

# Precautionary Working Method Statement

## Ecology

- Bats are nocturnal and hibernate through the cold winter months
- They live in a roost including buildings, caves and trees
- They eat insects

## Identification

- They are small flying mammals
- Signs of bats include droppings, scratch marks, urine staining, grease marks or cobweb free corners

## Working Method

Roof tiles are to be lifted individually and turned over to confirm absence of bats. If a bat is found under a tile, or on top of the sarking, then the tile should be placed back as quickly and gently as possible. Then a bat licenced ecologist be contacted.

If any bat(s) or evidence of bats (droppings as shown to the right) are found, **work must stop immediately** and a bat ecologist needs to be contacted – it would be an offence to continue works without a licence.

Avoid directly illuminating roosts, especially entrance and exit points, and fence off suspected roosts.

## Protection

All species of bat found in the UK are European Protected Species (EPS). They are also protected by The Wildlife and Countryside Act (WCA) 1981 and The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017. It is illegal to **kill, injure, disturb** (intentionally or recklessly), possess or sell any bat. It is also illegal to **damage or destroy** a bat roost (even if bats aren't occupying the roost at the time).

## Fines

People committing bat crimes can face **six months imprisonment and/or unlimited fines**.



Soprano pipistrelle



Bat droppings are the size of a mouse, and when quashed turn to dust, where a mouse doesn't break up.



# What to do if you have found a bat roost?

Occasionally, wildlife will be unexpectedly found on site. If you find a bat or something you suspect is a bat roost during works, good job! Now follow the below steps:



**STOP**

→ **STOP** works on the suspected roost.

**TELL**

→ Contact the project ecologist at SES

- Principal Ecologist: Dave Byett  
07349957932

**OBSERVATION  
RECORDS**

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- If safe to do so, take a photograph with w3w reference of the animal or roost.
  - Inform the ecologist of the following:
    - Find circumstances (i.e. what activities were being progressed)
    - Location of animals/hole (i.e. w3w)

**PROTECTION**

→ Further surveys may be required to confirm whether the roost is actively used.

Do not continue any works on the potential bat roost unless you have been given direct advice from the relevant ecologist.

