

# Part 4 – Ecological studies

- When are studies required?
- What should be included in a study?
- Ecological Impact Assessment (EcIA)

# When are ecological studies required?

- Ecological studies are required where a development has the potential to impact on designated sites, UK BAP and LBAP habitats and species, and legally protected species.
- Trigger lists (e.g. ALGE document) can be used



# What should be in an study?

- Desktop study
- Establishing the baseline (surveys)
- Report

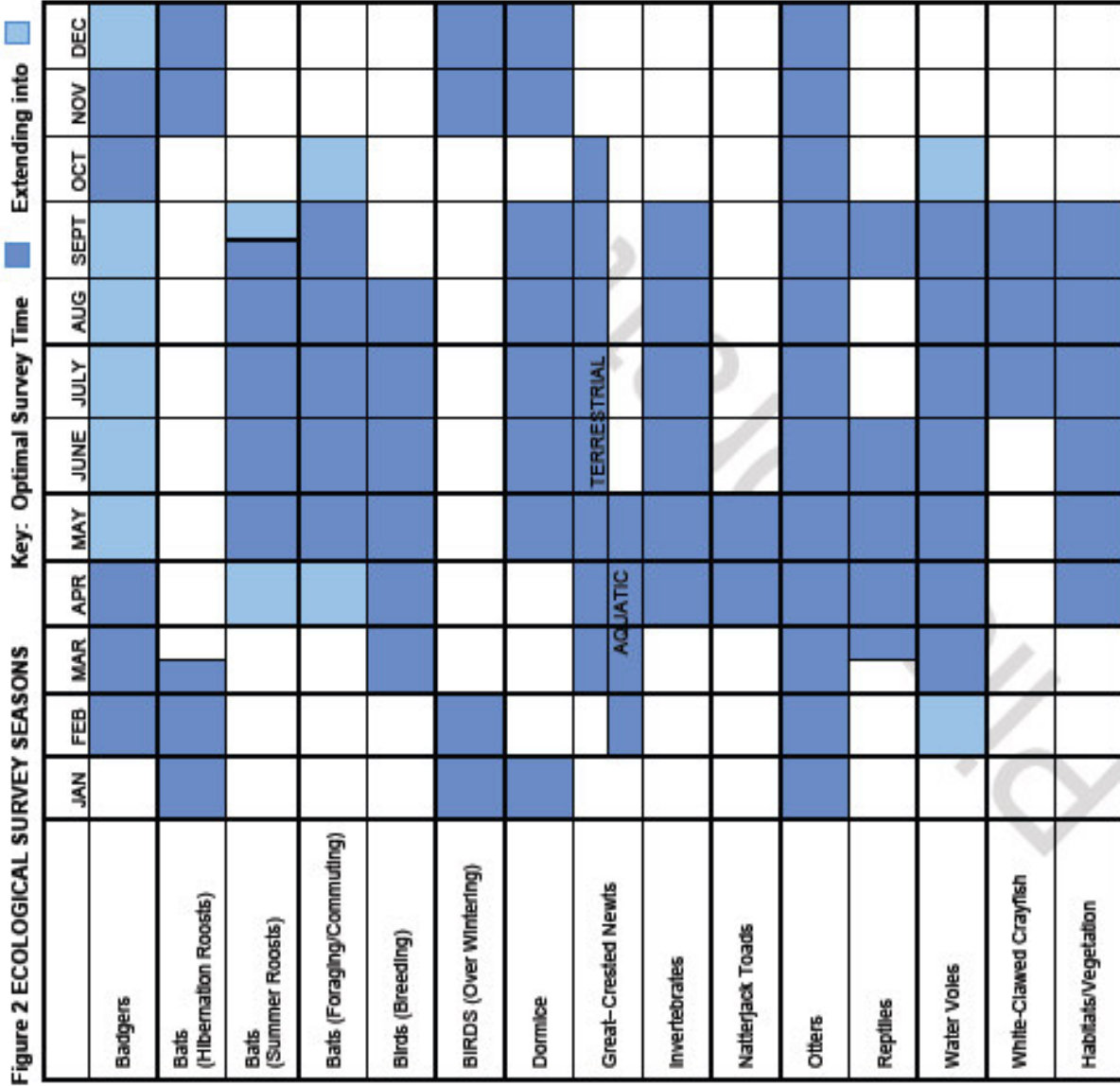
The information presented should be sufficient to accurately identify the ecological value of the development site, the impacts that will arise, steps that can be taken to avoid such impacts, and the sufficiency of the mitigation/compensation that is proposed.

# What should be in a study? (2)

- Desktop study
  - Information from NBGRC
  - Protected species / other notable species
  - Designated sites
  - Other county recorders (birds/bats/mammals etc.).

# What should be in a study? (3)

- Surveys
  - Extended Phase 1 Habitat Survey
  - Possibly a Phase 2 survey as well
  - Protected species surveys
  - Other surveys (depends on what's there)



# What should be in a study? (4)

- Report
  - Describe the site, identifying important features, habitats and species
  - Identify the impacts of the works
  - Detail the steps to avoid, mitigate or compensate for any negative impacts

# Ecological Impact Assessment (EcIA)

- A more detailed form of ecological assessment - a key part of EIA, but can be undertaken separately – for larger proposals?
- Should be informed by a scoping process (useful for other ecological studies)
- Assigns levels of 'value' to ecological receptors
- Identifies the severity of the impact
- Determines if an impact will be significant, and if it will be positive or negative
- Looks at mitigation, compensation and enhancement

# Mitigation, compensation and enhancement

- Mitigation
  - Reducing impacts
  - Altering development footprint, changing timings of operations and methods of working
- Compensation
  - last resort – habitat translocation or off-site re-creation
- Enhancement
  - Building features into developments; ponds, nest boxes, using native species, etc.