

BATS

There are 16 species of bat in the UK, many are endangered. Bats are a legally protected species.

It is a criminal offence for anyone to:

- Intentionally kill, injure or handle a bat
- Possess a bat (whether live or dead)
 - Disturb a roosting bat
- Damage, destroy or obstruct access to any place used by bats for shelter, whether they are present or not.

Breaking the law can lead to fines of up to £5,000 per bat and/or up to 6 months in prison. Since they tend to return to the same roosts each year, these sites are also protected whether the bats are present or not.

Places where you might find bats include holes and cracks in trees, roofs and walls of houses and buildings, under bridges, underground in caves and old railway tunnels. Every building and mature tree is a potential bat roost. Look out for bat droppings – dark brown or black, about 4 to 8mm in length. They look like mouse droppings but crumble easily, as they are made up of insect fragments. In well-established roosts, droppings may be several centimetres deep.



DO

- ✓ If you think you have found a bat or a bat roost on site, **IMMEDIATELY STOP** all works in the area and inform your line manager.

DON'T

- ✗ **DON'T** try to touch or handle a bat. They are very delicate and you are very likely to cause them serious harm – it is also breaking the law.