

BATS IN CHURCHES



The Blessed Virgin Mary NEMPNETT THRUBWELL Somerset

The Issue

A large maternity colony of more than 600 Soprano Pipistrelles roosts in the nave roof void. The bats access the church interior via holes in the ceiling. In the summer the smell can be overpowering, with droppings and urine scattered throughout the nave and chancel.



What We Did

Following a VBRV visit Natural England gave permission to close the access holes, preventing the bats from getting into the church but retaining the colony in the roof void. This work was completed in February 2021 but it has not been successful as bats are still finding their way into the church.

The project provided cleaning support and a deep clean was carried out in October 2022 by members of the local bat group.

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Historic England

