



The Sizewell C Project

6.3 Volume 2 Main Development Site Chapter 14 Terrestrial Ecology and Ornithology Appendix 14C11: Deptford Pink Licence Method Statement

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Planning Act 2008
Infrastructure Planning (Applications: Prescribed
Forms and Procedure) Regulations 2009



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None Provided.

APPENDICES

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1 INTRODUCTION

a) Purpose

- 1.1.1 This method statement outlines the key approaches to mitigating potential impacts to the Deptford Pink (*Dianthus armeria*) populations present within or adjacent to the construction site for Sizewell C main development site (**Plate 1.1**) to support licence application for the purpose of conservation (A31). A completed A31 form is included at **Appendix A**. This has been progressed as far as possible in the absence of a named Contractor and their associated site support team.
- 1.1.2 The method statement considers the results of a survey undertaken for this species (July and August 2020) and as well as records made by third parties in June 2020.
- 1.1.3 In order to enable the development of the main development site, a number of facilitating works (including vegetation clearance works and ground-breaking works) are required. These works cover an area on which Deptford Pink (*Dianthus armeria*) has been recorded. The facilitating works therefore have the potential to cause the loss of Deptford Pink that is known to be present. Accordingly, the purpose of this document is to provide a method statement that shall be used by the consultant ecologist, SZC Co. and any relevant subcontractors, to ensure the conservation status of Deptford Pink is maintained during the construction works to be undertaken within the main development site.
- 1.1.4 This method statement forms one of a series of protected species licence applications for the Sizewell C Project to be submitted to Natural England during summer 2021.

b) Background and scheme overview

- 1.1.5 SZC Co. is proposing to build and operate a new nuclear power station on the Suffolk coast, approximately halfway between Felixstowe and Lowestoft; to the north-east of the town of Leiston, known as Sizewell C Power Station (hereafter referred to as 'Sizewell C') located to the north of the existing Sizewell B Power Station.
- 1.1.6 Sizewell C would comprise two United Kingdom European Pressurised Reactor (UK EPR™) units with an expected net electrical output of approximately 1,670 megawatts (MW) per unit, giving a total site capacity of approximately 3,340MW. The new nuclear power station would represent the Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project (NSIP) component of the proposed development.

- 1.1.7 In addition to the key operational elements of the UK EPR™ units, the Sizewell C Project comprises other permanent and temporary development to support the construction and operation of the Sizewell C nuclear power station. The key elements are the main development site, comprising the Sizewell C nuclear power station itself, offshore works, land used temporarily to support construction including an accommodation campus and a series of off-site associated development sites in the local area. These include:
- Two temporary park and ride sites; one to the north-west of Sizewell C at Darsham (the ‘northern park and ride’), and one to the south-west at Wickham Market (the ‘southern park and ride’) to reduce the amount of traffic generated by the construction workforce on local roads and through local villages;
 - A permanent road to bypass Stratford St Andrew and Farnham (referred to as the ‘two village bypass’) to alleviate traffic on the A12 through the villages;
 - A permanent road linking the A12 to the Sizewell C main development site (referred to as ‘Sizewell link road’) to alleviate traffic from the B1122 through Theberton and Middleton Moor;
 - Permanent highway improvements at the junction of the A12 and B1122 east of Yoxford (referred to as the ‘Yoxford roundabout’) and other road junctions to accommodate Sizewell C construction traffic;
 - A temporary freight management facility at Seven Hills on land to the south-east of the A12/A14 junction to manage the flow of freight to the main development site;
 - A temporary extension of the existing Saxmundham to Leiston branch line into the main development site (‘the green rail route’) and other permanent rail improvements on the Saxmundham to Leiston branch line, to transport freight by rail in order to remove large numbers of HGVs from the regional and local road network; and
 - Green rail route extension and rail improvements to the Saxmundham to Leiston branch line.
- 1.1.8 The components listed above are referred to collectively as the ‘Sizewell C Project’.
- 1.1.9 This method statement has been prepared for the main development site only and does not apply to the off-site associated development sites listed above.

c) Site location and setting

- 1.1.10 The main development site is located at Sizewell, East Suffolk. The main development site is shown in Figure 1 and the area covered by this method statement is presented in **Plate 1.1**.
- 1.1.11 The majority of the main development site does not have the potential to support Deptford Pink as it is largely dominated by arable fields with field boundaries comprising native, species poor hedgerows or tree lines. Several woodland blocks, comprising plantation, mixed plantation and broadleaved semi-natural woodland, are scattered across the site. The largest woodland area present to the northeast includes Hilltop Covert, Dunwich Forest, Goose Hill and the northern boundary of Kenton Hills. Numerous farm buildings and structures are also scattered to the north and west of the site. Some of the main development site falls within the following designated sites:
- Sizewell Marshes SSSI; the area subject to land take includes an area of reedbed, ditches, wet woodland and fen meadow;
 - Suffolk Coast and Heaths Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB);
 - Sizewell Levels and Associated Areas County Wildlife Site (CWS) – largely plantation woodland and acid grassland; and
 - Suffolk Shingle Beaches CWS – dune grassland and vegetation shingle.
- 1.1.12 The eastern edge of the terrestrial part of the main development site includes vegetated shingle habitats backed to the west by a poorly developed dune system with Marram (*Ammophila arenaria*), Bracken (*Pteridium aquilinum*) and scattered Sea Buckthorn (*Hippophae rhamnoides*), Gorse (*Ulex europaeus*) and Broom (*Cytisus scoparius*) scrub. Scrub and rank grassland are dominant on land previously associated with the construction of Sizewell B power station located immediately west of the dune system. Habitats here include tussocky unmanaged grassland and planted native scrub species.
- 1.1.13 Habitats suitable for supporting Deptford Pink are thought to be restricted to the open areas of dune grassland and fringes of the vegetated shingle which enable germination without the competition and shading from vigorous perennial species. The area covered by this method statement is presented in **Plate 1.1** with the grid reference (TM 4757 6389) location indicated (blue circle). The main development site entire red line boundary and location is presented in **Plate 1.2**.

Plate 1.1: Area covered by this method statement



Source: ESRI

Plate 1.2: Aerial imagery of the site and redline boundary



Source: ESRI, Maxar, GeoEye, Earthstar Geographics, CNES/Airbus DS, USDA, AeroGRID, IGN, and the GIS User Community

d) Summary of construction works that could affect Deptford Pink

- 1.1.15** Earthworks and construction of the development's sea defences, if consented, would remove or substantially disturb the area in which Deptford Pink is growing, leading to a loss of the habitat in which this plant is found.

2 METHOD STATEMENT FOR DEPTFORD PINK

2.1 Introduction

2.1.1 This section provides a method statement for the relocation for Deptford Pink prior to the commencement of any works within the area shown in **Plate 1.1**.

2.1.2 The current location of the Deptford Pink cannot be avoided by the construction works as new sea defences in this area are needed to protect the new platform for Sizewell C.

2.1.3 It is the responsibility of the site contractors to carry out the works in a manner which will not contravene the legislation with regards to protected species in the areas identified as supporting this protected species (Deptford Pink) and habitats potentially suitable for supporting this species. Any variations from this method statement may contravene legislation and therefore risk prosecution. Thus, it is their joint responsibility that no changes to the timings or methods outlined below are made without prior agreement from the Ecological Clerk of Works (ECoW). The responsibility of the ECoW is defined in the Sizewell C Project's Code of Construction Practice.

2.2 Species description

2.2.1 Plantlife¹ (webpage resource) describes Deptford Pink as a biennial plant, flowering July to September. It occurs throughout Europe, but in the UK it is found only in scattered sites, predominately in southern England. It is considered as 'Nationally Scarce'.

2.2.2 Deptford Pink has been recorded on tracks, waysides, railway cuttings and hedge banks. It is associated with disturbed ground and open well-lit conditions.

2.2.3 It is classified as endangered in the UK (Ref. 1) and considered to be at high risk of extinction in the wild. The reasons for decline include habitat destruction, including agricultural improvement, afforestation, and urban development.

2.2.4 Deptford Pink overwinters as basal leave rosettes and dead flower stalks may persist for several months. It is most-often self-pollinated, produces abundant seeds and has a germination period of up to five months. Seed is shed in the late summer and autumn which germinates the following March.

2.2.5 Plantlife considers that to restore Deptford Pink sites, it is important to remove shade and competing vegetation.

¹ <https://www.plantlife.org.uk/uk/discover-wild-plants-nature/plant-fungi-species/deptford-pink>

2.3 Status on site

- 2.3.1 The following desk study records exist for Deptford Pink within the main development site:
- “*Sizewell Beach, TM4763, 20/06/2014, Dayne West. About 8 plants.*” (Transcripts of the Suffolk Naturalists Society 52 (2016)).
 - “*Between Sizewell B and proposed Sizewell C sites. 6 Count of present 2014. TM474639. Longitude: 1.6222643007265. Latitude: 52.217253544491.*” (Suffolk Biodiversity Information Service (SBIS) (2018)).
 - “*North of Sizewell B Station between the Power Station boundary chestnut paling fence and the dune ridge TM475638 - approximate location flowering in June.*” (Charles Cuthbert pers. comm. (2020)).
- 2.3.2 The reference to Sizewell Beach (record 1) indicates that the plant is located in the area of dunes or bordering the shingle. It is unknown if the records refer to the same or different colonies of plants.
- 2.3.3 There are a further two recent records in Suffolk (Ref. 2) both were thought to be of casual or garden origin rather than representing native populations and this may also be the case for the Sizewell biological records presented above.
- 2.3.4 The most recent record of Deptford Pink, provided by Charles Cuthbert, is presented below in **Plate 2.1**.

Plate 2.1: Location of previous record of Deptford Pink



Source: ESRI, Maxar, GeoEye, Earthstar Geographics, CNES/Airbus DS, USDA, AeroGRID, IGN, and the GIS User Community

2.3.5 Deptford Pink requires annual recruitment of new plants to sustain colonies. Habitats to the west of the dunes are unlikely to be suitable for Deptford Pink as these areas support planted scrub and unmanaged grassland which would compete with and shade Deptford Pink seedlings. If any seed were to germinate in this area it would not be expected to survive long enough to form a basal rosette.

2.3.6 Surveys of the potential locations including the location of the record reported in June 2020 (record three) were undertaken in July 2020 by a Technical Director (CEcol, MCIEEM) and a Graduate Ecologist (GradCIEEM) and in August 2020 by a Consultant Ecologist (gradCIEEM) and a Graduate Ecologist (Qualifying CIEEM). While its flowering season is stated as July, August and September¹, in 2020 it flowered in June (record three) and was not detected by the July or August survey visits.

2.4 Legislation

2.4.1 Deptford Pink is protected under Schedule 8 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) (Ref. 3). The Act provides protection as follows:

“1) Subject to the provisions of this Part, if any person—

(a) intentionally picks, uproots or destroys any wild plant included in Schedule 8; or

(b) not being an authorised person, intentionally uproots any wild plant not included in that Schedule, he shall be guilty of an offence.

(2) Subject to the provisions of this Part, if any person—

(a) sells, offers or exposes for sale, or has in his possession or transports for the purpose of sale, any live or dead wild plant included in Schedule 8, or any part of, or anything derived from, such a plant; or

(b) publishes or causes to be published any advertisement likely to be understood as conveying that he buys or sells, or intends to buy or sell, any of those things, he shall be guilty of an offence.

(3) Notwithstanding anything in subsection (1), a person shall not be guilty of an offence by reason of any act made unlawful by that subsection if he shows that the act was an incidental result of a lawful operation and could not reasonably have been avoided.

(4) In any proceedings for an offence under subsection (2)(a), the plant in question shall be presumed to have been a wild plant unless the contrary is shown.”

2.4.2 Removal of plants from the main development site would need to proceed under a licence granted by Natural England for the purposes of conservation (Application for a licence to take wild plants for science, research, education or conservation (A31)). This method statement has been developed to support such a licence application. A completed A31 form is included at Appendix A.

2.4.3 Deptford Pink is listed as a Species of Principal Importance under the Natural Environment and Rural Communities (NERC) Act 2006 (Ref. 4). As such it would need to be taken into consideration by a public body when performing any of its functions with a view to conservation.

2.5 Translocation methodology

2.5.1 The translocation of plants and seeds will include the steps outlined in the sections below. The precise approach is dependent on population size:

- Identification of extant ‘donor’ plants.
- Confirmation and preparation of ‘receptor’ site (area on site to receive plants, seeds or seedlings).
- Seed collection and sowing (at the receptor site and in cultivation).
- Translocation (movement) of plants from donor to receptor site.

- Planting of plugs (basal rosettes) at the receptor site from plants grown from seed from the donor plants in cultivation.

a) Identification of donor plants

2.5.2 A targeted walkover survey has been carried out in June 2021 and will be undertaken during July 2021 and June and July 2022 to locate any flowering plants and non-flowering rosettes of Deptford Pink. Surveys were undertaken in June to ensure that if early flowering took place again, it would have been identified when in flower. The location of plants will be recorded as set out below. The precise method adopted will be dependent on the number of plants that are present in 2022 prior to works on site commencing. This methodology is based on the survey method used by the Species Recovery Trust (Ref. 5).

- 1-10 plants. The location of each plant will be recorded using GPS, a photographic record will be made and a numbered marker (tagged cane) will be inserted adjacent to the basal rosette. This will correspond with data on the plant collected digitally.
- 10-1000 plants. The location of each distinct group of plants will be recorded using GPS, a photographic record will be made and a numbered marker (tagged cane) will be inserted within the group of plants. This will correspond with data on the group collected digitally, which will include the number of flowering and non-flowering plants in the group. Should plants be widely scattered then the approach taken for 1-10 plants would be followed for up to 100 plants, above this number an estimate of the number of plants would be made. Any concentrations of plants would be recorded using GPS, photographed and marked with numbered canes.
- >1000 plants. The location of each distinct group of plants will be recorded using GPS, a photographic record will be made and a numbered marker (tagged cane) will be inserted adjacent within the group of plants. This will correspond with data on the group collected digitally, which will include an estimate of the number of flowering and non-flowering plants in the group. Should plants be widely scattered then an estimate will be made for the overall number of plants and any concentrations would then be recorded using GPS, photographed and marked with numbered canes.

b) Confirmation of receptor site

2.5.3 A receptor site has been identified to the south of the known Deptford Pink colony. This comprises the dune system beyond the affected sea defence works for the Sizewell C power station and in front of the existing Sizewell B

power station (grid reference TM 47579 63285). The location of the receptor site is presented below in **Plate 2.2**.

Plate 2.2: Receptor Site Location



Source: ESRI, Maxar, GeoEye, Earthstar Geographics, CNES/Airbus DS, USDA, AeroGRID, IGN, and the GIS User Community

- 2.5.4 A detailed inspection of the receptor area will be undertaken during July 2021 and June and July 2022 to correspond with the survey to identify Deptford Pink plants. The inspection will take into account the numbers of Deptford Pink plants found to be present and therefore the likely area required to receive plants and seeds.
- 2.5.5 The receptor habitat will be electronically mapped into compartments labelled using the following categories:
- Category 1: Bare ground considered too trampled, exposed or unstable for successful establishment of Deptford Pink.
 - Category 2: Sparse ephemeral communities/thin grass with open areas of bare ground, suitable for the successful establishment of Deptford Pink.
 - Category 3: Coarse grass/herbs, unsuitable in current state for successful establishment of Deptford Pink.
 - Category 4: Scrub, unsuitable in current state for successful establishment of Deptford Pink.

- Category 5: Areas supporting diverse flora or other notable plant species, which would need to be considered in the context of receiving Deptford Pink plants or seed.

c) Preparation of receptor site

2.5.6 Category 1 areas will not be used for receiving plants/seed and are not considered further.

2.5.7 Category 2 areas will be considered for receiving plants/seed but may require minor disturbance prior to sowing seeds or moving plants. This will involve the scarification of the soil surface using a metal rake to create a seedbed. This would be undertaken immediately prior to planting/sowing.

2.5.8 Category 3 areas will be considered for receiving plants/seed if insufficient Category 2 areas exist to support a viable and sustainable population of Deptford Pink, to at least mirror that lost. In this instance, coarse grass and herbs will be removed. A rotavator or similar may be used for this purpose, with extracted material removed from site. It is anticipated that such areas are likely to be more nutrient rich than those supporting ephemeral communities and therefore the success of long-term establishment of Deptford Pink in such areas may be compromised.

2.5.9 Category 4 areas are unsuitable for Deptford Pink establishment and will be avoided.

2.5.10 Category 5 areas will need to be reviewed on a case by case basis. Should it be possible to avoid notable plants or biodiverse areas, the ground will be scarified as for Category 1 in preparation for receiving plants/seed.

d) Seed collection, storage and cleaning

2.5.11 The data collected in June and July 2022 will be used to relocate flowering Deptford Pink plants in mid-September of the same year. As the colony is to be lost in its entirety, all seed heads will be collected. Seeds are due to be collected in autumn 2022 and if practicable in 2021. It is anticipated that under 50 plants are likely to be present based on the number of plants recorded by the desk study records for this species.

2.5.12 The collection date will be during dry weather. Seed heads will be placed in paper or muslin bags.

2.5.13 Seed heads will be stored in trays, kept cool and dry indoors until they dehisce. They will be regularly inspected to ensure they are not damp or infected with mould.

2.5.14 Once the seeds have dehisced, they will be ‘cleaned’ by removing the empty capsules, debris and any pests such as weevils or caterpillars.

2.5.15 The approximate number of seeds collected will be estimated.

e) Seed sowing

2.5.16 The following approach will be taken to seed sowing, based on the number collected:

- <100 seeds. Half to be grown on by a competent establishment as plug plants. Half to be sent for storage to the Millennium Seed Bank, Wakehurst Place (to be confirmed with Millennium Seed Bank).
- >100 seeds. Fifty seeds to be grown on by a competent establishment as plug plants. Fifty seeds to be sent for storage to the Millennium Seed Bank, Wakehurst Place (to be confirmed with Millennium Seed Bank). The remainder to be sown in the prepared receptor areas during mild, damp weather in October the year of the DCO (Year 1). Seed will be scattered by hand and gently raked in. The sown areas will be photographed, their GPS location recorded and marked using a numbered cane.

f) Translocation of plants

2.5.17 If present, up to 100 non-flowering rosettes will be carefully moved from the donor site to the prepared receptor areas.

2.5.18 The plants will be dug by hand using a trowel, attempting to keep the root ball intact.

2.5.19 They will then be wrapped in damp newspaper and placed in a plastic bag to prevent drying out before replanting in the prepared receptor areas on the same day.

2.5.20 The plants will be moved during cool damp weather in October. Plants will be watered into place.

g) Establishment of plug plants

2.5.21 Plug plants grown on from seed will be planted into the receptor areas during cool damp weather in October following the year of seed collection. Plants will be watered into place.

2.5.22 The success of establishing *Dianthus* species from pot grown plants has been confirmed for the related *Dianthus morisianus*. This is a species of fixed dunes in Sardinia. The survival rate of pot grown plants was >95% two years

from planting and the fruit yield higher than that of the donor population (Ref. 1).

2.6 Monitoring

2.6.1 The receptor areas will be monitored the following June/ July for successful establishment. Flowering plants and non-flowering rosettes will be counted up to 1000 basal rosettes, estimates will be made beyond this number. This monitoring will be extended for five years following translocation.

2.6.2 In the event that establishment has been poor or plants fail to persist, a proportion of seed stored in the Millennium Seed Bank may be grown on as plugs and transplanted to the receptor site using the same methods previously described in an attempt to boost establishment.

2.6.3 A detailed monitoring plan will be prepared and this will be reported annually.

2.7 Programme of Works

2.7.1 **Plate 2.3** outlines the proposed programme of works for the recommendations outlined within this Method Statement. Seed collection will be carried out in September 2021 too if practicable.

Plate 2.3 Programme of Works

Month Commencing / Year	Jun-21	Jul-21	Sep-21	Jun-22	Jul-22	Sep-22	Oct-22	Jun-23	Jul-23
Deptford Pink Programme of Works									
Targeted walkover survey									
Detailed inspection of receptor area									
Seed collection									
Plant translocation									
Planting of plug plants grown on from seed into receptor area									
Receptor area monitoring									

3 CONCLUSIONS

3.1.1 Providing that the recommendations outlined within this Method Statement are adhered to, it is possible to secure the future of the Deptford Pink on the Sizewell C main development site.

REFERENCES

1. JNCC (2019). Conservation Designations Spreadsheet.
<http://archive.jncc.gov.uk/default.aspx?page=3408> accessed 23.01.20
2. Sandford, M and Fisk, R (2010). A Flora of Suffolk. The Dorset Press.
3. HMSO (1981). The Wildlife and Countryside Act (as amended). HMSO, London.
4. HMSO (2006). The Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act. HMSO, London
5. Species Recovery Trust (undated). Species Handbook. Deptford Pink (*Dianthus armeria*). (PDF) Available at: https://a7f0f8fb-8a2c-49bc-a703-7c4cbecc26d7.filesusr.com/ugd/59de27_c98344007ea44534b48942a48d509713.pdf [Accessed 23.01.20].
6. Fauna & Flora International (2013). Oryx, 47(2), 203–206 The-effectiveness-of-plant-conservation-measures-The-Dianthus-morisianus-reintroduction

APPENDIX A: A31: APPLICATION FOR A LICENCE TO TAKE WILD PLANTS FOR SCIENCE, RESEARCH, EDUCATION OR CONSERVATION.

Licence Application Form

Application for a licence to take wild plants:
Survey, science, education and conservation

Please Note – Applications can be completed online.
For more information please visit our [website](#).

Wildlife Licensing
Natural England
Horizon House
Deanery Road
Bristol, BS1 5AH.
T. 020802 61089
wildlife.scicons@naturalengland.org.uk

- Please complete this application form using **dark ink** and BLOCK CAPITALS.
- Return the completed form to the address shown.
- All questions should be answered as appropriate. Questions marked with ‘*’ are mandatory and failing to complete these may result in delays to your application.
- If there is insufficient space for completing answers on this form, please attach a separate sheet.
- Natural England will aim to determine the outcome of a completed licence application within its published service standards.
- If you experience any problems completing this application or using the online Case Work Management (CWM) system – please see our [website](#) for guidance or contact Wildlife Licensing.
- Additional guidance is provided in [Using CWM – Applicant Guidance Document](#). This can be downloaded from our website or you can ask Wildlife Licensing to send you a copy.

For Office Use Only

CWM Ref No:

Charter Deadline:

1. Applicant Details

Please enter the details of the person who will become the licensee.

(For guidance please see attached annex)

- If the applicant **is** already registered as a customer please complete Registered Customer Details (a)
- If the applicant **is not** already registered as a customer please complete the New Customer Registration (b)

(a) Registered Customer Details

*Customer Number

*Surname

*Forename

*Postcode

(a) New Customer Registration

Please note: If you are the agent registering on behalf of the applicant you will need to provide their full authorisation with this application.

*Email Address

*Title

(please tick as appropriate)

Mr

☐

Mrs

☐

Ms

☐

Other

☐

(Please Specify)

*Forename

Middle Name

*Surname

Professional Membership
(e.g. CIEEM, IEMA, etc)

If you represent
an organisation
please complete
(i) (ii) and (iii)

(i) *Business Title

(ii) *Company

(iii) *Position

House Name / No.

*Address Line 1

*Address Line 2

Address Line 3

Town

*County

*Postcode

Country

Either 'Telephone No.' or 'Mobile No.' must be completed.

Telephone No.

Mobile No.

Fax no.

*Customer Type (e.g. Farmer, Householder, Ecologist, etc.)

*Are you VAT registered?

Yes

☐

No

☐

If 'Yes' VAT Number:

*Are you registered with the
Rural Payments Agency?

Yes

☐

No

☐

If 'Yes' RPA SBI Number:

(b) Alternative Applicant Contact Details

In the event that the applicant is unavailable to discuss the application, it would be helpful if alternative contact details could be provided. By completing this section you are confirming that this contact is authorised to act on behalf of the applicant.

Name:

Tel Number:

Email Address:

2. Agent / Named Ecologist Details

(a) Will an agent / named ecologist be used in conjunction with this application?

Yes

☐

No

☐

(For guidance please see attached annex)

- If the agent is already registered as a customer please complete Registered Agent / Ecologist Details (b)
- If the agent is not already registered as a customer please complete the New Agent / Ecologist Registration (c)
- If there will not be an agent / ecologist used in conjunction with this application please go to the next section.

(b) Registered Agent / Ecologist Details

*Customer Number

*Surname

*Forename

*Postcode

(c) New Agent / Named Ecologist Registration

Please note: If you are the applicant registering on behalf of the agent / named ecologist you will need to provide their full authorisation with this application.

*Email Address

*Title

(please tick as appropriate) Mr ☐ Mrs ☐ Ms ☐ Other ☐ (Please Specify

*Forename

Middle Name

*Surname

Professional Membership
(e.g. CIEEM, IEMA, etc)

If you represent
an organisation
please complete
(i) (ii) and (iii)

(i) *Business Title

(ii) *Company

(iii) *Position

House Name / No.

*Address Line 1

*Address Line 2

Address Line 3

Town

*County

*Postcode

Country

Either 'Telephone No.' or 'Mobile No.' must be completed.

Telephone No.

Mobile No.

Fax no.

*Customer Type (e.g. Farmer, Householder, Ecologist, etc.)

*Are you VAT registered?

Yes ☐ No ☐

If 'Yes' VAT Number:

*Are you registered with the
Rural Payments Agency?

Yes ☐ No ☐

If 'Yes' RPA SBI Number:

(d) Alternative Ecologist Contact Details

In the event that the named ecologist is unavailable to discuss the application, it would be helpful if alternative contact details could be provided. By completing this section you are confirming that this contact is authorised to act on behalf of the named ecologist and has a detailed knowledge of the application.

Name:

Tel Number:

Email Address:

3. Communication Preferences

Please indicate who should be contacted if we need to discuss this application:

Applicant ☐ Agent / Ecologist ☐

Please indicate to whom the outcome documentation for this application should be sent:

Applicant ☐ Agent / Ecologist ☐

Applicant preferences: Email ☐ Post ☐ Telephone ☐

If 'Yes' for telephone, please provide a contact no.

Agent / Ecologist preferences: Email ☐ Post ☐ Telephone ☐

If 'Yes' for telephone, please provide a contact no.

4. Previous Applications

(a) * To your knowledge, have there been any previous applications or licence decisions concerning this site?

Yes ☐ No ☐

If 'No' please go to the next section. If 'Yes' to (a), please complete the following.

(b) *Date of most recent application:

(c) *What was the subject of the previous applications?

(d) *What is the application or licence reference number?

(e) *What was the outcome of the previous application? (Please select one of the following)

Granted ☐ Not Granted ☐ Advice Only ☐ Deferred ☐ Not Yet Known ☐

5. Purpose

(a) * Confirm the purpose of the application:

- ☐ Science or education, under section 55(2)(a) and/or section 16(3)(a)
- ☐ Conserving wild plants, under section 55(2)(c) and/or section 16(3)(c)
- ☐ Introducing wild plants to particular areas, under section 55(2)(c) and/or section 16(3)(c)
- ☐ Protecting any botanical collection, under section 55(2)(d) and/or section 16(3)(d)

(b) What are the main aims?

(c) * What publications have you produced or contributed to regarding this topic?

(d) * Is data being collected? If yes, please describe what it will be used for.

6. Justification

(a) * Please provide a summary of your need to apply:

(b) * If you are applying in relation to damage to land, crops, fisheries, or property, please provide the extent of damage and dates (including previous years if appropriate)

(c) * Have you taken any action to prevent the problems outlined above?

Yes ☐ No ☐ N/A ☐

If 'Yes' to (c)... * Please provide details of the actions taken:

If 'No' to (c)... * Please explain why no actions have been taken?

7. Site Details

*Is the address for the site or premises to be licensed different to the applicant's address? Yes ☐ No ☐

If 'Yes' ... For each Site / Location to be licensed, please complete **all** of the following details:

If 'No' ... Please complete Site / Location Name and OS Grid Reference boxes only.

(For linear projects, please add the start and end points separately)

	Site 1	Site 2	Site 3
*Site / Location Name:			
House No:			
Address Line 1:			
Address Line 2:			
Address Line 3:			
Town:			
*County:			
Postcode:			
*OS Grid Reference: <i>(In format XX123456)</i>			

8. Conservation Considerations

(a) *Will any part of the proposed activity fall in and/or adjacent to a Designated Site?

Yes ☐ No ☐ N/A ☐

If 'Yes' to (a) please complete the table below. If 'No', please go to the next section.

Please indicate whether the activity will fall on and/or adjacent to a designated site:	Designated Site Name:	Type of Designated Site <i>E.g. National Nature Reserve (NNR), Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI), Special Protection Area (SPA), Special Area of Conservation (SAC), Ramsar Site, Ancient Monument, Marine Nature Reserve (MNR), Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB)</i>
On <input type="checkbox"/> Adjacent to <input type="checkbox"/>		
On <input type="checkbox"/> Adjacent to <input type="checkbox"/>		
On <input type="checkbox"/> Adjacent to <input type="checkbox"/>		
On <input type="checkbox"/> Adjacent to <input type="checkbox"/>		
On <input type="checkbox"/> Adjacent to <input type="checkbox"/>		
On <input type="checkbox"/> Adjacent to <input type="checkbox"/>		

(b) Have you received permission from all the designated site managers?

Yes ☐ No ☐ Not Known ☐

(c) Have you consulted with Natural England for advice on the implications of the application on the designated sites?

Yes ☐ No ☐ Not Known ☐

(d) Please give either the outcome of your consultations or the reason why you have not consulted us. Please provide any relevant correspondence and the name of the local Natural England adviser or reserve manager consulted.

(e) Will work extend into future years?

(If 'Yes' please state how many years it will extend for)

Yes ☐ _____ years No ☐

(f) Is work part of a wider project or contributing to local Biodiversity Action Plans?

Yes ☐ No ☐ Not Known ☐

9. Authorisation

(a) *Is the applicant the owner / occupier of the land?

Yes ☐ No ☐ N/A ☐

If 'Yes' to (a) please go to the next section. If 'No' to (a) please answer (b).

(b) Have you received the owner occupier's permission to apply?

Yes ☐ No ☐

Please note that it is your responsibility as the applicant to obtain the owner or occupier's permissions to act under licence on their property.

You may be asked to provide documentation which confirms that you have owner or occupier's permissions and we will contact you if this is necessary.

10. Application Details

(a) Please add details for all licensable actions you wish to perform:

	Licensable Action 1	Licensable Action 2	Licensable Action 3
Application Subject	<i>Wild plants - survey, science, education and conservation</i>		
* Species			
* Activity	<input type="checkbox"/> Collect <input type="checkbox"/> Cut <input type="checkbox"/> Damage <input type="checkbox"/> Destroy <input type="checkbox"/> Kill <input type="checkbox"/> Mark <input type="checkbox"/> Pick <input type="checkbox"/> Possess <input type="checkbox"/> Sell <input type="checkbox"/> Take <input type="checkbox"/> Transport <input type="checkbox"/> Uproot	<input type="checkbox"/> Collect <input type="checkbox"/> Cut <input type="checkbox"/> Damage <input type="checkbox"/> Destroy <input type="checkbox"/> Kill <input type="checkbox"/> Mark <input type="checkbox"/> Pick <input type="checkbox"/> Possess <input type="checkbox"/> Sell <input type="checkbox"/> Take <input type="checkbox"/> Transport <input type="checkbox"/> Uproot	<input type="checkbox"/> Collect <input type="checkbox"/> Cut <input type="checkbox"/> Damage <input type="checkbox"/> Destroy <input type="checkbox"/> Kill <input type="checkbox"/> Mark <input type="checkbox"/> Pick <input type="checkbox"/> Possess <input type="checkbox"/> Sell <input type="checkbox"/> Take <input type="checkbox"/> Transport <input type="checkbox"/> Uproot
* Method or Field Technique	<input type="checkbox"/> Alcohol <input type="checkbox"/> Benthic sediment cores <input type="checkbox"/> Clipping <input type="checkbox"/> Core sampling by hand <input type="checkbox"/> Digging <input type="checkbox"/> Grappling <input type="checkbox"/> Hand <input type="checkbox"/> Hand held tools <input type="checkbox"/> Leaf clip	<input type="checkbox"/> Alcohol <input type="checkbox"/> Benthic sediment cores <input type="checkbox"/> Clipping <input type="checkbox"/> Core sampling by hand <input type="checkbox"/> Digging <input type="checkbox"/> Grappling <input type="checkbox"/> Hand <input type="checkbox"/> Hand held tools <input type="checkbox"/> Leaf clip	<input type="checkbox"/> Alcohol <input type="checkbox"/> Benthic sediment cores <input type="checkbox"/> Clipping <input type="checkbox"/> Core sampling by hand <input type="checkbox"/> Digging <input type="checkbox"/> Grappling <input type="checkbox"/> Hand <input type="checkbox"/> Hand held tools <input type="checkbox"/> Leaf clip
Number			
Plant Part			
County			

OS Grid Reference (or 10km grid square)			
Detailed Location			
Proposed Date From			
Proposed Date To			

(b) * Does the work involve translocations (introductions, re-introductions or moving species)?

Yes ☐ No ☐

If 'Yes' to (b)... * Have you evaluated the proposal against NE's translocation guidance on native plants?

--

11. Authorised Individuals

* Will any additional authorised individuals / accredited agents be required to act under this licence?

Yes ☐ No ☐

If 'No' please go to the next section.

(EPS only) N/A ☐

If 'Yes', for each additional authorised individual / accredited agent, please complete the details below:

	Person 1	Person 2	Person 3
*Title:			
*Forename:			
Middle Name:			
*Surname:			
House No.:			
*Address Line 1:			
*Address Line 2:			
Address Line 3:			
Town:			
*County:			
*Postcode:			

Please note: The licensee and anyone acting under the licence are responsible for their actions and for complying with the licence conditions. In addition, no-one under the age of 18 may be authorised by the licensee without specific written permission from Natural England for licences that permit shooting.

12. Qualifications

If you have not held a similar type of licence within the last 3 years you will need to supply references to support your application. You must follow the guidance on our [website](#) with regard to the number and content of references required. If you submit the incorrect number of references or references with content which is not as described, it is likely your application will be refused.

(a) *Are you providing references?

Yes ☐ No ☐

*If 'Yes'
to (a) ...*

Please provide details of referee(s)

(b) *Do you have qualifications and/or experience of the methods and procedures proposed?

Yes ☐ No ☐

(c) *Please provide details of relevant experience and qualifications.

13. Supplementary Information

Please provide any additional information you may have to support your application.

14. Data Protection

The data controller is the Natural England, Foss House, Kings Pool, 1-2 Peasholme Green, York, YO1 7PX. You can contact the Natural England Data Protection Manager at: Natural England, County Hall, Spetchley Road, Worcester, WR5 2NP; foi@naturalengland.org.uk

Any questions about how we are using your personal data and your associated rights should be sent to the above contact. The Data Protection Officer responsible for monitoring that Natural England is meeting the requirements of the legislation is: Defra group Data Protection Officer, Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, SW Quarter, 2nd floor, Seacole Block, 2 Marsham Street, London SW1P 4DF. DefraGroupDataProtectionOfficer@defra.gsi.gov.uk

The information on the licence application form and any supporting material will be used by Natural England to undertake our licensing functions. This will include, but is not limited to assessing your application, issuing a licence if applicable, monitoring compliance with licence conditions and collating licence returns and reports. The personal information we will process will include, but is not limited to your name and contact details, customer type and reasons for wanting a licence. Processing is necessary for the performance of a task carried out in the public interest or in the exercise of official authority vested in the data controller. That task is to conduct the licensing functions as delegated by Defra to Natural England under Part 8 Agreement under section 78 of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006.

The processing by us of personal data relating to wildlife-related or animal welfare offences or related security measures is carried out only under official authority. This information is used in assessing an application as it is a material fact. Natural England will for particular licence applications and at specific stages of the licencing process discuss your application with third parties. The details of this sharing are set out here <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/wildlife-licensing-privacy-notice>

Your personal data will be kept by us for 7 years after the expiry of your licence or longer if stated in the licence conditions.

Failure to provide this information will mean that we will be unable to assess your application for a wildlife licence. The information you provide is not connected with individual decision making (making a decision solely by automated means without any human involvement) or profiling (automated processing of personal data to evaluate certain things about an individual).

The data you provide will not be transferred outside the European Economic Area.

A list of your rights under the General Data Protection Regulation, the Data Protection Act 2018, is accessible at: <https://ico.org.uk/for-organisations/guide-to-the-general-data-protection-regulation-gdpr/individual-rights/>

You have the right to lodge a complaint with the ICO (supervisory authority) at any time. Should you wish to exercise that right full details are available at:

<https://ico.org.uk/for-organisations/guide-to-the-general-data-protection-regulation-gdpr/individual-rights/>

Details of our Personal Information Charter can be found at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/natural-england/about/personal-information-charter>.

Important Advice:

- **If your application is made under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) or the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017, any person who in order to obtain a licence knowingly or recklessly makes a statement or representation, or furnishes a document or information which is false in a material particular, shall be guilty of an offence and may be liable to criminal prosecution. Any person found guilty of such an offence is liable, on summary conviction, to imprisonment for a term not exceeding six months or to a fine not exceeding level 5 on the standard scale, or to both. Regarding other wildlife legislation, we will look to provisions in the Fraud Act 2006 (as amended) in respect of applicants making any false representations.**
- **Natural England or the Secretary of State can modify or revoke at any time any licence that is issued, but this will not be done unless there is good reason for doing so. Any licence that is issued is likely to be revoked immediately if it is discovered that false information has been provided that resulted in the issue of a licence.**

15. Declaration

15a. Convictions

* Have you or any person listed in the application been convicted of any wildlife-related or animal welfare offence?

Yes ☐ No ☐

If 'Yes':

Please provide details of the convictions: *(including dates)*

15b. Applicant Declaration.

☐ I have read and understood the privacy notice above.

- Where required, I undertake to obtain permission from landowners / occupiers of land to exercise any licence resulting from this application, and to allow any employee or representative of Natural England to monitor or inspect the work described in this application.
- I have read and understood the guidance provided in the application form and on the Wildlife Licensing Internet guidance pages. I declare the particulars given are correct to the best of my knowledge and belief.
- I declare the particulars given are correct to the best of my knowledge and belief, and I apply for a licence in accordance with the information I have provided.

☐ I agree to the declaration above.

Signature of Applicant:

For electronic applications, please insert an electronic signature above or tick this box to confirm with the declaration.

☐

Name: *(In BLOCK letters)*

Date:

15c. Ecologist Declaration

☐ I have read and understood the privacy notice above.

- I can confirm that I have visited the site.
- I have designed and inputted into the licence proposal.
- I declare the particulars given are correct to the best of my knowledge and belief.

☐ I agree to the declaration above.

Signature of Ecologist:

For electronic applications, please insert an electronic signature above or tick this box to confirm with the declaration.

☐

Name: *(In BLOCK letters)*

Date:

16. Annex - Application Notes

Applicant

The applicant is the person submitting the application (usually the landowner or occupier) who, if the licence was granted, would become the licensee. The applicant may appoint agents to produce the application pack and act on their behalf. A person with specific skills and knowledge of the species concerned, such as a consultant ecologist, must be appointed to assist in the preparation and the delivery of the proposals that ensure the species protection requirements can be met.

Licensee

The "Licensee" named on the licence is responsible for ensuring that all activities carried out on site in relation to the licence comply with the terms and conditions of the licence. However, all persons authorised to act under the licence must comply with the licence and its conditions (see Regulation 60(1) of the 2017 Regulations). This means that all authorised persons have a responsibility for ensuring that the licence terms and conditions, including any annex special conditions, are understood and complied with. Failure to do so could lead to prosecution.

Consultant/Named Ecologist

The "Named Ecologist" is a professional ecological consultant who has satisfied Natural England that they have the relevant skills, knowledge and experience of the species concerned and is responsible for undertaking and/or overseeing the work undertaken in respect of the licensed species. The 'Named Ecologist' has a responsibility for ensuring that the licence is complied with. They are responsible for advising the licensee on the suitability and competence of any Accredited Agents or Assistants employed on site to undertake the required duties and may include the direct supervision of Assistants where appropriate. More information about the experience required to become a name ecologist can be found here: http://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/20140605090108/http://www.naturalengland.org.uk/Images/bat-mitigation-guidance_tcm6-10534.pdf

Accredited Agent

An “Accredited Agent” is a suitably trained and experienced person who is able to carry out work under a licence without the personal supervision of the Named Ecologist. Any Accredited Agent must be appointed by the Licensee and be in possession of a letter signed by the Licensee confirming their appointment. Agents shall carry a copy of the said letter when acting under the licence and shall produce it to any police or Natural England officer on request. .

Assistants

An “Assistant” is a person assisting a Named Ecologist or Accredited Agent. Assistants are only authorised to act under this licence whilst they are under the direct supervision of either the Named Ecologist or an Accredited Agent.