



Optimum Survey Time	
Sub-Optimum Survey Time	

	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUNE	JULY	AUG	SEPT	OCT	NOV	DEC
Badgers												
Bats (Hibernation Roosts)												
Bats (Summer Roosts)												
Bats (Foraging/Commuting)												
Birds (Breeding)												
Birds (Over winter)												
Dormice												
Great Crested Newts												
Invertebrates												
Natterjack Toads												
Otters												
Reptiles												
Water Voles												
White Clawed Crayfish												
Habitats / Vegetation												

Important:

- Some surveys can be carried out throughout the year; however, as the timetable illustrates, certain species require surveys to be carried out at specific times to ensure the most reliable results are obtained. Surveys carried outside of these times may therefore be unreliable; i.e. a great crested newt survey carried out over the winter season would be unlikely to provide the required information.
- A negative result achieved from a survey outside the optimum period should not be interpreted as showing an absence of a particular species – further work may be required within the optimum surveying season. This is especially important on sites where existing surveys and records show that a particular species has been found either on the site previously, or in the surrounding area. An application may not be valid until this survey information is gathered in the optimum time for that particular species.
- The absence of evidence of a species does not necessarily mean that the species is not active on a site, or that a particular site is not protected – for example, a bat roost is protected regardless of whether any bats are present.
- Species surveys can also be highly weather dependent, so surveys should be planned, or postponed, to fit in with weather forecasts; for example heavy rain can mean that an otter survey can yield less accurate results, as can very cold or wet weather for bat surveys.