

LICENCE

To take shrews (*Soricidae*) for scientific or educational purposes, or for the purpose of ringing or marking, or examining any ring or mark



Issued under	Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) ["the Act"]
Valid for the period	1 January to 31 December 2010 (inclusive)
Valid in	England
Who may use	Any person with appropriate knowledge and experience of shrews, and the trapping and marking techniques permitted (see Condition 11)
Registration	Users do not need to register to use this licence
Recording & reporting	Users are required to report fatalities (see Condition 6.iii)
Reference	WML / GEN L01

Overview of licence

This licence permits persons with appropriate knowledge and experience to trap and mark shrews for scientific or educational purposes. Users must comply with licence terms and conditions.

THE PURPOSE(S) FOR WHICH THIS LICENCE APPLIES

1. Subject to paragraph 2 and the licence conditions, this licence is granted for:
 - (i) scientific or educational purposes, and
 - (ii) the purpose of ringing or marking, or examining any ring or mark on, wild animals

WHAT THE LICENCE PERMITS

2. For the purposes set out in paragraph 1 above, and subject to the terms and conditions, below, this licence permits:
 - (i) the taking of shrews (*Soricidae*) by the use of appropriate live capture traps, and
 - (ii) the marking of shrews (*Soricidae*) using appropriate humane methods.

LICENCE CONDITIONS

3. Except as specifically permitted under subparagraph 2 above, this licence does not authorise the use of any method of taking which is prohibited by section 11 of the Act.
4. All persons making use of this licence shall possess appropriate knowledge and experience of shrews and the trap(s) used or shall operate under the guidance of such a person.
5. No work shall be carried out under this licence on a National Nature Reserve except with the prior written permission of Natural England's local office.
6. At each inspection
 - i. Any shrew taken under this licence shall be liberated at the site of capture immediately after examination and/or marking.
 - ii. Any other species caught in a trap must be released, unharmed, at the site of capture immediately after examination and/or marking, unless they are listed on Schedule 9 of the Act. See **note g** regarding any animals that are listed on Schedule 9.
 - iii. Any dead animal caught in the trap should be removed from it. The licensee must report shrew deaths to Natural England to help assess the trapping method.
7. All relevant animal welfare legislation must be complied with at all times, including the Animal Welfare Act 2006 and the Wild Mammals (Protection) Act 1996.

8. When in use, every trap used under this licence must be physically inspected as follows:
 - i. *Where food and bedding are provided*: at least twice every day at intervals of no less than eight (8) hours and no more than sixteen (16) hours, or
 - ii. *Without food and bedding*: at least every four (4) hoursexcept where this is not possible because of severe weather conditions. In such cases, every effort must be made to inspect the trap as soon as possible (see notes o and p).
9. All equipment used for the purpose of this licence shall be so constructed and maintained as to avoid cruelty and distress to wild animals (see notes i to m).
10. Where a trap is not in use, it must be rendered incapable of holding or catching shrews or other animals. Any bait, food, or water must also be removed (see note s).
11. No person convicted on or after 1 January 2010 of an offence to which this paragraph applies may use this licence unless, in respect of that offence they are either (1) a rehabilitated person for the purposes of the Rehabilitation of Offenders Act 1974 and their conviction is treated as spent; or (2) in respect of such an offence, a court has made an order discharging them absolutely. This paragraph applies to offences under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981, the Conservation (Natural Habitats &c.) Regulations 1994, 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 and the Protection of Animals Act 1911 (all as amended) (see note e)

WARNING

Failure to act within the purpose of this licence as set out in paragraph 1 or failure to comply with the terms and conditions may mean that the licence cannot be relied upon and an offence could therefore be committed. The maximum penalty available for an offence under the Act is, at the time of the issue of this licence, a level 5 fine (£5000) and/or a six month custodial sentence.



Wendy Phillips

for and on behalf of Natural England
31 December 2009

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EXPLANATORY NOTES

- a. Natural England has issued this licence in exercise of the powers conferred by Section 16(3)(a) and (b), and 16(5) of the Act. Go to www.statutelaw.gov.uk and search for 'Wildlife and Countryside Act, 1981' to see consolidated versions of the law and associated Schedules.
- b. Section 16 of the Act provides that section 11 (which prohibits the use of certain methods of killing and taking wild animals) shall not apply to anything done under and in accordance with the terms of a licence granted by the appropriate authority, which is, in England, Natural England.
- c. This licence does not permit actions prohibited under any other legislation.
- d. Nothing in this licence shall confer any right of entry on to land.
- e. Any person not permitted to use this General Licence on account of a relevant conviction (see Condition 11) may still apply to Natural England for a specific licence for the purpose(s) and activities covered by this licence. Any such application will be considered on its merits.
- f. This licence may be modified or revoked at any time by Natural England.

Non-native species

- g. Under section 14 of the Act it is an offence to release into the wild any animal included in Part 1 of Schedule 9 to the Act. Any animals of species listed on Schedule 9 caught under this licence should be treated as follows:
 - i. Animals of the following species, which are considered native to Great Britain, must be released immediately upon discovery. This is permitted under General Licence WML-L30.

Barn Owl

Tyto alba

Capercaillie

Tetrao urogallus

White-tailed eagle

Haliaeetus albicilla

- ii. Animals of other species listed on Schedule 9 (this includes the Grey Squirrel, *Sciurus carolinensis*, Edible Dormouse, *Glis glis* and North American Mink, *Mustela vison*) must not be released or allowed to escape into the wild. It is preferable that these animals are killed in a quick and humane manner as soon as reasonably practicable after discovery. These animals may only be released under an individual licence obtained from Natural England.

Best practice to avoid cruelty or distress to shrews

- 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 of the 2006 Act). This applies to treatment animals in traps.

Trap construction

- i. It is the responsibility of each person relying on this licence to use appropriate equipment (e.g. trap) and to ensure that they are competent to use such equipment so as to avoid causing unnecessary suffering. Appropriate live-traps are those that are designed, set and operated in such a manner as to avoid death or injury. These should be provided with a nest-box containing suitable nesting material.
- j. You may wish to highlight the location of traps; suitable markers are small flags or coloured tape on a stick.
- k. Traps should be stable and the nest chamber of Longworth traps, where used, should be sloped to prevent water running into the bedding.
- l. Traps should be covered with surrounding vegetation or other material, to insulate against extremes of temperature.

Trap maintenance

- m. Food: Leave plenty of suitable food in the trap nest-box. Blowfly larvae or pupae (*Calliphora* spp., also known as “casters”) are best. These can be frozen and used as required. Use in sufficient numbers to provide 10 g per trap.
- n. Bedding: Leave in the nest-box to provide insulation. Hay is best. Ensure it is dry.

Trap use

- o. Any person acting under this licence should have regard to the inspection requirements contained in paragraphs 6 to 10. Shrews need to eat every 3-4 hours, so inspect the trap at suitably frequent intervals.
 - i. If sufficient food and bedding are left, twice daily inspections (ideally at dusk and early morning) should be sufficient.
 - ii. If for any reason food cannot be left, shrews are likely to die in the trap if left there for more than 4 hours, and visits should be correspondingly frequent (at least every 4 hours) - particularly if trapping from July to September when more shrews may be caught. Remember, however, that very frequent visits to the trap will cause disturbance to the habitat and this may affect trapping success.
- p. Traps should not be used during very hot or cold weather conditions, or when such conditions are reasonably anticipated.
- q. At each visit, check bedding, food and cover, and replace as required.
- r. If shrew deaths occur, adjust the amounts of food and bedding, or increase the frequency of inspections, as appropriate. If despite this, deaths continue, suspend trapping and seek advice. (See conditions 6(iii) and 9 on this licence).
- s. In order to render any trap incapable of holding or catching shrews or other animals when out of use, it is necessary to either secure the door in a fully open or closed position or to remove the door completely.

Further information: The Mammal Society Booklet *Live Trapping Small Mammals - A Practical Guide* by J Gurnell and J R Flowerdew (2006), contains many useful hints (available from The Mammal Society, 2B Inworth Street, London, SW11 3EP Tel: 0207 350 2200).