

Bird Survey Information

Survey Methodology

Breeding Bird Surveys

Standard Common Bird Census (CBC) methodology is followed, in which an observer walks a route taking them to within 50m of every point of the survey area, and the identity and activity of all birds are noted. The types of observations included birdsong, alarm calls, courtship, aggressive displays, carrying nest material, food carrying, family groups and feeding young. Birds flying over the survey area are also noted as well as birds on the survey area boundary. Generally four survey visits are carried out between **mid-March and June** inclusive to ensure early and late breeders are surveyed. Surveys are carried out in the early morning (when bird activity is high). Once the surveys are complete, field observations are analysed and territory maps produced.

Woodland Point Counts

In extensive woodland, point counts are more appropriate than the CBC methodology. Points are positioned at least 200m apart and 100m from the woodland edge. Recording times of five minutes are completed at each point following a two minute 'settling period'. During the count all birds and their activity are recorded once and once only. Their position is recorded into three distance bands; 25m, 50m and 100m from the observer. Counts are completed within the first six hours of sunrise and three visits are made between **April and June inclusive**. The route taken between points is reversed between each visit to ensure points were covered at different times of the morning.

Nesting Bird Surveys

Vegetation proposed for removal during the bird nesting season (**March to September inclusive**) must be checked for nests prior to the works. The survey initially involves watching from a distance to check for any birds building a nest or visiting nest sites with food or removing fecal pellets. Following this, the area is thoroughly checked for nests and other signs of nesting birds (e.g. aggregations of droppings, feathers, sounds of young begging for food). The results of a nesting bird survey are **only valid for 24 hours** and therefore the survey should be carried out immediately prior to, or the day prior to, vegetation removal. If an active bird nest is found, restrictions on vegetation removal will be necessary.



Wintering Bird Surveys

Surveys follow the standard Wetland Bird Survey (WeBS) methodology which is based on the 'look - see' approach whereby the observer counts all wintering bird species within the survey area. Such surveys are carried out once a month between **late October and early March**, therefore totaling six visits.

Vantage Point Surveys

Such surveys may be required for renewable energy developments. Surveys involve recording the flight path and behaviour of target species and recording activity summaries of secondary species. A 180° viewing arc covering the turbine locations is scanned and any target species within 2km of the vantage point is followed until flight ceases. Details of the flight are recorded, including flight height, and the path plotted onto a map. Activity surveys on secondary species are also recorded and are sub-divided into five minute periods.



Survey Timings

J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
		Breeding Bird									
		Point Counts									
		Nesting Birds									
Wintering										Birds	
Vantage Point Surveys											

Further information is available on our website at www.emec-ecology.co.uk.



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