

Bat European Protected Species (EPS) form for DM Manual

What is the EPS form?

The EPS form is used by DM planners to send to Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH) Licensing Team who assess the likelihood of granting a license for works to disturb a bat roost.

The EPS form covers the 3 tests of:

- 1) Is there a licensable purpose? This requires justification for the development under the categories of either imperative reasons of overriding public interest (IROPI); preserving public health or public safety (PPH&S); or preventing serious damage to property. To pass this test there must be some degree of public interest and urgency for this.
- 2) Is there any other satisfactory alternative? If the development can be carried out in an alternative way, that avoids disturbance to bats and disturbance and/or destruction of bat roosts, this licensing test will not be passed.
- 3) Is there a detrimental impact on favourable conservation status? *for SNH*

When to use the EPS form:

The EPS form should be completed when you have received a bat survey (following Regulation 24 request) and there is evidence of bats in the building which the works would affect, and therefore requires a license from SNH. You should discuss bat survey findings and requirements with the Environment Planner at surgery prior to completing the form.

You can access the Bat EPS form template at: J:\sh\transfer_Natural Heritage Documents to DM

How to use the EPS form:

The Bat EPS form is a template and is designed to be simple by way of 'tick box' style and allowing planners to delete as applicable. This provides 'model' responses however each case will be different and there may be exceptional circumstances where much further information should be inputted into the form. You should seek the advice of the Environment Planner if you are unsure.

Step 1: Ensure the answers to the first 3 questions are 'yes' before proceeding with the rest of the form.

Step 2: Fill in application details and a brief description of the works

Step 3: This is the first test. Usually the first reason imperative reasons of overriding public interest (IROPI) would be justification for seeking a license. You should select this in the second column (tick/cross) and delete reasons from the list in the third column as applicable or add in any other applicable reasons. For example, for a householder IROPI would be 'ticked' and the first 3 reasons would qualify as an

extension would satisfy demands, increase accommodation space and upgrade a building.

Should reason 2 (PPH&S) or 3 (preventing serious damage) be selected robust justification is required in the form of supporting reports. If selecting this you should discuss this with the Environment Planner.

Step 4: To demonstrate a public interest you should show compliance with the relevant policies as outlined in the second column. State specific policies accordingly where you know it complies. Where you are still assessing the proposal (eg awaiting further information etc) and cannot determine at this stage if the proposal would accord with the relevant policy then state this as shown. Delete either as appropriate.

Step 5: To demonstrate urgency delete as applicable from the second column or add in any other applicable reasons.

Step 6: To assess if there is any satisfactory alternative you should delete as required from the second column. Mitigation measures may be referred to here under timing of works.

Step 7: Input name and date

Step 8: Send copy of completed EPS form and Bat survey report and any species protection/mitigation plan to SNG Licensing Team at licensing@snh.gov.uk

A copy of the form should be uploaded to uniform.

Step 9: Act accordingly to SNH response and include in report of handling under consultees and in discussion with relevant policy. Discuss with Environment Planner if needed.