

BATS

Although each species has different requirements, typical roost sites would include roofs in buildings, barns and out-buildings, trees, caves and disused mines. The likelihood of bats using a potential roost depends on factors such as the proximity of foraging and feeding habitat, architectural features typically used by bats such as soffits, bargeboards, cavity walls, roof voids and environmental conditions. Bats use a number of different types of roosts throughout the year, some are used transitionally, others all through the summer for breeding; therefore bat roosts are protected at all times, regardless of whether bats are present or not.

Under the Habitats Directive, European Protected Species (EPS) disturbance licenses may be available to permit otherwise unlawful activities. A licence may not be required to carry out 'activity surveys' for bats or to inspect buildings with potential to support roosting bats (but no known records), however, a Natural England licence is required to survey known bat roosts due to the possibility of disturbing bats. Natural England may also issue site-specific licenses for the purposes of '*preserving public health or safety or imperative reasons of over-riding public interest*' (including development). However, a licence cannot be granted unless it can be shown the action permitted will not have '*a detrimental effect on the favourable conservation status of the bats*'. This can only be demonstrated through comprehensive survey work and the production of a mitigation and compensation strategy.



Our Natural England licensed bat Wildlife Biologists can provide:

- ✓ Surveys and habitat appraisal
- ✓ Population assessments
- ✓ Mitigation and compensation strategy and implementation
- ✓ Impact Assessment
- ✓ Consultation with stakeholders and interested parties
- ✓ Population monitoring
- ✓ Natural England EPS licence applications
- ✓ Report production to support planning applications and Environmental Statements



Artificial bat access and roosting compensatory features built into a newly converted barn

Our Wildlife Biologists have extensive experience and knowledge of protected species and the planning system and hold the necessary Natural England licence to survey bat roosts.

They are also members of the Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management (CIEEM) and the Royal Society of Biology and abide by their codes of professional conduct. By consulting with us at the early stages of your project, we are able to identify potential constraints and assist in resolving any potential conflicts between development and protected species.

Please refer to our survey calendar for optimal time periods for surveys. However if the timing falls out of the survey period please get in touch, as surveys and inspections could possibly still be carried out in a bid not to hold up development.

