# European Protected Species and woodland operations

The habitats regulations require changes to the management of woodlands and forestry operations in areas where European protected species (EPS) are found.

It is recommended that a competent person surveys the woodland and completes the following checklist to demonstrate compliance with the habitats regulations.

**Complete all sections of the checklist and keep for your own records**

# Details

Name of wood:

Grid reference:

Area (ha):

Date of survey:

Surveyor:

Inspection/survey method used:

# Checklist

1. Are your proposals within, or close to the range of any of the protected species other than bats? (Records are available from the [National Biodiversity Network database](https://nbn.org.uk/record-share-explore-data/explore-and-use-data/)))

Yes

No

If yes, check any that apply:

Dormice

Otters

Great Crested Newt

1. Does the woodland contain any of the following habitats? Check any that apply:

Trees with holes and crevices that bats may use

Species rich scrub/coppice, early growth stage plantations and forest interfaces

Rivers/streams on which otters might be found

Ponds which might be used by great crested newts

1. Have any protected species been recorded in this wood or within 2km of this woodland?

Yes

No

Indicate which sources of information you have checked:

[National Biodiversity Network](http://www.nbn.org.uk)

Local Biological Records Centre

Local Wildlife Trust

Other e.g. local knowledge

Please specify other:

1. Have your inspections or surveys found any of the following signs or evidence?

Signs e.g. otter spraint, nuts gnawed by dormice, leaves folded by newts

Sightings or echo-location

Potential breeding or roosting sites e.g. veteran trees, old trees with crevices, riverside hollow trees, ponds, timber stacks, large fallen deadwood

Confirmed breeding or roosting sites i.e. evidence of sites being used

**If you have answered no to the above questions and there is no evidence or signs of protected species, then you only need to consider bats in your operations.**

**However, if there are signs or evidence of protected species then you will need to consider these species as well as bats.**

1. Will the operation(s) comply with [good practice](https://naturalresources.wales/guidance-and-advice/environmental-topics/woodland-management/woodland-species/woodland-european-protected-species/?lang=en) for bats and any other species found (or likely to be found your wood) or can the operations be modified to do so?

Yes - a licence is not required.

No - you may need to obtain a licence before carrying out the work – read [Do I need a European Protected Species Licence](https://naturalresources.wales/permits-and-permissions/species-licensing/european-protected-species-licensing/do-i-need-a-european-protected-species-licence/?lang=en)?

1. You must record details of the good practise that you are following when managing woodlands where the species occur. You should also include details of mitigation used to ensure the operation is compliant:

You may be committing an offence if:

* you do not tell your operators about the protected species in your wood
* you do not take steps to ensure that your operators comply with the good practice

guidance.

1. Even if a licence is not required, you need to show how this information will be communicated to the operators (including the location of breeding sites and sensitive areas)?

Tick any that apply:

Included in documentation (e.g. contract, site assessment or other management plan)

Shown to operators and/or supervisor

Marked with paint or hazard tape

Shown on the site plan

Other

Other means please record details:

1. What arrangements for supervision will be made to ensure good practice guidance is

complied with during the operations? Please record details: