

Bats in this Church



Brown long-eared bat. *F Greenaway*

The Church of All Hallows in Ringmore is home to two species of bat – the lesser horseshoe bat and long eared bats. There are only 15 species of bat left in Britain and they are protected by law. The bats are useful creatures in a church or any old building because they eat the wood eating beetles and moths which would otherwise be destructive to timbers and furnishings. Although bats are normally only seen at night, they have been seen roosting by day in the church. The last sighting being on Sunday 10th August 2003 when a lesser horseshoe bat was seen roosting high on the east wall of the small lady chapel. The average bat maternity colony found in Britain contains about 50 bats and bats can live for up to 25 years. Although the bats may not be seen, since they spend more than half their lives asleep, it is likely that in summer you will see their characteristic mouse-like droppings in the church and dry skeletons of moths or beetles discarded by the bat.



Lesser horseshoe bat. *F Greenaway*

KINGSMOOR BATS

TEL/FAX 01409 231364

HIGHER KINGSMOOR. BLACK TORRINGTON. BEAWORTHY. DEVON. EX21 5JN

Yvonne Sheppard
Three Ways
Ringmore
Kingsbridge
Devon
TQ7 4HL

Date: 14th February 2002
Our ref: D02-507

Dear Ms Sheppard

BAT ROOST AT: CHURCH OF ALL HALLOWS, RINGMORE, KINGSBRIDGE.

Further to our telephone conversation last month, I have not yet heard from you so that I can arrange a visit to the church by our bat warden. Will you please let me know if or when the proposed works are to be carried out.

As I explained the church is known to be a roost site for Lesser horseshoe and Long eared bats and English Nature will need to issue the necessary advice before any repair works are carried out. This is a requirement of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) and the Conservation [Natural Habitats &c.] Regulations 1994.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you foresee any difficulties or have any questions about this matter.

Yours sincerely



Christopher A Shaw
For and on behalf of English Nature

Christopher A Shaw
Helen D Shaw
KINGSMOOR BATS CONSULTANCY

ENGLISH NATURE CONTRACT:
DEVON & CORNWALL . BAT ADVISORY SERVICE & WARDEN COORDINATION.

Cc: Claire Guthrie, Assistant Conservation Officer, English Nature, Exeter.

As a result of dramatic declines in populations, all bats and their roosts are fully protected under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) and The Conservation [Natural Habitats &c.] Regulations 1994. It is a requirement of this legislation to notify English Nature of any operation that may affect bats or their roosts, even when the bats are apparently absent, and to allow a reasonable time for a reply before work starts.

Bats in Churches

The Bat Conservation Trust



*This church is one of many
that are used by bats...*

*Species of bats
using this church:*

Bats are small, furry mammals whose numbers have declined drastically in recent years. There are 14 species of bats in Britain, some of which are extremely rare.

For centuries they have been surrounded by myths and often persecuted. British bats eat only insects, they are not blind nor do they get tangled in your hair.

The reasons for their decline include lack of suitable roost sites. However, bats will often use churches for part of the year.

Often the only sign of their presence is their droppings. Droppings are not a health hazard and are generally odourless, but they can be a nuisance in churches, and sometimes try the patience of cleaners.

By welcoming or tolerating bats, churches can make an important contribution to their survival. For advice about bats (which are protected by law) contact English Nature. The Bat Conservation Trust can provide further information and put you in touch with your local bat group.

*The Bat Conservation Trust, c/o The Conservation Foundation,
Lowther Lodge, 1 Kensington Gore, London SW7 2AR
Telephone: 071 240 0933*

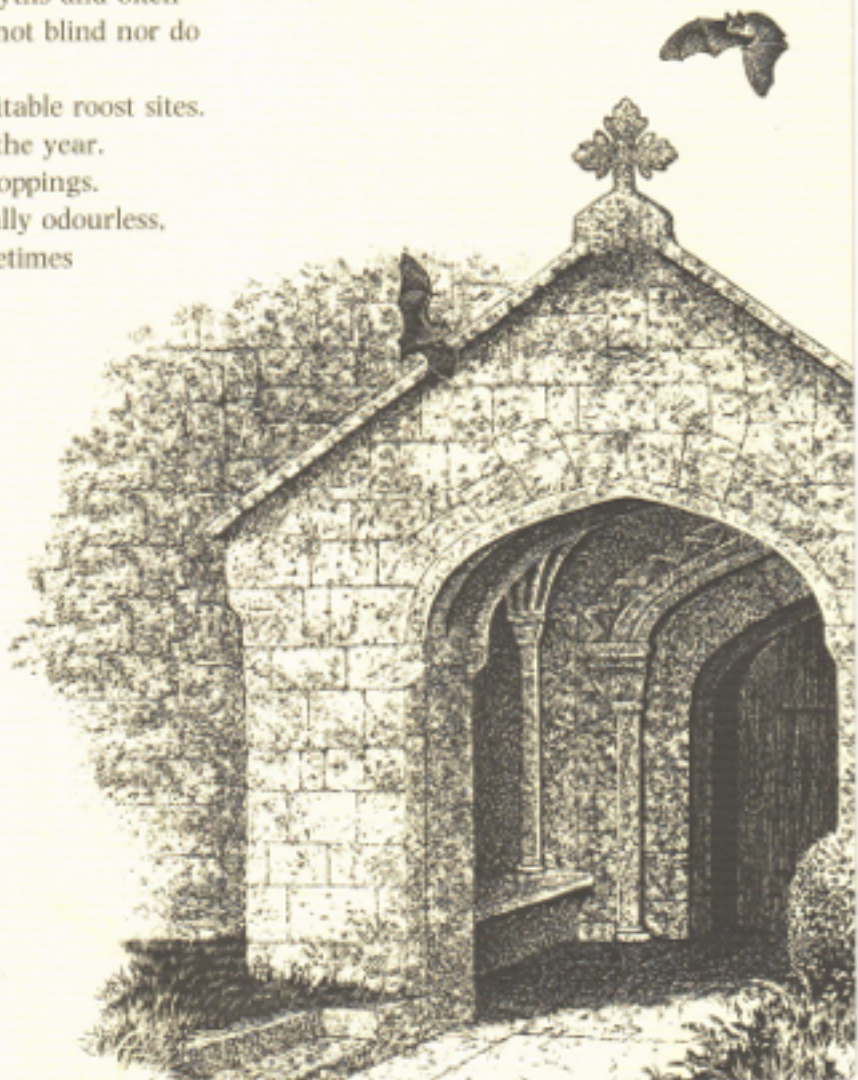
English Nature, Northminster House, Peterborough PE1 1UA

*This poster was funded by the Department of the Environment
and the People's Trust for Endangered Species.*

Illustrations by Guy Troughton



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The Bat Conservation Trust

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President Professor David Bellamy



address for correspondence

The Bat Conservation Trust
c/o The London Ecology Centre
45 Shelton Street
London WC2H 9HJ

Rev'd Drowley
The Rectory
Ringmore
Kingsbridge
Devon TQ7

14.10.93

Dear Mr Drowley

Thank you for participating in our National Bats in Churches Survey last summer and for providing us with valuable information. The responses from the postcard questionnaires have now been analysed and I thought you would be interested to hear about the results. I enclose a brief summary of our findings.

We were very pleased to hear that All Hallows's is providing shelter to bats and that they are welcome. Churches such as your's may be providing these endangered creatures with an important refuge in the absence of natural alternatives. The Bats in Churches Survey has improved our understanding of the extent to which churches are used by bats around England, which will enable us to conserve Britain's endangered bat populations more effectively.

We would like to invite you to display the enclosed poster in All Hallows's church to inform your congregation and visitors about the bats and the important role the church is playing in their conservation. If you would like to know which species of bat use the church, contact your local bat group (see enclosed sheet) who may be able to visit and identify the bats.

Many thanks again for helping with our study.

Yours sincerely

Gillie Sargent
BCT Bats in Churches Project Officer



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The Bat Conservation Trust

c/o The Conservation Foundation 1 Kensington Gore London SW7 2AR

President Professor David Bellamy



Bat News No 29

VICARS TAKE BATS UNDER THEIR WING

Last autumn BCT sent over 8,000 Church of England vicars short questionnaires asking about bats in their churches. 2,600 vicars replied and reassuringly, the majority are prepared to give bats sanctuary.

Thirty seven percent of vicars had noticed that bats resided in their church. Of these, 75% gave bats a warm welcome with only 12% wanting to make them homeless - the rest were not prepared to commit themselves.

However, attitudes varied across the country. The East Anglian counties of Norfolk, Suffolk, Cambridgeshire and also Lincolnshire were 4 out of the 11 counties with the greatest numbers of church bat roosts. Sadly, vicars were less well disposed in these four counties and the proportion welcoming their bats cooled to between 70 and 50%.

A recent report, 'The UK Environment', produced by the Government Statistics Service, indicates that Norfolk, Cambridge, Lincolnshire are listed amongst counties with the lowest remaining amounts of ancient woodland and semi-natural woodland cover (0-1%) and Suffolk falls in the second lowest category with between 1.1-2.5%. Perhaps bats are relying even more heavily on churches in these counties, in the absence of natural woodland.

The BCT is actively investigating how to alleviate problems caused by bats in churches and is anxious to help vicars who regard them as a problem.

Gillie Sargent
BCT Bats in Churches Project Officer



USEFUL ADDRESSES
FOR THE

SOUTH WEST REGION

English Nature is the government body for nature conservation.

English Nature (South West)
Roughmoor
Bishop's Hull
Taunton
Somerset
TA1 5AA (0823) 283211

County Bat Group Contact Addresses

Avon	Jim Jayne 55 Bury Hill Winterbourne Down Bristol Avon BS17 1AD tel: 0272 563092
Cornwall	John Page 3 Belgravis Place Sheffield Penzance Cornwall TR19 6UJ tel: 0736 732037
Devon	George Bemment Paignton Zoo Totnes Road Paignton Devon TQ4 7EU tel: 0803 521064
Dorset	Dave Mockford 28 Filleul Road Sandford Wareham Dorset tel: 0929 553407
Somerset	David Cottle 8 Hooper Avenue Wells Somerset BA5 3NA tel: 0749 674257



*Col. Grimshaw 19/10
to see: [signature]
6/10*

*Copies to SAC
6/92*

South-West Region

Nature Conservancy Council for England

Roughmoor
Bishop's Hull, Taunton, Somerset TA1 5AA
Telephone (0823) 283211 Fax (0823) 272978

Mr R Trant
The Veau
Ringmore
KINGSBRIDGE
Devon TQ7 4HL

Your Ref

Our Ref FA2/4/2 DN102/92
AM/CVS

Date 7 October 1992

Dear Mr Trant

BAT ROOST AT ALL HALLOWS CHURCH, RINGMORE

Thank you for contacting us for advice concerning bats and the proposed installation of a hot air blower in the bell ringer's room and for allowing our Voluntary Bat Warden, Peter Chapman, to visit on 26 August.

We have now received his report and do not foresee any problems with the installation or use of the hot air blower.

If, however, you come across bats when work gets underway or require further information or advice then please do not hesitate to contact me again.

With thanks for your interest and concern - the successful conservation of these increasingly endangered mammals depends very much on the goodwill of people responsible for building maintenance such as yourselves.

Yours sincerely

Ashley Matthews
Assistant Species Protection Officer
SW Region

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