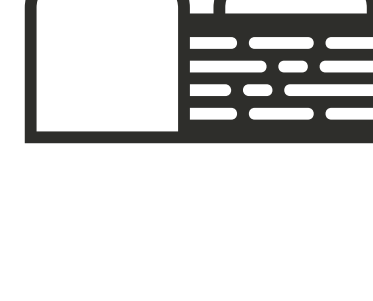


# TOOLBOX TALKS



## BATS

### WHAT?

There are 16 species of bat in the UK and of these 6 are endangered or rare and 6 other species are classed as vulnerable.

Because so many bats are endangered, both UK and European legislation gives them complete protection. Since they tend to return to the same roosts each year, these sites are also protected whether the bats are present or not.

The most common UK bat is the Pipistrelle. It is only 40 mm long and weighs about 5 grams.



### WHY?

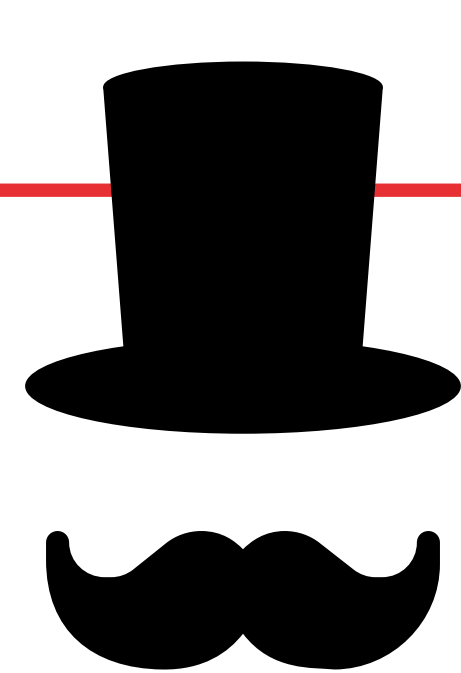
#### AVOID PROSECUTION:

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 £5000 per bat and/or up to 6 months in prison.

## IDENTIFICATION



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.

Other signs include a characteristic odour and large numbers of moth wings discarded by feeding bats.

### 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.

STOP

### 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.

### TOOLBOX TALKS



FOR MORE INFORMATION OR IF YOU HAVE ANY CONCERNS CONTACT **YOUR SHEQ DEPARTMENT**