

CLASS LICENCE

Bat Mitigation Class Licence

WML-CL40 - Tree Roosts



HS2 Phase 1 (London to West Midlands) and Phase 2a (West Midlands to Crewe)

OVERVIEW

This licence applies in a certain, limited, range of circumstances where works necessary for management or development will impact on trees that are used by bats for roosting. It permits the disturbance and capture of bats and/or damage/destruction of listed roost types affecting no more than eight listed species of bats, which are present in small numbers in the affected roosts. The cumulative impacts of the proposed works must not exceed a threshold which would be seen by other professional ecologists as being low or low-moderate.

Due to the nature of bat species using tree roosts, the number of roosts is not defined, nor limited. However, the overall cumulative impact of the works must not exceed the low to low-moderate threshold. Normally this will be expected to be small numbers of the roost types listed and for small numbers of bats occupying those roosts.

The range of circumstances that this licence is intended to cover typically includes individual trees, trees in small groups or low density (e.g., roadside trees or parkland), orchards, and small amounts of woodland.

Where the overall impact of the works is in line with those covered by this licence, the extent of the site registration may cover the extent of contiguous or functionally linked woodland or trees that are subject to the same works.

Where works are to be undertaken in a small woodland block (<5 Ha), the area impacted will not normally exceed (0.5 Ha). Where works are undertaken in medium/large blocks of woodland it is expected that the area impacted will not normally exceed 2 Ha.

This licence excludes the removal of large blocks or large areas of woodland or tree cover standalone and/or cumulatively) as this would remove significant amounts of an important resource for bats and likely result in a significant impact on the local bat population. Such circumstances and others not covered by this licence should continue to be covered by applications for individual licences.

This licence may only be used by ecologists who satisfy the criteria for registration and are working for a contractor undertaking works directly related to those permitted under the High Speed Rail (London – West Midlands) Act 2017 (referred to hereafter as Phase 1) and the High Speed Rail (West Midlands – Crewe) Act 2021 (referred to hereafter as Phase 2a). It is expected that for each registration the works contractor will be the Licensee.

Only persons previously registered to do so may use this licence and in order to register a site under this licence. The use of this licence is subject to a series of terms, conditions and requirements, including the following:

- A suitably timed and resourced survey (see Conditions 15 to 18 of this licence) being undertaken to enable an accurate assessment of the level of impacts caused by the proposed activities;

- That impacts arising from the works cannot be avoided; and, that the overall, cumulative effect of the proposed works can be accurately determined, to both ensure that the impacts fit the criteria for using this licence and that suitable mitigation and if necessary, compensation are provided (see Annex A and B of this licence).
- Registration of the site and written confirmation from Natural England that works may proceed, and;
- Submission of a report of licensed activities within four weeks of completion of the licenced works, and submission of records to the relevant Local Records Centre annually.

Users of this licence will employ suitable mitigation and/or compensation for impacts on bat roosts, and as a minimum replace any roosts lost with roosts of ecological equivalence, unless there is sufficient alternative roosting potential within the immediate vicinity. Users must also follow the relevant sections of the HS2 Ecology Technical Standard when designing and implementing works affecting bats.

In determining suitable mitigation, users must consider the level of impact in comparison to the overall woodland resource available within the assumed core sustenance zone¹ for the species involved. The favourable conservation status of bats within the area covered by the licence must remain favourable post works and the mitigation and compensation measures must ensure that the habitat retains, or improves, its ecological functionality.

Wherever possible, mature or veteran trees should be retained (roosts within such trees are likely to be higher conservation status and therefore unlikely to fall within scope of this licence) along with buffer trees.

Where it is considered that there is sufficient alternative roosting potential in the remaining or adjacent woodland, normally 7 to 10 roosting trees per hectare (and this adjacent resource is not known to have recently been, or likely to be, subject to impacts in the foreseeable future), mitigation may not be required and other measures to improve overall habitat for bats (commuting/foraging routes) in the area should be implemented.

Other impacts arising from the works, such as fragmentation and loss of connectivity must also be mitigated or compensated.

Registration of sites	Only Registered Consultants may apply to register sites under this licence. A site is only registered when written confirmation from Natural England is received by the applicant.
Registration	Any person using this licence must fulfil the criteria and conditions to become a Registered Consultant and have confirmed registration with Natural England before undertaking any work under this licence. The Primary Registered Consultant for this licence must apply to register individual sites with Natural England prior to each use of this licence.
Recording & reporting	There is a data recording and annual reporting requirement (see Condition 42 of this licence).
Reference	WML-CL40

¹ Collins, J. (ed)(2016). Bat Surveys for Professional Ecologists: Good Practice Guidelines (3rd edn). The Bat Conservation Trust, London.

LEGISLATION

Statue(s)	Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (as amended) ('the Habitats Regulations') and Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) ('the 1981 Act')
Section(s)	This licence is issued under Regulation 55(2)(e) of the Habitats Regulations and section 16(3)(f) and 16(3)(j) of the 1981 Act.

LICENCE TERMS AND CONDITIONS

Valid for the period:	1 January 2023 to 31 December 2023 (inclusive)
Area Valid in	<p>Within the consolidated construction boundary of the proposed rail route and land upon which the Licensee has the permission of the owner to operate, within:</p> <p>Phase 1 The counties and unitary authorities of Greater London, Hertfordshire, Buckinghamshire, Oxfordshire, Northamptonshire, Warwickshire, Staffordshire, Solihull and Birmingham.</p> <p>Phase 2a The counties of Staffordshire, Shropshire and Cheshire.</p> <p>It may also be used on land in the aforementioned counties and unitary authorities where a third party or contractor of a third party owns or has permission to operate, to undertake works which are directly related to the construction of the rail route, and the Registered Consultant has registered the site with Natural England.</p>
Purpose(s) for which this licence is issued	<p>a. Preserving public health and public safety, and</p> <p>b. Imperative reasons of overriding public interest</p>
What this licence permits	<p>Subject to all the terms and conditions of this licence, solely for the purpose(s) stated above, and for works directly related to or necessary for the construction of HS2 Phase 1 and 2a, this licence permits Registered Ecological Consultants, and their Assistants to:</p> <p>i. Deliberately disturb;</p> <p>ii. Deliberately capture/take (ie, handle);</p> <p>iii. Transport.</p> <p>Bat species and roost types specified in Annex A of this licence, and to:</p> <p>iv. Damage or destroy resting or breeding places of the species and roost types specified in Annex A, using only the methods listed below.</p>
By means of	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Capture by hand;• Artificial light (e.g., torches);• Endoscopes;• Hand-held static nets;• Temporary exclusion by one-way doors or valves (bat excluders);• Permanent exclusion;• Disturbance by illumination and/or noise;• Temporary obstruction of roost access;• Destructive search by soft demolition; and• Mechanical demolition.

Who can use this licence

This licence can only be relied upon by **Registered Consultants***, and their **Assistants***, except those convicted on or after 1 January 2010 of a **wildlife crime*** (unless, in respect of that offence, either:

- they are a rehabilitated person for the purposes of the Rehabilitation of Offenders Act 1974 and their conviction is treated as spent; or
- a court has made an order discharging them absolutely.)

Any application by a person to whom this exclusion applies for an individual licence will be considered on its merits.

* see Definitions

DEFINITIONS USED IN THIS LICENCE

Licensee	A contractor of HS2 Ltd, or a company which is required to undertake works to facilitate the construction of HS2 Phase 1 and/or 2a, who has instructed the Primary Registered Consultant to carry out the licensed activities. Both parties must apply to register sites with Natural England.
Appointed Person	An employee of the Licensee who is authorised in writing by the Licensee to act as a single point of contact for Natural England with regard to this licence. The Appointed Person shall oversee use of the licence, including authorising contractors to act under the licence, training, record keeping, reporting and compliance.
Primary Registered Consultant	A Registered Consultant who has successfully registered a site or sites where the licence may be used. There can only be one Primary Registered Consultant per registered site.
Secondary Registered Consultant	A Registered Consultant who is registered to use WML-CL40 and who the Primary Registered Consultant has authorised, by name in writing, to undertake licensed activities specifically associated with WML-CL40 on a registered site. There can only be one Secondary Registered Consultant per registered site, and they may only be appointed at Registered Sites where the Primary Registered Consultant is registered to use WML-CL40. The Secondary Registered Consultant shall carry a copy of the authorisation letter while on the registered site and shall produce it to any police or Natural England officer on request.
Assistant	A person assisting a Registered Consultant. There are two levels of Assistants covered under this licence. Their details must be listed in the site registration form (WML-CL40 Site Reg January to December 2023).
Level 1 Assistant	An ecological consultant, who is skilled and experienced in bat mitigation work. A Level 1 Assistant is able to undertake licensed activities, appropriate to their level of experience (as determined by the Registered Consultant) on a registered site whilst the Consultant is not present, and they do not have to be under their direct supervision. Level 1 Assistants may directly supervise Level 2 Assistants. A maximum of three Level 1 Assistants can be authorised in writing by the Primary Registered Consultant to undertake licensed activities on a site registered under this licence. Level 1 Assistants can be changed during the course of works, but Natural England must be informed of any such changes in writing prior to the individual(s) carrying out any licensable works.
Level 2 Assistant	A person authorised to act under this licence whilst they are under the direct supervision of a Registered Consultant or a Level 1 Assistant. A maximum of six Level 2 Assistants can be authorised in writing by the Primary Registered Consultant to undertake licensed activities on a site registered under this licence. Level 2 Assistants can be changed during the course of works, but Natural England must be informed of any such changes in writing prior to the individual(s) carrying out any licensable works.

Registered Site	Is a site that has been registered with Natural England for the purposes of this licence.
Small numbers	For the purposes of this licence, the term ‘small numbers of bats’ is not defined. Registered Consultants are expected to use their experience and professional judgement in deciding what reasonably can be considered to be small numbers of the species of bat involved. These judgements are expected to be in line with established best practice and likely to be determined in the same way by other professional consultants who are experienced in bat ecology and mitigation.
Low to low-moderate impacts	For the purposes of this licence, the terms low and low-moderate impact is that which the unmitigated impact of the proposed actions would likely be judged, by other professional ecologists, to not be likely to cause harm that could be considered to be moderate-high or high. This decision will take into account the numbers of roosts, roost types and numbers of bats involved. Generally, these are impacts which can be easily mitigated or compensated by applying standard measures.
Destructive search by soft (section) felling	Is the taking apart of a bat feature in a controlled and careful manner by hand, or in some instances with the assistance of hand-held tools and machinery. Only the Registered Consultant or Level 1 Assistant may take any bats found. Under this licence only the Registered Consultant or a Level 1 Assistant must undertake or directly supervise any destructive searching.
Destruction by felling	Is the destruction of a feature that previously supported a bat roost using mechanical means after the feature, or relevant part of the feature, has been declared free of bats by the Registered Consultant. Destruction by felling is usually preceded by a soft (section) felling or completion of an exclusion process.
Wildlife Crime	Any offence under the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (‘the Habitats Regulations’), the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981, the Protection of Badgers Act 1992, the Deer Act 1991, the Hunting Act 2004, the Wild Mammals (Protection) Act 1996, the Animal Welfare Act 2006, the Protection of Animals Act 1911 (all as amended) or the Invasive Alien Species (Enforcement and Permitting) Order 2019.

For the purposes of this licence ‘**Lower conservation significance/importance**’ roosts are defined below:

A ‘**feeding roost**’ is a place where individual bats or a few individuals rest or feed during the night but are rarely present during the day. They are often distinguishable by evidence of insect remains.

A ‘**day roost**’ is a place where individual bats, or small groups of males, rest or shelter in the day but are rarely found by night in the summer.

A ‘**night roost**’ is a place where bats rest or shelter in the night but are rarely found by day. These roosts vary in their conservation significance and may be used by a single individual on occasion, or it could be used regularly by the whole colony. This licence only covers night roosts of low conservation significance.

A ‘**transitional / occasional roost**’ is a place used by a few individuals or occasionally small groups for generally short periods of time on waking from hibernation or in the period prior to hibernation.

A ‘**satellite roost**’ is an alternative roost found in close proximity to the main nursery colony used by a few individual breeding females or small groups of breeding females throughout the breeding season.

A ‘**lower conservation significance maternity roost**’ is a place used as a breeding site by small numbers of breeding females.

A **'lower importance hibernation roost'** is a location with constant cool temperatures and high humidity, where small numbers of bats are found during the winter months.

Other roosts definitions used in this licence:

A **'roost'** is defined as a single tree or feature within a tree, used by a single species for a single purpose. For example, where a woodpecker hole forms a roost for brown long-eared bats and loose bark a roost for pipistrelle bats, this, for the purposes of a licence, would be two roosts.

A **'multi-functional roost'** is considered to be a roost that is used by bats of the same, or different species of bats, for different functions. For example, a tree which is used as a maternity roost or a hibernation roost and also by individual bats as a day or a night roost would be considered to be a multi-functional roost. In the context of this licence such a roost would be used by small numbers of a few species of bats.

A **'multi-species roost'** is considered to be a roost that is used by more than three bat species. Different bat species may be using it at the same or different times or for the same or different purposes.

An **'alternative roost'** shall include: a purposely installed bat box or suitably designed and located feature or structure provided for the purposes of providing bat roosts; an existing roost which will not be impacted by the works; or other new/enhanced roosting opportunities. Any alternative roost must be suitable for the species, within or close to the existing roost and free from additional disturbance or development pressure.

LICENCE CONDITIONS

1. Prior to the first use of this licence the Licensee shall authorise an Appointed Person whose details will be provided in writing to Natural England to oversee use of this licence. Subsequent changes to the appointed Person should be submitted to Natural England in writing.
2. This licence includes Annexes A, B and C which contain additional terms, conditions, requirements and advice for using this licence. Persons using this licence must follow any additional licence conditions within any relevant Annex(es) and Appendices.
3. The confirmation of registration to work as Registered Consultant under this licence forms part of this licence and must be kept with this licence and produced along with the licence and confirmation of site registration, when required.
4. To use this licence you must be:
 - a) A primary or secondary Registered Ecological Consultant (see Definitions);
 - b) A Level 1 or Level 2 Assistant (see Definitions) who has been given written permission by the Licensee (or the Appointed Person on behalf of the Licensee) to act on their behalf on a specific site registered under this licence.
5. The Licensee is required to obtain all necessary permissions and consents and arrange access to the site for the Registered Consultant for the duration of the licenced activities and monitoring period, prior to registering the site. These records must be kept for at least 24 months following completion of the licenced works and monitoring period and must be made available on request to any Natural England officer at any reasonable time, within five working days.
6. Any Assistant must be named on the site registration document and be authorised in writing by the Licensee (or the Appointed Person on behalf of the Licensee) to act on their behalf under this licence. Any such person must carry this written authorisation with them at all times when conducting activities under this licence.

7. It is the responsibility of the Primary Registered Consultant to ensure Assistants are sufficiently trained and experienced to act under this licence and that they use appropriate equipment so as to avoid unnecessary suffering of any animal in the course of licensed operations.
8. The Registered Ecological Consultant and their Assistants must have prior experience of using the methods proposed in the site registration document (WML-CL40 Site Reg January to December 2023). This can be evidenced by previous experience with mitigation licences, Science and Conservation licences held or by being registered for the relevant level of [Class Licence](#) for the methods being proposed.
9. This licence may only be used at a site that has been successfully registered with Natural England and where the information in the authorised site registration form 'WML-CL40 Site Reg January to December 2023' remains accurate for the duration of the licensed activities.
10. Site registration involves submission of a site registration document and impact assessment spreadsheet 'WML-CL40 Site Reg January to December 2023'. The site registration documentation must be submitted to Natural England for assessment at least six weeks in advance of the intended start date.
11. Proposed activities under this licence, as described in the site registration document and site registration spreadsheet, may only take place with the agreement of the Licensee who must also have agreed to comply with the terms and conditions of this licence, and any mitigation and/or compensation requirements detailed in 'WML-CL40 Site Reg January to December 2023'.
12. Sites must be registered using site registration form and impact assessment spreadsheet 'WML-CL40 Site Reg January to December 2023', which must be submitted at least six weeks in advance of the intended start date. Sites submitted more than 12 weeks in advance will not be registered until an update on site conditions is provided to Natural England within 12 weeks of the intended start date by the Registered Consultant, who will conduct a site walkover and:
 - a) All consents necessary for the proposed activity must have been granted (planning or other) before applying to register the site. For all consents that have been granted, all conditions or Reserved Matters relating to wildlife species and habitat issues (which are intended to be and are capable of being discharged) must be discharged and in place.
 - b) A walk over survey/check must have been undertaken within three months prior to submission of the site registration form to ensure that conditions have not changed since the most recent survey was undertaken.
 - c) Works may only take place in agreement with the landowner, who must also have agreed to comply with the terms and conditions of this licence, including any compensation requirements to be provided (Relevant Annex(s)). Confirmation of this agreement must be declared in the site registration form 'WML-CL40 Site Reg January to December 2023'.
13. Works are only permitted to commence following receipt of an email from Natural England confirming that the site is registered and works can proceed as described in the site registration document. Natural England reserves the right to request further information before a site is registered.
14. If details within an authorised site registration change, the Licensee and Primary Registered Consultant must apply to Natural England with an amended site registration form, and if relevant, amended impact assessment spreadsheet and/or amended maps to allow reassessment. Responsibility remains with the original person(s) on the authorised site registration form until written confirmation authorising the change has been received from Natural England. Details include:
 - a) Change of Licensee;
 - b) Change of Primary Registered Consultant;
 - c) Change to work schedule: an amended site registration form must be submitted prior to the expiry of the licence period within the authorised site registration form. An explanation for this

request must be provided. Licensed activities must stop if they go beyond the licence period in the authorised site registration form except where written confirmation authorising the change has been received from Natural England; and

- d) Significant changes to licensed activities: should circumstances change so that activities and/or impacts falling outside the scope of this licence are required then works may no longer proceed. Natural England must be notified in writing within two working days, the site will then be considered null and void, and an individual licence will be required to proceed.

Survey and Assessment Requirements

15. Before registering a site, it must have been subject to a suitable level of survey to identify trees with potential roost features and the species of bats and type of roosts likely to be present.
16. Natural England will require detailed justification where modifications to this licence exceed five (except personnel changes) and/or include changes to the baseline assessment.
17. All surveys (pre and post site registration) must be undertaken in accordance with the Bat Conservation Trust (BCT) Bat Surveys for Professional Ecologists – Good Practice Guidelines and the Bat Mitigation Guidelines (see Information and Advice note f). Surveys must be up to date and have been conducted within the current or most recent optimal season. Surveys must also be tailored to each site, taking into account complexity of the structures involved and potential usage by bats **throughout the year**.
18. Where the Registered Consultant is using survey data provided by a different person they must satisfy themselves that the survey was suitably timed and resourced and it is likely to provide accurate information to enable impacts to be assessed at the time of site registration.
19. All reasonable effort must be undertaken to identify the bats present to species level and the roost type(s) (see Information and Advice note l).
20. The survey records must be kept for at least 24 months following completion of the monitoring period and must be made available on request to any Natural England officer or any police officer at any reasonable time, within five working days.

Working under the licence

21. This licence is only to be used for species and numbers of bats and roost types included on Annex A, and where the cumulative impacts resulting from the use of this licence are in the range of low to low-moderate.
22. The Licensee and Registered Consultant are responsible for **all** activities carried out under this licence, including activities carried out by its Appointed Person and any Assistants.
23. It is the duty of any person authorised to use this licence to ensure that they can adhere to the activities permitted detailed on the authorised site registration form and conditions of this licence before accepting the responsibility of carrying out work under this licence. While engaged in the activities to which this licence applies the Registered Consultant shall make a copy of the licence (including the Annexes) available for inspection on each registered site where the activities are taking place and shall make it available for inspection immediately in demand to any Natural England or police officer.
24. The Registered Consultant must ensure that all those involved in the proposed works at the registered site that could affect bats and their roosts understand by way of a “tool box talk”:
- that bats are present;
 - a summary of the relevant legislation relating to bats;
 - the measures that will be used to protect bats;

- good working practices;
- licensable activities; and
- what to do should bats be found during works.

This information must be provided before any works commence in the registered site. A written record that this has been undertaken must be kept by the Licensee and made available immediately on demand to any Natural England personnel or police officers.

25. The Registered Consultant may permit a Level 1 Assistant to supervise works at sites where the Registered Consultant is not present. The Level 1 Assistant must be suitably experienced in the work and methods being employed at that site and also be suitably experienced at supervising works.
26. Certain actions authorised by this licence must only be undertaken by the Registered Consultant, a Level 1 Assistant, or by a Level 2 Assistant under the direct supervision of the Registered Consultant and/or Level 1 Assistant. These activities are:
- use of endoscopes,
 - artificial light (e.g., torches),
 - destructive search by soft demolition (see Definitions),
 - temporary obstruction of roost access,
 - temporary or permanent exclusion methods (including installation),
 - use of static handheld nets and
 - the capture and handling of bats.
27. Mechanical demolition (see Definitions) must only take place once the Registered Consultant and/or Level 1 Assistant has confirmed a structure to be free of bats.
28. Capture/handling/exclusion of bats must only be undertaken in conditions suitable for bats to be active.

Dealing with bats discovered during pre-work assessments or unexpectedly

29. Where bats are unexpectedly discovered i.e. species not included on this licence or in numbers or roost type exceeding those for which this licence is intended, all works must stop. The Registered Consultant must make an appraisal and re-evaluation of the situation in accordance with Annex C. Work may only restart when written confirmation that works can resume is received from Natural England.
30. Where a bat is unexpectedly discovered in adverse weather conditions, the guidance in Annex C must be followed.
31. Provision must be made for prompt assistance to deal with any injured bat. Any injured or dead bats must be reported to Natural England on licence return form 'WML-CL40 Site Reg January to December 2023'.

Use with other Licences

32. This licence may be used in conjunction with the following types of licence:
- Any bat survey Class Licence, and
 - WML-CL39 Bat Mitigation Class Licence – HS2 Phase 1 and Phase 2a, Roosts in Buildings, only where the combined impact of the use of both licences does not exceed the low-moderate threshold.
 - It may **not** be used in conjunction with:
 - WML- CL21 Bat Mitigation Class licence

Mitigation and Compensation (also see relevant Annexes)

33. The Licensees must ensure that any mitigation and compensation measures specified in the authorised site registration form and impact assessment spreadsheet are completed within the appropriate timeframe and in accordance with this licence unless otherwise agreed in advance and in writing with Natural England.
34. Destruction by felling (see Definitions) must only take place once the Registered Consultant has confirmed a tree to be free of bats.
35. Where bats are discovered and taken under this licence, they must either be relocated to an alternative roost (see definitions) or released on site at dusk in, or adjacent to, suitable foraging/commuting habitat in safe areas within or directly adjacent to the pre-works habitat.
36. Where capture and/or handling of bats is necessary, only the Registered Consultant or Level 1 Assistant, or an Assistant directly supervised by the Registered Consultant or Level 1 Assistant may do so. Any capture, handling or exclusion of bats must only be undertaken in conditions suitable for bats to be active.
37. All works must be undertaken using best practice methodology to ensure minimal risks to bats.
38. Persons acting under this licence must abide by the advice on excluding bats, handling bats and working in bat roosts in the most up to date edition of the '*Bat Mitigation Guidelines*' and '*Bat Workers Manual*'.
39. All impacts on bats or their roosts must be mitigated and if appropriate compensated for. Impacts to roosts must be mitigated or compensated in accordance with the requirements set out in Annex B.
40. Any mitigation and compensation measures proposed in the site registration document must be implemented as described. Any changes must have been agreed in writing by Natural England (see Condition 14 above).

Monitoring and reporting requirements

41. Monitoring must be undertaken in accordance with the requirements set out in Annex B.
42. The Primary Registered Consultant must comply with the reporting requirements below:
 - a. An annual report of activities conducted under this licence must be sent by the Licensee to Natural England (at this address HS2wildlifelicencing@naturalengland.org.uk) for the first reporting year of 1 January 2023 - 31 December 2023 and submitted by 14 January 2024, and thereafter by 14 January for each subsequent reporting year of 01 January - 31 December, even if the licence is not used.
 - b. A report of licensed activities and the associated monitoring must be submitted annually for each site registered under this licence. This must be submitted using form 'WLM-CL40 Site Reg January to December 2023'.
 - c. Please note that licence returns can include (as applicable) annual, interim and/or end of licence reports which must be submitted using form 'WML-CL40 Site Reg January to December 2023'
 - d. The Primary Registered Consultant shall maintain a record of all licensable activities, monitoring and Authorised Persons used. This must be kept for at least 24 months after the completion of licensable works and the monitoring period at each registered site, in accordance with the requirements of Annex B.
 - e. Each Licensee is required to complete and return an Annual Declaration using form 'WML-RC RTN HS2' no later than 31 January each year.

- i. The form contains a series of declarations relating to the Class Licence WML-CL39 conditions and standards for Consultants Registered to use this licence.
- ii. The Annual Declarations include, but are not limited to, confirming submission of all reports of action where applicable, submission of biological records (including survey data) to Local Record Centres and other aspects relevant to professional conduct and standards.
- iii. Failure to complete and submit an Annual Declaration may result in de-registration. A copy of the Annual Declarations form 'WML-RC RTN HS2' can be accessed via a link provided to Registered Consultants.

Records are to be made available for inspection immediately on demand to any Natural England or police officer.

43. Monitoring must be underpinned by surveys, in accordance with the requirements of Annex B, and reported to Natural England in annual report 'WML-CL40 Site Reg January to December 2023' to evaluate against the baseline information and data provided in the site registration document.
44. Monitoring data will be used to assess any impact of the licensed activities over the course of the monitoring period and to ensure any overall impact of these activities is not detrimental to the Favourable Conservation Status of the bat populations.

Licence compliance

45. The Licensee, and any person authorised by, or working under this licence must comply with the terms and conditions of this licence, including the site registration, recording and reporting requirements. Failure to do so will render registration null and void. For the purposes of Regulation 58, the Licensee, Consultants and Assistants are regarded as 'the holder of a licence'. Natural England will advise a Registered Ecological Consultant of any change in registered status and explain the reasons for this.
46. The Registered Consultant, and Licensee shall permit an officer of Natural England, accompanied by such persons as he/she considers necessary for the purpose, on production of his/her identification on demand, reasonable access to monitor work being undertaken and to be present during any operations carried out under the authority of this licence for the purpose of ascertaining whether the conditions of this licence are being, or have been, complied with. All reasonable assistance should be provided to any officer of Natural England in the discharge of their duties and to any persons accompanying him/her.
47. Natural England must be informed of any breach to this licence or where works beyond the scope of the licence have taken place. The Registered Consultant, Licensee, or Assistant must report to Natural England in writing any problems with compliance with the licence within three working days and take necessary remedial action, within the terms and conditions of this licence.
48. Failure to comply with the terms and conditions of this licence (including the recording and reporting requirements) will, by default, render null and void the site registration concerned and it may not be relied upon until such time that Natural England confirms in writing that its use may resume.
49. Registered Consultants must inform Natural England:
 - a) If they are subject to disciplinary action with their professional membership body, within five working days of being informed, setting out the circumstances. They must also inform Natural England of the outcome of the action within five working days of the conclusion of this action.
 - b) If they are subject to any criminal investigation by the police or other statutory body for any wildlife-related offence(s), setting out what these are, when the outcome is likely to be known, and what the outcome is following completion of the investigation.A summary of any recent or pending disciplinary action or investigation should be submitted on the Annual Declarations form WML-RC RTN HS2 for the relevant reporting period. This will enable Natural England to assess whether their registration for use of this licence needs to be reviewed.

IMPORTANT

This licence authorises acts that would otherwise be offences under the legislation referred to above. Failure to comply with its terms and conditions:

- i. may be an offence against the Habitats Regulations or the 1981 Act, or mean that the licence cannot be relied upon and an offence could therefore be committed. The maximum penalty available for an offence under the Habitats Regulations and 1981 Act is, at the time of the issue of this licence, an unlimited fine and/or a six-month custodial sentence;
- ii. may result in your permission to use this licence being withdrawn. Natural England will inform any person or organisation whose permission to use this licence is withdrawn in writing. This sanction may be applied to other similar licences, and
- iii. may mean that you are not able to rely on this licence as a defence in respect to the prohibitions within the Animal Welfare Act 2006 or the Wild Mammals (Protection) Act 1996.

If the activity that you wish to undertake is not covered by this licence, or if you are unable to comply with any of the terms and conditions which apply to the use of this licence, then you will need to apply to Natural England for an individual licence.

This licence is not a consent or assent for the purposes of Part II of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) in respect to Sites of Special Scientific Interest. It is your responsibility to get consent or assent if required (see Information and Advice notes q-s).

This licence does not derogate against offences for other species.

Issued by and on behalf of Natural England on 1 January 2023

INFORMATION AND ADVICE specific to this licence

- a. Any site registration is the equivalent of a licence being issued for that site and this licence remains valid for the duration of the registration.
- b. The confirmation of site registration will be made by Natural England in writing via email, and this email will state how long the registration is valid for.
- c. Any person authorised by this licence are advised to carry a copy of this licence at all times when acting under this licence.

Training and experience requirements

- d. Training must be relevant to the conditions and the activities permitted by the licence and should be undertaken at regular intervals. It is the responsibility of each person authorised by this licence to maintain their expertise at an appropriate level to act under this licence. It is also the responsibility of each person authorised by this licence to ensure that any Assistants under their direct supervision have appropriate training, experience and instruction, including on mitigation measures commonly employed, to undertake the activity they are being asked to do act under this licence.
- e. As a minimum, this must include: identification of European and other Protected Species relevant to the species and activities authorised by this licence and signs indicating they may be present; undertaking records searches; the ability to identify a rare species, non-native species and populations of significant importance; surveying techniques; best practice guidance and reasonable avoidance measures; mitigation techniques and methods, and compensation requirements and measures; a working knowledge of the Habitats Regulations and the 1981 Act together with an understanding of offences that may be committed.

Guidance on surveying and best practice

- f. Advice on surveying, mitigation and compensation are provided in the latest edition of the [Bat Mitigation Guidelines](#) and [The BCT Bat Surveys for Professional Ecologists: Good Practice Guidelines \(3rd edition\)](#). The Licensee and any Authorised Person are expected to check whether this guidance has been updated and if so, to ensure that they act in accordance with the most up to date version.

General Welfare Considerations

- g. Persons acting under this licence may photograph any protected species named in this licence in connection with licensed work provided that this causes no additional disturbance or any other harm.
- h. Under the Animal Welfare Act 2006 it is an offence to cause any unnecessary suffering to an animal under the control of man (section 4). This applies to the treatment of animals (including non-target species) held in nets etc.

INFORMATION AND ADVICE for all Class and General Licences

General Information

- i. Natural England checks compliance with licences and the attached conditions. Where breaches are identified, these may be subject to enforcement action.

- j. Ordinarily, licences will be reissued on 1 January each year (*NB: you do not need to re-register for those with registration requirements*). Please note, however, that they can be modified or revoked at any time by Natural England or the Secretary of State, but this will not be done unless there are good reasons for doing so. You are advised to check the terms and conditions of a licence prior to your first use of it each year in case of amendments.
- k. The common name or names of species given in the licence and any annexes are included by way of guidance only. In the event of any dispute or proceedings, it is the scientific name of a species only that will be taken into account.
- l. Sites will only be accepted for registration if the species and roost type(s) have been identified; Natural England cannot issue licences at genus level.

Working during the coronavirus pandemic

- a. Anyone acting under this licence should follow Defra's advice on [surveying and mitigation work during the coronavirus pandemic](#) - also available on request from Natural England (wildlife.scicons@naturalengland.org.uk). This advice is kept up to date as a minimum precaution to reduce the risk of accidental transmission of the virus from humans to wild animals, and may be updated. You should check [GOV.UK](#) before you act.
- b. Any products used to clean and disinfect equipment should be safe for use where there could be contact with animals, and used at an effective and safe dilution rate. 'Safe4 Disinfectant' is considered to be a safe and appropriate product for cleaning and disinfecting equipment that could come into contact with animals. Use at a dilution of 1:50 to be effective against COVID-19.

The limits of licences

- c. Licences permit action only for the purposes specified on that licence.
- d. Licences do not permit actions prohibited under any other legislation, nor do they confer any right of entry upon land.
- e. Unless otherwise stated the provisions of Natural England licences only apply landward of the mean low water mark in England. The Marine Management Organisation is responsible for all licensing seaward of the mean low water mark.

Protected sites

- f. You can search for and view details about all SSSIs by using Natural England's [Designated Sites system](#). The notification documents for each SSSI contain a list of operations that require Natural England's prior consent. Owners and occupiers of land notified as SSSIs are required to give written notice to Natural England before either beginning any of these operations, or allowing someone else to carry out those operations. SSSI consent can only be given to a SSSI owner or occupier. It may be given with or without conditions, or in some cases, consent may not be granted. A similar process applies to public bodies and statutory undertakers (as defined under Section 28G of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended)) and this obligation applies even where the operations are carried out on land outside of the SSSI.
- g. Please note that as the licensee you will not be able to undertake the licensed activity on a SSSI until the owner or occupier of the SSSI has applied for, and received, Natural England's written SSSI consent. If you do so, you may be at risk of committing an offence. As the licensee, if you wish to exercise this licence on a SSSI you must contact the relevant owners or occupiers of the SSSI and ensure they give written notice to Natural England of their proposal to permit you to carry out licensed activity on their SSSI. You should wait until a SSSI consent decision has been received by the SSSI owner/occupier before you begin to exercise this licence on a SSSI. See [GOV.UK](#) for further information on how to get SSSI consent from Natural England.
- h. In considering whether to issue consent or assent for activities likely to affect a SSSI that is a European Site, in other words a Special Protection Area (SPA) or Special Area of Conservation (SAC), Natural England will carry out a Habitats Regulations Assessment, as required by the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (as amended) to ensure there will be no adverse effects on the European Site.

Using and Sharing Your Information

- i. There is significant public interest in wildlife licensing and in those who benefit from receiving a wildlife licence. We may make information publicly available, for more information, please see our [Privacy Notice](#).

Contact Details for Natural England

For licensing enquiries (and reporting):

Telephone: 020 802 61089

Email: HS2wildlifelicensing@naturalengland.org.uk

Postal address:

Natural England Wildlife Licensing Service, Horizon House, Deanery Road, Bristol BS1 5AH

For other enquiries use the Enquiry Service:

Telephone: 0300 060 3900

Email: enquiries@naturalengland.org.uk

Web: Natural England - GOV.UK

Other useful contacts

Local Record Centres: to find out where your nearest Local Record Centre is visit the Association of Local Environmental Record Centres website at: ALERC - ORG.UK

Legislation: to view the full text of the legislation referred to in this licence visit Legislation.gov.uk

Feedback and Complaints: we welcome and value your compliments, complaints, suggestions and comments about our services. Please see our 'Contact us' section for more details. Natural England - GOV.UK

ANNEX A - WML-CL40(A): Species and roost types covered by this licence

<p>Deciding if the use of this licence is appropriate</p>	<p>The Registered Consultant is expected to exercise their professional judgment to determine if the use of this licence is suitable. In doing so, the Registered Consultant is expected to use their knowledge and experience of bat species and their ecology along with information on the local abundance and distribution of those species. This will be combined with the assessment of likely impacts of the works to determine what mitigation and/or compensation measures are suitable and required.</p> <p>This includes determining the level of impact upon individual roosts and also the cumulative effects of activities carried out using this licence on multiple roosts. The term ‘small numbers of bats’ has not been defined by Natural England and it is for the Registered Consultant to decide what constitutes small numbers and low to low-moderate levels of impacts on the local population. These judgments should be consistent with published evidence and best practice and broadly consistent with the judgments of other professional ecologists dealing with a similar situation.</p> <p>For multi-functional, multi species, maternity and hibernation roosts, the Registered Consultant must especially consider the potential for cumulative impacts e.g. where a number of low impact effects may combine to increase the overall impact (see Bat Mitigation Guidelines).</p> <p>Where the impact of the work on the bat species – at individual sites or cumulatively in a local area - exceeds that which could reasonably be considered to be low or low-moderate then this licence should not be used and an individual licence sought.</p> <p>Natural England will review site registrations and may, where required, seek further information and clarity for site registrations, and in some cases suggest or require plans to be modified.</p> <p>Where it is intended to cover a multi-functional roost or a tree containing multiple roosts, each roost will be considered separately for the purpose of determining compensation.</p>																
<p>Species covered by this licence</p>	<table border="0"> <tr> <td>Common pipistrelle</td> <td><i>Pipistrellus pipistrellus</i></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Soprano pipistrelle</td> <td><i>Pipistrellus pygmaeus</i></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Whiskered bat</td> <td><i>Myotis mystacinus</i></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Brandt's bat</td> <td><i>Myotis brandtii</i></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Daubenton's bat</td> <td><i>Myotis daubentonii</i></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Natterer's bat</td> <td><i>Myotis nattereri</i></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Brown long-eared bat</td> <td><i>Plecotus auratus</i></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Noctule</td> <td><i>Nyctalus noctula</i></td> </tr> </table>	Common pipistrelle	<i>Pipistrellus pipistrellus</i>	Soprano pipistrelle	<i>Pipistrellus pygmaeus</i>	Whiskered bat	<i>Myotis mystacinus</i>	Brandt's bat	<i>Myotis brandtii</i>	Daubenton's bat	<i>Myotis daubentonii</i>	Natterer's bat	<i>Myotis nattereri</i>	Brown long-eared bat	<i>Plecotus auratus</i>	Noctule	<i>Nyctalus noctula</i>
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<p>Assemblage of species covered by this licence</p>	<p>Where the conservation significance of the assemblage of species present within the trees or woodland covered by the registration is judged not to exceed local importance or significance. This would normally be small numbers of up to five (5) species, all of which commonly occur in the local area.</p>																

Roost types covered by this licence	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Roosts contained within trees only; • Feeding roosts; • Day roosts; • Night roosts; • Transitional/occasional roosts; • Satellite roosts; • Lower conservation significance maternity roosts where licensable activities are completed outside the maternity season and the modified or replacement roost is available to bats in advance of the next maternity season; • Lower importance hibernation roosts where licensable activities are completed outside the hibernation period, and the modified or replacement roost is available to bats in advance of the next hibernation period, and • Low – low-medium conservation status multi species and multi-purpose roosts.
Numbers of bats covered by this licence	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Individuals or small total numbers of any species listed. If more than one species will be affected, it is the total number of all bat species which must be considered.
Numbers of roosts covered by this licence	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The number of actual roosts that may be affected by this licence is not given as a definitive figure, but is defined by what can reasonably considered to be resulting in a low or low-moderate level of unmitigated cumulative impacts.
Unexpected finds	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • See Annex C.

Annex B - WML-CL40(B): Expected mitigation, compensation, monitoring and management/maintenance requirements

<p>Deciding the level of mitigation or compensation required</p>	<p>The Registered Consultant is expected to exercise their professional judgment to determine the level of mitigation or compensation required to maintain the favourable conservation status of bats affected by works taken under this licence. In doing so, the Registered Consultant is expected to use their knowledge and experience of bat species and their ecology along with information on the local abundance and distribution of those species. This will be combined with the assessment of likely impacts of the works to determine what mitigation and/or compensation measures are suitable and required.</p> <p>In each case replacement or compensation roosts must be located as near as possible to the site of loss. Under this licence, replacement roosts must not be located outside the assumed core sustenance zone for the local population of the species affected. The locating of replacement roosts beyond the original woodland or immediate vicinity of the tree impacted should also consider the continuing ecological functionality of the roosts within the local habitat and will, as a minimum standard, maintain this. As well as roost replacement, other habitat improvements, such as improving foraging and commuting opportunities, should be implemented.</p> <p>When considering the necessity of providing compensatory roost provisions within woodland it is recommended that an assessment of the pre-construction roosting resource is undertaken including both artificial (e.g., bat boxes) and natural (trees) resource. The assessment should include an estimate (if the resource is large) or count (if small) of the number of trees that contain potential roosting features (PRFs) and the overall suitability of the woodland to support roosting bats. As a guide, if this resource exceeds a minimum density of 7-10 trees (with PRFs) per ha in woodland close to or adjacent to the impact, then replacement roosts may not be required. Trees providing such compensatory resource should be protected from direct and indirect impacts for the duration of the compensatory provision including any management and maintenance measures to ensure this.</p> <p>For confirmed roosts within individual trees, or those within a landscape with scattered trees, then the compensatory resource provision should be equal to, or exceeding that available prior to the licensable works.</p> <p>Introducing bat boxes as compensation for the loss of tree roosts is appropriate in woodland where there are few existing PRFs. However, introducing large numbers of bat boxes to a wood is not appropriate where such features already exist, as this can have a negative effect on bat communities. If tree roosts are to be lost veteranisation of nearby trees should be considered, alternatively woodland creation may be more appropriate than providing compensatory roost habitat, unless hibernation or maternity roosts are expected to be lost. Replacement roosts provided as mitigation or compensation must be monitored under this licence.</p> <p>Planting provided under this licence must be as per the site registration and be monitored, managed and maintained.</p> <p>Natural England will review site registrations and may, where required, seek further information and clarity for site registrations, and in some case suggest or require plans to be modified.</p>
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<p>Expected ways of working under this licence</p>	<p>Before this licence is relied upon all reasonable ways of avoiding or limiting roost disturbance or loss must have been considered.</p> <p>Any person working under this licence is expected to comply with standards set out in the following documents:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • HS2 Ltd Ecology Technical Standard (HS2-HS2-EV-STD-000-000017) (or version that is in place at that time) and, where directed, to the source and reference documents stated within that Standard. <p>Where no specific guidance is offered or signposted by the HS2 Ecology Technical Standard the user should follow the best practice set out within the following three documents when working with bats:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bat Workers Manual (JNCC) • Bat Mitigation Guidelines (Natural England) • Bat Surveys for Professional Ecologists – Good Practice Guidelines (Bat Conservation Trust) <p>Tree Felling</p> <p>Any tree identified as having confirmed bat roosts must be excluded or surveyed to confirm bats are absent or removed before felling. If this isn't possible or doubt remains, the tree must be section ('soft') felled.</p> <p>Any tree that is section ('soft') felled must be done so by removing branches or tree sections and where bat roost potential is within that section, gently lowering to the ground for detailed visual inspection. Any cut into timber must not be across any crack, fissure or void that may hold bats, insofar as is reasonably possible, for safety of the operator.</p> <p>Felling of trees adjacent to trees with higher significance roosts and forming an important buffer for those trees must avoid the peak maternity and hibernation periods for that area and likely species.</p>
<p>Timings of works</p>	<p>Activities involving the exclusion, capture and/or handling of bats must only be undertaken in weather conditions suitable for bats to be active and must follow best practice methodology in line with licence condition 38. Should individual/s bats be found unexpectedly in cold or adverse weather conditions the guidance in Annex C must be followed.</p> <p>Licensable activities impacting satellite and maternity roosts must not be undertaken between 1 May and 30 September inclusive, or when the roost is in use for these purposes.</p> <p>Licensable activities impacting hibernation roosts must not be undertaken between 1 November and 28 February, or when the roost is in use for this purpose.</p> <p>Any compensation for the loss of roosts must be in place prior to exclusion or any works taking place which have the potential to affect bats.</p>

Annex C - WML-CL40(C): Acting under licences WML-CL39 and WML-CL40 when bats are found unexpectedly or during in cold and/or in adverse weather conditions (see main Licence, Conditions 24 and 25)

Important:

To minimise the risks of disturbing bats:

- Surveys at a site must take into consideration the potential of any trees to be used throughout the year. Neither of the Class Licences to which this licence applies, permit the damage or destruction of maternity or hibernation roosts (or other important roosts) when they may be in use by bats for this purpose.
- Should unexpected species or numbers of bats or roosts be found whilst working under the authority of this licence, the Registered Consultant should assess if works can continue under either Class Licence to which this Annex applies, whether the authorised site registration form needs to be updated and sent to Natural England, or whether an individual licence will need to be applied for (see licence condition 29 and Annex B).
- Should any bats be found of a species or roost type not covered by either Class Licence to which this Annex applies, works must stop and Natural England must be informed immediately. An individual licence may be required.
- Activities affecting trees which are likely to support hibernating or torpid bats must be timed to take place when bats are active and when there is a decreased risk of direct or indirect harm to bats because:
 - o Torpid and hibernating bats are unable to rouse quickly and can easily be injured or killed through careless working practices, and
 - o Causing bats to wake and use energy at a time of year when they cannot replace their energy reserves may reduce their chances of surviving, particularly in the winter.

It is however recognised that, despite thorough assessment, there are occasions where individual torpid or hibernating bats might be discovered unexpectedly.

If individual bats are discovered unexpectedly, or during periods of cold or adverse weather then the following steps must be taken:

A - Dealing with the bat or bats found

1. Stop works to the tree.
2. If the Registered Consultant is not in attendance at that site, he/she must be contacted immediately to attend the site.
3. Do not expose the bat to the elements or cause it to fly out of the roost on its own accord.
4. The bat must only be handled if the integrity of the roost is impacted to such an extent that the microclimate of the roost has been affected, and only by a person authorised by the registration and where that person has sufficient experience in handling bats, unless it is in immediate danger. Special care must be taken if the bat is torpid.
5. The bat should be carefully placed in a lidded ventilated box with a piece of clean cloth and a small shallow container with some water. The box must be kept in a safe, quiet location.
6. Where the bat is torpid, care should be taken to avoid rousing the bat during transfer to a suitable location – which may be a suitable hibernation box or other alternative roost, providing a safe, quiet environment with stable, cool temperature and relatively high humidity, safe from further disturbance.

7. Any underweight or injured bats must be taken into temporary care by an experienced bat carer and looked after until such time that the bat can be transferred to a suitable replacement roost at the same site, or weather conditions are suitable for release at the same site.

B – Reviewing the work impact, mitigation and/or compensation required

8. The Registered Consultant should re-assess the situation and consider whether works can proceed under the existing site registration.
9. In doing so they should consider the implications of the unexpected find of the bat or bats, and if the current planned way of working, mitigation and/or compensation is appropriate. Where it is felt that changes are required a revised Site Registration form should be sent to Natural England prior to works continuing.
10. Where bats of a species not covered by the licence are discovered, or larger numbers, or different roost types are found, then the Registered Consultant should contact the Natural England licensing team as soon as is practicable. After an initial discussion, the Registered Consultant should confirm the find (species, circumstances, revised plans for mitigation/compensation etc) to the licensing adviser via email. This email should confirm the species found, the number of bats found, details of previous surveys and/ or additional pre-works inspections and what is proposed as additional or revised mitigation/compensation.
11. Natural England will respond and confirm in writing whether the unexpected find can be authorised under this licence, or whether an individual licence is required.