

### What?

- In the UK there are 18 species of bat.
- Bats are nocturnal and use echolocation to locate their prey. They roost in a variety of places: holes and cracks in trees, roofs, walls of houses and buildings, under bridges, in underground caves and old railway tunnels. Bats can crawl into holes only 15mm wide.
- Look out for bat droppings around roosts. They are dark brown/black, about 4 to 8mm long and look similar to rodent droppings, but they are dry and crumble easily between your fingers (wear gloves if you do this though!).

### Why?

Bats are a protected species under UK and European law. 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



### Do ✓

- ✓ Stop all works in the area immediately if a bat or a roost is found and report it
- ✓ Encourage people to put up bat boxes



### Don't ✗

- ✗ Don't touch or handle a bat as they are very delicate and this can cause them serious harm – it is also against the law and a few have been known to carry a type of rabies
- ✗ Don't disturb any place used by bats, whether they are present or not



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