

Habitats Regulations 2017 EPS licences: **bats** compliance audit template

Background

Licences issued for development under Regulation 55(2) of the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (as amended) for European Protected Species (EPS) have a standard condition that the works be carried out in accordance with the method statement provided with the licence application. It is an offence to breach a licence condition under Regulation 60(1). NRW requires evidence that the licence holder has complied with the method statement submitted with their application when implementing their licence.

Where formal compliance audit is required, a series of performance indicators will need to be agreed together with the evidence required to demonstrate compliance. An example structure for a compliance audit for development works affecting bats is provided below.

Example licence compliance audit report template for developments affecting bats

Natural Resources Wales licence reference number:		Site name:	Pigeon House
		Site grid reference:	SJ43664012
Name of licence holder:	Mr Anthony Anson	Name of developer if different from licence holder:	
Name of ecological consultant:		Date/s of audit (dd/mm/yy):	
Date licence issued (dd/mm/yy):	Date licence expired:	Licence implemented between (dd/mm/yy)	
		From:	To:

No	Performance Indicator	Evidence Required - this list should be adapted to reflect the agreed method statement.	Pass (Yes/No), Comments	What action is required as a result of findings?
	General			
1	The licensee will advise NRW Species Officer of the start date for the works prior to works commencing.	Written or electronic documentation with notification of start of works.		
2	A suitably experienced licensed ecologist will be appointed and retained during the life time of this licence to provide on-site advice.	Letter, contract or other document outlining the appointment of an ecologist for the lifetime of the project.		
3	Prior to the start of any works on site, all	Copy of documents from ecological induction, showing induction content and		

	site workers will be inducted by the project ecologist. This induction will cover the legal status of the species, the method of working and, action to be taken if protected species are encountered.	detailing contact numbers and contingency procedures should bats be found during the course of works. List of induction attendees.		
	Licence available for inspection by any police constable, employee of the Welsh Assembly Government or employee of the Countryside Council for Wales or authorised persons on demand.	Licence is available for inspection on site		
	No agent of the licensee shall act under licence unless they are in possession of a letter signed by the licensee appointing them by name as the duly accredited agent of the licensee	All relevant accredited agents have copies of licence holder's letter of authorization. Licence holder's letter is available for inspection.		

	for the purposes of this licence, and shall carry with them the said letter and a copy of this licence and shall produce them to any police constable or employee of the Natural Resources Wales or other authorised person on demand			
	E.1 Bat disturbance, capture and exclusion			
4	Works affecting bat roosts will not commence until the Project Ecologist has inspected the area and confirmed that work can go ahead – as detailed in E.1 of the method statement.	Log and field observation show disturbance, capture and exclusion (as relevant) have been undertaken as detailed in the method statement. Dates of action taken should be noted. Examples of actions to be included - - timing of observations and methods used to confirm if bats still present - details of exclusions or deterrent methods used		
5	Action taken if bats found during the course of work	Log detailing - number and species of bats found and location - actions undertaken if animals found		

	E.2 Bat roost and habitat retention, modification and / or creation			
6	<u>Creation of new roosts</u> (including bat houses and bat boxes) as detailed in E.2.3 of the method statement	Log and field observation demonstrate construction and installation was in accordance with Method Statement including: - number, location and dimension of roost areas - construction materials (e.g. roofing membranes, roofing material) - number, design & location of entrances - number, design & location of roost crevices - lighting scheme avoids illumination of roosts / entrances - replacement roost in good order and ready for occupation (or occupied) before old roost damaged or destroyed		
	F and H Post-development site safeguard			
7	<u>Implementation of roost site / bat habitat management / maintenance and monitoring</u> as detailed in F.1 and F.2 of the method statement	If audit undertaken <u>post development</u>: - log or report demonstrate roost site management plan has been implemented - site management works are maintaining the ecological functionality of the mitigation/ compensation site		
8	<u>Implementation of population monitoring</u>	If audit undertaken <u>post-development</u> :		

	as detailed in F.2 of the method statement	- log or report demonstrate monitoring plan has been implemented - log or report demonstrate results passed to local record centre		
9	Implementation of <u>long term site safeguard proposals</u> as detailed in F.4, H.1 and H.2 of the method statement <i>NB Not all schemes will require all of the activities</i>	Log of works demonstrates implementation eg: (i) wardening requirements implemented to proposed timescales and in accordance with the submitted Method Statement (ii) financial plan in place to resource mitigation, compensation, monitoring, site management or wardening		
10	Any other points to note/comments from auditor:			

Auditor name and organisation	Signature	Date