




Ecological Survey Calendar

The information below provides general guidance on survey timing and the seasonal constraints which apply to ecological survey work. Please note that the timing and frequency of surveys can vary according to survey objectives and are also influenced by external factors such as weather, location and site characteristics.

Professional advice is always recommended to identify which surveys are likely to be required and the appropriate timings.

Survey work should only be carried out by suitably experienced and where necessary, licensed individuals.

Key:

	Optimal time or no constraints		Sub-optimal time or restricted		Surveys not possible
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		Jan	Feb	March	April	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Habitats	Preliminary Ecological Appraisal (PEA) ¹	Sub-optimal	Sub-optimal	Optimal	Optimal	Optimal	Optimal	Optimal	Optimal	Optimal	Sub-optimal	Sub-optimal	Sub-optimal
	Botanical surveys ²	Not possible	Not possible	Optimal	Optimal	Optimal	Optimal	Optimal	Optimal	Sub-optimal	Not possible	Not possible	Not possible
Birds	Breeding bird surveys ³	Not possible	Not possible	Optimal	Optimal	Optimal	Optimal	Optimal	Optimal	Not possible	Not possible	Not possible	Not possible
	Winter bird surveys	Optimal	Optimal	Not possible	Not possible	Not possible	Not possible	Not possible	Not possible	Not possible	Not possible	Not possible	Optimal
Reptiles		Not possible	Not possible	Sub-optimal	Optimal	Sub-optimal	Sub-optimal	Sub-optimal	Sub-optimal	Optimal	Sub-optimal	Not possible	Not possible

Amphibians	Aquatic surveys (breeding)				
	Terrestrial survey				
Small mammals					
Invertebrates					

Footnote 1: A PEA can be conducted all year round; however surveys during the spring and summer will allow more detailed species lists to be put together which can aid classification of habitats.

Footnote 2: Botanical surveys are seasonal and depend on the habitat type. Exact timings should be advised by a suitably qualified person.

Footnote 3: Note that the breeding season for birds depends on the species and can be affected by weather conditions. Some species are more detectable at certain times of the year due to their ecology. Bird survey timings and frequency will therefore depend on the survey objectives and species of interest. Bird surveys undertaken between March and May and September and October may also detect migratory bird species.

Further information on survey types and respective timings is provided within [Bird Survey Guidelines | for ecological impact assessment](#)

Survey Calendar for Bats

Note that survey work for bats is complex and appropriate survey timings will depend upon factors such as the type of bat survey, species present and survey objectives. Planning for bat surveys therefore needs to be undertaken on the advice of a suitably qualified ecologist.

Key:



		Jan	Feb	March	April	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	
Bats	Emergence/re-entry surveys for maternity or summer roosts ¹													
	Transitional roosts													
	Activity surveys ²													
	Hibernation surveys													
	Roost characterisation survey ³													
	Tree roost surveys (ground level)													

	Potential roost feature (inspection) trees	
<p>Footnote 1: For sites with moderate or high suitability a proportion of surveys should be carried out between May and August to detect maternity roosts if present. Appropriate dates are species dependent and can be advised by a suitably qualified ecologist.</p> <p>Footnote 2: Bat activity surveys (active transects and static detector surveys) can be carried out when sunset temperatures are 10°C or above. Due to the southerly nature of Jersey, surveys in April and October may be deemed acceptable depending on weather conditions. Transect and automated / static bat detector surveys targeting habitat suitability for bats span across the seasons; spring – April / May, summer – June / July / August and Autumn – September / October.</p> <p>Footnote 3: Depending on the roost type, characterisation surveys can be undertaken at any time of the year. The number of visits will vary on the species in question, and the ecological questions to be answers. This will be advised by a suitably qualified ecologist.</p> <p>Further information on survey types and respective timings is provided within the Bat Surveys for Professional Ecologists: Good Practice Guidelines 3rd edition - Guidance for professionals - Bat Conservation Trust.</p>		