to be processed by government departments and must be approved before any licenced mitigation work can be undertaken.