

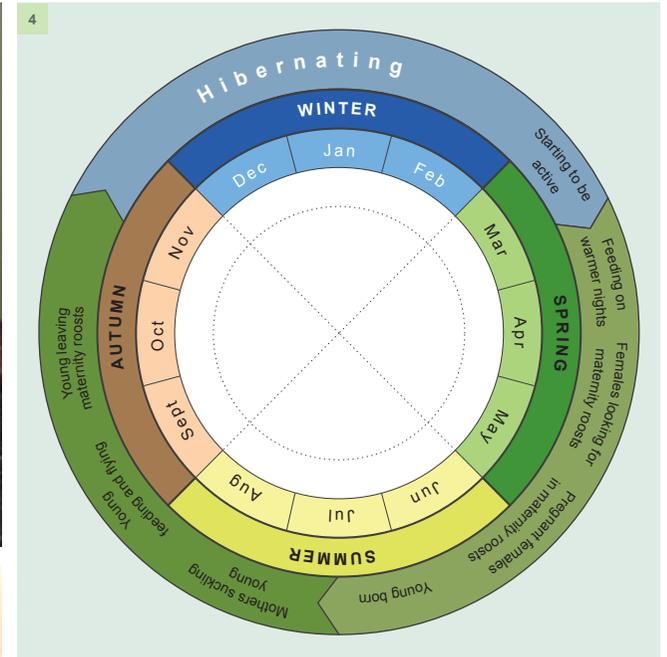
# Ecology advice note 3: Bats

All bats and their roosts are fully protected under British and European law. A bat roost is 'any structure or place which any wild animal uses for shelter or protection'. Because bats tend to re-use the same roosts, the roost is considered to be protected whether or not the bats are present at the time.

The Landscape Partnership is able to undertake a wide range of bat consultancy services, from building inspections and emergence surveys to mitigation design and licence applications. Our staff are fully trained, qualified and experienced in working with a wide range of bat species, in a variety of habitats.

Our team of ecologists are able to offer the following ecological services in relation to bats:

- **Planning application reports**
- **Buildings and tree surveys**
- **Emergence and re-entry (dusk/dawn) surveys**
- **Mitigation design**
- **Site enhancement for bats**
- **European Protected Species licence applications and monitoring**
- **Vantage point surveys for wind turbine studies**
- **Bat box checks and installation of bat boxes**
- **Ecological Clerk of Works**
- **Nature conservation and wildlife legislation advice**
- **Negotiating with environmental regulators and obtaining consents**



1. Brown Long-eared 2. Soprano Pipistrelle 3. Common Pipistrelle 4. Annual Bat Activity Schedule 5. Noctule

As a minimum, bat buildings inspections should be undertaken for all developments resulting in the demolition or modification of traditional timber framed buildings, i.e. houses and barns, although many types of dwelling may provide suitable roosting niches. Trees are also potential roost sites.

Bat surveys may also be required where the development impacts upon, or is adjacent to, woodland, water, hedgerow or grassland, depending upon the type of development.

If a general ecology survey such as an Extended Phase I Habitat Survey is available or being carried out, this should identify if there is a need for bat survey work. Otherwise, a brief desktop ecological scoping exercise can be an economical way of determining whether bat surveys may be required.

**Please note:**

It is a criminal offence to disturb a bat roost. Ignorance of the presence of bats is not a defence; it is expected that all reasonable precautions should be taken to find out whether bats (or other protected species) are present and to establish whether there is a risk of committing an offence. In practice this means instructing a consultant ecologist to carry out surveys and taking account of their professional advice. Neither is it a valid defence to claim that disturbance occurred as the 'incidental result of a lawful operation', for example, if caused by an action which has the benefit of planning consent.

## Bat survey timings

Survey	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Ecological surveys are subject to seasonal constraints: a number of protected species hibernate or become less active, whilst others migrate or are only in flower/visible at certain times of the year.	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green
Inspection of buildings and built structures for potential roost sites	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green
Inspection of trees for potential roost sites	Green	Green	Green	Yellow								
Inspection of bat boxes	Green	Green	Yellow	Brown	Green							
The timing of ecology survey work is sometimes restricted to a small window annually. Therefore it is best practice to plan ecology survey in as early as possible in the application process.	Brown	Brown	Yellow	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Yellow	Brown	Brown
Activity (commuting or foraging) survey	Brown	Brown	Brown	Brown	Yellow	Green	Green	Green	Yellow	Yellow	Brown	Brown
Emergence or re-entry survey (trees or buildings)	Brown	Brown	Brown	Brown	Brown	Brown	Brown	Yellow	Yellow	Brown	Brown	Brown
The programme opposite gives an indication of how survey timing constraints apply to the year calendar.	Brown	Brown	Brown	Brown	Brown	Brown	Brown	Yellow	Yellow	Brown	Brown	Brown
Mating roost/Autumn swarming survey	Green	Green	Yellow	Green								
Early identification of bat presence can save money and prevent lengthy delays.	Green	Green	Yellow	Green								
Hibernation survey	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green
Automated logger survey (of maternity or hibernation roosts or as part of activity survey)	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green

