



Woodland bats

All seventeen species of bats found in Britain are protected by law (Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 and CROW Act of 2000) making it an offence to destroy, damage or disturb bats, this includes those that roost in trees as well as those found in buildings. Care should be



taken to survey trees for bats before any felling takes place. Old trees with plenty of holes, loose bark, splits and cracks are more likely to be used. Holes used by bats are often stained by their droppings (see photo). Bats may also hide in dense ivy and honeysuckle on trees. The local bat group may be able to help see www.bats.org.uk

A new publication "Woodland Management for Bats" has just been published by the

Forestry Commission in partnership with Bat Conservation Trust and English Nature. This includes a CDrom with details of the various bats likely to be found in woods. All British bats feed on insects at night, often emerging at dusk to feed.



Bat boxes can help provide extra roosting and breeding sites for bats if there is a shortage of natural holes. Bats enter through a narrow slot in the bottom of the box. These boxes are frequently placed on both sides of the trunk as bats are fussy about the temperature and humidity of their summer and winter roosting sites. Breeding females need warm, sheltered roosts in summer.

If you put up roosting boxes for bats or have to disturb a bat roost, for example for safety work to a tree, you should consult English Nature who may have to issue a licence for this purpose.

The Chiltern Woodlands Project is a registered charity. Our aim is to promote and encourage the sensitive and sustainable management of woods in the Chiltern Hills in order to conserve the landscape and wildlife of the area. We offer advice and assistance to owners of small, unmanaged woods. We also organise a series of training courses and woodland events. We publish this newsletter three times a year, please contact us if you would like to be sent copies in future.

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