



Appendix 2C



Appendix 2C– Habitat of Bat Species in Ireland

Table 2-9: General/Preferred Foraging and Commuting Habitats of Bat Species Returned by the Data Search

Species	Foraging and Commuting Habitat	Roosting Preferences
Common pipistrelle (<i>Pipistrellus pipistrellus</i>)	Shows a preference for deciduous woodland but a generalist using a wide range of habitats.	<p>Maternity colonies are found mainly in buildings, usually roosting out of sight in crevices. Colonies may use a number of sites through the summer but are often loyal to the same sites for many years. Maternity colonies are extremely variable in terms of numbers, from 20 to over 1,000 bats.</p> <p>Males roost singly or in small groups in the summer, in buildings or trees. Bat boxes are used by both males and females but generally only males use them in the summer.</p> <p>These species do not use underground sites for hibernation but are sometimes found in the cracks and crevices of buildings in the winter.</p>
Soprano pipistrelle (<i>Pipistrellus pygmaeus</i>)	Tends to select riparian habitats over other habitat types available.	
Nathusius' pipistrelle (<i>Pipistrelle nathusii</i>)	Riparian habitats, broadleaved and mixed woodland and parkland, occasionally found in farmland but always near water. Found over lakes and rivers.	The very few known Irish roosts are in buildings, with hibernation roosts in hollow trees and crevices in cliffs, walls and caves.
Leisler's bat (<i>Nyctalus leisleri</i>)	Recorded foraging in woodland edges, scrub or woodland-lined roads and over pasture. Also recorded over drainage canals, lakes and coniferous forests. Recorded as selecting parkland/amenity grasslands, deciduous woodland edge and river/canals but avoiding improved grassland.	<p>Roosts in trees, bat boxes and buildings such as houses; for example around the gable end of lofts, under tiles, under soffit boards and in disused chimneys. Often uses a variety of sites in the summer.</p> <p>Hibernates in holes, buildings and sometimes in caves and tunnels.</p>

<p>Brown long-eared bat (<i>Plecotus auritus</i>)</p>	<p>Strongly associated with tree cover, prefers woodland with cluttered understory, including native species, particularly deciduous. Also forages in mixed woodland edge and among conifers. Use of hedgerows increase through the active season.</p>	<p>Maternity roosts found in the voids of large, old buildings and bat boxes in woodland. Usually roosts against wooden beams at the roof apex in attics or farm buildings. Bats often cluster at the highest part of the roof and require enough space for unobstructed, internal flight. Shows high roost fidelity.</p> <p>Common uses feeding perches and night roosts in porches or outbuildings separate from the main roost.</p> <p>Hibernate in underground sites, trees holes and buildings.</p>
<p>Whiskered bat (<i>Myotis mystacinus</i>)</p>	<p>Whiskered bats use mixed woodland, riparian vegetation, arable and rough grassland habitats although select the first two as core foraging habitats. One study found that whiskered bat selected pasture with hedgerows for foraging. A German study showed that whiskered bats favour areas near rivers and more open habitats with hedges and coppices.</p>	<p>Can roost in trees and a wide range of buildings in the summer.</p> <p>Hibernates in caves or other underground sites, where they can be found in the open or in cracks and crevices.</p>
<p>Natterer's bat (<i>Myotis nattereri</i>)</p>	<p>Preferred foraging habitat is semi-natural broad-leaved woodland, tree-lined river corridors and ponds, but also uses grassland. Avoids dense coniferous plantation. An autumn study revealed that the species use woodland and mixed agricultural areas.</p>	<p>Roost sites include tree holes and different types of buildings but has also been found in bridges. Usually roost in attics between late May and mid-July and often roosts have enough space for internal flights. This species also breeds in bat boxes.</p> <p>Timber-framed barns built between 12th and 19th centuries may be particularly important to this species, with roosts found in mortise joints in both summer and winter.</p>

		Hibernates in cracks and crevices in caves and mines. Other hibernations sites recorded are canal and railway tunnels, ice houses and tree cavities.
Daubenton's bat (<i>Myotis daubentonii</i>)	Preferred foraging habitat is over water; this species favours riverine habitats but is also known to forage in woodland.	Roosts are found in hollow trees, bridges or sometimes buildings generally close to water. Nursery roosts are not exclusively female – males make up 25% or more of the colony and large male-only colonies have also been recorded. Hibernation sites are usually underground including caves, mines and suitable tunnels where bats are found both in crevices and on open walls. They may also hibernate in tree cavities.
Lesser horseshoe bat (<i>Rhinolophus hipposideros</i>)	Preferred foraging habitats include broad-leaved woodland well connected by commuting routes such as hedge, woodland edge and riparian trees. This species has also been recorded in coniferous woodland. Probably reluctant to cross open space as recorded very low (less than 1m) in open habitats. This species can remain active during the hibernation periods.	Roost sites include attics, chimneys and boiler rooms of buildings, rural houses and out buildings in the summer, and cellars, tunnels, disused mines and caves for hibernation. Also found in industrial buildings. This species prefers to fly directly into roost sites and into their roosting position.



An Origin Enterprises Company

GLASGOW - HEAD OFFICE

Wright Business Centre, 1 Lonmay Road,
Glasgow, G33 4EL
T: 0141 773 6262

NORTHERN IRELAND OFFICE

83-85 Bridge Street, Ballymena, Co. Antrim,
Northern Ireland, BT43 5EN
T: 0282 565 04 13

BRISTOL OFFICE

Spaces 8th Floor
The Programme Building
The Pithay
Bristol, BS1 2NB
T: 0282 565 04 13

DUBLIN OFFICE

C/O Origin Enterprises PLC
4-6 Riverwalk,
Citywest Business Campus
Dublin 24, D24 DCW0
T: 00 353 (1) 5634900

RUGBY OFFICE

Valiant Office Suites
Lumonics House, Valley Drive,
Swift Valley, Rugby,
Warwickshire, CV21 1TQ
T: 01788 297012

WARRINGTON OFFICE

Lakeview 600, Lakeside Drive
Centre Park Square
Warrington
WA1 1RW
T: 01925 984 682