

Pipistrelle Bat Rescue at an Advance Plus site

A member of site staff spotted a bat (identified as a Pipistrelle) hanging from an external wall of a building during the day in the centre of site. They were concerned for the welfare of the bat due to the location and time of the find (bats are nocturnal and this bat was found to be outside during the day). The Environmental Advisor for site was then informed and attended to take further action. The bat had not been disturbed due to construction site activities, as was discovered some distance from the working area.

Following guidance of an ecologist to protect the bat - the Environmental Advisor handled the bat using gloves; placing it to rest and warm up in a small cardboard box with ventilation holes, along with a bottle cap filled with water.



Bats - Protected Status



Contact was made with a local [‘bat foster’](#) volunteer but none were available to take the bat, so the bat was taken to the local Vets for treatment and care. After a few odd looks from the pet owners at the Vets, the bat was handed over. The bat was released that night in a rural setting, after being fed and watered.

Bats in the UK are protected due to their ecological importance and vulnerability because bats often rely on specific roosting sites, such as trees, houses and industrial buildings. These are increasingly threatened by development and habitat destruction. However, you are allowed to handle a bat in trouble, in order to assist it.

What to do

In the UK, bats are most active from April to November, with peak activity around dusk. Since the clocks changed and there are shorter days, site activities could impact bat foraging activities during dusk hours.

If your site has potential for roosting or foraging bats:

- Complete the [Wildlife: Bats Toolbox Talk](#)
- Follow the [MWHT Protected Species Emergency Plan](#)
- If you are concerned about the welfare of a bat on site, NOTIFY an Environmental Advisor.
- [The Bat Conservation Trust](#) and the [National Bat Helpline](#) (Tel: 0345 1300 228) can be contacted for advice.

