



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 and summer roosts		Works on maternity, summer and hibernation roosts		Works on hibernation roosts only		Works on maternity, summer and hibernation		Works on maternity and summer roosts		
Birds	Surveys	N	Winter Birds		Breeding Birds/Migrant Species			Winter Birds		Breeding Birds/Migrant Species		Winter Birds	
	Mitigation	N	Clearance works possible		Bird nesting season, works no clearance						Clearance works		
Dormice	Surveys	1	Nut searches (sub optimal)		Nest Searches (April sub-optimal)		Tube or nest box surveys, cage traps, hair tube surveys (late April - late 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 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, 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 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.