

GENERAL LICENCE

The temporary possession and transport of DEAD bats for testing as part of the Passive Surveillance Scheme for Bat Rabies



OVERVIEW

This licence allows the temporary possession and transport of dead bats so that they can be submitted to the Animal and Plant Health Agency (APHA) for testing under the Passive Surveillance Scheme for Bat Rabies. If you are able to send the bat for testing you will help to increase knowledge of bat rabies in the UK.

Members of the public finding a live bat that is grounded or in a distressed state should **not handle** the bat but are advised to seek advice from the Bat Conservation Trust (BCT) Helpline on 0345 130 0228 or from their [local APHA office](#). There is also an advice note produced by the Health Protection Agency (see Information and Advice note c).

The possession or transport of live or dead bats for any other reason is not permitted by this licence.

Registration	There is no registration requirement
Recording & reporting	None required
Reference	WML – GL03

LICENCE TERMS and CONDITIONS

Legislation	Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 ('the 2017 Regulations')
Relevant section(s)	Regulations 55 (2) (e) and (f)
Valid for the period	1 January 2018 to 31 December 2018 (inclusive)
Area valid in	All counties of England (landward of the mean low water mark)
Purpose(s) for which this licence is issued	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Preserving public health or public safety• Preventing the spread of disease.
What this licence permits	<p>Subject to all the terms and conditions of this licence and solely for the purpose(s) stated above, this licence permits Authorised Persons to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Possess• Transport <p>any dead bat and/or derivatives of bats of a species listed in Schedule 2 of the 2017 Regulations, which is:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Horseshoe Bats (all species) Rhinolophidae• Typical Bats (all species) Vespertilionidae
Who can use this licence	This licence can be used by Anyone, except those with a recent conviction (see Information and Advice note g).

LICENCE CONDITIONS

1. This licence can only be relied upon where the dead bat(s) and/or derivative of the bat(s) is:
 - i. being possessed and/or transported solely for the purpose of submission to the APHA, to assist that Agency's surveillance activities to prevent the spread of disease, and
 - ii. was taken from the wild in the European Community without breaching applicable legislation of the Member State in question.
2. Any person using this licence must send the dead bat(s) to the Chief Diagnostician, APHA

Veterinary Investigation Centre, Woodham Lane, Addlestone, Surrey, KT15 3NB (Tel: 01932 341 111) within five days of the dead bat(s) coming into their possession.

3. This licence does not confer any right of entry upon land and it is the responsibility of the user of this licence to secure, if necessary, access to land that he/she does not own or occupy in order to carry out any of the activities referred to in this licence.
4. No activities shall be carried out under this licence on a National Nature Reserve or a Marine Nature Reserve except with the prior written permission of Natural England's 'Responsible Officer' for the relevant site(s) (contact details available from Enquiry Service – see below).

IMPORTANT

This licence authorises acts that would otherwise be offences under the legislation referred to above. Failure to comply with its terms and conditions:

- i. may be an offence against the 2017 Regulations or mean that the licence cannot be relied upon and an offence could therefore be committed. The maximum penalty available for an offence under the 2017 Regulations is, at the time of the issue of this licence, an unlimited fine and/or a six month custodial sentence; and
- ii. may result in your permission to use this licence being withdrawn. Natural England will inform any person or organisation whose permission to use this licence is withdrawn in writing. This sanction may be applied to other similar licences.

If the activity that you wish to undertake is not covered by this licence, or if you are unable to comply with any of the terms and conditions which apply to the use of this licence, then you will need to apply to Natural England for an individual licence.

Issued by and on behalf of Natural England on 31 December 2017

INFORMATION AND ADVICE specific to this licence

Bats and rabies

- a. If you find a dead bat, before attempting to handle it, please contact the Bat Conservation Trust (BCT) Helpline on 0345 130 0228 or your [local APHA office](#) for advice.
- b. The BCT can provide copies of form BAT 1 for you to complete and enclose with any dead bat as well as appropriate packaging to send it to the APHA. The form is also available online at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/bats-submission-for-rabies-screening>
- c. Further advice is available online: <https://www.gov.uk/rabies-in-bats>.

Caring for and euthanasing sick or injured bats

- d. Although all bats are strictly protected you do not require a licence to care for an injured or sick bat and neither do you need a licence to humanely euthanase a bat that has no reasonable chance of recovering. If the bat is so disabled that it cannot be released and you do not intend to euthanase it then you will need to apply for a licence to keep the bat permanently in captivity from Natural England.

INFORMATION AND ADVICE for all Class and General Licences

General Information

- e. Ordinarily, licences will be reissued on 1 January each year (*NB you do not need to re-register for those with registration requirements*). Please note, however, that they can be modified or revoked at any time by Natural England or the Secretary of State, but this will not be done unless there are good reasons for doing so. You are advised to check the terms and conditions of a licence prior to your first use of it each year in case of amendments.
- f. The common name of the species given in a licence is included by way of guidance only; in the event of any dispute or proceedings, it is the scientific name of a species only that will be taken into account.
- g. No person convicted on or after 1 January 2010 of an offence under the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017, the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981, the Protection of Badgers Act 1992, the Deer Act 1991, the Hunting Act 2004, the Wild Mammals (Protection) Act 1996, the Animal Welfare Act 2006 or the Protection of Animals Act 1911 (all as amended) may use this licence without the permission of Natural England unless, in respect of that offence, either:

- i. they are a rehabilitated person for the purposes of the Rehabilitation of Offenders Act 1974 and their conviction is treated as spent; or
- ii. a court has made an order discharging them absolutely.

Any request to use the licence by a person to whom this note applies will be considered on its merits.

The limits of licences

- h. Licences permit action only for the purposes specified on that licence.
- i. Licences do not permit actions prohibited under any other legislation, nor do they confer any right of entry upon land.
- j. Unless otherwise stated the provisions of Natural England licences only apply landward of the mean low water mark in England. The Marine Management Organisation is responsible for all licensing seaward of the mean low water mark.

Contact details for Natural England

For licensing enquiries:

Telephone 020 802 61089

Email wildlife.scicons@naturalengland.org.uk

Postal address Wildlife Licensing, Operations Delivery,
Natural England, Horizon House, Deanery Road, Bristol,
BS1 5AH

For other enquiries use the Enquiry Service:

Telephone 0300 060 3900

Email enquiries@naturalengland.org.uk

Web <https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/natural-england>