# **Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended)**

Method statement to support A05a licence

applications for protected animals and plants

(excluding birds and European protected species)

Natural England Wildlife Licensing Service (NEWLS)
Horizon House

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The method statement will be used to determine the impact of the proposal on the population status of the species of animal or plant to which the licence relates (section 16(3B)(b)).

Please use photographs, maps and plans to support descriptions.

The format outlined in this template must be used and completed by a consultant ecologist or other suitably experienced person.

## Executive Summary

Provide an overview (no more than one side of A4) of what works are proposed, and explain how the impacts identified will be addressed to ensure they are not detrimental to the survival of the species.

## Introduction

**B.1** **Background to activity or development:** Include a brief summary of why the activity is necessary.

**B.2** **Full details of proposed works on site that are to be covered by the licence:** for example, housing, barn or loft conversion to new dwelling, demolition of buildings, construction of factory, extraction of clay, landfilling. Include current status of planning permission (if applicable).

## Survey and site assessment

**C.1** **Pre-existing information on the species at the survey site:** Provide records from local environmental records centres, local wildlife groups, previous survey work by the applicant or others.

**C.2** **Status of species** at the local, county and regional levels.

**C.3** **Objectives of the survey:** for example, to determine presence or absence of species and species usage of site.

**C.4** **Scaled plan or map of survey area** of appropriate scale and orientation, with integral or separate location map at 1:50,000 or 1:25,000 scale. Aerial photographs are also useful.

**C.5** **Site or habitat description** (relevant to the species concerned), based on daytime visits. Include annotated photographs if helpful.

**C.6** **Field surveys**: Include survey method, timings (such as in the day or evening), weather conditions (for example, wind, rain, temperature – tabulated for multiple survey visits), personnel involved (provide individual licence numbers, if held), and equipment used.

**C.7** **Survey results:** Summarise findings in table form (if appropriate). Provide clear, annotated, and cross-referenced maps/plans/photographs. Raw data to be appended (if required).

**C.8** **Interpretation/evaluation of survey results.** Provide count/estimate of species numbers, status and significance of population, constraints on survey (for example, time of year, cold weather, access problems – justify as necessary).

**C.9 If surveys have not followed best practice guidelines**, give a justification for your survey methods.

## Impact assessment in absence of mitigation

**D.1 Short-term impacts: disturbance.**

**D.2 Long-term impacts: habitat loss or modification.** Impact on species’ populations to be considered at local, regional and national levels.Note that impacts can be positive or negative, as this is in absence of mitigation.

**D.3 Long-term impacts: fragmentation and isolation.**

**D.4 Post-development interference impacts**

**D.5** **Predicted scale of impact** on species status at the site, local county, and regional levels.

**D.6 For applications requesting to kill reptiles,** fulldetails of the exceptional circumstances must be provided.

## Mitigation and compensation

**E.1 Summary of mitigation strategy:** Overview of how the impacts will be addressed in order to ensure that the proposal is not detrimental to the survival of any population of the species of animal or plant. To include a scaled map or plan that can be compared with the proposals on the survey results plan.

**E.2 Capture and exclusion** (if applicable): Timings, effort, methods to be employed, care of species, release sites etc. Include diagrams and photographs to show capture/exclusion apparatus if non-standard techniques are proposed. Include map to show location of capture and exclusion activities.

#### E.3 Habitat creation

**E.3.1 In-situ retention of habitat -** providing details of proposed works. Explain how the breeding sites or resting places will be retained. Any enhancements to habitat should also be detailed.

**E.3.2 Modification of existing habitat** - dimension details, scale drawings of the proposals.

**E.3.3 New habitat creation** – dimension details, location details, materials to be used (where applicable), aspect.

**E.3.4** **Scaled maps or plans** to show proposals or mitigation outlined above in relation to existing and proposed habitat features.

#### E4. Post-development site safeguard

**E4.1 Habitat or site management and maintenance** - to include details of what will be done in terms of habitat management and site maintenance required to ensure long-term security of affected population. Include details of site or structure ownership, and who will be responsible for undertaking the work, and who is responsible for funding.

**E4.2 Population monitoring** - to include details of monitoring effort and timing.

**E4.3 Mechanism for ensuring delivery of post-development works**: for example, Section 106 Agreement, to include details of who will undertake the population monitoring, habitat management and site maintenance work and reporting details, other covenants or contractual agreements.

##  Land ownership – mitigation sites (areas where any works will be done to offset development impacts, including development plot if applicable)

If the mitigation site is not owned by the applicant, you must have consent from the relevant land owners. You must have also secured details of how any measures to maintain the population in the long term will be achieved (for example, a legal agreement).

**F.1 Mitigation site ownership:** Provide details of who owns the land where mitigation is proposed.

**F.2 Declaration Statements:** Include the following declarations within your method statement and highlight the appropriate answer – applications that do not include these 3 declarations will result in a ‘further information request’ response.

**F.2.1** I confirm that relevant landowner consents has or have been granted to accept the species onto land outside the applicant's ownership – Yes, No or Not applicable.

**F.2.2** I confirm that landownership consents has or have been granted to allow the creation of the proposed habitat compensation on land outside the applicant's ownership - Yes, No or Not applicable.

**F.2.3** I confirm that consents has or have been granted by the relevant landowners for monitoring and maintenance purposes on land outside the applicant's ownership - Yes, No or Not applicable.

**Unsecured consents statement:** If you have been unable to secure consents for any of the three declarations, please explain why and detail any plans you have in place to obtain the consents or provide details of any rights or agreements that will enable the lawful implementation of the proposed mitigation, compensation and monitoring.

**Important Note:** Failure to provide the appropriate landowner consents means that the method statement is unlikely to meet the requirements for this licensing test to be met. It is therefore in your interest to ensure that the appropriate consents have been secured before applying for a licence.

## Timetable of works

Provide a table including timings of all capture, exclusion, mitigation and construction works.