

Bat

Night-time Bat Walkover & Static Bat Detector Survey (Activity)¹



Preliminary Bat Roost Assessment (PBRA)¹



Nocturnal Emergence (Structures - Maternity & Summer Roost)¹



Hibernation (Structures)¹



Badger

Walkover Set Survey²



GCN

eDNA Presence/ Likely Absence³



Population Size Class Assessment (Conventional)⁴



Unsure what surveys your site may require or need to avoid delays on your project?

We provide rapid preliminary ecology advice for developers, architects, and planning consultants across England.

Contact us via phone or email for advice.

Bird

Breeding Bird Survey⁵



Passage Survey⁵



Wintering Bird Survey⁵



Dormouse

Presence/ Likely Absence (Nest Tubes)⁶



Presence/ Likely Absence (Footprint Tunnels)⁶



Reptile

Presence/ Likely Absence⁷



Otter

Presence/ Likely Absence⁸



Invertebrates

Presence/ Likely Absence⁹



Water Vole

Presence/ Likely Absence¹⁰



White Clawed Crayfish

Presence/ Likely Absence eDNA¹¹



Conventional¹²



Habitats


UK Habitat Classification (UKHab) Survey¹³




Preliminary Ecological Appraisal (PEA)



 Optimal

 Sub-Optimal (Part or full survey possible in some / limited circumstances, review on a case-by-case basis)

 Survey Timing Non-Compliant, speak to an ecologist

2026 Survey Calendar

Introduction: Certain ecological surveys can only be undertaken during specific times of the year in order to support a planning application and satisfy Local Planning Authority requirements.

This calendar provides general guidance on the seasonal constraints associated with the most common ecological survey types encountered during the planning process in England.

It has been produced by Elton Ecology Ltd to assist developers, planners, architects, landowners, asset managers and project managers in identifying ecological survey requirements at an early stage, helping to avoid unnecessary delays to planning submissions and decisions.

Important Notes: This calendar is intended as a general guide only. Ecological survey requirements should always be reviewed on a site-specific basis by a suitably qualified professional ecologist at the earliest possible stage of a project.

Some protected species surveys require multiple site visits distributed throughout the recognised survey season in accordance with current best practice guidance. Survey timing and suitability may also be influenced by a range of environmental and site-specific factors, including geographic location, habitat condition, vegetation growth, river water levels, and prevailing weather conditions.

All surveys should be undertaken by suitably experienced, qualified, and, where necessary, licensed ecologists.

This infographic is not exhaustive and does not include all ecological survey types, species, or survey constraints that may be relevant to a particular development site. For further guidance in relation to a specific site, please contact Elton Ecology Ltd for advice.

Please note that survey guidelines are subject to change. This survey calendar should be considered valid for 2026 only and an ecologist should be consulted for the most up to date guidance prior to project decisions.

References

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13. The April - October survey window was established by the Handbook for Phase 1 Habitat Survey (now superseded by UKHab Survey). April - October survey window is not specifically stated within, but is broadly considered to still apply to, general UKHab surveys.

