

Bats

In the UK, all species of Bat and their roosts are protected by law by both domestic and international legislation.

You will be committing a criminal offence if you:

- Deliberately capture, injure or kill a bat
- Intentionally or recklessly disturb a bat in its roost or deliberately disturb a group
- Damage or destroy a bat roosting place, even if unoccupied.
- Possess, advertise, sell or exchange a bat (dead or alive) or any part of a bat
- Intentionally or recklessly obstruct access to a bat roost

Bats found during building works

If you find yourself in the unlikely scenario where you are completely unaware of the presence of bats, yet you have begun the works, then the relevant statutory nature conservation organisation (SNCO) must be contacted for advice of what works are needed. If bats are discovered, then works must stop immediately.

In most scenarios, there are things in place that prevent works starting before the proper documentation is in place before you start on site.

For example, as part of a planning application and if you are doing works where you are opening up an existing roof space, then this triggers an ecology search to see if further bat surveys will be required as part of your application. In this instance then you will be required to provide any necessary additional documentation to satisfy the planning authority. This means that you will already have the necessary searches, documentation and licenses in place in order to ensure that the bats on your property are protected and that you remain on the right side of the law when carrying out the works to your property.

It is also important to know that Bats roost between the months of September through to May. If you haven't put all the searches and licenses in place prior to this time frame, then unfortunately you will have to wait until the bats are out of their roosting period before you can commence with your project. This can cause quite an interruption to a project if unknown. It is important that you plan ahead and that all the necessary searches and consultants are appointed at the right time to suite your needs as well as the roosting period of bats.

If you are still unsure, then drop us a line to discuss further and we can advise you based on your specific requirements.