

BATS IN CHURCHES



St Moran, Lamorran, Cornwall

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The remote church of St Moran stands by Lamorran Creek on the Fal.

The church shelters several bat roosts: Greater Horseshoe bats in the detached bell tower; Lesser horseshoe Bats in the base of the tower and south porch; Common and Soprano pipistrelles and a maternity roost of Brown Long-eared bats in the church.

The Brown Long-eared bats were able to enter the nave from their roost in the roof

void and flew around the church.

The impact of their urine and faeces was so severe that the church unofficially closed in 2014. The cleaning overwhelmed the small community and the fixtures and fittings were deteriorating.

The church re-opened for worship in January 2023, the Parochial Church Council (PCC) working with the Bats in Churches project. Firstly, the project commissioned a detailed bat survey from Burton Reid Associates, which identified exactly how bats were using the church

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Historic England



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The PCC, Burton Reid Ecology, the church architect Robert Shaw and the project worked together to devise a way of separating the bat impacts from the church interior. The solution was an ingenious modification of a historic building. False ceilings were built into the transepts to provide two large dedicated bat lofts. These allow the Brown Long-eared bats to access to their existing roosts from the outside and provide them with an enclosed space to fly around that does not allow access into the nave.

Monitoring has shown that although the brown long-eared bats initially moved into the porch, they are now exploring and using their new roosts.

The church furniture has been conserved and cleaned, lintels replaced, leadwork repaired, tiles conserved, and new lighting fitted.

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