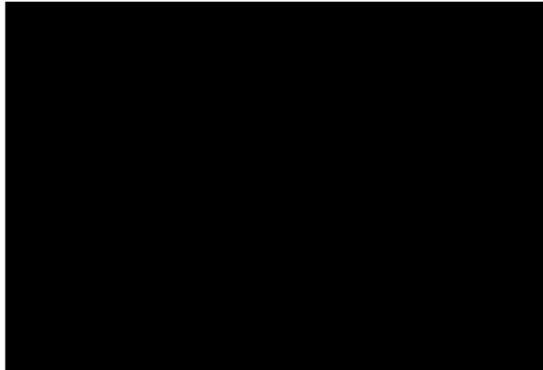


Date: 16 January 2018
Our Ref: 2017-28602-SCI-SCI
Your Ref: C145349



Technical Services
Wildlife Licensing
Natural England
Horizon House
Deanery Road
Bristol
BS1 5AH
T: 020 802 61089



WILDLIFE AND COUNTRYSIDE ACT 1981 (AS AMENDED)

Your application to Disturb and Take schedule 1 birds - non photography science and conservation licence, WML-A27 has been granted.

Your Licence numbered 2017-28602-SCI-SCI is attached and it is valid from 16 January 2018 to 16 January 2020.

Please take particular care to note the conditions attached to this licence, which must be complied with at all times. Failure to do so could result in you committing an offence. Please note that most wildlife offences carry a maximum penalty not exceeding level 5 on the standard scale (currently £5000) and/or 6 months in prison.

Your licence includes the condition that no hen harrier pair can be subject to brood management on successive nesting attempts. This is to manage the risk that experiencing repeated apparent nest failure, from brood management, could lead breeding hen harriers to abandon a nesting site or breeding territory. If a breeding pair were to lay a new clutch eggs in the same season as brood management has taken place and then successfully raise chicks, a clutch from the same pair could be brood managed in the following season.

Please also note the recommendation included with the licence that brood managed hen harriers should not be released in sight of burnt heather strips where possible. Provided that all access and security requirements are adhered to, we consider that it would be better for the birds to be released near bracken/rush and not in sight of strip burnt heather/grass mosaics. This could make them lean towards this type of habitat/vegetation cover when they reach sexual maturity and are about to breed, so reducing the likelihood of conflict with grouse moor management.

Under Section 16(5A)(c) of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended), the licence period cannot exceed two years as it authorises actions in respect of wild birds. Therefore, the current licence is valid for two years from the date of issue. The licence will need be renewed at two year intervals to meet the longer five year duration of the trial.

Under the provisions of the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 Natural England must consent operations that may cause damage to a SSSI. The removal of bird eggs or chicks from a SSSI is an operation that may damage the interest of a site and therefore requires the consent of Natural England. Please see the attached proforma that can be used by a SSSI landowner to secure the consent of natural England for the removal of eggs/chicks.

The proforma notice does not cover the erection of the release pens where the proposed release site is within a SSSI. You will need to notify the relevant Natural England Area team of the proposed erection of the release pens to obtain their consent.

Natural England has carefully considered the proposals in your application for a licence for scientific purposes to carry out the trial of brood management. While the activities proposed will make a contribution to creating the knowledge needed for the design of any future possible brood management scheme, please note that we do not consider that activities carried out under this licence would be likely to be sufficient to create all the

underpinning knowledge needed to apply for a licence for a brood management scheme for the purpose of conserving hen harriers.

Please also ensure that you submit all necessary returns information. Your return is due on 30 January 2020.

If you have any queries please email wildlife.scicons@naturalengland.org.uk or call 0300 060 3900, quoting your customer ID and the above reference number.

Yours sincerely,

██████████ Customer Services,
Wildlife Licensing wildlife.scicons@naturalengland.org.uk