

protected species & habitats

Capita Symonds' ecology team offers a wide range of ecological advice and solutions at all stages of a project, to ensure compliance with current environmental legislation and planning policies.



As environmental legislation and enforcement become ever more stringent and public concern about the natural environment grows, the ecological surveying, assessment and protection of our country's biodiversity is an increasingly critical stage in the planning and development process.

Capita Symonds offers a range of ecology surveys, from the initial extended Phase 1 Habitat Surveys to the more detailed Habitat & Protected Species Surveys. These are used to inform the ecological constraints and opportunities within a project and to ultimately design, implement and monitor mitigation and compensation measures. Being part of one of the UK's leading multi-faceted consultancies we are also adept at integrating ecological considerations into the overall design and development process.

Our more detailed surveys include botanical, NVC, tree, hedgerow, river habitat, protected species surveys and development licence applications (with expertise in birds, bats, badger, reptiles, dormice, otters, water voles, great crested newts, fungi, fish, invertebrates and white-clawed crayfish), plus BREEAM and Code for Sustainable Homes assessments, ecological impact assessments and Habitat Regulations Assessments (AAs / AIEs) with innovative recommendations for mitigation as well as protected species translocations and site supervision.

We also provide advice and specifications for greening buildings and sustainability solutions, invasive species strategies, method statements, ecological habitat creation, enhancement, restoration and management plans and monitoring measures. Our ecologists hold relevant licences to carry out species surveys and follow best practise guidelines and are members of the Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management.

One practical example is Capita Symonds' work on the A249 DBFO project in Kent which earned a major award for meeting environmental challenges, particularly regarding protected species. This scheme saw surveys and translocation programmes for water voles, great crested newts and a large population of reptiles (slow worms, common lizards and grass snakes); development of detailed method statements; liaison with Natural England, Environment Agency, local landowners and specialist subcontractors; mitigation strategies for water voles; compensation habitat design; licence applications for great crested newts; and receptor site habitat enhancement.

CAPITA SYMONDS

successful people, projects and performance

Protected species and habitat survey timetable*

	jan	feb	march	april	may	june	july	august	sept	oct	nov	dec	
phase 1 habitat / invasive	Sub-optimal survey period			Optimal survey period				Sub-optimal survey period					
NVC	Surveys not possible				Optimal survey period				Surveys not possible				
overwintering birds	Optimal survey period			Surveys not possible						Optimal survey period			
breeding birds	Surveys not possible		Optimal survey period					Surveys not possible					
badgers	Optimal survey period				Sub-optimal survey period				Optimal survey period				
bats	hibernation roosts / ground based tree roost potential		Sub-optimal survey period		summer roost emergence / activity surveys				swarming bats	Hibernation roosts			
	building surveys (external & internal)												
dormice	Sub-optimal survey period		Surveys not possible							gnawed hazel nut search			
	Surveys not possible			nest box / tube survey									Surveys not possible
otters	Sub-optimal survey period		Optimal survey period								Sub-optimal survey period		
water voles	Surveys not possible	only proceed if known population			Optimal survey period						only proceed if known pop.		Surveys not possible
reptiles	Surveys not possible			Optimal survey period			Sub-optimal survey period		Optimal survey period		Surveys not possible		
great crested newts (GCN)	Surveys not possible		Sub-optimal survey period	4-6 visits			Sub-optimal survey period	Surveys not possible					
	Sub-optimal survey period			habitat assessment					Sub-optimal survey period				
invertebrates (terrestrial)	Surveys not possible		Sub-optimal survey period	slightly differing timings for each species				Surveys not possible					
invertebrates (freshwater)	Surveys not possible		Sub-optimal survey period	2 surveys, 1 in spring, 1 in autumn						Sub-optimal survey period	Surveys not possible		
white-clawed crayfish	Surveys not possible			Sub-optimal survey period	Surveys not possible		Survey trapping / manual search			Sub-optimal survey period	Surveys not possible		

* It should be noted that this timetable only provides an overview of survey timing. Survey frequency is dependant on several factors including; level of potential, geographic location, habitat and accessibility.

 Optimal survey period
 Sub-optimal survey period
 Surveys not possible

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