

Bat application

Susceptibility of *M. daubentonii* to EBLV-2

Accepted (v1)

Note - this form has already been accepted by Natural England.

Personal details

Details of the person who will be the named licensee if the licence is granted.

1. Personal details

- 1.1 **Title:** XXXXXXXX
- 1.2 **Forename(s):** XXXXXXXX
- 1.3 **Surname:** XXXXXXXX
- 1.4 **Organisation/Bat Group:** *Veterinary Laboratories Agency*
- 1.5 **Address:** *Woodham Lane*
- 1.6 **Town:** *Addlestone*
- 1.7 **County:** *Surrey*
- 1.8 **Postcode:** *KT153NB*
- 1.9 **Age (if under 18):**
- 1.10 **Telephone**
- Contact number:** XXXXXXXX
- Alternative number:**
- 1.11 **Fax number:** XXXXXXXX
- 1.12 **Email address:** XXXXXXXX
- 1.13 **Further contact details:**
- 1.14 **Please check the box if you would like to store the above contact details for use in future applications and reports. [Yes]**

2. Previous licences

- 2.1 **Have you previously held a licence issued by Natural England?** **No**
If No, then please go to section 3 below
- 2.2 **Please give your most recent licence number** **< not supplied >**
- 2.3 **Have you changed your name or address since your last licence was issued (Yes/No). If Yes, please**

supply your previous details.

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2.4 Have any of your previous licences covered the same species and activities as this licence application?

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If 'Yes', please go to section 5 below

3. Your licensed trainer

If you have held a bat licence in the last three years, covering similar activities to those for which you are now applying, you do not need to complete this section.

If you have not held a bat licence (or wish to alter the activities for which you are licensed), you will normally need a licensed trainer to endorse your application.

3.1 Have you been trained by a person licensed by Natural England as a bat trainer and are they willing to endorse your licence?

No

3.2 Is your licensed trainer a registered user of this electronic service (you will need to contact him or her to check this and also to obtain their e-Service Registration Number)?

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3.3 Please enter the following details for your trainer.

No trainer specified.

4. Qualifications and references

4.1 Please summarise your qualifications and experience which you believe demonstrate your competence to undertake particular activities for which you are seeking a licence.

I am submitting this licence as the project manager and do not intend to handle bats myself. Capture and handling of bats will only be performed by registered bat handlers.

4.2 Please indicate here the number of references (in total) that you are supplying:

0

4.3 If you are not able to supply the required number of references or wish to make any other comment about your references, please explain here:

The purpose of this application is to cover the activities within a Defra funded project (please see accompanying document for details). The registered bat handler who will be acting on this project is XXXXXXXX.

Activity overview

5. Initial details

5.1 If you wish, you can provide a short (1-2 sentence) summary of the activities for which you are seeking a licence.

Please see accompanying document providing details on the proposed activities which a license would cover.

5.2 Please select the main purposes behind the licensable elements of your work.

[-] Bat roost visitor (conservation).
[Yes] Science or education.

[-] Other.

5.3 Do you intend to catch bats (please read note below before answering this question)?

Note: you should choose 'No' if either (or both) of the following apply:

- i. you will only be catching bats (by hand or hand net) as a bat roost visitor (conservation); OR
- ii. you will only be catching bats by hand (for any purpose listed in your application)

Yes

5.4 Will the proposed work involve keeping any animals in captivity?

Yes

6. Use of agents and assistants

6.1 Do you propose to employ accredited agents?

Yes

Below are details of the agents that you have added so far.

Agent 1

Surname: XXXXXXXX

Forename: XXXXXXXX

Experience: XXXXXXXX is a licenced bat handler XXXXXXXX

6.5 Please describe the work that the agents listed above will be carrying out.

The proposed work is described in detail in the accompanying document.

6.6 Do you propose to employ assistants?

Yes

6.7 Have you or any of your accredited agents or proposed assistants ever been convicted of a wildlife offence (Yes/No)? If so, please give details.

No

Further questions

7. Bat Roost Visitor licence

This section contains questions that you would need to answer if you were applying for a Bat Roost Visitor licence. These questions (Q7.1 to Q7.4) are not being displayed because you indicated in your answer to Question 5.2 on the Activity Overview page that you are not applying for such a licence.

8. Science and educational details

8.1 What are the main species that you aim to conserve by the proposed actions?

Myotis daubentonii

8.2 Location of work - please specify the sites, county or counties.

Counties in the north of England.

8.3 Do you intend to take bats by HAND from bat boxes for identification and release?

No

8.4 Do you intend to disturb bats within a hibernacula?

Yes

If Yes, please select the activities that will be carried out.

8.5 Do you intend to catch bats in order to ring or mark them

Yes

Type of ring to be used.

Standard ring type

8.6 Do you intend to photograph bats for scientific or educational purposes?

No

Describe in the box below the type of photography that will be carried out, what effect this will have on the bats and how the results will be used.

9. Taking bats other than by hand

9.1 **Tick here if you are submitting a separate document containing answers to any of the questions on this page. [-]**

Project purpose

9.2 Describe the purpose of the project and its objectives.

This project plans to assess the susceptibility of Myotis daubentonii to infection with the rabies-related virus EBLV-2. This will provide information on the pathology and transmission of this virus that will in turn support government policy and future surveillance of this disease.

Methodology

9.3 Please indicate the methods that will be used to catch the bats (further details can be provided in your answer to Q9.5):

[-] by hand.
[Yes] by funnel or cone trap outside roost entrance.
[Yes] by static hand nets.
[Yes] by mist nets in the open/at roost entrances.
[Yes] by harp trap.

9.4 A licence can only be issued if we are satisfied that there are no reasonable alternatives to the work proposed. Please explain what alternatives have been considered and why they are unsatisfactory.

Further details are provided in the supporting document.

9.5 Give a schedule for all the proposed activities and methods involved and whether work will extend into future years.

If licensed this work will be carried out this year (capture of bats early August with challenge studies being carried out over the next four months). No work involving live English bats will be carried out beyond this.

Wider scientific context

- 9.6 Give details of how the scientific information that you will gain from this project will be used and what the advantages are for obtaining this information.

Little is known about the interaction between EBLV-2 and its reservoir host, the Daubenton's bat. Four cases have been reported in this species of bat in the UK with one fatal human case being reported in 2002. Active surveillance of this species has yielded some information on the seroprevalence of the virus but no virus positive bats have been detected in this way. This has frustrated efforts to understand the pathology of the disease and its means of transmission. Advice to bat workers from government on the risks of exposure is thus based on limited evidence. This project aims to provide information on transmission of this virus through study of infection in its natural host.

- 9.7 Is the work part of a wider scientific study or programme. Type 'Yes' or 'No' in the box. If 'Yes', please explain how your results will be incorporated.

Yes Challenge studies have been performed in a range of species, principally rodents, however, this has not been able to provide definitive answers on mechanisms of transmission included salivary excretion of virus and reservoir host susceptibility.

- 9.8 Have you consulted with anyone in Natural England regarding any aspect of this licence application? Type 'Yes' or 'No' in the box. If 'Yes', please give details.

Yes Staff at the VLA have spoken briefly with Dr Tony Mitchell-Jones on the information that should be provided in support of this application.

- 9.9 How do you think the actions proposed will affect the conservation status of the species concerned?

Please see accompanying document.

10. Keeping bats in captivity

- 10.1 Please state the number, species, sex and age of the bats you wish to keep in captivity.

Myotis daubentonii 60 Males Females Adult

- 10.2 Please state where and how the bats would be obtained, for how long they would be kept and in what conditions. Please give address of the location where the bats will be kept.

Please see accompanying document.

- 10.3 Please indicate your main purpose for keeping bats in captivity from the list below (tick all that apply):

***[Yes] Science
[-] Education
[-] Ringing and marking, or examining a ring or mark
[-] Conserving bats or introducing them into a particular area
[-] Protecting a zoological collection
[-] Photography***

- 10.4 Please briefly explain your reasons for keeping bats in captivity.

Please see accompanying document.

- 10.5 Will you be keeping bats in captivity for the purposes of scientific research

Yes

If 'Yes', you must complete Questions 10.6 and 10.7.

If 'No', you can proceed to Section 11 below.

10.6 Please indicate the nature and purpose of any scientific procedures you wish to perform on bats.

We plan as part of a Defra funded project to investigate the susceptibility of Daubenton's bats to infection with the rabies-related virus, European Bat Lyssavirus type 2 (EBLV-2). This project will provide valuable information in support of UK policy on the means of transmission of this zoonotic disease. Further information on the purpose of this proposal are provided in the accompanying document.

10.7 Do you propose to kill any bats. Please type 'Yes' or 'No' in the box. If 'Yes', please state the number and species involved and the method of killing. It is your responsibility to ensure that all the methods are also covered by Home Office approval under the Animal (Scientific Procedures) Act 1986 where applicable.

Yes. The details of this proposal are provided in the accompanying document. Briefly, the challenge experimental part of the project will be performed in category three containment facilities in Germany and will not be covered by Home Office legislation. However, we have submitted this proposal to two ethical review committees (VLA and CSL) who have judged it using the same guidelines as those applied to ASPA work and in both cases have found the proposal acceptable from an animal welfare perspective.

11. Further notes

Submission

17. Final guidance

Please read the following notes carefully before completing the declaration below

- i. Applicants should note that a licence from Natural England does not grant access or power of entry onto any land.
- ii. It is a condition of any licence issued that a full report of the actual work carried out under licence is submitted within two weeks of the expiry of the licence.

You will be supplied with a form on which to do this if granted a licence **or you may submit your report on-line using the Bat report form provided by this service.**

Failure to submit a report may result in future applications being refused.

- iii. **WARNING: Natural England can modify or revoke at any time any licence that may be issued but this will not be done without good reasons for doing so. Any licence that is issued is likely to be revoked immediately if it is discovered that false or incorrect information had been provided on this form or any of the enclosures which resulted in the issue of a licence.**

18. Declaration

Applicants should note that it is an offence under Section 17 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 and under regulation 46 of the Conservation (Natural Habitats &c.) Regulations 1994 to knowingly or recklessly provide false information in order to obtain a licence.

- I understand that failure to comply with any conditions included on any licence granted in respect of this application may constitute an offence.
- I have read the notes for guidance on the front of this form.
- I declare that the particulars given in this application and accompanying documents are correct to the best of my knowledge and belief, and I apply for a licence in accordance with these

particulars.

- If a licence is granted, I agree to submit to Natural England a completed report of the licensed activities within two weeks of the expiry of the licence.

Please tick the box to confirm your acceptance of the declaration. **[Yes]**

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