

# Protected species and planning in Bexley

## Protected species occurring in Bexley

Many plant and animal species receive some degree of protection under European Union and United Kingdom laws. Some species are fully protected; it is an offence to kill, injure, capture or disturb them or to damage their places of shelter. Others receive only partial protection.

### European protected species

Full protection under the EU Birds and Habitats Directives, implemented in the UK by the Habitats Regulations.

Bats (all species - at least 9 species are known to occur in Bexley)

Great crested newt

### Species fully protected under UK legislation

Full protection under Schedules 1, 5 and 8 of the Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) or the Protection of Badgers Act 1992.

Badger

Barn owl

Bearded tit

Black redstart

Cetti's Warbler

Firecrest

Hobby

Kingfisher

Little Ringed Plover

Stinking goosefoot

Water vole

In addition, all wild birds and their nests are protected against killing, injury or taking.

### Species protected only against killing and injury

Common lizard

Grass snake

Slow worm

### Species protected only in relation to sale

Common frog

Common toad

Palmate newt

Smooth newt

Stag beetle



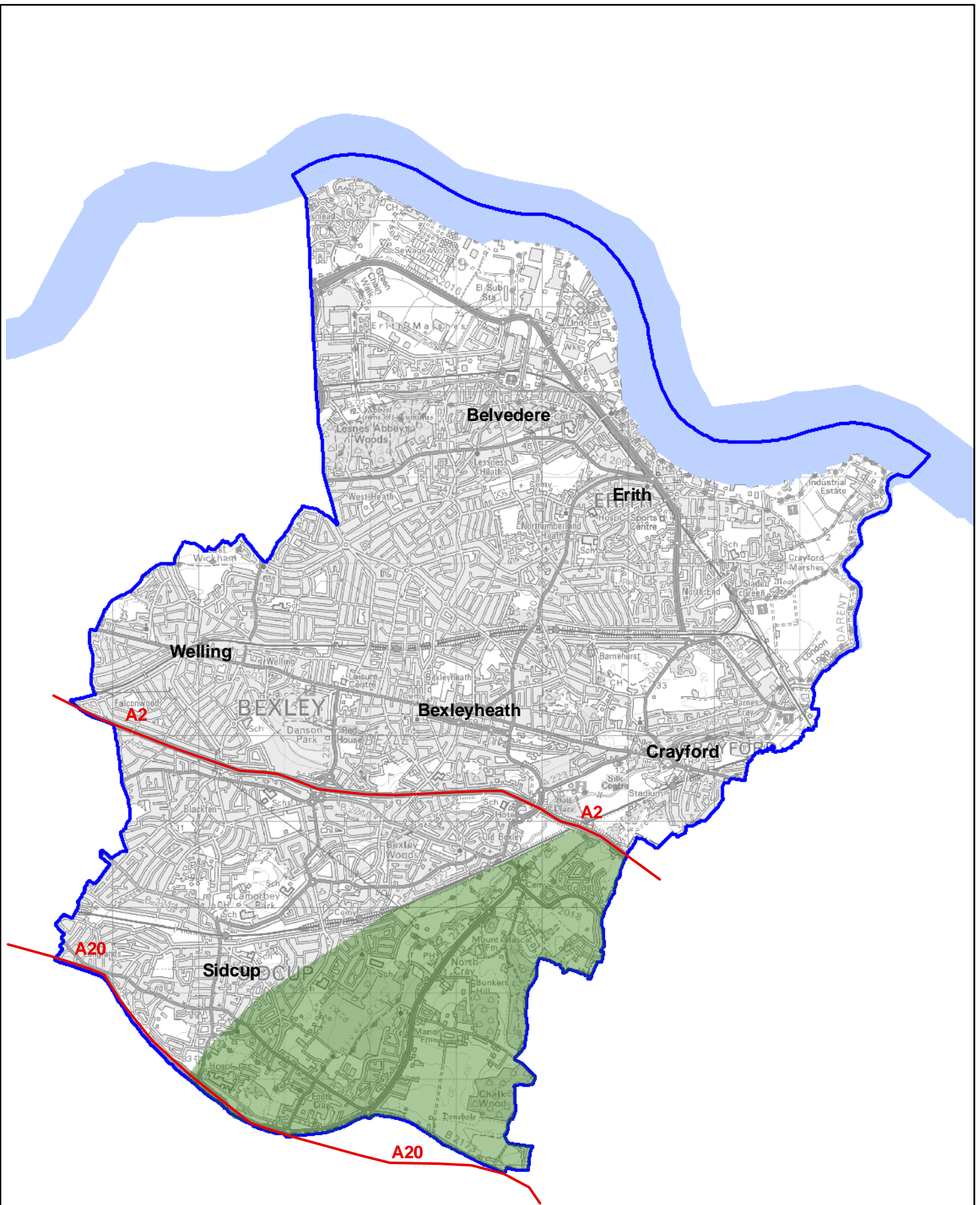
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**BEXLEY**

## Biodiversity information needed to assess planning applications in Bexley

Criteria	Requirement
All proposals on a Site of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINC)	Ecological survey (habitats, plants, birds, invertebrates, other relevant species groups) of application site and surrounding parts of SINC, impact assessment, mitigation proposals
All proposals adjacent to a SINC	Ecological survey (habitats, plants, birds, invertebrates, other relevant species groups) of application site and adjacent parts of SINC, impact assessment, mitigation proposals if impacts identified
<p>Proposed development including the modification, conversion, demolition or removal of buildings and structures (especially roof voids) involving the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• pre-1914 buildings with gable ends or slate roofs, regardless of location</li> <li>• all buildings that are within 200m of woodland, water or large open spaces known to be important for feeding bats*;</li> <li>• all tunnels, kilns, ice-houses, air raid shelters, cellars and similar underground ducts and structures;</li> <li>• all bridge structures, aqueducts and viaducts.</li> </ul>	Survey for bat roosts, detailed mitigation proposals if any sign of roosts found
<p>Proposed tree work (felling or lopping) or development affecting:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• trees older than 100 years;</li> <li>• trees with obvious holes, cracks or cavities;</li> <li>• trees with a girth greater than 1m at chest height.</li> </ul>	Survey for bat roosts, detailed mitigation proposals if any sign of roosts found
Proposals involving lighting of churches or listed buildings, or floodlighting of green space, within 50m of woodland, water or large open spaces known to be important for feeding bats*, or within 50m of hedgerows or tree lines with obvious connections to woodland, water or large open spaces known to be important for feeding bats	Bat surveys including roost and foraging surveys, assessment of impacts and mitigation proposals if bats are found
All proposals within 500m of a pond in the North Cray/Foots Cray area (see map overleaf)	Survey for great crested newts, assessment of impacts on newt habitat (terrestrial or aquatic), mitigation proposals

All proposals within 50m of a river or where application site includes or adjoins a river	Ecological survey including for water voles (and otters?), impact assessment, detailed mitigation proposals if water voles present, proposals for river enhancements. 8 metre vegetated buffer beside river
All proposals within 50m of a drainage ditch in Belvedere or Crayford	Water vole survey, detailed mitigation proposals if present. 8 metre vegetated buffer beside ditch
All proposals affecting greenspace (including gardens) in the North Cray/Foots Cray area (see map overleaf)	Survey for badgers, assessment of impacts and detailed mitigation proposals if setts or other signs of badger activity are found
All proposals affecting derelict land with or close to areas of sparse, open vegetation, where buildings or other structures are to be demolished	Survey for black redstarts with detailed mitigation proposals if found, mitigation proposals for habitat loss
All proposals for sites containing rough grassland, heathland, scrub, allotments or open vegetation mosaics, except for isolated brownfield sites with no connections to other areas of habitat	Survey for reptiles (mitigation schemes can be dealt with by condition)
Major proposals affecting brownfield land with open vegetation mosaics	Ecological survey including for black redstarts and reptiles, detailed mitigation for these species if found, mitigation proposals for habitat loss (eg brownfield green roofs) regardless of whether protected species are found
All proposals affecting any buildings, structures, feature or locations where protected species (other than occasional foraging bats with no evidence of roosts) are known to occur	Survey, impact assessment and mitigation proposals for the relevant protected species.
Major proposals with the potential for significant impact on water quality in the River Thames	Habitats Regulations Assessment of possible impacts on the Thames Estuary and Marshes Special Protection Area
Major proposals with the potential for significant adverse impacts on air quality	Habitats Regulations Assessment of possible impacts on Epping Forest Special Area of Conservation

\* See the map below. Woodland is here defined as any group of trees covering more than 0.5 hectares; water includes rivers, streams, drainage ditches, lakes and ponds more than 10 metres in maximum dimension. The open spaces known to be important for bats are Erith Marshes, Crayford Marshes, Franks Park, Danson Park, Foots Cray Meadows, Lesnes Abbey (including all open space and the ornamental gardens), The Glade, East Wickham Open Space, The Warren and Hall Place.

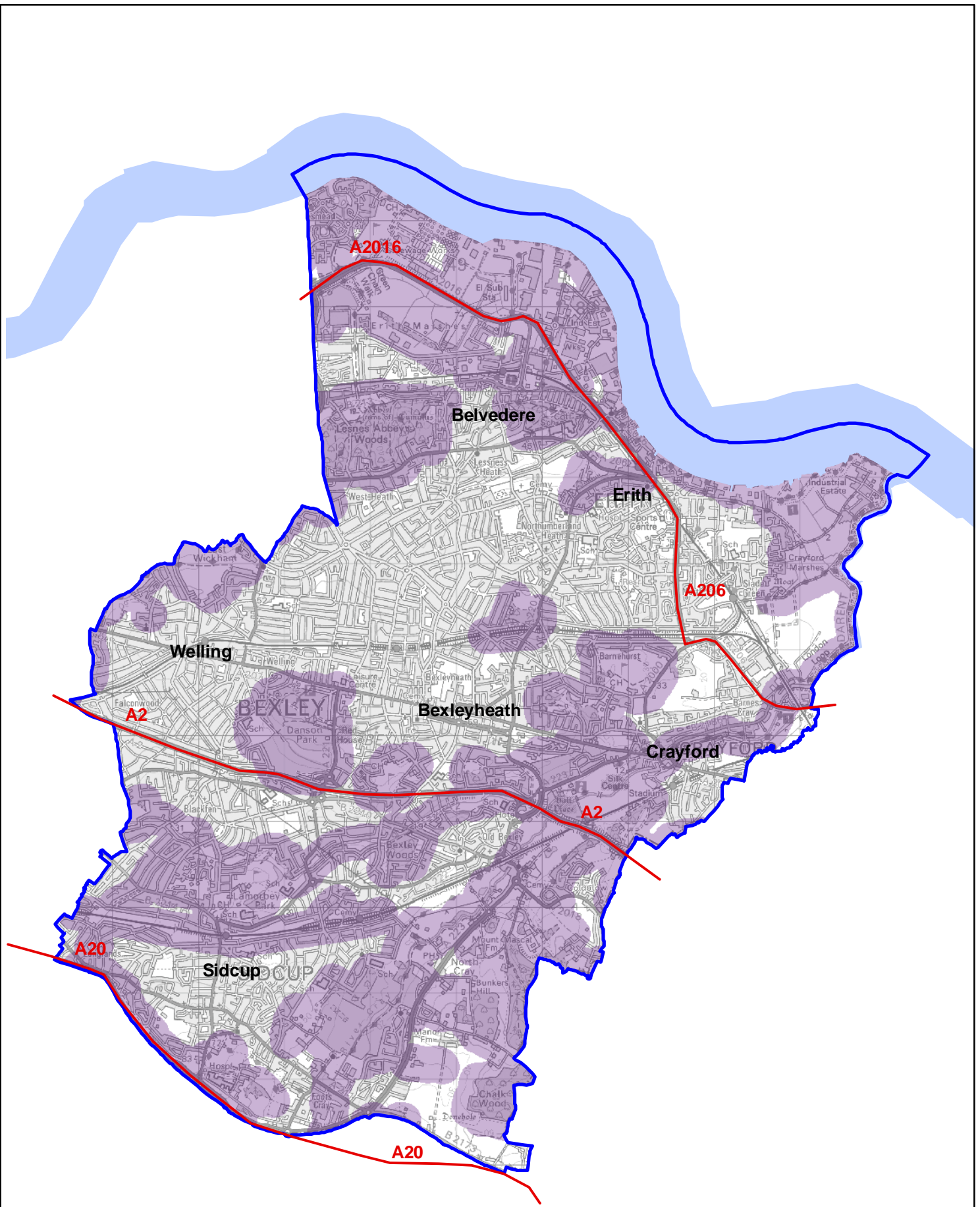


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Area where badgers and great crested newts should be considered in assessing planning applications

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Areas within 200m of woodland, water or known bat feeding areas

## **Survey requirements for protected species**

These are guidelines on the types of surveys required when protected species may be affected by development proposals. The circumstances in which surveys are likely to be required are set out in the table above. All surveys should be carried out by a suitably qualified ecologist. For details of appropriately qualified commercial ecologists, see <http://www.ieem.net/ieemdirectory.asp>

### **Great crested newts**

#### Ponds

Method: any 3 of netting, torch surveys, bottle trapping, egg searches

Effort: 4 visits in suitable weather conditions

Timing: February to mid-June (visits spread throughout this period), at least 2 visits mid-April to mid-May

#### Terrestrial habitat

Method: Pitfall-trapping with drift fence (preferably plus refuges)

Effort: 60 trapping nights (NB this means 60 nights with suitable weather conditions)

Timing: March – October

### **Bats**

#### Roost surveys

Method: detailed examination of building/structure/trees for signs of use by bats

Effort: need to be able to examine all possible locations within a building (otherwise emergence/re-entry surveys also required)

Timing: any time of year

#### Emergence/re-entry surveys

Method: looking for emerging bats 15 minutes before sunset to 2 hours after sunset, and/or 2 hours before sunrise to sunrise

Effort: 2-3 survey visits (dusk then the following dawn counts as 1 visit), may need more than 1 surveyor to watch all sides of building

Timing: May to mid-October (preferably May to August)

#### Activity surveys

Method: transects covering the whole site, from sunset for 2-3 hours

Effort: 2-3 visits

Timing: May to September (preferably June to August)

### **Water voles**

Method: close examination of all waterway and pond edges, up to 2 metres from the water, and detailed mapping of signs, including faeces, latrines, feeding stations, burrows, footprints

Timing: April to October

### **Badgers**

Method: searching for setts and other signs of use by badgers

Timing: any time, but determining if a sett is active best in spring or early winter

**Black redstarts**

See <http://www.blackredstarts.org.uk/pages/sitesurvey.html>

**Surveys for singing males**

Method: early morning visits (starting 1 hour before dawn) to listen for singing males

Effort: 1 visit per week in suitable weather conditions

Timing: May to August

**Reptiles**

Method: walkover searches and using artificial refugia at a density of at least 10 per hectare

Effort: at least 7 visits in suitable weather to determine presence/absence

Timing: mid-March to late June and late August to late September