



Hibernating Animals

During times of the year when food resources are limited and weather conditions are consistently colder, many animals alter their movement or behaviour in order to survive.

These “overwintering” animals have the potential to be disturbed by construction operations on any project.

*Knowing how to work, what to look for, and how to respond will minimise the potential impact of all aspects of works. Simple **checks, conducted pre-works**, and an increased awareness during works can help reduce the impact that operations have upon local animal populations, as well as ensuring operations remain legally compliant.*



BATS seek roosts to provide shelter during the day and hibernation sites to avoid winter weather conditions. In the lead up to winter, lone bats will be seeking roost sites that provides a quiet and temperature stable environment. These can include cavities in trees/walls, contractor welfare facilities, cabs of plant/vehicles.

All bat roosts, including man-made structures, are legally protected and can only be disturbed under licence.

HEDGEHOGS seek waterproof and insulated habitat to shelter from winter weather conditions. Suitable habitat for a hedgehog to hibernate in can be simple leaf litter, tall grass, log piles or manmade structures (e.g. pallets/sheds/cabins) and spoil heaps.



AMPHIBIANS & REPTILES such as frogs, toads, newts, adders lower their heart rate, slow their metabolism and enter into a state known as torpor. This means they are physically inactive and are even more vulnerable to disturbance and injury caused by plant and vehicle movement.



DO's

- Be **aware** of the potential of hibernating animals being present on site at any point between **October** and **March**.
- Check all work zones at the **start** of each day, and look out for the presence of hibernating animals **during** the course of operations.
- **Alert** the project ecologist or environmental officer **prior** to clearing any vegetation or crossing over new grounds with plant or vehicles.
- **Immediately** halt works if it becomes clear that there is potential for animals to be **injured or killed** as a result of works.



DON'Ts

- Do not attempt to handle any animal species without first **contacting** the project ecologist or environmental officer for advice.
- Many species are protected by **law**.
- Do not ignore **signs** of hibernating animals.

For further information and guidance contact:

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