# **The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017**



# **(as amended)**

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

Application for a licence for European protected species – method statement

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| The method statement will be used to determine the impact of the application on the favourable conservation and population status of the species concerned (Regulation 55(9)(b) and Section 16 (3B)(b).  **Please use photographs to support descriptions** |  | Wildlife Licensing  Natural England Horizon House  Deanery Road Bristol, BS1 5AH T. 020802 61089  [EPS.Mitigation@naturalengland.org.uk](mailto:EPS.Mitigation@naturalengland.org.uk) |

## Document 1 - Background and Supporting Information

*The format below must be used and completed by a consultant ecologist or other suitably experienced person*

**A Executive summary.** No more than one side of A4.

**B** **Introduction**

**B.1** **Background to activity/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, barn/loft conversion to new dwelling, demolition of buildings, construction of factory, extraction of clay, landfilling. etc. Include current status of planning permission (if applicable).

**C** **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/absence of species, species’ usage of site.

**C.4** **Scaled plan/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/habitat description** (relevant to the species concerned), based on day-time visits. Include annotated photographs if helpful.

**C.6** **Field survey(s)**. Include survey method, timings (day/evening), weather conditions (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.

**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).

**D** **Impact assessment in absence of mitigation**

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

**D.2 Long-term impacts: habitat loss or modification.** Impact on species population(s) to be taken into account 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.

**E References.** List any references cited, and include credits for source information.

**F Annexes**

**F.1** Pre-existing survey reports.

**F.2** Raw survey data.

## Document 2 - Delivery Information

*The format below must be used and completed by a consultant ecologist or other suitably experienced person*

**This document will be attached to the licence**

**A Mitigation and compensation**

**A.1 Summary of mitigation strategy.** Overview of how the impacts will be addressed in order to ensure no detriment to the maintenance of the population at a favourable conservation status. To include a scaled map or plan that can be compared with the proposals on the survey results plan.

**B Works to be undertaken by the ecologist or suitably experienced person**

**B.1 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.

**C Works to be undertaken by the Developer/Landowner**

#### C.1 Habitat creation

**C.1.1 In-situ retention of breeding sites/resting places –** providing details of proposed works. Explain how the breeding sites/resting places will be retained. Any enhancements to habitat should also be detailed.

**C.1.2 Modification of existing breeding site/ resting places -** dimension details, scale drawings of the proposals.

**C.1.3 New breeding site/resting place creation** – dimension details, location details, materials to be used (where applicable), aspect etc.

**C.1.4** **Scaled maps/plans** to show proposals/mitigation outlined above in relation to existing and proposed habitat features.

##### D Post-development site safeguard– Further guidance on post-development monitoring requirements is included in our ‘How to get a licence’ document <http://www.naturalengland.org.uk/Images/wml-g12_tcm6-4116.pdf>.

**D.1 Habitat/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/structure ownership, and who will be responsible for undertaking the work and who is responsible for funding.

**D.2 Population monitoring** – to include details of monitoring effort and timing.

**D.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.

**E Land ownership: mitigation site(s) (area(s) 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 owner(s). 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).

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

**E.2 Declaration Statement(s).** You must 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.

**E.2.1** I confirm that relevant landowner consent/s has/have been granted to accept the European protected species onto land outside the applicant's ownership – Yes/No/Not applicable.

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

**E.2.3** I confirm that consent/s has/have been granted by the relevant landowner/s for monitoring and maintenance purposes on land outside the applicant's ownership - Yes/No/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 consent(s) or provide details of any right(s) or agreement(s) 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 the FCS and population status tests to be met. It is therefore in your interest to ensure that the appropriate consents have been secured before applying for a licence.

**F Timetable of works –** a diagram to include timings of all capture, exclusion, mitigation and construction works.