



# Hibernating bats in the UK

## ***Introduction***

This course provides a closer look at hibernating bats in the UK, why and where bats hibernate, including 'classic' and 'non-classic' sites, threats, conservation, and survey requirements. It also includes practical training for surveying hibernation sites via a field visit to see a range of hibernating bat species.

The course is a mix of class and fieldwork, taught by an expert bat ecologist.

## ***Course content***

- Brief overview of bats in the UK
- Bats and the law - legal status and licences
- Why do bats hibernate?
- Hibernation behaviour
- Hibernation sites
- Hibernation period
- Threats to hibernating bats
- Initiatives to protect hibernating bats
- Survey methods and effort
- Health and safety considerations
- A field visit to one or more hibernation sites to see both Rhinolophid and Vespertilionid bats. Species almost guaranteed to be seen include lesser and greater horseshoe bats, Natterer's, Daubenton's, whiskered/Brandt's bats.

Attendees must be fit and able to walk across rough terrain. Appropriate PPE, outdoor clothing and footwear should be worn for the field visit.

A course certificate will be issued as evidence to support a bat survey licence application log book.

## ***Where?***

The course is held at our main office, just outside of Exeter, and the fieldwork is undertaken locally.

***How to book***

Please email [office@richardgreenecology.co.uk](mailto:office@richardgreenecology.co.uk) for a booking form.