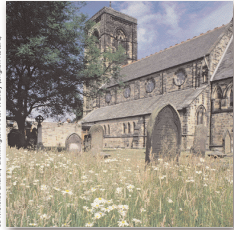


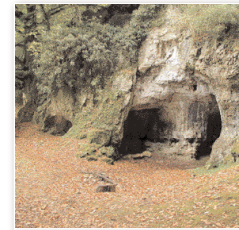
Bats in the Landscape

Where are they found?



St. Nicholas Church, Compton, New Witley, English Nature

Most bat species use a variety of roosts of different types throughout the year as their requirements vary. Bats use man-made structures as hibernation sites, from underground quarries to houses and churches. Such structures have become essential sites as many natural roosts in caves and woods have been destroyed. Many species form maternity roosts in the roofs of buildings to take advantage of the sun's warmth. In winter, bats hibernate in various parts of buildings, such as inside cavity walls, around window frames and under ridge-tiles.



Long Pile, Great Ouse, English Nature

Since Roman times, subterranean quarries have been exploited for building materials. Once abandoned, quarries provide suitable hibernation conditions for a range of bat species, particularly Greater horseshoe bats



Deer park, with veteran trees, near Witley, English Nature

Trees are important roost sites, particularly veteran trees, as they provide holes and crevices for roosts.

Unimproved pasture grazed by cattle provides insects associated with dung, which provide food for some species.

Caves provide a range of important hibernation sites for Lesser and Greater horseshoe bats.



Seven Stone, Great Ouse, English Nature

Woodland is more sheltered and often warmer than the surrounding open areas. It provides food insects and cover for bats.



Witley Ridge, Hampshire, English Nature

Bats need to be able to move freely around the countryside between roosts and feeding areas. Many species follow linear features, such as hedges and tree lines, and are reluctant to cross wide open spaces.

Arable land can be improved for bats by expanding field margins, maintaining treelines, hedgerows and ditches and reducing pesticide use.

Bats need open water to drink and bankside vegetation provides habitats for insect prey and valuable cover whilst foraging.



Witley Pond, Old Witley, Hampshire, English Nature