

**Handbook of Advice and Information on Bats  
for  
Knepp Castle Estate**



Natterer's bat

© Frank Greenaway

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October 2009

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## **FIRST READ THIS!**

*The Guidelines in Chapters 2, 3, 5 & 6 have been extracted from the Bat Conservation Trust website. This information is understood to be correct at the time these Guidelines were written, October 2009. Over time, advice may change and laws may be amended, and it will be increasingly imperative to check the Bat Conservation Trust website for the most up-to-date information.*

## ***Acknowledgements***

*The Bat Conservation Trust is a registered charity in England, Wales and Scotland, established in order to promote the conservation and study of bats. It has had no part in drafting this report, but was happy for the information on its website to be used freely in it. I (and the Knepp bats) would like to thank BCT for this.*

## 1. Summary of bats present & breeding on Knepp Castle Estate.

Thirteen species were recorded in the bat survey of summer, 2009 by Frank Greenaway.

Common pipistrelle	<i>Pipistrellus pipistrellus</i>
Soprano pipistrelle	<i>Pipistrellus pygmaeus</i>
Nathusius' pipistrelle	<i>Pipistrellus nathusii</i>
Natterer's bat	<i>Myotis nattereri</i>
Whiskered bat	<i>Myotis mystacinus</i>
Daubenton's bat	<i>Myotis daubentonii</i>
Brandt's bat	<i>Myotis brandtii</i>
Bechstein's bat	<i>Myotis bechsteinii</i>
Barbastelle	<i>Barbastella barbastellus</i>
Serotine	<i>Eptesicus serotinus</i>
Brown long-eared bat	<i>Plecotus auritus</i>
Noctule	<i>Nyctalus noctula</i>
Leisler's bat	<i>Nyctalus leisleri</i>

The summer bat survey of 2009 also identified 12 nursery roosts of 6 species, common and soprano pipistrelles, whiskered bat, Daubenton's bat, Natterer's bat and brown long-eared bat, 6 of which were in buildings and 6 in tree cavities.

There are undoubtedly many other nursery roosts and also roosts used by bats in winter. Mature trees with woodpecker holes and splits, holes and cracks caused by wind damage are all potential bat roosts.

In buildings, bats may roost or breed under hanging tiles, behind soffits, in loft spaces and even between wooden joists in barns.

Over time, the Wildland project will result in even better foraging habitat for bats. It is likely that there will be more nursery roosts of those species already known to be breeding on Knepp, and also the appearance of nursery roosts of species not yet thought to be breeding here.

Barbastelle, Bechstein's bat, soprano pipistrelle, noctule and brown long-eared bat are all **UKBAP Priority species**.

### Further information

For more information about Knepp's bats, see *Knepp Bat Survey 2009: A survey of the land within the proposed River Adur restoration site and associated watercourses*. Frank Greenaway, October 2009, on [www.knepp.co.uk](http://www.knepp.co.uk).

## 2. Bats and the Law

*This information has been downloaded from the Bat Conservation Trust website and abbreviated. Please consult BCT or Natural England for further information.*

**All UK bats and their roosts are protected by law. Legislation first introduced in 1981 gave strong legal protection to all bat species and their roosts in England, Scotland and Wales, since when there has been additional legislation and amendments have been implemented. The legal protection for bats and their roosts may be summarised as follows:**

- You will be committing a criminal offence if you:
  - Deliberately\* capture, injure or kill a bat
  - Intentionally or recklessly disturb a bat in its roost or deliberately disturb a group of bats
  - Damage or destroy a bat roosting place (even if bats are not occupying the roost at the time)
  - Possess or advertise/sell/exchange a bat (dead or alive) or any part of a bat
  - Intentionally or recklessly obstruct access to a bat roost

*\*In a court, 'deliberately' will probably be interpreted as someone who, although not intending to capture/injure or kill a bat, performed the relevant action, being sufficiently informed and aware of the consequence this action will most likely have.*

- **Defences include:**
  - Tending/caring for a bat solely for the purpose of restoring it to health and subsequent release
  - Mercy killing where there is no reasonable hope of recovery (provided that person did not cause the injury in the first place - in which case the illegal act has already taken place).
- Penalties on conviction - the maximum fine is £5,000 per incident or per bat (some roosts contain several hundred bats), up to six months in prison, and forfeiture of items used to commit the offence, eg vehicles, plant, machinery.

*Please refer to the legislation for the precise wording - the above is a brief summary only.*

### **Licencing**

Licences to permit illegal activities relating to bats and their roost sites can be issued for specific purposes and by specific licensing authorities. These are sometimes called 'derogation licences' or 'European Protected Species' licences, and are issued under the Habitats Regulations. It is an offence not to comply with the terms and conditions of a derogation licence. If you carry out work affecting bats or roosts without a licence, you will be breaking the law. For further information on licensing, visit the Natural England website:

[www.naturalengland.org.uk/ourwork/regulation/wildlife/default.asp](http://www.naturalengland.org.uk/ourwork/regulation/wildlife/default.asp)

### **Which legislation is relevant for bats and roosts?**

The Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981 (WCA) was the first legislation to provide protection for all bats and their roosts in England, Scotland and Wales (earlier legislation gave protection to horseshoe bats only). It was amended several times with significant amendments being made by the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 in England and Wales, and by the Nature Conservation (Scotland) Act 2004 in Scotland. These acts strengthened the WCA by adding the word 'recklessly' to the offences of intentional damage, destruction or obstruction of a roost, and to disturbance of a bat.

In 1992 the European Union's Council Directive on The Conservation of Natural Habitats of Wild Fauna and Flora (better known as the Habitats Directive) came into being, covering a range of plant and animal species, and all EU countries had to implement this. This Directive gave rise to stronger protection for all UK bats, roosts, and the wider habitats of some bat species too. In England, Scotland and Wales this Directive was implemented by The Conservation (Natural Habitats, &c.) Regulations 1994 (better known as the Habitats Regulations). The Habitats Regulations have been amended several times since 1994, most significantly in **2007** and most recently in **2009**.

**The 2007 amendments** to the Habitats Regulations are implemented by the following statutory instruments for England and Wales:-

- The Conservation (Natural Habitats, &c.) (Amendment) Regulations 2007 - S.I. 2007/1843

All bats and their roosts are covered by strong legal protection that now rests mostly with the amended Habitats Regulations. The 2007 Habitats Regulations amendments strengthened the Regulations by removing the Agriculture and Animal Health Act defences, the dwelling house defence, the 'incidental result of an otherwise lawful operation' defence, and the defence that enabled certain actions to take place to prevent serious damage. These defences were removed to bring the Habitats Regulations more into line with the EU Habitats Directive. It also made non-compliance with a derogation licence a criminal offence.

**2008/9 amendments** to the Habitats Regulations are implemented by the following statutory instruments for England and Wales:

- The Conservation (Natural Habitats, &c.) (Amendment) (England and Wales) Regulations 2009 - S.I. 2009/6

In these recent amendments the main changes are modification of the wording of disturbance offences, and the addition of specific protection for hibernating and migrating bats.

### **Further information:**

Bat Conservation Trust [www.bats.org.uk](http://www.bats.org.uk)

### 3. Building repair or demolition

*All of the UK's bats and their roosts are protected by law, so it is important to understand these laws if you are planning any building or remedial work on the houses, barns, agricultural buildings or offices/industrial buildings on Knepp that may affect a roost. Natural England Southeast Office (0300 060 0300; [enquiries.southeast@naturalengland.org.uk](mailto:enquiries.southeast@naturalengland.org.uk)) should be contacted for advice.*

The following information is based on the Bat Conservation Trust website. Consult the BCT website [www.bats.org.uk](http://www.bats.org.uk) for more detailed information or to ensure that there have not been any changes since this Guide was written.

- Virtually all buildings on Knepp may serve as a bat roost to a greater or lesser extent at one time of the year or other. This does not mean all renovation, repair or even demolition is prevented, but will mean that in order to avoid injuring bats, destroying roosts and infringing the law, the correct procedure has to be followed.
- Proposed work will need careful consideration, especially in terms of time and materials, so that the structure can continue to be shared by bats and people.
- The earlier in the process the bats are taken into account the less disruption to building plans there will be. If the presence of bats is anticipated and taken into account before work is started, it will:
  - Minimise any costs and delays
  - Avoid disturbing bats or their roosts, therefore avoiding the risk of prosecution

The procedures to be followed vary a bit according to the status of the building and the work proposed:

#### **Remedial work in a dwelling house (not requiring planning permission)**

- Contact Natural England Species Officer, (Southeast Office, 0300 060 0300) who will send a volunteer free of charge to check whether the roof / hanging tiles / other part of building is used by bats. If it appears that it is, or you know already that it is, you will be advised on how to do the work, causing minimal disturbance to the bats. Work may have to be carried out at a particular time of year (bats are usually only seasonal visitors to buildings) or particular materials must be used.

#### **Work requiring planning permission or work in a non-dwelling building or tree**

- For work on a farm / industrial building, out-building or trees then it is necessary to apply for a **Habitats Regulations Licence**. This also applies to

work in a dwelling house that requires planning permission. These are administered by the relevant authority, which for Knepp is Natural England.

- The forms to apply for these licences require detailed bat knowledge, so it is usual to employ an environmental consultant to carry out a survey of the structure containing the roost, and write the method statement for the licence on behalf of the person proposing the work.
- Please consult Natural England (Ch.8) for licensed consultants in Sussex.

### **Treating Flies / Vermin in Roof**

- If chemical treatments are needed you must consult Natural England for advice. There are now timber-treatment products that are suitable for use in bat roosts, and you need to know which these are as well as when and how the work can be carried out.

### **Bat Found During Building Works**

*Always wear gloves to handle bats. If you need help, call the BCT Bat Helpline - 0845 1300 228*

If bats are discovered during work then the **work must stop immediately** until Natural England has been contacted and advice given.

### **Further information:**

For further information on bats and buildings, including Bats and Churches, development and information for professionals (builders, architects, roofers, pest technicians etc) consult the Bat Conservation website [www.bats.org.uk](http://www.bats.org.uk).



## 4. Bats and trees.

*The legislation applying to bat roosts in non-dwelling buildings also applies to trees (see Ch. 3). As bats are highly likely to be using tree cavities as roosts, and some have been positively identified as roosts, any tree that needs to be lopped or felled will need to be assessed by a licensed bat worker and may well need a DEROGATION LICENCE from Natural England; felling licences may also be required from the Forestry Commission.*

Oak, ash and beech are particularly suitable for bats but any tree has potential for a bat roost if there are hollows in the trunk or branches, woodpecker holes, loose bark, cracks, splits, thick ivy and root cavities. Locating a tree roost especially when looking from the ground is very difficult; expert advice is needed when planning to fell or prune a tree. Tree work or tree felling in Knepp may be needed for the following reasons:

- A source of timber
- Removal of a dangerous tree near a public footpath or Estate building
- Tree felling or surgery required in order to fulfil objectives such as river restoration, pond work etc.

### Felling for timber

The Forestry Act 1967 Section 9 (3), as amended by the Forestry (Modification of Felling Restrictions) Regulations 1985 - SI 1985 No 1958), provides that;

'felling of trees of licensable size by **any person on land in his occupation or occupied by a tenant of his**, does not require a felling licence provided that the aggregate cubic content of the trees felled by that person does not exceed 5 cubic metres in any calendar quarter; and the cubic content sold does not exceed 2 cubic metres'.

#### For full information visit:

[www.forestry.gov.uk/pdf/treefellingaugust.pdf/\\$FILE/treefellingaugust.pdf](http://www.forestry.gov.uk/pdf/treefellingaugust.pdf/$FILE/treefellingaugust.pdf)

- Trees of 8cm or less in diameter at 1.3m from the ground do NOT need a felling licence from the Forestry Commission.
- **However** the Forestry Commission has a protocol to be followed regarding Protected Species (including all bats) and tree felling.
- More detailed information regarding felling and bats is available from the Forestry Commission website:

[www.forestry.gov.uk/forestry/infd-75tju5](http://www.forestry.gov.uk/forestry/infd-75tju5)

[www.forestry.gov.uk/pdf/england-protectedspecies-bats.pdf/\\$FILE/england-protectedspecies-bats.pdf](http://www.forestry.gov.uk/pdf/england-protectedspecies-bats.pdf/$FILE/england-protectedspecies-bats.pdf)

Some of this information is concerned with finding out if bat roosts are present. Knepp has confirmed bat roosts, and, if thought desirable to fell trees for timber, would need to complete a Forestry Commission checklist before proceeding with felling:

[www.forestry.gov.uk/pdf/eps-checklist-v3.pdf/\\$FILE/eps-checklist-v3.pdf](http://www.forestry.gov.uk/pdf/eps-checklist-v3.pdf/$FILE/eps-checklist-v3.pdf)

## **Bechstein's bats**

As Bechstein's bats have been confirmed as roosting in the south of the Estate, and are highly likely to be breeding in Great Cockshill wood (recorded in 2005) or closely adjacent, further restrictions apply. The information available on the Forestry Commission website does not elucidate these as well as it could. See the **Appendix** for a case study of tree felling on a nearby estate, on and adjacent to which Bechstein's bats were known to be breeding

## **Timber and the Wildland Project.**

From an ecological point of view, although using timber from mature trees on Knepp is undoubtedly sustainable and cost-effective, it is arguably at odds with the ethic of re-wilding, biodiversity conservation and, ultimately, the veteran tree interest. A balance is however possible and, provided appropriate procedures are followed, achievable.

## **Tree felling or tree work for other reasons**

As there are known bat roosts in Knepp trees, tree work or felling for non-timber purposes may still require a licence from Natural England. Tree roosts are covered by the same legislation that covers roosts in non-dwelling buildings and advice in Ch. 3 should be followed.

## **Further information:**

[Bats and the Law \(1 MB\)](#)

A basic introduction to the legal protection of bats in the British Isles.

[Bats and Trees in England \(Specialist Support Series\) \(144 KB\)](#)

This leaflet outlines the legislation which must be taken into account when working on trees.

[Woodland Management for Bats](#)

General information regarding good practice for bats and woodlands, published by the Forestry Commission for England and Wales in partnership with Bat Conservation Trust, Countryside Commission for Wales and English Nature (Natural England).

## 5. Injured or dead bats

*Always wear gloves to handle bats. If you need help, call the Bat Conservation Trust Bat Helpline - 0845 1300 228 or Sussex Bat Group (see Chapter 8)*

Residents, employees and visitors to Knepp are seldom if ever going to come across a dead or injured bat. But it is a possibility, in which case the following advice, issued by the Bat Conservation Trust ([www.bats.org.uk](http://www.bats.org.uk)), should be followed.

### Dead bats.

- Outside: Small, dead creatures are usually swiftly despatched by scavengers of one sort or another. If it has to be moved, follow sensible hygienic methods:- avoid handling, wear gloves or use a spade or trowel, wash hands etc.
- Inside: Removing a dead bat – or any other small dead mammal – from inside a building is far more imperative! Again, follow sensible hygienic methods, wear gloves, use a garden implement if possible, wash hands etc.
- If you find a dead bat please call the BCT Helpline on 0845 1300 228. You will be sent postage-paid packaging so you can send the dead bat to the **Veterinary Laboratories Agency** to check for the rabies virus.

### Injured bats and bats found on the ground

It is normally illegal to keep healthy, flying bats, and a licence is needed to handle them. However, anyone who finds a bat that is ill or injured may take care of it in whatever way is most humane and practical with the objective of its rehabilitation to the wild. There are a number of experienced bat rehabilitators in Sussex (see Ch. 8).

Bats are seldom aggressive but they are wild animals and may be frightened or in pain. A bat found on the ground during daylight hours is likely to be in trouble already. You must take care not to be bitten so wear thick protective gloves and handle the bat as little as possible. Smaller bats such as pipistrelles are unlikely to break the skin of an adult, but the larger bats such as Daubenton's, serotines or noctules certainly will.

As a strain of the rabies virus has been found in a small number of British bats, although the risk is very small, you **must take precautions** to avoid being bitten or scratched. If you have to move an injured, grounded or sick bat:

- Always wear gloves
- Transfer bat to box with air holes but TIGHTLY fitting lid.
- Do not attempt to feed bat
- Provide with a little water – a container such as a jam jar lid is ideal.
- Put a piece of cloth loosely crumpled in one corner of the box. The bat will feel safer if it has something to crawl into and hide.
- Put in a cool, dark place out of reach of young children or cats
- Contact Sussex Bat Group (Ch. 8) or BCT Helpline on 0845 1300 228

## **What should I do if I am bitten by a bat?**

The Bat Conservation Trust believes the chances of catching rabies from any wild animal are increased if no action is taken should you be bitten or scratched. So do the following:

- Wash the wound immediately with soap and water for at least five minutes. Additional cleansing of the wound site with an alcohol base or other disinfectant is also recommended.
- Seek immediate medical advice from your GP, or call the NHS Direct Helpline on 0845 4647.
- Keep the bat as recommended above so it can be collected and assessed by a bat worker. Make sure you avoid getting bitten again by wearing gloves or using a cloth to handle the bat.
- Contact the BCT Bat Helpline on 0845 1300 228, or Sussex Bat Group (contact details Ch. 8) so that the nearest bat worker can collect and identify the bat. If there is no bat worker in your area the bat may need to be taken to a local vet for assistance.
- You must not kill the bat, it is legally protected, and also killing the bat could reduce the chances of testing it properly for infection. The bat worker or vet will need to assess the bat.

## **Bats and Rabies**

Some bats in Europe carry a rabies virus called European Bat Lyssavirus (EBLV). EBLV is not the classical rabies that is usually associated with dogs; classical rabies has never been recorded in a native European bat species.

There are two known strains of EBLV: EBLV1 and EBLV2. In the UK, nine bats have been found with the EBLV2 live virus: eight in England and one in Scotland. All were Daubenton's bats. Three bats have tested positive for EBLV1 antibodies: a serotine in the south of England and two Natterer's bats in Scotland. The presence of antibodies indicates exposure to the virus. The discovery of EBLV in bats in the UK does not affect the UK's rabies free status. The Veterinary Laboratories Agency has tested over 9,000 UK bats since 1986 for EBLV and no other bats have been found with the live virus.

Further active surveillance research by the Department of the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra), the Scottish Executive and Scottish Natural Heritage has taken place. Details can be obtained from the BCT Bat Helpline (0845 1300 228).

## **Can humans catch rabies from bats?**

The risk of catching the virus from a bat is extremely low. As long as you don't handle bats, you do not need to worry about bats and rabies. The rabies virus is passed

on via a bite or scratch from an infected animal, or from its saliva coming into contact with your mucous membranes (your eyes, mouth or nose). If you do need to handle a grounded or injured bat, always wear thick gloves to avoid getting bitten. If you require further advice, you can call the Bat Helpline on 0845 1300 228.

- Passive surveillance of bats for rabies in the UK since 1986 has found only eight bats with the live virus. All have been Daubenton's bats, which tend not to roost in buildings.
- Human contact with bats is very rare, even when they share the same buildings.
- EBLV is transmitted in saliva via a bite from an infectious bat or by its saliva entering a wound or mucous membrane. There is therefore no risk to people if they do not approach or handle a bat.
- Bats are not aggressive, although like any wild animal, they may bite to defend themselves if handled. A bat that appears to be baring its teeth is actually 'scanning' you with its unique method of echolocation.
- There is an effective treatment available from your GP for those exposed to EBLV; this must be administered as soon as possible after exposure.

BCT takes a precautionary approach, advising anyone bitten by a bat to visit his/her GP for medical advice. This advice **must be followed** – although the risk is very low, it is not worth taking, in 2002 a batworker from Scotland died from EBLV.

## **More information about Bats and Rabies**

[Download information on 'Bats & Human Health'](#)

[Full bats and rabies FAQ](#) (Defra website)

[www.defra.gov.uk/vla/](http://www.defra.gov.uk/vla/) Veterinary Laboratories Agency

## 6. Uninvited guests

*Always wear gloves to handle bats. If you need help, call the BCT Bat Helpline - 0845 1300 228; or Sheila Wright 01903 810119 (home) 01903 816298 (work) or mobile 07880 916332; Amanda Millar (01273 833258) or Sue Harris (01798 831647).*

**A bat flying in a room is looking for a way out!** Bats are good at finding their way around in the dark, but despite this, some end up getting trapped inside buildings. This happens most often between mid-July and mid-August when baby bats are learning to fly, and they are inexperienced in using their newly developed echolocation skills. When they are finding their way back to the roost after hunting they may crawl through the wrong gap or through an open window, especially if this window is beneath the roost entrance; they will then find themselves inside the house rather than in the roof. Bats are very small and need only a very small space in order to gain access, and it can be very hard to tell how a bat got in. The simplest solution is to:-

- Enter the room and shut the door
- Draw back the curtains and open all the windows as widely as possible
- Leave the room, putting the light out
- Hopefully after half an hour or so the bat will have found its own way out
- To ensure the bat has gone, look in the folds of curtains and behind picture frames and other places that are high up and where the bat can roost out of the light - but check lower down as well.
- If it does not find its way out it will roost somewhere in the room when it becomes light, and will appear again the following evening at dusk. Contact the numbers given above for help.

***NEVER try to catch a flying bat - you are likely to injure it severely and it may bite in self-defence.***

Sometimes young bats, which are inexperienced flyers, will become exhausted before finding the way out. They may try to land on a wall or curtains, or they may crash land on furniture or the floor. In this case, you should contain the bat (**See Ch.5**) and then release it in the evening.

### Instructions for Release

- If the bat is active and seems uninjured, try to release it at dusk.
- First contact the numbers given above for a local bat rescue person who can assess the bat prior to release, and can help if the bat does not fly away.
- In very cold weather, release bat in nearest frost-free barn.
- Place the box on its side, so the bat can crawl straight out. Bats need to drop and swoop to become airborne so the box should be on the top of a wall or on a shed roof, at least five feet off the ground, as near as possible to where the bat was found and somewhere safe from predators.
- The bat can then crawl out of the box and fly away when it is ready.

If the bat does not fly away within about fifteen minutes it might need further attention.

- If you have not already done so, call the numbers above for a local bat rescue person to help.
- If there is no-one available, take it back inside and take it to the vet the following morning.
- Pass on details of who found the bat, where and in what circumstances it was found.

**If you think it is a baby bat**, keep it contained and seek further advice immediately from:

Bat Conservation Trust Helpline: 0845 1300 228

Sheila Wright (Steyning) 01903 810119 (home) 01903 816298 (work) or mobile 07880 916332.

Amanda Millar (Hurstpierpoint) 01273 833258

Sue Harris (Bignor) 01798 831647

### **Bat hanging on an outside wall**

If the bat is out of the way of passers by and cats, leave it where it is. Sometimes bats do roost in the open air, especially in the mating season during the autumn.

However, if the bat is somewhere where it could be in danger, then you might consider containing it for the day (**See Ch.5**) and releasing it that evening. Bats do sometimes die hanging on walls - their legs are constructed in such a way that they will not lose their grip when they are relaxed - so if it has been there for a number of days call the Bat Helpline on 0845 1300 228 for advice.

## **7. Predict & Provide**

*Knepp already has a thriving bat community and as the Wildland Project progresses, bats are likely to increase in diversity and abundance. This will be a sure sign that the re-wilded environment is healthy – benefiting birds and other wildlife as well as bats.*

### **Implications of increasing bat populations.**

Sustained increases in bat numbers at roosts on or near Knepp should be expected and it would be advisable for Knepp to be ready for this. What must not be overlooked are the effects of bats on people. Not everyone appreciates having uninvited guests.

Such effects include:

- Increasingly large size of nursery colonies in houses and other building on Knepp or in adjacent areas.
- Increasing numbers of bat nursery colonies in houses and other buildings.
- Increasing numbers of tree roosts.
- Effect on remedial work on buildings – see Ch. 3.
- Effect on tree felling and tree surgery – see Chs 3 & 4.

### **Bats in houses**

Most people who have bats breeding in their houses are not even aware of their presence. Some bats roost and breed in open loft spaces, but others use the spaces under hanging tiles, roofing felt or other crevices. Large nursery colonies may cause temporary annoyance because:

- There may be droppings on windows or ledges beneath a roost entry.
- Remedial work and timber treatment or home improvements such as loft extensions may have to be carried out when bats are not breeding or hibernating.

### **Recommendations**

- Be ready to give neighbours / householders contact details of those who can help with bat problems or who have worries about bats (Ch. 8).
- Promote the positive aspects – the presence of bats means that the environment is healthy. Bats also eat many biting insects!
- Consider adapting any existing buildings (possible non-dwellings?) near the known roost of soprano pipistrelles to make them suitable for predicted expansion of this colony.

Bat boxes – It is NOT recommended to put up bat boxes. The Wildland project is about natural processes, and there are sufficient opportunities for tree-roosting species in Knepp's woodlands. Bat boxes tend to favour generalist bat species, and this can affect bat community composition to the disadvantage of more specialist bats.



### **Further information for bat enthusiasts**

- Join the Bat Conservation Trust (Ch. 8) and become part of a national community of bat enthusiasts.
- Find out more about bat-friendly gardening from the Bat Conservation Trust.
- Join the Sussex Bat Group (Ch. 8).

## **8. Useful Contacts**

### **Natural England Southeast Office:**

Phoenix House, 32-33 North Street, Lewes, East Sussex, BN7 2PH  
Tel: 0300 060 0300  
Fax: 0300 060 4097  
Email: [enquiries.southeast@naturalengland.org.uk](mailto:enquiries.southeast@naturalengland.org.uk)

### **Bat Conservation Trust:**

15 Cloisters House  
8 Battersea Park Road  
London SW8 4BG  
United Kingdom  
[www.bats.org.uk](http://www.bats.org.uk)

Office Telephone: 020 7627 2629  
Fax: 020 7627 2628  
Email: [enquiries@bats.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@bats.org.uk)

If you have an urgent query about a bat, please call the Bat Helpline: 0845 1300 228.

### **Sussex Bat Group:**

Sussex Bat Group is a Registered Charity affiliated to the Bat Conservation Trust.  
[www.sussexbatgroup.pchweb.co.uk/](http://www.sussexbatgroup.pchweb.co.uk/)

### **Bat rescue and rehabilitators near Knepp:**

Sheila Wright (Steyning) 01903 810119 (home) 01903 816298 (work) or mobile 07880 916332.

Amanda Millar (Hurstpierpoint) 01273 833258

Sue Harris (Bignor) 01798 831647