

Figure 1. ECOLOGICAL SURVEY SEASONS

(Key: Optimal Survey Time



Extending into -----> )

	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUNE	JULY	AUG	SEPT	OCT	NOV	DEC
BADGERS	----->	■	■	■	←-----	-----	-----	-----	----->	■	■	----->
BATS (Hibernation Roosts)	■	■	■							←-----	■	■
BATS (Summer Roosts)				←-----	■	■	■	■	■	----->		
BIRDS (Breeding)			■	■	■	■	■	■				
BIRDS (Over wintering)	■	■									■	■
DORMICE	■				■	■	■	■	■		■	■
GREAT-CRESTED NEWTS			■	■	TERRESTRIAL		■	■	■	■		
		■	AQUATIC									
INVERTEBRATES				■	■	■	■	■	■			
NATTERJACK TOADS				■	■							
OTTERS	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
REPTILES			■	■	■	■		■				
WATER VOLES		←-----	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	----->		
WHITE-CLAWED CRAYFISH							■	■	■			
HABITATS/VEGETATION				■	■	■	■	■				

**N.B.** Points to note regarding surveys are as follows:

- Surveys can be carried out at any time of year, but for some species and habitats certain times of year are preferable to give the most accurate results, as indicated in Figure 1. If a survey is carried out at other times of the year, then further survey work may be required during the optimal survey time (i.e. bats).
- Species surveys are also very weather dependent, so it might be necessary to delay a survey or to carry out more than one survey, if the weather is not suitable, e.g. heavy rain is not good for surveying for otters, as it washes away their spraint (droppings).
- Absence of evidence of a species does not necessarily mean that the species is not there, nor is it protected. E.g. A bat roost is protected whether any bats are present or not. You should check with your Local Biological Records Centre for any species records.
- It is highly recommended that a competent ecologist carries out any surveys. Where surveys involve disturbance, capture or handling of a protected species, then only a licensed person can undertake such surveys (e.g. English Nature, Countryside Council for Wales, Environment and Heritage Service (NI) or Scottish Natural Heritage).