



Spring into Action

Early spring provides an excellent opportunity to plan ecological surveys for the year. **Timely programming** ensure that no optimal survey periods for **protected species are missed** (see key timings below), which may **result in delays** to planning applications or site works due to **seasonal constraints**.

We are currently assisting a number of clients with ecological assessments to ensure that the requirement for further surveys of protected species and important habitats (e.g. grasslands) are identified as early as possible to allow timely programming of key assessments going forward.

A list of **commonly encountered protected species** is presented below and provides **critical survey times** and **key information**, which is important for those undertaking, managing or planning site operations in 2010.

Full details of all of our ecological services are available on our [website](#).

Hot Topic: Key Survey Timings

If you have a query relating to protected species please click on the related image below to contact us.

Amphibians

(March to June)

Unlike many other species **Great Crested Newts (GCN)** can only be reliably **assessed** during a small window in **mid-spring**, key months being **April to May**. If this window is missed then works may be **delayed until the presence/absence** of this species can be ascertained the following **spring**.



Reptiles

(March to June)

Spring is a key time for reptiles as it provides an opportunity for energy levels depleted during the winter months to be replenished. As these species become more active in warmer months, the period from **March to June** is the **optimal survey time** for them.



Bats

(May to September)

Early spring provides an **ideal** opportunity to **locate** and **assess potential roost sites** in buildings and assess suspected hibernation sites. As the season progresses and bats begin to forage for insects, **activity surveys** can progress from **May** onwards.



Badgers (March to May)

Spring is the **optimum time** to survey for **badgers**, **early assessment** of badger activity is **essential** if scheduled works affecting this species are planned for the coming summer. **Licences to close or work close to setts** can only be issued between **July** and **November** so timely planning is essential.



Birds (April to June)

With the nesting season fast approaching, **early spring (February to March)** provides a suitable time to complete **site clearance** works, with **April to June** the ideal time to **survey** and plan for a range of **specially protected species** (e.g. Schedule 1 species including Red Kite and Little Ringed Plover).



Case Studies: Lockhart Garratt Solutions for Protected Species

Lockhart Garratt has been assisting the following two sites with managing Great Crested Newt issues, including mitigation works to facilitate development and ongoing monitoring as part of licence commitments.

Whitsundoles Quarry: GCN Mitigation

"Lockhart Garratt has provided a pragmatic and cost effective solution to what could have been a significant constraint to the restoration of my site".

Chris Hall - Quarry Owner, Hall Brothers Ltd



[Click image for full case study](#)

Stanion Lane Plantation: GCN Monitoring

"Lockhart Garratt is highly committed to customer service and protection of the environment and has demonstrated that they are professionally able to service this project at both strategic and technical levels".

**Chris Lewis - First Vice President Infrastructure UK
ProLogis Developments Ltd**



[Click image for full case study](#)

Latest News

"Conservation Banks" potentially an election away

The likelihood of biodiversity "banking" may move a step closer if the Conservatives win the upcoming General Election. Under the proposed scheme developers would be forced to buy credits from "conservation banks" as a condition of building permission. The "banks" would be run by local communities, voluntary groups or companies and would issue credits to create or manage wildlife reserves or other conservation initiatives. To find out more [click here](#).

Power to the people

Under a government scheme householders, communities or businesses that buy and install solar panels, wind turbines or biomass processing equipment will receive payments for energy produced. Schemes meeting all the requirements will be eligible for up to 40 pence per kwh, for more information [click here](#).

Green injection for developers

According to John Healey, Housing Minister, the Government is to fund the construction of 100 showpiece

'carbon neutral' homes in four towns around the country. Designed to improve the public perception of 'Ecotowns' homes built as part of the schemes will support features ranging from solar heated water tanks to composting systems. For more information [click here](#).

Forthcoming Events

IEEM Workshop

The IEEM workshop will be taking place on the 8th June. The topic is "**Woodland Management and Wildlife Protection**", and James Patmore and Graham Garratt will be running it. If you would like to subscribe to this event please refer to the [IEEM website](#).

Spring/Summer CPD Sessions

We are currently taking a limited number of bookings for lunchtime CPD sessions, which include short presentations on a range of subjects including ecological baseline assessment, protected species and BREEAM Code for Sustainable Homes. If you are interested in receiving a lunchtime CPD session at your office please [contact us](#).

In Brief

Welcome

To [Jonathan Tye](#) who has joined Lockhart Garratt this year to provide assistance to the ecology team during the busy survey period and also to assist with wider company projects.

Congratulations

To our Senior Ecological Consultant, James Patmore, for attaining Chartered Environmentalist status through the Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management.

Training

All Lockhart Garratt professional staff have recently passed the [Construction Skills Health and Safety Certification](#) (CSCS), which demonstrates that when on site our staff are qualified, competent and safe.



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