



Hibernating bats in the UK

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, with a possibility of also seeing Bechstein's bat.

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.