

Applying for licences to undertake standard survey work on protected invertebrates.

In many situations it is necessary to hold a licence in order to undertake standard survey work on protected species.

Before Natural Resources Wales (NRW) can issue a licence we need to have received all the relevant information. To ensure we are able to deal with your application efficiently, please read all the notes on the application form and answer all the questions fully. A licence can only be issued once NRW is satisfied that all relevant criteria have been met. Applicants must demonstrate that they have sufficient experience to undertake the activity requested in the licence application.

If NRW does not receive all the information requested this may delay your application. NRW aims to process applications within 30 working days of receipt of **all** information requested.

The following brief information has been produced for applicants on the experience required for certain activities:

- To disturb protected invertebrates during survey work you will need to demonstrate that you are familiar with the methods to be used for that species and be able to provide evidence that you have this experience or have been on a relevant training course.
- You must be able to demonstrate you are familiar with the identification and ecology of the species concerned.
- You must be able to demonstrate that there is a real need for this licence. Given the localised distribution of many protected invertebrate species it is reasonable to expect to be exercising such a licence only where the target species are likely to occur. As a result Wales wide licences will not be issued.
- You must be able to demonstrate that the survey work is generated as a result of a specific project for a given area of Wales.
- Licences to disturb, damage, destroy or obstruct access to resting places, breeding sites or places used for shelter or protection whilst undertaking habitat management works, should in general be applied for on a site specific basis supported by a detailed method statement and justification for the work that is to be undertaken.

Notes:

- Any person providing a reference should describe their personal experience of you undertaking the activity for which you are making the application.
- If you have held a previous licence from another agency a copy of the licence should be provided.
- Where possible be specific about the site or sites where you wish to undertake the work.
- If you wish to train others on working with this species at training events, then provide evidence that you have sufficient experience and indicate the maximum number of people you wish to train and the dates and venues of the events. Licence holders may train others when undertaking ordinary monitoring activities provided there is no additional disturbance.

- Where you wish to name assistants or accredited agents ensure they have sufficient experience for the specific activity and indicate which activities they are to carry out and where. The licensee is fully responsible for all persons acting under their licence. Any breaches could lead to NRW having to revoke your licence.
- If during the proposed activities you are going to disturb other protected species then you may need a licence for that species as well. For example when undertaking bat survey work at underground sites where otters are known to occur you need to have a licence for otter disturbance in addition to the bat disturbance licence. However, a licence would not be required if there is no prior knowledge that another protected species will be present. For example, if bats are found whilst undertaking dormouse nest box checks, a licence should not be required provided the nest box is immediately closed and is then left undisturbed.
- If this is your first licence application then NRW will normally issue the licence for 1 year. Standard renewal licences are normally then issued for 2 years unless licence reports have not been received promptly.