



Roostwatch.je



Looking for roosts

Roostwatch JE is a scheme to find the places bats use to rest in Jersey so that we can better understand these fascinating creatures and to assist with future research.



The scheme looks for the signs of bat resting spaces and encourages you to look at buildings and trees at dusk to see if any bats can be seen emerging from these spaces.

To help you see bats at dusk, this guide provides some examples of the signs to look for and spaces bats are known to use.

Bats and their resting places are protected by law, so look for the signs of bat roosts and watch them emerge from a distance rather than looking for bats within a roost. If you are in a loft space or barn and see a bat, withdraw quietly leaving them to rest .

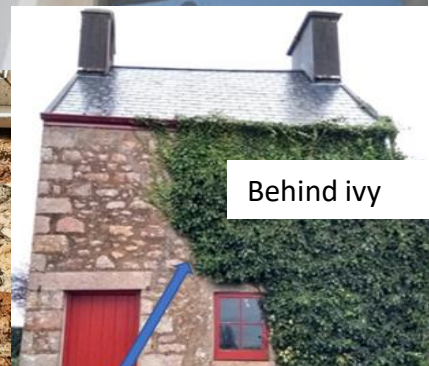
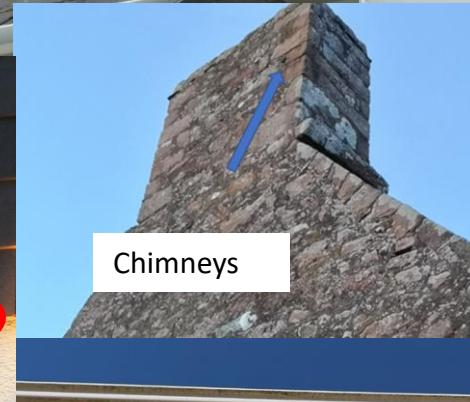
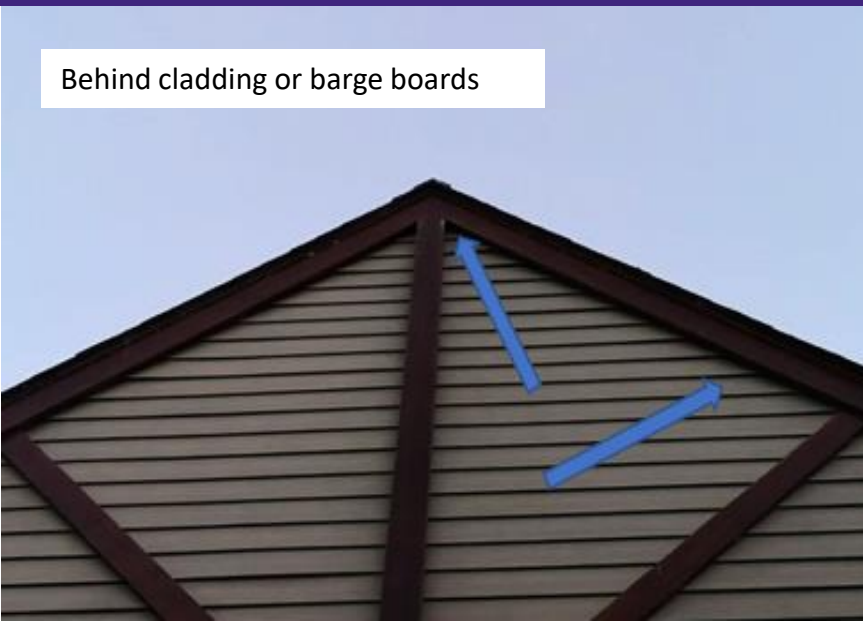
Bat Roosting sites

Bats need to find safe dark spaces to rest, unlike birds and rodents they don't make nests but use existing cracks and crevices. They find these spaces in a wide variety of places from buildings to trees and underground places such as caves and bunkers.

Where to look - Buildings

Look for places with small gaps as bats only need a gap of a few centimetres to hide away in.

There are many places on buildings new and old that might be used by bats, the following are just a few examples.



Where to look - Trees

Bats can use a variety of features on trees in which to roost. These include holes such as woodpecker holes and rot holes, cracks in branches that have split or even just behind ivy or lifted bark.

These roosts are difficult to find, and bats often switch between these roosts, so may not roost in the same place every day.



A good way to see if bats are roosting in a tree is to watch the tree at dusk or dawn and look out for bats flying in or out of a hole.

What to look for - Droppings

Bats often leave droppings as they exit or return to their roost, so these are a great way to look for signs of a roost. Bat droppings are similar to other small mammal dropping like those of mice and shrews however they are made of insects remains and will easily crumble and sometimes have a slightly sparkly appearance when crumbled. Mouse droppings are usually very hard and do not crumble.

Outside, look for droppings on walls, windowsills and on the ground under a suspected roost site



Inside an outbuilding, barn or attic look on the ground or on other surfaces and on the walls or beams below potential bat resting places.

