

# Natural England Wildlife Licence Fees Consultation: class & individual licences, proposed fees and exemptions

- We are inviting views about the way we fund the wildlife licence service in the future to ensure value for money for licence-applicants and the taxpayer. We are interested in your responses to help ensure proposed fees and exemptions are reasonable.
- You need a wildlife licence from Natural England if you plan to disturb or remove wildlife or damage habitats.
- We are proposing a number of exemptions to proposed charges. We are not proposing to charge for licences where the aim is the prevention of serious damage to property (such as crops or fisheries), the prevention of spread of disease, householder development projects, and conservation project delivery or conservation science, education or research. Please see **table 3**.
- The introduction of charges is one part of reforms to the service that should provide a better customer service and improvements for wildlife.
- Charging won't change the criteria on which wildlife licences are assessed or issued. Natural England will maintain its impartiality in judging licence applications by following robust processes subject to routine scrutiny.

This document has all the proposed fees and exemptions for class licences and individual licences. General licences will not be charged for.

1. **Table 1: Class licences** are those where the applicant is registered to use the licence, the licence has standard conditions and is available for reference on the Natural England web pages. The applicant has to provide an annual report to remain registered.
2. **Table 2: Individual licences** are issued to a named applicant for a project and have bespoke conditions. A report has to be sent to Natural England, usually at the completion of the project.
3. **Table 3:** All the proposed exemptions.

Table 1

Class licences		Licence number	Licence description	Proposed price – initial issue	Proposed price – annual renewal	Charges apply for:	Charges do not apply for: (reasons for exemptions in bracket)
animals & plants	Dead specimens	CL01	Possess or transport dead specimens and/or derivatives of wild plant and animal species listed on Annex IV and II (B) of the Habitats Directive for scientific or educational purposes. Museums or research bodies only.			No charge	All circumstances (science, research and education, conservation)
	Dead specimens	CL06	Licence to possess and/or transport dead specimens of species listed on Annex IVa of the EC Habitats Directive that were collected before 21 August 2007, for scientific or educational purposes			No charge	All circumstances (science, research or education)
	Dead specimens	CL07	Licence to sell dead Schedule 5 species (WCA 1981) or dead Schedule 2 species (Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010) taken from the wild before 30 October 1981	£130		All circumstances	
amphibian/ reptile	Great crested newt	CL08	Great crested newt Survey Level 1 (hand, net, bottle trap and torch)	£130	£80	Non-exempt activities	Exempt activities (table 3)
	Great crested newt	CL09	Great crested newt Survey Level 2 (as above plus limited pitfall trapping)	£130	£80	Non-exempt activities	Exempt activities (table 3)
	Great crested newt	CL33	Low impact great crested newt mitigation: site registration	£390		Non-exempt activities	Exempt activities (table 3)
	Great crested newt	CL33	Low impact great crested newt mitigation: to become a registered consultant	£130	£80	All circumstances	
bird	Barn owl	CL29	To survey for barn owl ( <i>Tyto alba</i> ) for the purposes of assessing the potential impacts of future development	£130	£80	All circumstances	
	Birds	CL03	To catch and release certain birds trapped in food production premises			No charge	All circumstances (preserving public health and safety)
	Birds	CL12	To kill or take certain wild birds to preserve air safety			No charge	All circumstances (preserving public health and safety)
	Hen harrier	CL25	Hen harrier (diversionary feeding)			No charge	All circumstances (conservation)
invertebrate	Bumblebee (non-native)	CL28	Permit the emergency release of non-native sub species of bumblebee ( <i>Bombus terrestris</i> ) in commercial glass-houses or poly-tunnels for crop pollination and research when native bumblebees are not available			No charge	All circumstances (conservation: prevention of release into the wild)
	Bumblebee (non-native)	CL34	To permit the release of non-native sub species of bumblebee ( <i>Bombus terrestris</i> ) in commercial glass-houses for research			No charge	All circumstances (conservation: prevention of release into the wild)
	Little Whirlpool Ramshorn Snail	CL14	To permit the maintenance of ditches and other water bodies inhabited by the Little Whirlpool Ramshorn Snail, <i>Anisus vorticulis</i>			No charge	All circumstances (conservation, preserving public health or public safety, preventing serious damage to property)
	White-clawed crayfish	CL11	White clawed crayfish survey	£130	£80	Non-exempt activities	Exempt activities (table 3)
	White-clawed crayfish	CL23	To permit the maintenance of waterbodies inhabited by the white-clawed (or Atlantic stream) crayfish			No charge	All circumstances (prevention of serious damage)
mammal	Badger	CL27	Badger sett interference for water course or drainage maintenance operations			No charge	All circumstances (prevention of serious damage)
	Badger	CL35	Application to become a Registered User under Badger Class Licence	£180	£80	All circumstances	
	Badger	CL35	To interfere by monitoring setts or evict and exclude badgers from setts or to destroy them for development or prevent serious damage.	£150		Any development as defined in section 55(1) of the Town and Country Planning Act (s. 10(1)(d))	Prevention of serious damage.

To take part in the consultation, please follow this link to online consultation: Citizen Space URL (to be added)

Class licences	Licence number	Licence description	Proposed price – initial issue	Proposed price – annual renewal	Charges apply for:	Charges do not apply for: (reasons for exemptions in bracket)
Badger	CL26	Badger sett interference for forestry operations			No charge	All circumstances (forestry conservation)
Bats	CL15	Voluntary Bat Roost Visitor Level 1 (disturb and take via endoscopes/hand and static hand held net)			No charge	All circumstances (science, research or education)
Bats	CL16	Voluntary Bat Roost Visitor Level 2 (as above plus training element)			No charge	All circumstances (science, research or education)
Bats	CL17	Bat Survey Level 1 (disturbance only via observation & torch/artificial light not endoscopes)	£130	£80	Non-exempt activities	Exempt activities (table 3)
Bats	CL18	Bat Survey Level 2 (as above plus hand & static hand held net and endoscopes)	£130	£80	Non-exempt activities	Exempt activities (table 3)
Bats	CL19	Bat Survey Level 3 (levels 1 & 2 plus mist netting)	£130	£80	Non-exempt activities	Exempt activities (table 3)
Bats	CL20	Bat Survey Level 4 (levels 1 & 2 plus harp traps)	£130	£80	Non-exempt activities	Exempt activities (table 3)
Bats	CL21	Low impact bat mitigation: site registration	£390		Non-exempt activities	Exempt activities (table 3)
Bats	CL21	Low impact bat mitigation: to become a registered consultant	£130	£80	All circumstances	
Edible (or fat) dormouse	CL02	To trap edible (or fat) dormice ( <i>Glis glis</i> ) to preserve public health or public safety or to prevent damage			No charge	All circumstances (preserving public health and public safety, preventing serious damage to property)
Hazel dormouse	CL10a	Hazel dormice Survey Level 1 (by hand from nest boxes)	£130	£80	Non-exempt activities	Exempt activities (table 3)
Hazel dormouse	CL10b	Hazel dormice Survey Level 2 (level 1 plus fur clipping)	£130	£80	Non-exempt activities	Exempt activities (table 3)
Otter	CL36	Capture and transport live Eurasian otters ( <i>Lutra lutra</i> ) for the purposes of preventing serious damage to fisheries			No charge	All circumstances (prevention of serious damage)
Water voles	CL24	Intentional disturbance of water voles and damage/destruction of water vole burrows by means of ‘displacement’ – Internal Drainage Boards only			No charge	All circumstances (prevention of serious damage)
Water voles	CL31	Intentional disturbance of water voles and damage/destruction of water vole burrows by means of “displacement” (to facilitate development activities)	£130	£80	All circumstances	

Table 2: Individual licences

	Individual licences	Licence number	Licence name	Non-complex	Complex	Charges apply for:	Charges do not apply for: (reason for exemption in brackets)
Animals & plants	European Protected Species	A12-1	European Protected Species: mitigation licence (other than bats, dormice, great crested newts, natterjack toads, otters, sand lizards or smooth snakes)	£700	variable price (based on £101 ph)	1) Imperative reasons of overriding public interest including those of a social or economic nature under section 53(2); 2) A purpose not specified in Reg. 53(2) under section 53(4).	Exempt activities (table 3)
	European Protected Species: dead specimens	A37	Licence to possess European Protected Species. Animals taken after 21/8/07, plants any date.			No charge	All circumstances (science, research or education, conservation)
	Non-native species	A03	Licence to release non-native species and those listed under schedule 9 (excluding reintroductions)			No charge	All circumstances (conservation)
	Non-native species	A04	Licence to keep non-indigenous mammals (grey squirrel, American mink, coypu, muskrat)			No charge	All circumstances (science, research or education, conservation)
	Protected animals or plants	A38	Licence to sell protected animals or plants.		variable price (based on £101 ph)	All circumstances	
	Wild animals	A29	Licence to kill, take, disturb or possess wild animals: science, education or conservation. (Dormice, great crested newt, sand lizard, smooth snake, water vole and white-clawed crayfish). Schedule 5 of WCA.		variable price (based on £101 ph)	Non-exempt activities	Exempt activities (table 3)
	Wild animals	A30	Licence to use prohibited methods for wild animals for science, education or conservation		variable price (based on £101 ph)	Non-exempt activities	Exempt activities (table 3)
	Wild plants	A31	Licence to take wild plants for science, research, education or conservation		variable price (based on £101 ph)	Non-exempt activities	Exempt activities (table 3)
Amphibian / Reptile	Great crested newt	A14	Great crested newts: mitigation	£700	variable price (based on £101 ph)	1) Imperative reasons of overriding public interest including those of a social or economic nature under section 53(2); 2) A purpose not specified in Reg. 53(2) under section 53(4).	Exempt activities (table 3)

	Individual licences	Licence number	Licence name	Non-complex	Complex	Charges apply for:	Charges do not apply for: (reason for exemption in brackets)
	Natterjack toads	A44-1	Natterjack toads: mitigation	£700	variable price (based on £101 ph)	1) Imperative reasons of overriding public interest including those of a social or economic nature under section 53(2); 2) A purpose not specified in Reg. 53(2) under section 53(4).	Exempt activities (table 3)
	Smooth snakes and sand lizards	A46-1	Smooth snakes and sand lizards: mitigation	£700	variable price (based on £101 ph)	1) Imperative reasons of overriding public interest including those of a social or economic nature under section 53(2); 2) A purpose not specified in Reg. 53(2) under section 53(4).	Exempt activities (table 3)
Bird	Birds	A08	Licence to disturb, kill or take wild birds and their eggs for public health and safety, air safety or to prevent disease or agricultural damage			No charge	All circumstances (preventing serious damage to property, preservation of public health, preventing the spread of disease)
	Birds	A20	Licence to sell captive bred wild birds which are not fitted with the correct close ring	variable price (based on £101 ph)		All circumstances except applications for northern goldfinch and Siberian bullfinch	Applications for northern goldfinch & Siberian bullfinch (while discussions on ring sizes are ongoing)
	Birds	A21	Licence to exhibit birds competitively without the correct close ring	variable price (based on £101 ph)		All circumstances except applications for northern goldfinch and Siberian bullfinch	Applications for northern goldfinch & Siberian bullfinch (while discussions on ring sizes are ongoing)
	Birds	A27	Licence to disturb or take wild birds for science, research, education and conservation			No charge	All circumstances (science, research or education, conservation)
	Birds	A28	Licence to disturb wild birds for photography	variable price (based on £101 ph)		Non-exempt activities	Exempt activities (table 3)
	Birds	A41	Licence to kill wild birds for falconry.	£350		All circumstances	
	Black-headed gull	A22	Licence to sell the eggs of the black headed gull ( <i>Larus ridibundus</i> ) for human consumption.	£350		All circumstances	
	Black-headed gull	A23	Licence to take or sell black headed gull eggs for human consumption	£350	variable price (based on £101 ph)	All circumstances	
	Cormorant	A06	Licence to kill or take cormorants causing serious damage to fisheries			No charge	All circumstances (preventing serious damage to property)
	Cormorant	A06a	Licence for area based cormorant management			No charge	All circumstances (preventing serious damage to property)
	Fish-eating birds	A07	Licence to kill or take fish-eating birds causing serious damage to fisheries			No charge	All circumstances (preventing serious damage to property)
	Gulls	A36	Licence to control gulls for conservation.			No charge	All circumstances (conservation)
Mammal	Badger	A01	Interfere with a badger sett for purposes other than development or science and conservation: licence application form, e.g. to prevent damage to property and land, and to allow forestry, drainage and agricultural operations.			No charge	All circumstances (conservation: prevention of serious damage, forestry, agriculture)
	Badger	A24	Interfere with a badger sett for development purposes	£350	variable price (based on £101 ph)	All circumstances	
	Badger	A25	Survey or research licence for badgers			No charge	All circumstances (science, research or education, conservation)
	Badger	A26	Interfere with badger setts for archaeological purposes			No charge	All circumstances (preventing serious damage to scheduled monuments)
	Bat	A13a-1	Bats: mitigation licence application form for up to 3 species	£700	variable price (based on £101 ph)	1) Imperative reasons of overriding public interest including those of a social or economic nature under section 53(2)(e), except when roosts of three or more bats are retained in situ. 2) A purpose not specified in Reg. 53(2) under section 53(4).	Exempt activities (table 3)



Individual licences	Licence number	Licence name	Non-complex	Complex	Charges apply for:	Charges do not apply for: (reason for exemption in brackets)
Bat	A13b-1	Bats: mitigation licence application form for 4 or more species	£700	variable price (based on £101 ph)	1) Imperative reasons of overriding public interest including those of a social or economic nature under section 53(2)(e), except when roosts of three or more bats are retained in situ. 2) A purpose not specified in Reg. 53(2) under section 53(4).	Exempt activities (table 3)
Deer	A16	Licence to kill or take deer in the close season or at night			No charge	All circumstances (preserving public health or public safety, conservation, preventing serious damage to property)
Deer	A32	Licence to take deer alive for scientific or educational purposes, or for relocation		variable price (based on £101 ph)	Removing deer from one area to another under Section 8 (1), non-health and safety situations.	Removing deer from one area to another under Section 8(1) in health and safety situations.
Deer	A33	Licence to disturb, kill or take deer for science, research, education or conservation			No charge	All circumstances (science, research or education, conservation)
Dormouse	A35-1	Hazel dormice: mitigation	£700	variable price (based on £101 ph)	1) Imperative reasons of overriding public interest including those of a social or economic nature under section 53(2); 2) A purpose not specified in Reg. 53(2) under section 53(4).	Exempt activities (table 3)
Mammals	A05	Licence to kill, take or disturb mammals and use prohibited methods in relation to damage and public health and safety			No charge	All circumstances (preventing serious damage to property or the spread of disease, public health)
Otter	A45	Otters: mitigation	£700	variable price (based on £101 ph)	1) Imperative reasons of overriding public interest including those of a social or economic nature under section 53(2); 2) A purpose not specified in Reg. 53(2) under section 53(4).	Exempt activities (table 3)
Seal	A17	Licence to kill or take grey seal ( <i>Halichoerus grypus</i> ) and common seal ( <i>Phoca vitulina</i> ) from inland waters			No charge	All circumstances (prevention of damage to fisheries)

Table 3:

Proposed exemption	Comments
<b>1. Licences for preserving public health and public safety.</b>	Health and safety situations that pose a current risk to life and property often require prompt action. This exemption will also include the exclusion of a small number of bat roosts from domestic properties where the householder has a phobia.
<b>2. Licences for preventing serious damage to property, including that to crops and fisheries.</b>	Protected species can cause serious damage to property, e.g. bats in historic properties and badgers setts in railway embankments and Scheduled Monuments. Some of these cases can also have health and safety implications. Natural England will not alter the methods it presently uses to assess serious damage.
<b>3. Licences for preventing of the spread of disease.</b>	Government policy is to prevent the spread of disease. An example of where this exemption would apply is the control of badger populations with the aim of reducing bovine tuberculosis among cattle. Projects to immunise badgers against bovine tuberculosis would also be in this exemption category.
<b>4. Licences for science, education or research activities</b>	Research is undertaken by both professionals and volunteers in order to increase the understanding of the ecology of species and habitats usually to support the conservation of the species or a habitat [1]. This exemption will include licences issued for science, education or research and ringing, marking or examining a ring or mark, etc. Some licences for these purposes are used for commercial projects. Licences issued for these purposes that are primarily for commercial work will be charged for (see class licences in table 1)
<b>5. Licences for projects that achieve conservation aims under the following circumstances:</b> a) Licences for projects whose principle aim is to maintain or improve the conservation status of a threatened species or habitat; or b) Licences for projects whose principle aim is to maintain or improve the conservation of historic properties; or c) Licences for projects that deliver favourable conservation for bats through <i>in-situ</i> mitigation.	a) If the principal aim of a conservation project is to improve the conservation status of the species or habitat [1], then licences will not be charged for. These activities will include capturing, ringing or marking individuals. Collection and possession of individuals, e.g., for museums, will also be exempt. Some licences issued under conservation purposes are used for commercial projects. Licences that are primarily for commercial work will be charged for. b) Historic properties includes Scheduled Monuments, listed buildings, places of worship and traditional farm building in agri-environment schemes. Planning applications for change of use proposals will not be exempt. c) This exemption will include licences for development projects that deliver favourable conservation for bats where a maternity, day or hibernation roost of three or more bats present together remains within the roof void or other part of the building or structure. Other factors such as light levels and flight paths around the roost will also need to remain unaffected or improved.
<b>6. Licences for householder applications</b> Applications for alterations or extensions for a single dwelling house.	To avoid disproportionate impacts on householder building projects, ie home extensions and improvements to a single dwelling.

[1] Species listed in The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017, Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981, Deer Act 1991, Protection of Badgers Act 1992, Conservation of Seals Act 1970 and species and habitats listed under Schedule 41 of Natural Environment and Access to the Countryside Act 2006.