



for birds
for people
for ever

Bat crime

Is the legislation protecting bats?

An investigation by the Bat Conservation Trust and the RSPB

Contents

| | |
|---|-------|
| Summary | 2 |
| The BCT/RSPB Bat Investigations Officer Project | 3 |
| Working in partnership | 4 |
| The extent of bat crime | 5 |
| The type of bat crime | 6 |
| Enforcement problems | 7 |
| The deterrent effect of enforcement | 8 |
| Testing and changing the legislation | 9 |
| The Wildlife and Countryside Act | 9 |
| The Habitats Regulations | 10–11 |
| The need for appropriate penalties | 12 |
| Recommendations | 13 |
| Resources | 14 |
| Acknowledgements | 14 |

If citing this report, please acknowledge *Bat crime* written by Joan Childs, published by the BCT/RSPB, August 2003.

Summary

Bat crime is extensive and widespread. During the two years of the project, 144 bat offences were identified across the UK, and the true extent is likely to be much greater.

A massive 67% of these offences were committed within the building trade, highlighting an urgent need to target educational resources towards this industry and the planning process to ensure greater compliance with the legislation and, therefore, better protection for bats.

The conservation effect on bats is likely to be high, as 80% of bat offences involved the damage or destruction of a bat roost, which affects whole colonies.

Bat workers and Statutory Nature Conservation Organisations working in partnership to help police wildlife liaison officers (WLOs) has proved to be an effective means of enforcing the legislation. Although amendments to legislation have improved protection in England and Wales, equivalent amendments are still needed in Scotland and Northern Ireland. The legislation is clearly an effective conservation tool and its enforcement is working to protect bats by providing a real deterrent. However, this project has identified problems in the legislation and its enforcement, which must be addressed.



**Brown long-eared bat feeding on a moth
(Frank Greenaway)**

**Front cover photo: Brown long-eared bat feeding
over grassland (Stephen Dalton, NHPA)**

The BCT/RSPB Bat Investigations Officer Project

Bats – magnificent denizens of the night – are threatened by human activity. Increasingly forced into contact with us as their natural resources are depleted, they are vulnerable to deliberate, reckless and even unintentional acts against them.

Although there has been anecdotal evidence to suggest that bat offences are widespread and common, there has never been any monitoring to ascertain the true extent or type of these offences – or whether they could affect bat populations. Nor has there been a history of enforcement of bat legislation, and there have been few bat-related prosecutions.

In April 2001, Joan Childs, Investigations Officer for the RSPB, was seconded to the Bat Conservation Trust (BCT) as Bat Investigations Officer for two days a week for two years.

The aim of the project was:

- to record bat offences and determine their extent and type
- to determine if the current legislation is adequately enforced and if it is working to protect bats
- to assist the police in their role of investigating bat crime by providing training, advice, practical help and resources
- to recommend how to enhance the protection of bats and their roosts using the legislation as a tool.

Why are bats a conservation priority?

- There are 16 species of bat in the UK. Four of these have a UK conservation status of rare, four are classed as endangered and three as vulnerable.
- The greater mouse-eared bat became extinct as a breeding species in the UK in 1991.
- The greater horseshoe bat is rare in the UK and now confined to south-west England and South Wales. The number of greater horseshoe bats is estimated to have declined by more than 90% in the last 100 years.

Below: a successful prosecution followed an incident where brown long-eared bats were killed on sticky traps set for mice. One of the aims of the BCT/RSPB Bat Investigations Officer Project was to record bat offences such as this.



Ian Davidson-Watts

Working in partnership

The majority of UK counties have a bat group that includes people licensed to undertake work on behalf of the Statutory Nature Conservation Organisations (SNCOs) – English Nature, Scottish Natural Heritage, Countryside Council for Wales and the Environment Heritage Service for Northern Ireland. These bat workers visit bat roosts and report back to the relevant SNCO so that bat conservation advice can be provided, as required under the legislation relating to bats.

In the past, the SNCOs have generally taken a conciliatory approach to bat crime and dealt with offences internally, without reporting them to the police or taking any enforcement action. On the rare occasions when the police were informed, it was often too late for evidence to be gathered or even after the time limit for investigation of the offence had elapsed.

This approach appears to have been adopted to engender goodwill for bat conservation, out of a belief that the legislation is not adequate, and out of fear that once a case has been passed to the police, heavy-handed enforcement action will automatically ensue. These are legitimate concerns; however, without enforcement, there is no deterrent for those who repeatedly ignore bat legislation. Recently, new legislation has been introduced that improves the protection for bats. Furthermore, there has been a recognition that working in partnership allows trust to be built between bat workers, SNCOs and the police.

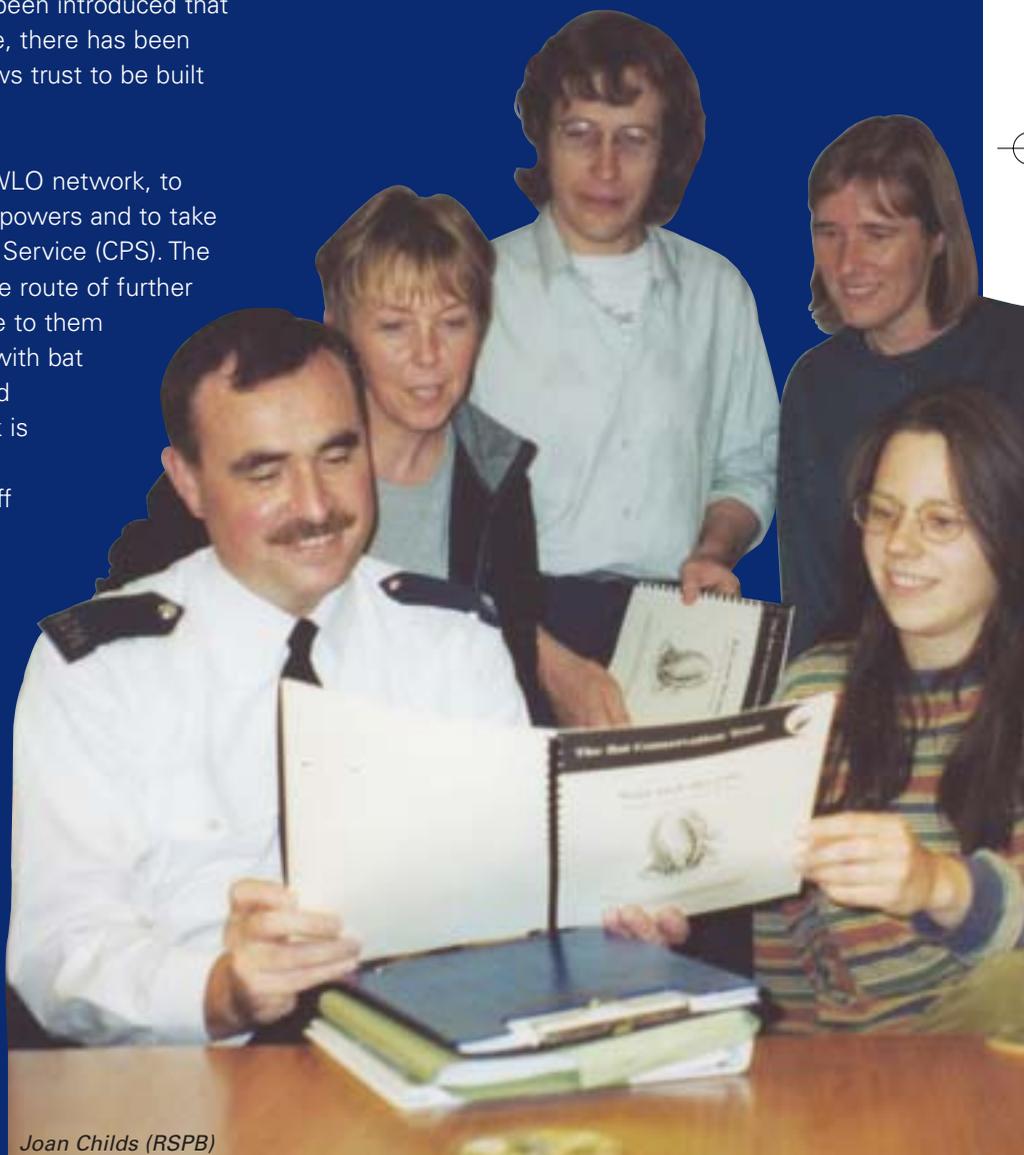
It falls to the police, particularly through the WLO network, to investigate bat offences using their statutory powers and to take prosecutions through the Crown Prosecution Service (CPS). The police have Cautioning Guidelines to guide the route of further action – and a number of options are available to them besides prosecution. Working in partnership with bat workers and SNCOs, the police can be guided by their expertise and experience. More work is needed to establish partnership contacts and build trust so that bat workers and SNCO staff report all offences to the police, leading to informed decisions about the best possible outcome for long-term bat conservation.

The reporting of bat offences also allows recording and monitoring of their extent and type, enabling an assessment of their effect on bat conservation. It allows resources to be targeted in the best way to prevent offences and may provide evidence of a need for legislative change. It is vital, therefore, that bat workers and SNCOs report bat offences, and training is required to help them recognise bat offences better.

‘It is essential that bat crime is reported to the police and that the police, SNCOs and bat groups work in partnership. The more involved the police become in local bat issues, the more knowledge they will accumulate and the more effective they will be in preventing bat offences and enforcing the legislation. We must be part of the decision-making process, with regards to whether further action is taken following an offence.’

**Inspector Nevin Hunter,
Devon and Cornwall Police WLO**

Below: working in partnership is key to bat conservation. In Cumbria, one of the police WLOs meets with representatives from English Nature, the local bat group, Cumbria County Council and the Bat Conservation Trust to discuss bat offences.



Joan Childs (RSPB)

The extent of bat crime

During the two-year project – which took place between April 2001 and March 2003 – 144 bat offences were reported. Some that had taken place prior to this were also reported, bringing the overall number of recorded bat offences to 209.

This number alone is likely to have an effect on bat conservation. However, it is clear that the number of reported incidents represents the tip of the iceberg, as some bat workers and SNCO offices were more adept at reporting bat offences than others. Additionally, many offences are likely to take place on private property and remain undetected.

We can gain an insight into the possible number of bat offences from the following anecdotes:

‘At the moment, I am receiving information about alleged bat offences at the rate of about one a day.’

Inspector Nevin Hunter, Devon and Cornwall Police WLO (referring to summer 2002)

‘It’s hard to ‘guesstimate’ the number of incidents. At shows, we get about 10 stories a day from those we strike up conversation with, who say they once had bats but no longer do after some building work was done. It’s a huge problem – there are really too many incidents to mention.’

Colleen Mainstone, Hampshire Bat Group



Vertical text on the right side of the image: Serotine bat by Alan Williams (NHPPA)

‘I have been doing serotine surveys from records held by the Hampshire Bat Group. The three I visited no longer had any bats and all had loft conversions undertaken in the 1990s. There is no doubt that loft conversions have caused a major problem for bats, and the building trade needs to be educated. I am absolutely certain that the same sort of thing is happening throughout the UK.’

PC Geoff Culbertson, Hampshire Police Wildlife Crime Officer

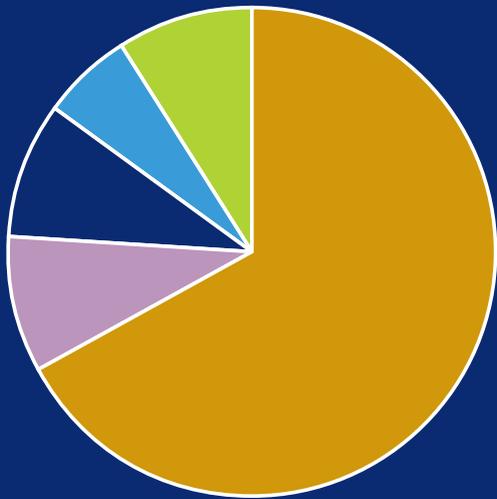
‘We commonly come across signs of bats in our work. We find a roost in about 85% of historic buildings such as churches and stately homes, sometimes several species in one site. We also find a roost in 20% of domestic buildings. Because bat surveys are planned into our work at an early stage and we work well with the SNCO, we don’t find them a problem.’

Dennis Robertson, Bedford Timber Preservation Company

It is likely that this number of offences has an effect on bat populations. More work is required to encourage the proper reporting of bat offences, so the true level can be assessed. Additionally, work is required to ensure compliance with the legislation.

The type of bat crime

The 144 bat offences recorded in the two years of the project can be broken down as follows:



■ Building and development work 67%

■ Tree surgery and felling 9%

□ Deliberate exclusion 9%

■ Disturbance 6%

■ The remaining 9% is divided between the following, each representing 1–3% of bat offences:

- Use of electronic repellents on bats
- Misuse of bat licences
- Vandalism
- Cavity wall insulation
- Quarry work
- Wasp nest treatment
- Sale of dead bats

Breakdown of bat offences

| | | | |
|-------------------------------------|-----|---|----|
| Damage or destruction of a roost | 80% | Disturbance of bats away from the roost | 1% |
| Disturbance of bats at the roost | 10% | Possession of bats | 1% |
| Exclusion or obstruction of a roost | 7% | Sale of dead bats | 1% |

It is particularly worrying that most of the offences involve the damage or destruction of roosts, which affects whole colonies.

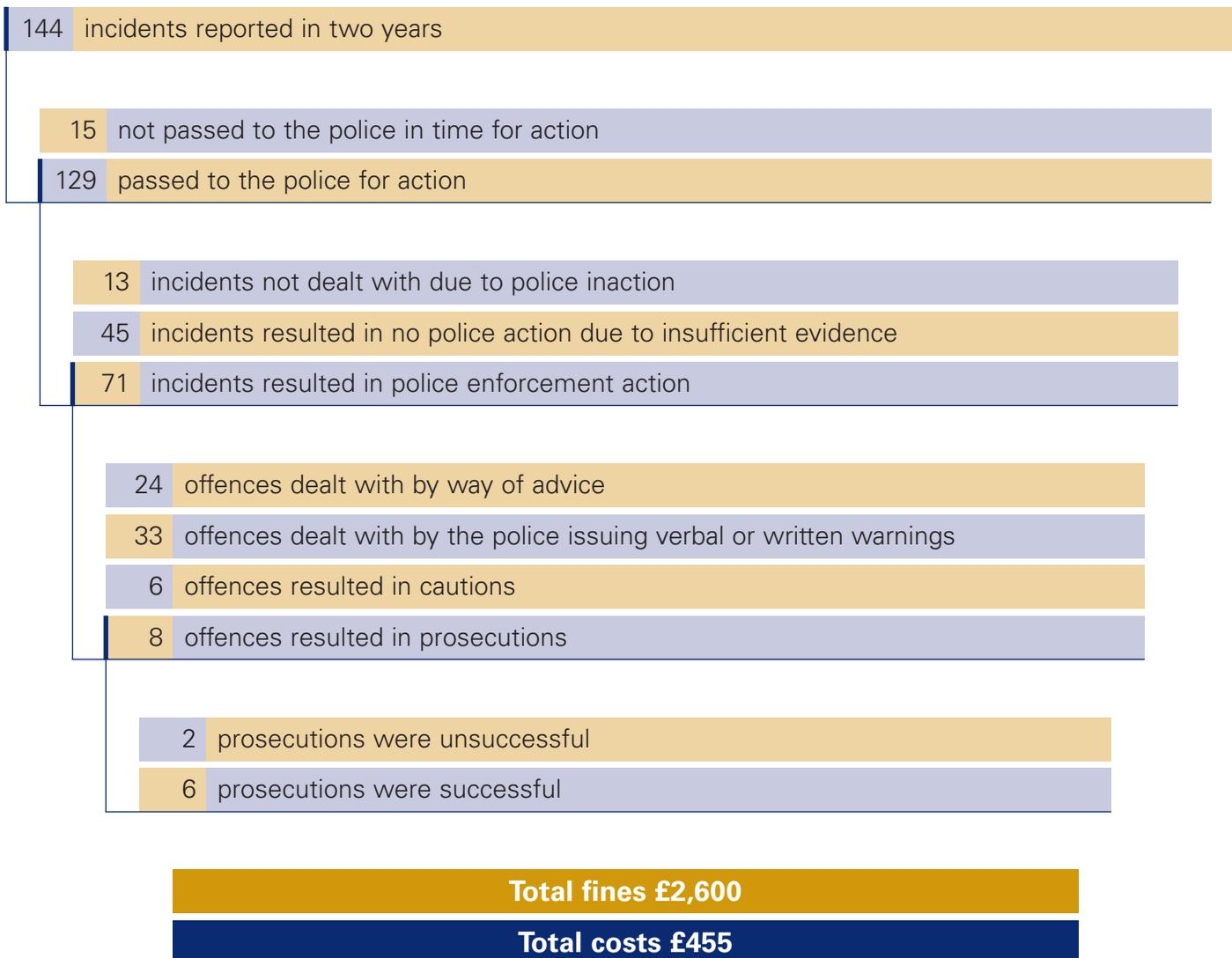


Brown long-eared bat by Joan Childs (RSPB)

Resources must be targeted towards the building and planning professions to ensure that bats are properly taken into consideration in order to avoid bat offences being committed and to protect bat populations. Enforcement resources should also be targeted in this arena in order to provide a deterrent. Brown long-eared bats often roost in buildings and may be disadvantaged by building work that does not take account of bats.

Enforcement problems

The first hurdle in effective enforcement is ensuring that information about a potential offence reaches a police WLO, and that it is received as soon as the offence comes to light so that evidence can be gathered. The next hurdle is ensuring that the police take appropriate enforcement action. Working in partnership greatly helps these processes. At the prosecution stage, there are still a number of problems to overcome, including ensuring that the conservation significance of the case is reflected in any fines.



The majority of the incidents identified during the two-year project were passed to the police in time for investigation, through encouragement of the informant by Joan Childs; however, there was reluctance from some quarters to deal with the police. Making contact with the police before needing to report an incident, and a history of working in partnership greatly increased the likelihood of the police being informed immediately.

Certain forces were more likely to react to bat offences than others. It is important that resources are put into training WLOs in enforcement issues, and that wildlife crime enforcement is resourced within police forces.

It was inevitable that a proportion of the cases investigated resulted in no further action due to insufficient evidence, but an encouraging number of offences were treated seriously by the police and resulted in enforcement action.

The legislation clearly provides an effective conservation tool and its enforcement is working to protect bats; however, the identified problems must be addressed.

The deterrent effect of enforcement



R E Stebbings

The combination of prosecutions and education has led to increased compliance with bat legislation within the timber treatment industry.

The deterrent effect of a police officer attending the scene of a crime should not be underestimated, and this is often the most appropriate action when advice or a verbal warning can be given. In more serious cases, a search warrant may be executed and the defendant may be arrested and/or interviewed. If appropriate, a caution may be issued or court proceedings initiated.

The deterrent effect of prosecutions is demonstrated by their effect on the timber treatment industry. Until 1990, there had only been eight prosecutions relating to bats. Of these, six focused on the activities of the timber treatment industry. At the time, there was much concern about chemical treatment of timbers in domestic loft spaces – for example, to control woodworm beetle.

Some of the chemicals used were very toxic to bats and were of particular conservation concern when sprayed in the summer when bats had dependant babies. A combination of well-aimed prosecutions and education resulted in greatly increased compliance by the timber treatment industry, including consultation with SNCOs about the

most suitable chemicals to use and the timing of the work to ensure the least effect on bat colonies. Since 1990, there have been no reports of bat offences relating to the use of timber treatment chemicals.

Since the start of the project, there has been an increase in the number of offences resulting in a police presence, and an increase in the number of cautions and prosecutions. All the prosecutions have been within the building industry. As a result, a number of construction companies have expressed a desire to avoid prosecution and requested information on bats and the law, showing how the increase in enforcement has served as a deterrent. However, bat workers are still reporting a number of developers, and tree surgeons, who state that, unless they see more thorough enforcement of the law, they will not observe it due to a fear of cost and delay.

It is important that the police continue to investigate bat offences and enforce the legislation. Extensive training for the police has already been established, but it is important that this continues and is expanded.

Testing and changing the legislation

The Wildlife and Countryside Act

Enforcement of the legislation is vital to the testing and changing of legislation. In this respect, lost cases can be just as valuable as successful ones by identifying weaknesses in the law that need to be addressed.

Natterer's bat by Alan Williams (NHPA)



Case overturned due to need to prove intent

In July 1992, a builder was prosecuted for intentionally damaging a bat roost in a Dorset barn and intentionally disturbing more than 70 Natterer's bats under the barn's roof slates. He won an appeal due to the inability to prove intent, which was then required under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981.

At the time, this was a disappointing result for bat conservation and a great reluctance to take further prosecutions followed. However, this case was instrumental in securing the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 (CRoW) amendments of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981. This created the offences of *reckless* damage, destruction or obstruction of the access to any place that a bat uses for shelter or protection and *reckless* disturbance of a bat while it uses such a place. CRoW only applies in England and Wales. Equivalent legislation is urgently needed in Scotland and Northern Ireland.

First use of the 'reckless' amendment

The company Wynbrook Ltd of Sandhills Park, Newark, Nottinghamshire, the contracts manager, Stephen Day and his brother, Michael Day, were prosecuted at Melton and Belvoir Magistrates' Court, Leicestershire, on 25 September 2001 for recklessly damaging a bat roost in Hose, Leicestershire. Each of the three defendants was fined £200 and ordered to pay total costs of £55. A bat survey found that the building was used by brown long-eared and Natterer's bats, but it was demolished without taking them into account. Leicestershire Police WLO Neil Hughes, who investigated this case, said, 'Unfortunately, the Crown Prosecutor was changed at short notice on the day and, because they were not fully briefed, the conservation importance of this case did not come out in court. The result was disappointingly low fines'.

CRoW also introduced a power of arrest that has been used for investigating a bat offence. This confers the advantage of being able to take the defendant to the police station for immediate interview, rather than inviting them for a voluntary interview. Interviewing a suspect allows the police to issue a special warning that puts the onus on suspects to account for their actions. The power of arrest also improves the chances of securing evidence that might otherwise disappear.

Power of arrest used in bat case

A Wirral man disturbed a colony of pipistrelle bats while he was using expanding foam to fill gaps in the soffit and barge-boards on his house. He accessed an American website that gave instructions on how to exclude bats from houses. This is legal in the USA, but the website stated that exclusion was illegal in the UK. The man, who was a property developer, was arrested on 22 August 2001 on suspicion of destroying a bat roost and preventing access to it. This was most likely to have been a nursery roost and it is thought that the expanding foam killed the majority of the bats. After interview, he was issued with a caution. PC Andy McWilliam, WLO for Merseyside Police, said, 'Unfortunately, English Nature had already dealt with this, and told the man there would be no further action before passing the details to me. I was, therefore, limited to dealing with this by way of a caution. Bat Conservation International has since made the UK legal advice on its website more prominent'.

Testing and changing the legislation

The Habitats Regulations

As well as CRoW, the Conservation (Natural Habitats, &c.) Regulations 1994 – better known as the Habitats Regulations – has also come into effect since the 1992 case. This implements the Council Directive on the Conservation of Natural Habitats and of Wild Fauna and Flora – better known as the Habitats Directive. This legislation includes the absolute offence of damaging or destroying a breeding site or resting place of any bat. This absolute offence under the Habitats Regulations was first used in Leicestershire in 2000.

First test of the Habitats Regulations absolute offence

Insulation & Environmental Services Ltd of Oadby, Leicestershire, pleaded guilty at Hinckley Magistrates' Court in March 2000 to damaging a bat roost at South Charnwood High School at Markfield, Leicestershire, under Section 39(1)(d) of The Conservation (Natural Habitats, &c.) Regulations 1994. There was a colony of up to 100 brown long-eared bats in the roof, from where the company had been contracted to remove asbestos. A number of dead and dying bats were found following the work. The company was fined £1,000 plus £225 costs.

This absolute offence puts the onus on builders and contractors to undertake a survey before any work is done. A report published by the Royal Institute of Chartered Surveyors Foundation warns that construction professionals must always assume bats are present and act accordingly or face prosecution. This absolute offence offers a high level of protection for bats and their roosts, which is vital as the majority of bat offences recorded were committed by the building profession.

The Habitats Regulations should also be quickly amended to reflect the changes made to the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 by CRoW.

Habitats Regulations licences can be issued for work on bat roosts, but the following three tests must all be satisfied:

- Licences can be granted to preserve public health or public safety or other imperative reasons of overriding public interest, including those of a social or economic nature and beneficial consequences of primary importance for the environment.
- A licence may not be granted unless there is no satisfactory alternative.
- A licence cannot be issued unless the proposed action will not be detrimental to the maintenance of the population of the species concerned at a favourable conservation status in their natural range.

The administration of these licences is currently under review. It is vital for bat conservation that individuals administering the licences are adequately trained to apply these tests rigorously and consistently across the UK. The planning system could do much more to alert those in the building profession to the requirements of bat legislation. Some bat groups and police WLOs are liaising with councils to this end, but more partnership work would be greatly beneficial to bat conservation.



J Kaczanow

Brown long-eared bats are vulnerable to building work in roof spaces. The legislation could be used more effectively to protect bat roosts.

Testing and changing the legislation

Bat workers have long held the belief that legal protection extends to bat roosts where bats are not present at the time, because some species have a habit of moving roost frequently but often returning to previous roosts at a later date. This view was shared by magistrates in Hampshire Magistrates' Court in 2001. Although not case law, it does help to clarify the legislation and assist bat workers and the police protect bat roosts.

A court case in Hampshire helps define a bat roost

Gerard Higham, owner and managing director of K&K Industrial Services, Sugar House Lane, London, appeared in Fareham Magistrates' Court, Hampshire, on 9 July 2001 charged with the damage of a resting place of pipistrelle bats under The Conservation (Natural Habitats, &c.) Regulations 1994. He was found guilty and fined £1,500 plus £300 costs. K&K Industrial Services won a tender from Berkeley Homes to remove asbestos from the disused Knowle Hospital site in Wickham, Hampshire, prior to the site being redeveloped. In May 2000, they removed the soffit boards from a building, despite receiving a report showing that bat droppings had been found in the roof. Higham's defence claimed that it could not be proven that bats had recently used the roost and there was no evidence that the bats would have returned even if the soffits had not been removed. However, magistrates found Higham guilty of damaging a bat roost.



PC Andy Sparshott (Hampshire Police)

Hampshire Police visiting the Knowle Hospital site to gather evidence. Magistrates found the managing director of K&K Industrial Services guilty of damaging a bat roost, despite there being no evidence that bats were present at the time.

The next priority

In Wales, the police have alerted the CPS to a number of incidents of householders informing CCW that they have a roost. CCW has advised on a course of action, which the householder has then ignored, resulting in the roost being blocked, damaged or destroyed. The CPS has refused to take these cases, stating that the householder could have a defence in law because they have 'notified the SNCO about the proposed action and allowed them reasonable time to advise as to whether it should be carried out and, if so, how' (Section 10(5) of the Wildlife and Countryside Act). The CPS has argued that it is not explicit that the householder must act on this advice. This is clearly not the intention of the legislation and urgent attention is required to close this potential loophole.

The need for appropriate penalties

To create a real deterrent, getting a case to court and ensuring a successful prosecution is not the end of the story. Any penalty must reflect the seriousness of the offence.

Barn owner pleads guilty to bat offence

Angus Thirlwell from Shaftenhoe End, Hertfordshire, appeared at Stevenage Magistrates' Court in September 2001 charged with damaging a resting site of Natterer's bats, contrary to Section 39(1)(d) of The Conservation (Natural Habitats, &c.) Regulations 1994. He pleaded guilty to the damage of the barns where the bats roosted – which he owned – and was fined £500 and ordered to pay £100 costs. This fine was disappointing as it was likely to have been less than the cost of taking the bats properly into account, and a small proportion of the overall budget to convert the barns into dwellings. It is unlikely that fines such as this will deter those who may choose to disregard bat legislation on other building projects.

The architect of the barn conversion, Robin Beacham of Hadham Road, Bishops Stortford, Hertfordshire, and builder Derek Bull of Woodhall, Arkesden, Essex, pleaded not guilty to the same offences. They had consulted English Nature and plans had been devised to protect the bats; however, these had been ignored. English Nature intended that work on the two main barns be staggered so that the bats would always have one barn in which to roost, and that re-roofing

should be completed by the end of April to protect the bats during the breeding season.

Beacham and Bull's defence claimed that English Nature's advice was not good enough and that they failed to provide clear and specific guidance. The wording of English Nature's advice indicated that the work on the barns should preferably be staggered, and that work should not start during specific time periods – with no reference to ongoing work or end times. The defence argued that the defendants had followed the advice to the letter and that, as they were not bat experts, they could not be expected to understand the intent of the letter.

The magistrates found Beacham and Bull not guilty, stating that, while they were satisfied that damage had been caused to the bats' resting place, they considered that the defendants had consulted with English Nature to a reasonable level. This case highlights how important it is that advice letters are unambiguous, and that legislation is changed to ensure that any advice given must be followed.

Patty Briggs



One of the two barns photographed in May. The stripping of the roof made it unsuitable as a bat roost.

It is vital that Crown Prosecutors are fully briefed on the conservation significance of bat offences, and that this is relayed to magistrates during the trial.

The newly produced Environmental Crime Toolkit and sentencing guidelines for wildlife crime for the Magistrates' Association should encourage the use of the full range of penalties available.

Recommendations

Working practice

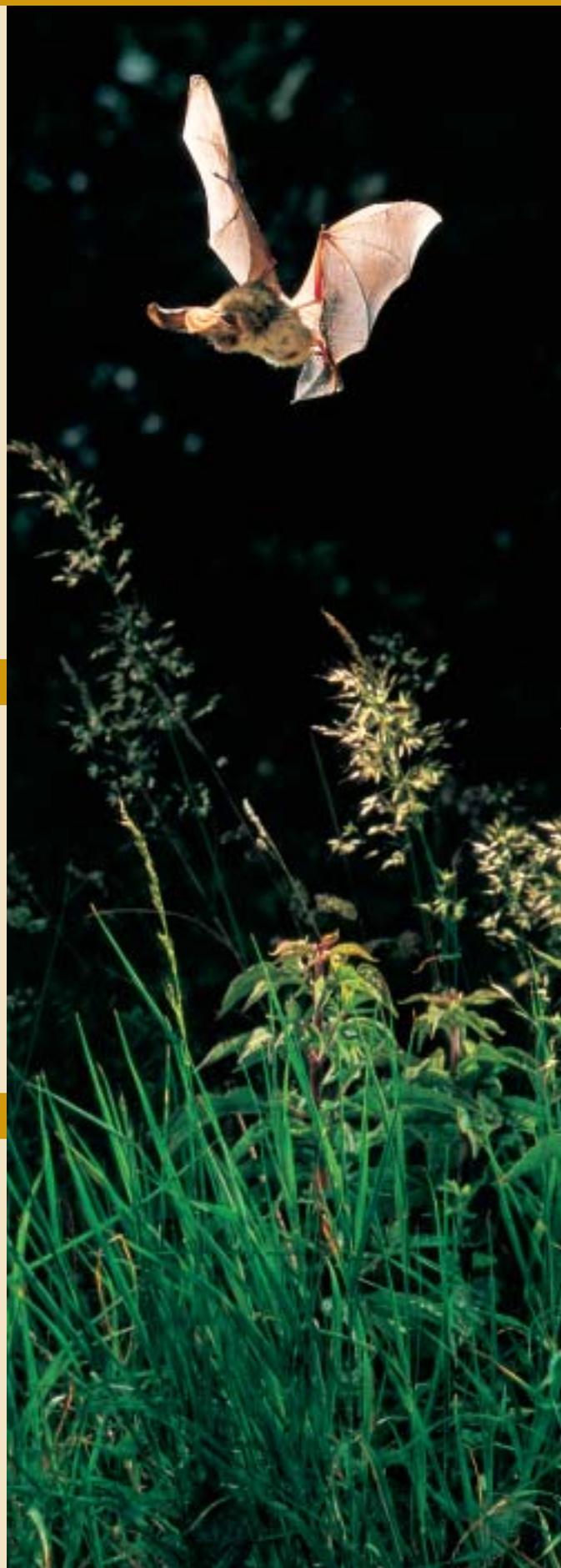
- Partnership working of bat workers, SNCOs, the BCT and police WLOs should be established by these parties to share expertise and build trust, in order for the police to properly and sensitively investigate bat offences.
- The BCT should continue to encourage SNCOs and bat workers to pass information about bat offences immediately to the police for investigation, and train SNCO staff and bat workers to recognise bat offences.
- The BCT should continue to monitor bat offences so that the effect on bat conservation can be ascertained and resources can be effectively targeted towards prevention.
- The BCT should target the building industry with a major education campaign aimed at increasing compliance with bat legislation and ensuring that bat surveys are undertaken before work is carried out.
- The BCT should continue training for police WLOs to encourage and enable them to deal with bat offences.
- The BCT should ensure that the CPS and magistrates are more aware of the conservation significance of bat offences and the need for realistic fines and other sentencing options to act as deterrents.

Policy change

- There should be comprehensive legal guidelines and training for SNCO staff dealing with bat issues to ensure that their advice and procedures stand up in court, and to ensure appropriate action when offences come to light.
- The police WLO network should be increased and provided with more resources, and there should be more core wildlife training for all police officers.
- Bat offences should become 'recordable crimes' to guarantee proper recording by the police.
- Planners should provide more information about bats through the planning system – for example, by distributing advice leaflets about bat legislation on receipt of planning applications.

Legal change

- CRoW has already proved important for bat conservation in England and Wales. Equivalent legislation is required in Northern Ireland and further legislative change is needed in Scotland to adopt all the CRoW amendments.
- The Habitats Regulations 1994 should be updated with the equivalent of CRoW amendments.
- The legislation should be changed so that, where there is a requirement to seek advice from an SNCO, it is also a requirement to follow the advice.
- Derogations under the Habitats Regulations should be rigorous and consistent across the UK and adequate training should be provided for all who administer them.



Resources available from the BCT and the RSPB

Bats and the law: RSPB information leaflet, 2002.
*Bats and the law – what to do when the law is
broken*: Joan Childs, BCT/RSPB, 2003.

Acknowledgements

I would like to thank Gwyn Williams and Graham Elliott from the RSPB, whose foresight led to this project, Amy Coyte and Julia Hanmer, BCT Chief Executives for overseeing the project, Gillie Sargent and all the other staff from the BCT for their support, and members of bat groups, SNCOs and the police for their valuable help.

Joan Childs



Natterer's bat (Frank Greenaway)

Back page photo: Daubenton's bat foraging over water (Frank Greenaway)

‘This pioneering project is providing evidence for the first time that bat crime is widespread and is resulting in the loss of many bat roosts. We are grateful to have worked in partnership with the RSPB to address this and will work to ensure that the recommendations of this project are carried out.’

Amy Coyte/Julia Hanmer, BCT Chief Executives

‘The RSPB is pleased to have assisted the BCT in demonstrating some of the important problems facing bats, while at the same time highlighting the role and effectiveness of legislation in bat conservation. Together, we have identified many steps to aid compliance with the law and to ensure that enforcement agencies are equipped to take appropriate action when the legislation is contravened.’

Graham Wynne, RSPB Chief Executive

‘Bats are among the most endangered animals in the UK. They are fully protected by law and yet, as this report clearly demonstrates, they are under very real threat from criminal acts. The police service fully supports the conclusions of this report – and we will continue to do our best to ensure that British bats have a future.’

Chief Constable Richard Brunstrom, co-chair of The Partnership for Action Against Wildlife Crime (PAW)

‘Having myself witnessed a distressing incident involving the destruction of more than 200 female pipistrelles, most in the process of giving birth, I realise that this project is vital to enable us to succeed where for so long we have been failing. We are working on our relationship with the police WLOs, and *Bats and the law – what to do when the law is broken* must be one of the most important documents to be produced in recent years to enable us to achieve this partnership.’

Shirley Martin, Westmorland and Furness Bat Group



for birds
for people
for ever

The Bat Conservation Trust

15 Cloisters House, 8 Battersea Park Road, London SW8 4BG

Tel: 020 7627 2629 Fax: 020 7627 2628

e-mail: enquiries@bats.org.uk

www.bats.org.uk

The RSPB

UK Headquarters, The Lodge, Sandy, Bedfordshire SG19 2DL

Tel: 01767 680551 Fax: 01767 692365

e-mail: wildlife@rspb.org.uk

www.rspb.org.uk

