

A417 fact sheet

Water environment surveys



What are water environment surveys?

We use qualified ecologists to survey potential habitats, feeding or breeding areas. Bodies of water, like ponds, rivers and ditches, are home to some amazing plants, animals and habitats, and many of them are protected by law. Knowing exactly where they are, is essential if we're to minimise any impact on them.

What's involved?

Some species are so rare they're protected by law so we need to do specific surveys for each one. This includes looking across an extended area too, to spot any potential wider repercussions of our work, or any opportunities to enhance conservation value where we can. We take great care so that species are not harmed, but we occasionally trap animals humanely before releasing them back into the wild.

Our survey teams will require access to the survey locations to conduct routine monitoring and to service automatic flow logging equipment.

Why are we doing them now?

Surveys need to be done at the right time of day (or night) and the right time of year, depending on what we're looking for. Our ecologists are licensed and practised at carrying out surveys and handling wildlife safely. This is important to help us to protect the water environment during construction and ensure we do not impact it negatively as a result.

What will happen on site?

Our surveys will require our specialists to access watercourses and other water features, such as springs, to carry out:

- water quality monitoring (both surface watercourses and springs)
- water flow monitoring (both surface watercourses and springs)
- aquatic invertebrate sampling
- surrounding water environment assessments, including tufa deposits.

None of the above surveys require digging, however flow monitoring at three locations will be conducted by automatic loggers, which need to be secured to the bed of the watercourse on a level concrete slab.

We'll run a cable from the flow meter within the watercourse to a secured data logger outside of the watercourse. We'll remove these when the monitoring is complete. We'll need to install markers at water quality and flow monitoring locations to assist in providing consistency in survey locations. We'll also take photos at these locations to capture changes between visits.



If you need help accessing this or any other Highways England information, please call **0300 123 5000** and we will help you.