

## Roosting sites of British bats

Bats, particularly males, may be found in winter type roosts during the summer.

Species	Summer roosts	Winter roosts
Greater Horseshoe	Nursery colonies in large undisturbed roof spaces with access points that allow them to fly directly into the roosting area. Prefer sites with a large range of ambient temperatures. Colonies can number several hundred bats. Maternity colony size up to 200 (rarely up to 600)	Caves, mines, cellars. Hangs, usually high up, in open positions. Wings wrapped around body.
Lesser Horseshoe	As Greater Horseshoe. Maternity colony size usually 30-70 but can be up to 200.	As Greater Horseshoe
Bechstein's bat	Tree holes (prefers old trees with dead branches), bat boxes, rarely houses. Only three known colonies in Britain in all of the above. Maternity colony size 20-50 but can be up to 200.	Caves and tunnels usually in an exposed position Probably also in trees
Natterer's bat	In timber joints of buildings, in stone walls of buildings (churches, barns etc.). Trees and bat boxes. Often a large proportion of males (up to 25%) in nursery roosts. Maternity colony size up to 200.	Usually in underground sites (caves, mines, tunnels, ice houses etc.) often tucked away in tight crevices in unnatural positions (lying on back or resting on head). Usually in colder areas.
Daubenton's bat	Tree holes, crevices in tunnels or bridges, buildings (especially those built of stone). Often a large proportion of males (up to 25%) in nursery roosts. Maternity colony size 20-50 but can be up to 200.	Underground sites (caves, mines, tunnels, ice houses etc.). May be tucked away in a tight crevice or in exposed position.
Whiskered Brandt's bat	Mainly in roof voids, often hanging from ridge board or under ridge tile. Tree holes and bat boxes also used. Maternity colony size 30-70 but can be up to 200.	Underground sites (caves, mines, tunnels, ice houses etc.). Hangs in the open or against walls. Rarely found in crevices.
Serotine	A very building orientated species. Often found in older buildings with crevices and cavities. Often bats are not visible in the roost but may sometimes be found in the open roof void. Maternity colony size 15-30 but can be up to 60.	Very rarely found in winter. Occasional records from roof spaces and cavity walls.

<b>Species</b>	<b>Summer roosts</b>	<b>Winter roosts</b>
Noctule	Almost exclusively in tree holes. Occasionally bat boxes and rarely buildings. Maternity colony size 15-50, occasionally up to 100.	Not often found in winter but known to use tree holes. Migratory.
Leisler's bat	In tree holes, bat boxes and buildings. Maternity colony size 20-50, very large colonies of up to 1000 reported from Ireland.	Little is known but tree holes are probably used. Migratory.
Common Pipistrelle (45kHz)	Usually in tight crevices on the side of houses. Soffits are often used usually accessed via small gaps at the gable apex. Behind hanging tiles or timber cladding. Occasionally inside the roof space but usually in a very limited area against wall below gable apex or low down at the eaves. Also in tree holes and bat boxes. Maternity colony size can be up to 200 but often smaller.	Rarely found in winter. May roost in cavity walls. In cracks in stone walls or around timbers in old buildings, churches etc. Sometimes found around window frames and various other crevices on buildings. Very rarely found in underground sites.
Soprano Pipistrelle (55kHz)	Similar to Common Pipistrelle but may form much larger colonies of up to 1000 bats.	As Common Pipistrelle
Nathusius' Pipistrelle	In Europe nearly all roosts are in trees. The few known British roosts are all in buildings. Also in bat boxes and crevices in wooden structures.	Tree holes, crevices in cliffs and walls and occasionally in caves. Migratory.
Brown Long-eared	Usually found in large open roof spaces. May form tight clusters or may roost individually. Often roost out of site above ridgeboard or under roof felt. Also uses trees and bat boxes. Often a high proportion of males within nursery roosts. Maternity colony size 10-50 but may be up to 100.	Often found hanging free in underground sites but will also hibernate in tight crevices. Usually chooses very cold sites. May stay in summer site if conditions allow.
Grey Long-eared	Similar to Brown Long-eared but little known	Similar to Brown Long-eared but little known
Barbastelle	Usually in crevices and cracks of dying or storm damaged deciduous trees. Also in buildings. Maternity colony size 10-20 but rarely up to 100.	Underground sites (caves, mines, tunnels, ice houses etc.). Tree holes or behind loose bark. Usually in colder parts of the site.