Natural Science Collections and the Law

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I am not a solicitor and NatSCA is definitely NOT offering legal advice.
Melo amphora
Not CITES listed
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CITES – The Convention on the International Trade in Endangered Species

• Appendices/Annexes
• Species+
Welcome to Species+.

Bringing you authoritative information on taxonomy, legislation, distribution and trade in MEA-listed species. Learn more.
CITES – The Convention on the International Trade in Endangered Species

- Appendices/Annexes
- Species+
- Article 10s, 60s and 30s
CITES – The Convention on the International Trade in Endangered Species

- Worked specimens
- Labels
- Animal and Plant Health Authority
- Ivory and Rhino Horn
- Exiting Europe
European Protected Species

• Otter, Great Crested Newt, Large Blue Butterfly, Bats, Smooth Snake etc.
• It illegal to possess anything on this list if it was collected after 10 June 1994.
• If you have this material you need to contact Natural England and let them know you are operating under Natural England Class 1 licence (WML-CL01): https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/licence-to-possess-plants-and-animals-for-scientific-purposes

Calopteryx splendens
Not CITES listed
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Eggs

• It is an offence to possess a British wild bird egg.
• 28 September 1982
• The onus is on you to show that the material was not taken illegally.
• If you are offered illegal eggs you must tell the donor they are illegal and decline the material.
• The best possible thing to do is tell the donor to hand the material over to the police and contact the Natural History Museum.
• If you would like explicit advice on a particular case then you should contact the National Wildlife Crime Unit or local police on 101 for guidance.
• If a potential egg donation was, on a ‘balance of probabilities’, collected before 1981 then a museum could reasonably accept the material.

Strigops habroptila
CITES Appendix I
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Drugs

• Cannabis, Opium poppy “straw”, residue in chemist’s bottles, archaeological/ethnographic opium pipe residue etc.
• To own drugs you must have a “Controlled Drugs License”.
• Currently £3,133 to apply for a ‘possess controlled drugs’ licence, £326 to renew per year, £1,371 to renew if visit required (visit required every second year).