

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 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*	wildlifeforensics@sasa.gov.scot 0131 244 8929
	1. Species identification (single source samples)* 2. Species identification (common species from mixtures) 3. Individual identification and relationship analysis (dogs, cows)* 4. Great crested newt eDNA	£195-270 per sample - POA	Cellmark Forensic Services Abingdon, Oxfordshire and Chorley, Lancashire	ISO*, FSR	info@cellmarkforensics.co.uk 01235 528609
Plant DNA analysis	Species identification	POA	Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew		Dr Christopher Wallis Commercial Innovation Unit ciu@kew.org
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

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Ecology and Archaeology	Soil and pollen comparisons, forensic archaeology of buried animals.	POA	Alecto Forensic Services		https://www.intaforensics.com/ 0247 77 17780
Physical Inspection	Species identification from whole specimens and their parts and derivatives	£120 per hour	Natural History Museum, London / Tring		Christina Fisher ias1@nhm.ac.uk
		POA	National Museum of Scotland, Edinburgh		Andrew Kitchener or Rachel Russell a.kitchener@nms.ac.uk r.russell@nms.ac.uk 0131 247 4240 / 4231
		POA	Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew		Wood Anatomy Peter Gasson p.gasson@kew.org
Entomology	Estimating time since death through insects found on carcasses	£120 per hour	Natural History Museum, London		Christina Fisher ias1@nhm.ac.uk
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		Kim McDonald: kim@taxidermylaw.co.uk 01245 225378
		POA	National Museum of Scotland, Edinburgh		Andrew Kitchener or Rachel Russell a.kitchener@nms.ac.uk r.russell@nms.ac.uk 0131 247 4240 / 4231
Radioisotope analysis	Aging samples to before or after 1950 (Radio carbon dating)	£400 + £120 for report	SUERC, East Kilbride		Gordon Cook: g.cook@suerc.gla.ac.uk 01355 270136
		POA	Alecto Forensic Services		info@alectoforensics.com 01235 426030 / 07727515050
Digital forensics	Mobile phone analysis	POA	CCI Group, Stratford Upon Avon	ISO, FSR	www.cclgrouppltd.com 01789 261200
	Mobile phone and computer analysis	POA	IntaForensics	ISO	https://www.intaforensics.com/ 0247 77 17780

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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) WIIS scheme
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		Post-mortem reception: 028 90525618
		POA	IZVG Pathology, West Yorkshire		pathologists@izvg.co.uk 01535 692000
		£200 initial consult then hourly charge.	Royal Veterinary College Hertfordshire		Dr Henny Martineau/ Dr Sonja Jeckel diagnosticlabs@rvc.ac.uk 01707 666208
		POA	University of Bristol school of Veterinary science Veterinary pathology unit		pmservices@bristol.ac.uk 0117 428 4767
		POA	University of Cambridge Anatomic Pathology Laboratory		01223 337606
		POA	University of Liverpool Veterinary pathology diagnostic service		vpserve@liverpool.ac.uk 0151 795 6294

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Veterinary pathology - wildlife cases	Post mortem, and identification of disease or injury	POA	University of Nottingham School of Veterinary medicine and science		Veterinary-Pathology@nottingham.ac.uk 0115 95 16743 07813537686
		POA	Forensic Access Ltd		vet@forensic-access.co.uk 01235 774870

