

Wildlife

Reason	Wildlife and habitats are often protected by law and must not be disturbed. Knowing which wildlife is protected and what actions to take can help you to avoid delays and potential prosecution. Wildlife is important and provides many natural eco-services that support a healthy planet.
Outline	This talk covers some of the different types of wildlife and how you can help to protect them.



Great crested newt



Lesser spotted woodpecker



Bats roosting



Badgers



If you find wildlife near your work area you must stop, move away, and report it to your supervisor.

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Wildlife protected by law

1. **Badgers** and their setts. It is illegal to work near them without a licence and you must take positive steps to protect them.
2. **Bats** are an endangered species and so their habitats are protected. Some bats are only 40 mm long and can weigh as little as 5 grams. Every structure and mature tree is a potential bat roost.
3. **Great crested newts** are rare. They grow up to 170 mm long and can be found almost anywhere in the countryside.
4. **Adders** are the UK's only poisonous snake (although a bite is rarely fatal). Snakes are cold-blooded and can often be found basking in warm locations.
5. **Birds** and their nests. These are usually found in trees and hedgerows but can also be found on the ground, in equipment or materials, eaves, and so on. The nesting season generally runs from March to the end of July, but some birds nest all year round.

Control measures

1. A suitably qualified person (usually an ecologist) should check the area before starting work and look for evidence that may indicate the presence of animals, especially if the removal of potential habitats is likely.
2. If you discover wildlife near your work area stop, move away and report it to your supervisor.
3. Try to minimise disturbance when carrying out authorised work near wildlife.
4. Follow the legal specified working distance (usually 30 m) when working near badger setts.
5. Report any harm or injury to wildlife to your supervisor, who will seek professional advice.

Precautions

1. Do not harm or try to move any wildlife.
2. Do not touch any wildlife. They can be fragile and you may injure them.
3. Do not move or disturb potential nesting places without first seeking professional advice.



What time of year are you most likely to find nesting birds?

Why is it important to protect our wildlife?

What should you do if you find wildlife in a stockpile of materials?



Now inform your workers of the company provision for wildlife protection.