

Bats in the Belfry

(or anywhere else)

Bats: a source of contention

Bats are a source of great contention.

On the one hand, they are protected under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981, and Churches are regarded by Natural England (formerly English Nature) as a suitable habitat for them.

On the other hand, there is a *Movement Against Bats in Churches*, with whom English Heritage are in sympathy, because of the potential damage to furnishings, etc.

This is a national problem and one which national authorities must resolve.

If in the meantime bats are creating problems in your Church, please let your Archdeacon know.

Useful sources of information:

Agreement on the Conservation of European Bats (EUROBATS)
www.defra.gov.uk/wildlife-countryside/gwd/exotic/cms.htm#3
www.eurobats.org

New Conservation Regulations 21 August 2007
www.naturalengland.org.uk/conservation/wildlife-managementlicensing/habsregs.htm

Bats, Buildings and Barn Owls
A guide to safeguarding protected species when renovating traditional buildings (pdf document)
www.english-nature.org.uk/About/teams/team_photo/BatsBarnOwls.pdf

Bats in Churches
Guidelines for the identification, assessment and management of bat-related damage to church contents (pdf document)
www.english-heritage.org.uk (type 'bats' in the search box)

