

# Toolbox Talk - Environment

## Bats



### WHAT?

In the UK all species of bat are protected by law. They tend to return to the same roosts each year, and these sites are also protected whether bats are present or not

Any works involving bats must be done so under a relevant licence.

### WHY?

It is a criminal offence for anyone without a licence to:

- Kill, injure or handle a bat
- Be in possession of a bat (whether alive 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

This includes damaging trees, buildings or other places used for roosting, even if bats are not currently present.

If a bat or roost is discovered after works have started, cease works and seek advice from a suitably qualified ecologist.

Anyone found guilty of an offence can face imprisonment and/or unlimited fines.

### WHERE?

They can be found in holes/cracks in trees, roofs, walls of houses and buildings, under bridges, in underground caves etc.

Bats can crawl into holes only 15 millimetres wide.

### CONTROL MEASURES

If previously undiscovered bats are identified this must be reported to the site management team.

All works in the area must stop immediately and an exclusion zone established.

### DO'S & DON'TS



**IMMEDIATELY** stop work and inform site management if a bat or a roost is found



Touch or handle a bat as they are very delicate and this can cause them serious harm – it is also against the law



Disturb any place used by bats, whether they are present or not



Keeping our team safe



**Persimmon**  
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