

# Charlotte Peacock Associates



ENVIRONMENTAL CONSULTANCY

## White-Clawed Crayfish

Type of Survey	Optimal Time of Year
Presence \ Absence	July - September
Population Estimates	July - September

### Legislation

White-clawed crayfish are listed on Schedule 5 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended). This makes it illegal amongst other things to:

- Intentionally kill or injure these wild animals;
- Intentionally or recklessly to damage, destroy or obstruct the places these animals use for shelter and protection; and
- Intentionally or recklessly to disturb these animals when they are using such places.

They are also listed under Section 41 of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities (NERC) Act 2006 as well as on the UK Biodiversity Action Plan (UKBAP) and some Local Biodiversity Action Plans (LBAPs) making them a priority for conservation efforts.

### Preferred Habitat

White-clawed crayfish favour hard-water rivers and streams but can be found in various water bodies such as lakes and reservoirs. Their numbers have declined significantly due to competition and disease from the introduced North American signal crayfish.



### Survey Methodology

Surveys are completed in accordance with Natural England Guidance (Peay, 2003). Initially one survey is required with a checking survey completed a couple of weeks later. Surveys usually involve manual searches of the section of water which may be effected by the proposed works, both directly and indirectly, as well as a buffer zone. However, if the conditions are not suitable for manual searches such as the water being too deep then torch surveys and trapping can also be carried out.