

Current forensic tests available for the investigation of wildlife crime in the UK

This table lists examples of different types of testing available for wildlife crime investigations, and some organisations that carry them out, but it is by no means an exhaustive list of providers. The National Crime Agency also holds a database of forensic service providers. Appearance on this list does not constitute an endorsement or recommendation by the PAW Forensic Working Group. All costs are for guidance, significant discounts may be available for multiple samples submitted for analysis in a batch. Always contact the provider to receive an accurate quote.

It is important to recognise that not all laboratories are capable of running tests to the standard required for presentation in court. **Please remember to seek a supplier with accreditation to forensic standards wherever possible** (ISO = accreditation to international standard 17025 for testing, FSR= compliant with UK Forensic Science Regulator Codes). For some areas there is no formal accreditation (NFA) scheme available. If you are considering any testing using a non-accredited laboratory, please seek independent advice, either from your Forensic Service Provider or the PAW Forensic Working Group, to ensure evidence obtained will be admissible in court.

Method	Application	Cost (ex VAT)	Laboratory	Accreditation	Notes / contact details
Animal DNA analysis	1. Species identification 2. Animal sexing (birds and deer) 3. Individual identification and parentage analyses (dogs, badgers, red deer, some raptors).	£250-£400 per sample	Wildlife DNA Forensic Unit, SASA, Edinburgh	ISO, FSR	wildlifeforensics@sasa.gov.scot 0131 244 8929
Entomology	Estimating time since death through insects found on carcasses	£118 per hour	Natural History Museum, London	Not known	Martin Hall m.hall@nhm.ac.uk 0207 942 5715
Pesticide analysis	Pesticide identification in suspected poisoning cases	Free	Wildlife Incident Investigation Scheme	ISO	0800 321 600 to report a suspected poisoning incident (linked to relevant labs) http://www.hse.gov.uk/pesticides/topics/reducing-environmental-impact/wildlife.htm

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Physical Inspection	Species identification from whole specimens and their parts and derivatives	£118 per hour	Natural History Museum, London / Tring	Not known	nhmconsulting@nhm.ac.uk 0207 942 6189
		POA	National Museum of Scotland, Edinburgh	Not known	Andrew Kitchener or Rachel Russell a.kitchener@nms.ac.uk r.russell@nms.ac.uk 0131 247 4240 / 4231
		POA	Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew	Not known	Wood Anatomy Peter Gasson p.gasson@kew.org
Plant DNA analysis	Species identification	POA	Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew	Not known	Felix Forest f.forest@kew.org
Radioisotope analysis	Aging samples to before or after 1950 (Radio carbon dating)	£400 + £120 for report	SUERC, East Kilbride	QA in place	Gordon Cook: g.cook@suerc.gla.ac.uk 01355 270136
Soil and plant traces analysis	To match soil found on suspect or with suspect to crime scene	£20-150 per test	James Hutton Institute	ISO	Dr Lorna Dawson: Lorna.Dawson@hutton.ac.uk 07815 178093
Taxidermy examination	Identification of cause of death / provenance and age of a specimen	£500 per day plus expenses or £60 per hour	Guild of Taxidermists	NFA	Kim McDonald: kim@taxidermylaw.co.uk 01245 225378
		POA	National Museum of Scotland, Edinburgh	NFA	Andrew Kitchener or Rachel Russell a.kitchener@nms.ac.uk r.russell@nms.ac.uk 0131 247 4240 / 4231

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Veterinary pathology - wildlife cases	Post mortem, and identification of disease or injury	Often free for Scottish cases	Scotland: Scottish Rural College, SAC Consulting Vet Services	ISO	Fiona Howie VCEdinburgh@sac.co.uk 0131 535 3130
		POA	Northern Ireland: AFBI Stormont veterinary laboratory, Belfast	Not known	028 90525618
		£396 per hour	IZVG Pathology, West Yorkshire	Not known	pathologists@izvg.co.uk 01535 692000
		£200 initial consult then hourly charge.	Royal Veterinary College Hertfordshire	Not known	Dr Henny Martineau/ Dr Sonja Jeckel diagnosticlabs@rvc.ac.uk 01707 666208
		POA	University of Bristol school of Veterinary science Veterinary pathology unit	Not known	0117 928 9525
		POA	University of Cambridge Anatomic Pathology Laboratory	Not known	hospital@vet.cam.ac.uk 01223 337606
		POA	University of Liverpool Veterinary pathology diagnostic service	Not known	0151 795 6294
		POA	University of Nottingham School of Veterinary medicine and science	Not known	0115 951 6116
		POA	Arrogen / Forensic Access Ltd	Not known	vet@forensic-access.co.uk 0845 371 2486