

ECOLOGICAL SURVEY SCHEDULE

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
Phase 1 Habitat	Sub-optimal	Sub-optimal	Sub-optimal	Optimal	Optimal	Optimal	Optimal	Optimal	Optimal	Sub-optimal	Sub-optimal	Sub-optimal
Botanical				Optimal	Optimal	Optimal	Optimal	Optimal	Sub-optimal			
Hedgerow	Sub-optimal	Sub-optimal	Sub-optimal	Optimal	Optimal	Optimal	Optimal	Sub-optimal	Sub-optimal	Sub-optimal	Sub-optimal	Sub-optimal
Badger	Optimal	Optimal	Sub-optimal	Optimal	Optimal							
Bat scoping	Optimal											
Bat activity				Sub-optimal	Optimal	Optimal	Optimal	Optimal	Sub-optimal	Sub-optimal		
Water Vole				Sub-optimal	Optimal	Optimal	Optimal	Optimal	Optimal	Sub-optimal		
Otter	Optimal											
Dormouse (nut search)	Sub-optimal											
Dormouse (nest tube)				Sub-optimal	Optimal	Sub-optimal						
Breeding bird			Sub-optimal	Optimal	Optimal	Optimal	Optimal	Sub-optimal				
Winter bird	Optimal	Optimal	Sub-optimal						Sub-optimal	Optimal	Optimal	Optimal
Reptiles			Sub-optimal	Optimal	Optimal	Optimal	Optimal	Sub-optimal	Sub-optimal	Sub-optimal		
Amphibians (GCN)			Sub-optimal	Optimal	Optimal	Optimal	Sub-optimal					
Invertebrates				Sub-optimal	Optimal	Optimal	Optimal	Optimal	Sub-optimal	Sub-optimal		
Crayfish							Sub-optimal	Optimal	Optimal	Sub-optimal	Sub-optimal	

Optimal survey period
 Sub-optimal survey period

HABITAT AND SPECIES ASSESSMENT

The first stage of assessment when beginning a new project usually involves carrying out a **desk study** and **Phase 1 Habitat survey** (JNCC, 2007). This provides an early indication of any ecological constraints and opportunities inherent to the site, in addition to an assessment of whether protected and notable species are likely to occur, for example:

- Areas of woodland are often valuable ecological habitats and may support **bats, birds, dormice and badger**.
- Ponds are a UK Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) habitat and may support **great crested newts**.
- Rivers or streams are often UK or local BAP habitats and may support **water voles, otters or white-clawed crayfish**.
- Areas of rough grassland or scattered scrub provide suitable **reptile** habitat and may support notable **invertebrates**.
- Arable fields are usually of low nature conservation interest in their own right but on a large scale can support notable **bird** populations and a range of wildlife along field margins.
- Hedgerows provide important connective habitat and can form significant wildlife habitat in their own right for species such as **dormice and birds**.
- Buildings often provide roosting opportunities for **bats** and can provide breeding habitat for birds such as **barn owl or swift**.

PPS9 requires that planning applications are supported by an appropriate level of ecological survey and assessment. Early identification of further survey requirements allows seasonally constrained surveys to be programmed in at an early stage, which not only avoids unnecessary delays, but also allows for the integration of avoidance and mitigation measures into the development design.