

Spring has Sprung!

The first signs of spring are starting to show with reports of *wheatear* and *ospreys* returning to our shore, and *adders* spotted on the hills, waking after their winter sleep.

With this emergence, the **Ecology Team** at **ITPenergised** are preparing for a busy survey season ahead in 2017.

We would like to take this opportunity to contact our clients and highlight some of the ecological considerations which might start to arise on many projects. Some of the big hitters are listed below.

European Protected Species



BATS

We often get enquiries about bats in buildings but they can also **roost in trees**.

Bats are **European Protected Species**, as such, they receive protection from both destruction of roosts and **disturbance of roosts**.

The bat survey season extends from **April** to **September** but surveys can't be condensed into the end (or beginning) of this season. At ITPenergised we can offer a **range of solutions** to bat data collection and can provide advice from our **in-house licensed bat worker**.

AMPHIBIANS – GREAT CRESTED NEWTS (GCN)

GCN are also **European Protected Species**.

In spring the adults move from land based habitats to breeding ponds.



Early involvement can allow the use of **DNA techniques** - where negative results would prevent need for further surveys, and early positive results would leave enough time to collect further data.

The optimal survey period is **April** to **June**.

Protected Species



BADGERS

Badgers are also **emerging from setts** at this time of year, with this **peak in activity** comes an optimal survey period.

The **spring survey** period extends through to the end of **April**, with a second (but reduced) period in **Autumn**.

Badgers setts are protected from **destruction or obstruction** and badgers are protected from **disturbance at their setts**.

BREEDING BIRDS

Breeding birds start nesting from early **April** through to **mid-August**, although some species breed outside of this period.

All birds within the UK are protected by the Wildlife and Countryside Act during the breeding season.

Our **in-house ornithologists** provide a range of services, including: vantage point surveys, breeding walkover surveys and numerous species-specific surveys.

Contact Us

This news bulletin aims to highlight just a few of the ecological considerations that may exist in a project.

Our **Ecology Team** can provide a wide range of ecological services, including: surveys, mitigation, impact assessment and enhancement advice.

Please don't hesitate to contact the team to discuss you needs or concerns throughout the season; we are only too happy to help, and do love talking about ecology!

Our **Principal Ecologist**, **Lorraine Hamilton** (Lorraine.Hamilton@itpenergised.com/ 07769 116057) and **Senior Ecologist & Licensed Bat Worker**, **Nikki Murray** (Nikki.Murray@itpenergised.com/ 07857 072654) are available to respond to any queries.