

BAT METHOD STATEMENT FOR CONTRACTORS WORKING At BELSAY

THIS METHOD STATEMENT MUST BE READ AND UNDERSTOOD BY EACH INDIVIDUAL CONTRACTOR WORKING ON SITE PRIOR TO THEIR WORK COMMENCING.

All bat species and their breeding or resting places (roosts) are protected by law. You're breaking the law if you:

- capture, kill, disturb or injure bats (on purpose or by not taking enough care)
- damage or destroy a breeding or resting place (even accidentally)
- obstruct access to their resting or sheltering places (on purpose or by not taking enough care)
- possess, sell, control or transport live or dead bats, or parts of them.

If you're found guilty of an offence you could face six months imprisonment and/or unlimited fines. Additionally, any profits made as a consequence of not following lawful process can be confiscated and items used to commit the offences such as vehicles, plant or machinery can be forfeited.

All construction staff working on site should be aware that bats may be present within both interior and exterior features of the building. As such, construction workers are asked to stay vigilant for the presence of live bats and/or accumulations of bat droppings.

It should be remembered that most bats in Britain are small with the most common bat species only approximately 4-6cm long. Any bats uncovered are likely to be torpid and are likely to be stationary, possibly even appearing dead.

The species in **Photograph 1** is one of several species known to roost on site. It must be remembered that all site workers have a personal responsibility to act lawfully. **IF IN DOUBT, STOP AND ASK.**



Photograph 1: Example of bat species present on site.

As bats are generally crevice dwellers, they often can't be seen directly; however, bat droppings (**Photograph 2**) provide a good indication that bats may be nearby. These are approximately the size of a grain of rice and resemble mouse droppings; however, unlike mouse droppings they can be crumbled to dust between finger

and thumb. Bat droppings may be found stuck to walls, windows, or similar features in small quantities or may also be discovered in small or large accumulations on a level surface below crevices (floor space, window ledges etc).



Photograph 2: Example of the size and appearance of typical bat droppings.

High risk building features where bats are often found to be roosting include (but are not limited to): fascia and barge boards, soffits, panelling, lead flashing, roofing tiles, stonework, door/window frames, roof voids – essentially any areas which may provide a crevice, gap, or cavity. Crevices/gaps/cavities do not need to be substantial in size and bats can roost within features as small as 20mm. **IF IN DOUBT, STOP AND ASK.**

A licensed Ecologist will attend site and inspect the work area before the main works can proceed. As Belsay is a high-risk site with several known bat roosts, construction staff should undertake daily visual checks of their work area for the presence of bats. **If at any point during the works live/dead bats or droppings are seen/found then all works should cease immediately and the Project Ecologist should be contacted.**



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