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Development of good practice guidelines for woodland management for bats

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Introduction

This review was commissioned by The Bat Conservation Trust, the Countryside Council for Wales, English Nature, the Forestry Commission (England) and the Forestry Commission (Wales) as preparatory work for the production of good practice guidelines for woodland management for bats. The review provides much of the scientific background and justification for the guidelines.

What was done

The authors, who are based in Germany, were commissioned to review the current state of knowledge on the biology and ecology of Central European bat species in woodland. The work is based on an extensive evaluation of the literature in addition to unpublished secondary sources, including the authors' own experience.

Results and conclusions

This extensive review of the relationship between bats and forests illustrates the varying way in which bats use trees for roosting and the importance of understanding the ecology of each species when determining appropriate conservation actions. The importance of damaged trees with cracks, crevices and woodpecker holes is emphasised, as these provide the majority of roosting places for bats.

English Nature's viewpoint

This is an important review, making much of the European literature accessible to an English-speaking audience. It provides the scientific basis for the recently developed good practice guidelines on woodland management for bats, which are being published and promoted by the organisations that commissioned this review.

Selected references

This is a literature review containing an extensive bibliography.

Further information

For the full report or other publications on this subject, please contact the Enquiry Service on 01733 455100/101/102 or email enquiries@english-nature.org.uk

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