

Wildlife and Ecological Policy

This policy is a statement of intent and shall apply to all operations and worksites managed by S.P Landscapes and Tree Contractors Ltd.

Wildlife is an important factor in the running of our business and our aim is not only to minimise the impact we have on the environment but to provide improvements for wildlife where possible.

Notwithstanding the requirement for hazard identification and risk minimisation, wildlife and ecology local to our worksite shall not suffer harm as a result of our works. Particular attention will be given to the presence of European protected species, bats and nesting birds.

Wildlife is protected by the following legislation:

- Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981
- Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000
- The Habitat Regs. 2010
- European Habitats Directive 1992/ Nesting Birds Directive
- The Conservation (natural habitats regulations 1994) (amended 2009)
- Environmental Protection Act 1985
- The Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006
- Planning Policy Statement 9 (PPS9): Biodiversity and Geological Conservation
- The Protection of Badgers Act 1992

S P Landscapes & Tree Contractors statement of Wildlife and Ecological Policy is:

- To protect existing habitats wherever possible
- To comply with legislative and regulatory requirements as a minimum standard
- To minimize the impact of operations on local wildlife wherever possible
- To encourage our clients to pursue ecologically and environmentally beneficial methods
- To purchase and use chemicals and substances that have the minimal environmental impact at all times
- To ensure that environmental considerations are included in the risk assessment process and appropriate actions are taken
- To promote the retention of arising's as habitat where possible
- To encourage the retention of deadwood where the level of risk is acceptable
- To ensure that all employees are aware of their responsibilities in respect of all legislation and regulations
- To enforce this policy at all times amongst S P Landscapes & Tree Contractors staff and sub-contractors
- To review and update our policy and training with regard to wildlife and ecology regularly

To ensure S.P Landscapes and Tree Contractors are compliant to the legislation listed we implement the following procedures before undertaking any works:

- On assessments of any works, a visual check is carried out of the site to identify whether there are any European protected species, nesting birds or other vulnerable wildlife within the work area which is recorded on the site specific risk assessment.
- If during the assessment there is evidence to support potential habitats of any European protected species identified, a wildlife disturbance assessment shall be carried out by an experienced and qualified ecologist or an employee suitably trained to carry out the assessment. If applicable the relevant authorities will be notified.
- Work methods shall be planned that shall reduce the environmental risk to a level which is as low as reasonably practicable and where required supervision by an ecologist.
- Where nesting birds are identified, normally between February and August, work around the immediate site will cease and be postponed until the nesting birds have fledged the nest.

This policy shall be communicated to all persons working for or on behalf of the company.