

# BREEAM & CSH

(Code for Sustainable Homes)

Ecology Guidance Note: 2014

Survey Season Calendar

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec

Optimal
  Sub-optimal
  Inappropriate

## Why Survey?

### WHAT IS BREEAM?

**BREEAM** sets the standard for best practice in sustainable building design, construction and operation. The criteria have become one of the most comprehensive and widely recognised measures of a building's environmental performance. There are different categories including Education and Bespoke designs. The aim is to gain the maximum number of credits available in each category, to achieve the desired overall build rating, such as 'Very Good' or 'Excellent'. BREEAM addresses wide-ranging environmental and sustainability issues, enabling developers, designers and building managers to demonstrate the environmental credentials of their buildings to clients, planners and stakeholders.

### BREEAM:

A BREEAM assessment uses recognised measures of performance, which are set against established benchmarks, to evaluate a building's specification, design, construction and use. BREEAM Assessments can be used for both new builds and extensions. The measures used represent a broad range of categories and criteria, including ecology.

### Code for Sustainable Homes (CSH):

Implemented in May 2008, The Code for Sustainable Homes (CSH) is the mandatory, national standard for the sustainable design and construction of new homes. The main aim is to provide more environmentally sound new homes, with lower carbon emissions. It was developed using the Building Research Establishment (BRE) EcoHomes criteria, which reduces the ecological impacts of new housing developments. The CSH includes a designated ecology category, where credits can be awarded for ecological protection and enhancement measures.

## Methodology

The methodology used to assess the ecology category for BREEAM and CSH projects follows similar approaches. It requires a site assessment, where the number and location of plant species and habitats can be mapped. The initial survey identifies the potential for protected species and the need for any further specific species surveys. Features of ecological interest are noted and measures for their protection provided. Recommendations for further ecological enhancement to the site are put forward, along with an appraisal of the available credits achievable (Eco1-4). It is necessary for the appointed Suitably Qualified Ecologist (SQE) to liaise closely with the project management and design team throughout the project, including a post construction visit, to ensure ecological compliance.

## Mitigation

Mitigation measures will depend on the specific site and desired BREEAM ratings being targeted. Mandatory and optional mitigation measures suitable for the design will be detailed in the Ecology Report.

