

Pest Control Policy

V2.0

July 2024

Summary

All staff are responsible for:

- Reporting any incidents or occurrences, suspect or otherwise, of pest activity to the Facilities Service desk.
- Reporting all incidents or occurrences of clinical impactful pest activity by raising an incident report using the Datix reporting system.
- Ensuring that all areas where they work are kept clean, tidy, and free of any potential pest harbourage, including, but not limited to, disposal of waste food; ensuring products are stored off the floor, ensuring that there is not build up of waste including cardboard.
- Reporting any damage to the fabric of the building, that may provide access for pests, into the building, to the Estates Department through the Estates Helpdesk.

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Data Protection Act 2018 (UK General Data Protection Regulation – GDPR) Legislation).

The Trust has a duty under the Data Protection Act 2018 and UK General Data Protection Regulations 2016/679 to ensure that there is a valid legal basis to process personal and sensitive data. The legal basis for processing must be identified and documented before the processing begins. In many cases we may need consent; this must be explicit, informed, and documented. We cannot rely on opt out, it must be opt in.

Data Protection Act 2018 and UK General Data Protection Regulations 2016/679 is applicable to all staff; this includes those working as contractors and providers of services.

For more information about your obligations under the Data Protection Act 2018 and UK General Data Protection Regulations 2016/679 please see the Information Use Framework Policy or contact the Information Governance Team.

Royal Cornwall Hospital Trust rch-tr.infogov@nhs.net

1. Introduction

- 1.1. The presence of pests can be offensive, present infection hazards, contaminate foodstuffs, damage materials and structure or be a nuisance. Once established, pests can be difficult and costly to eradicate.
- 1.2. Satisfactory standards of pest control in both clinical and non-clinical areas are an integral part of providing an optimum environment for the delivery of good quality patient care.
- 1.3. The Trust recognises its legal obligation to take necessary measures to prevent the risk of pest infestation in all areas and to ensure good standards of pest control and that pest control is an integral part of safe, effective, and efficient healthcare and is a vital and fundamental requirement in ensuring patient safety.
- 1.4. The Trust is acutely aware of its moral, social, and legal obligation to provide a pest free environment for all service users and this policy specifies how the Trust will commit to achieving and maintaining a pest free environment across its sites.
- 1.5. The Trust and its contractors will adopt procedures to rid Trust owned and leased premises of existing infestation and thereafter, by pro- active work, maintain this position in the on-going maintenance of the environment.
- 1.6. This version supersedes any previous versions of this document.

2. Purpose of this Policy/Procedure

- 2.1. To specify clear, well-defined roles with regard to pest control across the whole spectrum of staff.
- 2.2. Promote a culture that recognises the importance of safe, effective, and efficient pest control management and provide a place of work, free from danger or risk of injury caused by any pest infestation and continually strive to improve its performance with regard to pest control management through participation, commitment, and support of all its employees.
- 2.3. Operate in a manner which minimises risks to employees, patients, the environment, and the community at large.
- 2.4. To define and allocate the necessary resources to achieve consistently high-quality pest control standards across the Trust.
- 2.5. To provide and deliver the necessary training and development to all relevant staff in relation to pest control and expected standards.
- 2.6. To closely monitor pest control performance: according to national guidance and with a view to further improve service provision.
- 2.7. To ensure that any persistent failings with regards to pest control are addressed at the most senior level and rectified at the earliest opportunity.

3. Scope

The policy encompasses all pest control activities within the Trust across its portfolio of owned and leased buildings.

4. Definitions/Glossary

- **Pests:** Insects or animals that may constitute a threat to Infection Prevention and Control or Health and Safety within the hospital environment including, but not limited to rodents, insects, and birds.
- **Pest Control Contractor:** Company contracted to oversee the pest control within RCHT.
- **The Trust:** Royal Cornwall Hospitals NHS Trust.
- **Rid and Riddance:** These terms are defined as eradication or achieving the best level of control that is technically and practicably possible.
- **COSHH:** Control of Substances Hazardous to Health.
- **EPA:** Environmental Protection Act.
- **COPR:** Control of Pesticides Regulations.
- **RSPB:** Royal Society of Protection of Birds.

5. Ownership and Responsibilities

5.1. Chief Executive Officer

The Chief Executive Officer has overall accountability for the cleanliness of the Trust and the cleaning activities that are delivered.

5.2. Chief Executive Officer

The Chief Executive Officer has overall accountability for pest control at the Trust.

5.3. Infection Prevention and Control

Infection Prevention and Control are responsible for assuring the Trust Board that adequate pest control is in place and those audits on potential infestation form part of the Infection Prevention and Control audit process.

5.4. Director of Estates and Facilities

The Director has the overall responsibility for the management, implementation and monitoring of this policy and delegates the delivery of the service through the Facilities Department. They ensure that adequate resources are available within the Trust for the implementation of this policy. Additionally, they ensure that fit for purpose contracts are in place so Trust premises can be pest free.

5.5. Head of Facilities

The Head of Facilities is responsible for the strategic and operational development of pest control services, identifying funding requirements and preparation of bids and ensuring high standards of service provision and value for money are maintained.

5.6. Senior Facilities Manager

The Senior Facilities Manager is responsible for the operational delivery of the pest control service and carries a range of responsibilities, including:

- Ensuring the guidelines within this Policy are implemented.
- Responsible for monitoring the Pest Control contract and ensuring that the Trust's Facilities staff are adequately trained in the expectations of this policy.
- Develop the specification for pest control services and undertaking the procurement of the pest control contract, making recommendations to the Head of Facilities for contract award to suitably qualified contractor(s).
- Monitor contract delivery to ensure that the contractor achieves its contractual obligation and ensure the contract remains value for money.

5.7. Facilities Managers/Supervisors

Facilities Manager and Supervisors are responsible to investigate and initiate appropriate action on all reports of the evidence of pests or sightings of pests; assess the contractors written reports and note action taken to combat pest infestation since the contractors last report, assessment on the current situation, including any works required to be done to eliminate harbourage and improve hygiene and any proposals for further action by the contractor.

5.8. Estates Department

Responsible to support with repairs to building equipment, systems, and fabric where pest damage has been caused or where methods of entry/harbourage have been established (proofing).

5.9. Strategic Estates Department

Responsible to ensure that new builds and project works consider how future pest control will be managed and ensure the design of buildings have consideration for the proofing of pests, especially at high and low levels as part of their design.

5.10. Sustenance Operations Manager

The Sustenance Operations Manager is responsible for supporting the appointment of a suitably qualified contractor to monitor and manage pest control at the Food Production Unit in line with the requirements for operating an Approved Premises (Food). Sustenance may appoint a different pest control contractor, to that used by the remainder of the Trust, but the service and delivery will remain compliant with this policy.

5.11. Staff

All staff are responsible for:

- Reporting any incidents or occurrences, suspect or otherwise, of pest activity to the Facilities Service desk.
- To ensure that all areas where they work are kept clean, tidy, and free of any potential pest harbourage where possible. This can include, but is not limited to, disposal of waste food; ensuring products are stored off the floor, ensuring that there is not build up of waste including cardboard.
- Reporting any damage to the fabric of the building, that may provide access for pests, into the building, to the Estates Department through the Estates Helpdesk

5.12. Pest Control Contractor

- 5.12.1. The Trust will ensure that an appropriate pest control contract is in place to delivery pest control services. The contractor will carry out pro-active work to monitor for evidence of pests and take corrective actions as necessary in order to keep Trust premises free from pests and will undertake a minimum of twelve routine visits per annum normally between the hours of 8am – 6pm Monday – Friday inclusive, excluding public holidays except where emergency treatment is required or where operational requirements dictate otherwise.
- 5.12.2. The contractor will undertake proactive pest control using a system of strategically placed traps which are appropriately identified and recorded will be placed around all Trust premises. The traps will be visited every four weeks, and all catches are recorded. Replacement traps will be re-laid as required.
- 5.12.3. All pesticides used by the Trust's pest control contractor will be approved in accordance with the Control of Pesticides Regulations (COPR) 1986 (as amended 1997), be strictly controlled and monitored and fully comply with the requirements of the Control of Substances Hazardous to Health (COSHH) Regulations 2002.

6. Standards and Practice

6.1. Basic Pest Control Measures.

- 6.1.1. There are a number of different pests that could impact on the operational and clinical delivery of the Trust – Appendix 1.
- 6.1.2. It is always advantageous to prevent pests on site and their impact, than trying to remove them once they are on site. To maintain pest free sites, the following actions should be in place as a baseline:
 - Food should be covered or stored in pest proof containers.

- Clinical and pharmaceutical products that are liable to damage through pest infestations should be appropriately maintained and stored to prevent damage.
- Food and drink spillages should be promptly cleaned up, ensuring food spilt under furniture is included in the clean-up.
- Where fitted, fly screens should always be closed when windows are open.
- Doors to food preparation areas should be kept closed.
- Inspect deliveries, food stock and premises regularly to make sure there are no signs of pest infestation.
- All food should have a good system of stock rotation.
- Raise products off the floor to make nesting of rodents more difficult.
- Waste should be stored in a manner suitable to prevent access by pests (e.g. lidded bins)
- Make sure all surfaces are clean, including floors and walls. Dirt and grease can collect in inaccessible areas which the pests can reach easily. Make sure that the corners and backs of units and equipment are also cleaned, and effective cleaning schedules are in place.
- Accumulation of static/ stagnant water should be avoided and reported when spotted.
- Buildings should be of sound structure and well maintained, drains should be covered, and leaking pipe works repaired and damaged surfaces made good.
- Defects to buildings should be reported to the Estates Helpdesk, to ensure that prompt action is taken.
- Install thick metal kick plates at the base of external doors.
- Stop any habits of feeding birds and stray animals through the use of bird feeders in and adjacent to Trust buildings and scattering food items around Trust property.

6.2. Reporting Procedure

All sightings of pests or evidence of their existence should be reported in the first instance to the Facilities Service Desk at the earliest opportunity, to include:

- The location of the pest issues, or pest sighting
- The type of pest if known.
- Possible numbers and the frequency of sighting.

- The name of the person reporting.
- The date and time of sighting

6.3. Telltale signs of pests, will include such things as:

- Gnaw marks on doors or woodwork.
- Trails on floors, worksurfaces or externally.
- Holes in food containers, boxes, packets.
- Gnawing of electric cables and equipment.
- Droppings.
- Visual live or dead bodies including eggs of insects.
- Smears around pipes and holes indicate rat runs.

6.4. Operational Pest Control

- 6.4.1. The contractor will undertake proactive pest control using a system of strategically placed traps which are appropriately identified and recorded will be placed around all Trust premises. The traps will be visited every four weeks, and all catches are recorded. Replacement traps will be re-laid as required.
- 6.4.2. Prevention is better than a cure. However, despite the best intentions, infestation may take place. At this stage, physical and chemical control measures need to be taken. The advantage of a physical method is that the pest will be killed in a pre-determined place making the disposal of bodies easier, e.g., mouse traps, electrocution grids.
- 6.4.3. Records of treatment will be kept, and such records must record the nature of the treatment, the dosage used, who carried out the treatment, date, and time of treatment, and to whom of the local staff informed that treatment had taken place, and to what instructions had been given to the local staff.
- 6.4.4. In cases of difficulty with rodents the Environmental Health Officers should be consulted, through the Senior Facilities Manager and a disinfestations programme agreed. Environmental Health Officers are normally able to provide all the guidance necessary for dealing with pests.

7. Dissemination and Implementation

- 7.1. All staff that have an involvement with pest control (catering, domestic, works etc) are to attend an annual updating/refresher course on recognition of pests, signs of their infestation, pest control and procedures.

- 7.2. All food handling staff receive similar training as above in their food hygiene training course. This policy will be implemented and disseminated through the organisation immediately following ratification and will be published on the Trust's intranet site (document library). Access to this document is open to all.
- 7.3. This policy will be cascaded through the Health and Safety Committee.
- 7.4. All staff who carry out pest control duties will receive full, documented training with consequent refresher sessions.
- 7.5. Any other identified specific training requirements recognised due to new technology, specialist cleaning, personal development or poor performance will be addressed at the earliest opportunity.

8. Monitoring compliance and effectiveness

Information Category	Detail of process and methodology for monitoring compliance
Element to be monitored	The use of Pest Control Contractors and the frequency of repeat pest control incidents in the same location.
Lead	The Senior Facilities Manager with responsibility for Pest Control
Tool	The Facilities Helpdesk system will be used to monitor pest control incidents. The Facilities Monthly reporting process will present any pest control issues and non-compliance for escalation. The Senior Facilities Manager will manage the pest control contract and ensure that regular meetings will be held onsite when required and will involve: • Review of current activity/ performance. • Service issues/ complaints received. • Service improvements. • Action plan as agreed.
Frequency	Reports will be generated monthly for submission to the Head of Facilities.
Reporting arrangements	An annual report of incidents will be reported to the Hospital Cleaning Group, as part of the regular Facilities reporting regime.
Acting on recommendations and Lead(s)	The Hospital Cleaning Group will report back to the Senior Facilities Manager on any actions required.
Change in practice and lessons to be shared	Required changes to practice will be identified and actioned. A lead member of the Facilities team will be identified to take each change forward where appropriate. Lessons will be shared with all the relevant stakeholders.

9. Updating and Review

This policy is to be updated and reviewed every three years or sooner where there has been a change to legislation, national guidelines, or service model.

10. Equality and Diversity

10.1. This document complies with the Royal Cornwall Hospitals NHS Trust service Equality and Diversity statement which can be found in the [Equality Diversity And Inclusion Policy](#) or the [Equality and Diversity website](#).

10.2. Equality Impact Assessment

The Initial Equality Impact Assessment Screening Form is at Appendix 2.

Appendix 1. Governance Information

Information Category	Detailed Information
Document Title:	Pest Control Policy V2.0
This document replaces (exact title of previous version):	Pest Control Policy V1.1
Date Issued/Approved:	June 2024
Date Valid From:	July 2024
Date Valid To:	July 2027
Author/Owner:	Stephen Rogers, Deputy Head of Facilities and Contracts
Contact details:	01872 252468
Brief summary of contents:	Sets out procedures, protocols, and responsibilities for pest control in RCHT.
Suggested Keywords:	Domestic Services, Cleaning, Infection Control, Hygiene, Patient Safety.
Target Audience:	RCHT: Yes CFT: No CIOB ICB: No
Executive Director responsible for Policy:	Director of Estates and Facilities
Approval route for consultation and ratification:	Estates and Facilities Performance and Governance Group
Manager confirming approval processes:	Head of Facilities
Name of Governance Lead confirming consultation and ratification:	Performance Improvement, Governance and Compliance Manager, Estates and Facilities
Links to key external standards:	The Environmental Protection Act 1990 (as amended). The Health and Safety at Work Act 1974 (as amended). Management of Health and Safety at Work Regulations 1999.

Information Category	Detailed Information
	Controlled Waste Regulations 1992. Control of Substances Hazardous to Health Regulations 2004 (as amended). Environmental Protection (Duty of Care) Regulations 1991. Control of Pesticides Regulations (COPR) 1986 (as amended 1997). Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981. Conservation (Natural Habitats) Regulations 1994. Health Technical Memorandum 07-01: Safe and sustainable management of healthcare waste. National Standards of Healthcare Cleanliness 2021: Pest control.
Related Documents:	None required
Training Need Identified:	Yes – The Learning and Development department are aware of the training requirements for all frontline staff concerning cleaning.
Publication Location (refer to Policy on Policies – Approvals and Ratification):	Internet and Intranet
Document Library Folder/Sub Folder:	Estates and Facilities / Facilities

Version Control Table

Date	Version Number	Summary of Changes	Changes Made by
02 June 2014	V1.0	Initial Issue	Christopher Walker, Hotel Services Manager
9 June 2017	V1.1	Updated to reflect Mitie Contract and provisions at CFPU	Phil Bond, Governance Lead
June 2024	V2.0	Significant updating of scope and content	Stephen Rogers, Deputy Head of Facilities and Contracts

All or part of this document can be released under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

All Policies, Strategies and Operating Procedures, including Business Plans, are to be kept for the lifetime of the organisation plus 6 years.

This document is only valid on the day of printing.

Controlled Document.

This document has been created following the Royal Cornwall Hospitals NHS Trust [The Policy on Policies \(Development and Management of Knowledge Procedural and Web Documents Policy\)](#). It should not be altered in any way without the express permission of the author or their Line Manager.

Appendix 2. Equality Impact Assessment

Section 1: Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) Form

The EIA process allows the Trust to identify where a policy or service may have a negative impact on an individual or particular group of people.

For guidance, please refer to the Equality Impact Assessment Policy (available from the document library) or contact the Equality, Diversity, and Inclusion Team

rcht.inclusion@nhs.net

Information Category	Detailed Information
Name of the strategy/policy/proposal/service function to be assessed:	Pest Control Policy V2.0
Department and Service Area:	Estates and Facilities
Is this a new or existing document?	Existing
Name of individual completing EIA (Should be completed by an individual with a good understanding of the Service/Policy):	Stephen Rogers, Deputy Head of Facilities and Contracts
Contact details:	01872 253400

Information Category	Detailed Information
1. Policy Aim - Who is the Policy aimed at? (The Policy is the Strategy, Policy, Proposal or Service Change to be assessed)	To assure the Trust that there is a robust pest control process.
2. Policy Objectives	Assurance that pests are managed and/or eliminated from site.
3. Policy Intended Outcomes	KPI's and reports.
4. How will you measure each outcome?	Staff, Visitors and Patients.
5. Who is intended to benefit from the policy?	To assure the Trust that there is a robust pest control process.

Information Category	Detailed Information
6a. Who did you consult with? (Please select Yes or No for each category)	- Workforce: Yes - Patients/visitors: No - Local groups/system partners: No - External organisations: No - Other: No
6b. Please list the individuals/groups who have been consulted about this policy.	Please record specific names of individuals/ groups: Estates and Facilities Performance and Governance Group.
6c. What was the outcome of the consultation?	Agreed
6d. Have you used any of the following to assist your assessment?	National or local statistics, audits, activity reports, process maps, complaints, staff, or patient surveys: No

7. The Impact

Following consultation with key groups, has a negative impact been identified for any protected characteristic? Please note that a rationale is required for each one.

Where a negative impact is identified without rationale, the key groups will need to be consulted again.

Protected Characteristic	(Yes or No)	Rationale
Age	No	This policy describes an administrative activity within the capability of all relevant staff
Sex (male or female)	No	This policy describes a general administrative activity that has no impact on gender.
Gender reassignment (Transgender, non-binary, gender fluid etc.)	No	This policy describes a general administrative activity that has no impact on race.
Race	No	Only staff are required to comply with this policy and if they had a disability that prohibited them from complying the Trust would make suitable alternative arrangements to assist them

Protected Characteristic	(Yes or No)	Rationale
Disability (e.g. physical or cognitive impairment, mental health, long term conditions etc.)	No	This policy describes a general administrative activity that has no impact on religion or beliefs.
Religion or belief	No	This policy describes a general administrative activity that has no impact on whether an individual is married or other
Marriage and civil partnership	No	Only staff are required to comply with this policy. All staff who are pregnant to whom this policy applies will have the appropriate risk assessment completed and if deemed necessary through the risk assessment process, the Trust would make suitable alternative arrangements to assist them.
Pregnancy and maternity	No	This policy describes a general administrative activity that has no impact on sexual orientation
Sexual orientation (e.g. gay, straight, bisexual, lesbian etc.)	No	This policy describes an administrative activity within the capability of all relevant staff

A robust rationale must be in place for all protected characteristics. If a negative impact has been identified, please complete section 2. If no negative impact has been identified and if this is not a major service change, you can end the assessment here.

I am confident that section 2 of this EIA does not need completing as there are no highlighted risks of negative impact occurring because of this policy.

Name of person confirming result of initial impact assessment: Stephen Rogers, Deputy Head of Facilities and Contracts

If a negative impact has been identified above OR this is a major service change, you will need to complete section 2 of the EIA form available here:
[Section 2. Full Equality Analysis](#)

Appendix 3. Types of Pests

Houseflies

- Houseflies can transmit intestinal worms or their eggs and are potential vectors of disease such as dysentery, gastro enteritis, typhoid, cholera, and tuberculosis.
- They will frequent and feed indiscriminately on any liquefiable solid food, putrefying material or food stored for human consumption.
- Flies have rapid, prolific breeding habits and high mobility. In order to break the life-cycle, control measures should be directed against larvae and adult flies.
- Satisfactory hygiene is necessary to limit potential breeding sites and food sources. Entry of flies into buildings can be prevented by 1.12mm mesh fly screen, air curtains, bead screens or self-closing door equipment with rubber seals.

Cockroaches

- Cockroaches are common in premises associated with the production or handling of food. Gregarious and nocturnal they spend the day hiding in cracks and crevices around areas such as sinks, drains, cookers, the backs of cupboards and in refrigeration motor compartments.
- They favour buildings with service ducts and complex plumbing installations which allow them to travel freely.
- Cockroaches are potential vectors of diseases such as dysentery, gastroenteritis, typhoid, and poliomyelitis. Their diet is omnivorous and includes fermenting substances, soiled dressings, hair, leather, parchment, wallpaper, faeces, and food for human consumption. The latter may be contaminated either by the mechanical transfer of causative agents of disease from the insect's body or by transmission in the faeces.
- Monitoring and control are essential although successful control of cockroaches is a complex subject and depends very much upon tailoring control measures to the species concerned. Infestations can be difficult to control as cockroaches' eggs are poorly penetrated by insecticides. Consequently, surveillance of the area by the pest control contractor may need to be prolonged.
- A high standard of hygiene will deny sources of food and hiding places.

Ants

- Black ants - Foraging worker ants cause a nuisance as they travel widely in search of food, following well defined trails and clustering around the food source. Sweet foods are preferred. They are obviously an unpleasant sight and may damage food for human consumption.
- Pharaoh's ants - These 2mm omnivorous light brown ants are half the size of the black ants. They cannot breed without artificial heat, are very persistent and pose a serious cross infection risk in hospitals. The ants may be found in wall cavities, heating pipes, behind sinks and ovens and therefore in laundry, linen rooms, clinical and residential areas. They are particularly attracted to sweet or light protein items.

- Although frequently inaccessible and difficult to destroy, ant's nests must be eradicated. If infestation is to be successfully controlled, hormone treatment is required which sterilises the female ant.

Wasps

- Wasp stings cause pain and distress. Some individuals are particularly sensitive. Wasp nests are only used for one season, so it may be possible to put up with the problem temporarily. They are often found in cavities in brickwork, in air bricks and roof vents.
- The nest can be treated with such work maybe best carried out in the evening or weekend as poisoned stupefied wasps can cause problems.
- Particular attention should be paid to areas around rubbish bins that should be kept in a hygienic condition.

Other insect pests

- There are many other insect pests that occur sporadically in hospitals. The most common of these being flies of various species, crickets, silverfish and the stored product insects and mites which can be found infesting dried foods such as flour weevils.

Mice and Rats

- These are the vertebrates with greatest potential for damage to food stocks and building fabric in hospitals. Modern rodenticides are extremely efficient in the eradication of mice and rats from hospitals.
- Rodents have been known to gnaw through electric cables and cause fires. All sightings and other evidence of their presence should be reported.
- The Trust will take reasonable steps to ensure that its building is rodent proofed by, for example, fitting collars where pipes pass through walls and by filling gaps in the building fabric, etc. All food and organic waste should be kept in rodent proof containers.

Birds

- The nuisance of birds can be controlled in the first instance by preventative measures, e.g., blocking of nesting holes and the application of devices to discourage perching. Netting and trapping can also be considered with the aim of immediate release away from the area/location of capture.
- The flying of hawks could be used, as a part of a managed approach, to discourage birds using Trust buildings.
- As a last resort birds may be culled by shooting with the approval of the Trust Chief Executive and local police authority. No attempt should be made to poison them.
- Whichever method of control is employed it should take into account whether the birds are currently in a nesting season or whether they are protected by law. Advice should be sought from the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB).

Squirrels

- The most serious damage in urban areas arises where the squirrel enters the roof spaces of buildings by climbing the walls or jumping from nearby trees. Once inside, they chew woodwork, ceilings, insulation on electrical wiring, or tear up the loft insulation to form a drey.
- The best method of control is to proof the building/ loft. Prevention is better than cure. If a cure is required, the best form of control is trapping with the use of a squirrel trap.

Foxes

- Foxes in this country may occasionally spread disease such as toxocara and leptospirosis but the risk is believed to be small. More significantly foxes do cause nuisance in a number of ways. During the mating season the noise of barks and blood-curdling screams proliferate and in addition to the feeding habits described above there is damage to gardens caused when digging for food and of course the indiscriminate depositing of faeces. Killing foxes in urban areas is both unnecessary and unlikely to provide a long- term solution as other foxes move into vacant territories.

Moles

- Moles are a widespread species and are not protected by conservation legislation, with basic protection from cruelty under the Wild Mammals Protection Act 1996. The mole is a common British mammal and, although not often seen, the results of its tunnelling are well known and may cause damage in a range of situations. In gardens and amenity areas, molehills and tunnels can be a nuisance. In agriculture, contamination of grass by soil may lead to poor quality silage being produced. There is also a risk of damaging grasscutting machinery. Mole runs may disturb roots and adversely affect plant growth.
- Before carrying out any mole control, it is important to consider if such action is warranted or if the molehills and tunnels can be tolerated. Where control measures can be justified, there are two main methods, trapping or poisoning with aluminium phosphide. Please note that strychnine hydrochloride can no longer be legally purchased or used for mole control in the UK.

Bats

- Bats are protected by The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010. The penalties for contravention are severe. If bats are discovered in any of the Trust's buildings or on any of its land, they must not under any circumstances be killed, expelled, stopped from gaining access, touched or disturbed. Contractors must be prevented from doing work anywhere near them. English Nature should be contacted for advice.

Badgers

- Badgers in this country may occasionally spread disease but the risk is believed to be small. More significantly Badgers do cause nuisance in a number of ways. Their feeding habits cause damage to grounds and gardens caused when digging. Badgers are protected by the Protection of Badgers Act 1992 and the Conservation (Natural Habitats, etc) Regulations 1994. The penalties for contravention are severe. If badgers are discovered on any of the Trust's land, they must not under any circumstances be killed, expelled, stopped from gaining access, touched or disturbed. Contractors must be prevented from doing work anywhere near them. English Nature should be contacted for advice.

Rabbit

- Rabbits can cause great damage by burrowing under buildings and putting at risk the foundations of buildings, however there are strict guidelines on their removal so please contact the authorised officer for advice. This also applies to any suspected myxomatosis cases.

Deer

- Since October 2007, all wild deer with the exception of Muntjac (*Muntiacus reevesi*) are protected by a close season. The best long-term solution to reduce the damage caused by deer is to achieve an adequate cull each year and so reduce the local deer population. This is best achieved through a wider, co-coordinated cull undertaken by a local Deer Management Group rather than on an ad-hoc basis by individuals. However, legislation makes provisions for actions that can be taken in exceptional circumstances where problems cannot readily be resolved through normal deer management.