



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, 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.

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 for a booking form.