

Before you start

Don't try to stare at bat and get an image of it in your mind in the hope of being able to recall all features, even if photographing bat the type of light used, angle and position of bat can all combine to confound you. Have a set of basic questions you can ask yourself so you can quickly eliminate species and hone in on others.

A good place to start is the bat free hanging or in crevice?

If free hanging = horseshoe bats plum sized or pear sized. (Very occasionally you will see free hanging long eared bats). Also remember Berkshire, Hampshire and Surrey it would be very unusual to see a horseshoe bat so this is your least likely option.

If the bat is not free hanging or is in a crevice - now think about **size**.

4 fingers = big bats (serotine, noctule and leisler's) – not often found in hibernation sites, so, much less likely. These three species could be distinguished on size and shape of tragus.

Now it gets interesting!

Medium sized – **about 3 fingers** – most myotis, barb and Plecotus also Nathusius pip

Small – **about 2 fingers** – smaller myotis and pipistrelles.

Checklist to run through:

- Length and shape of ears
- Colour of face, ears and membrane and is colour uniform or vary across the ear
- Length and colour of fir
- Tragus length and shape

Bechstein's

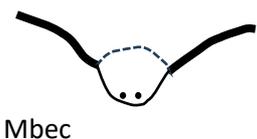


Photo Daan Dekeukeleire



In Bech, the space between the ears is smaller than the width of the ear.

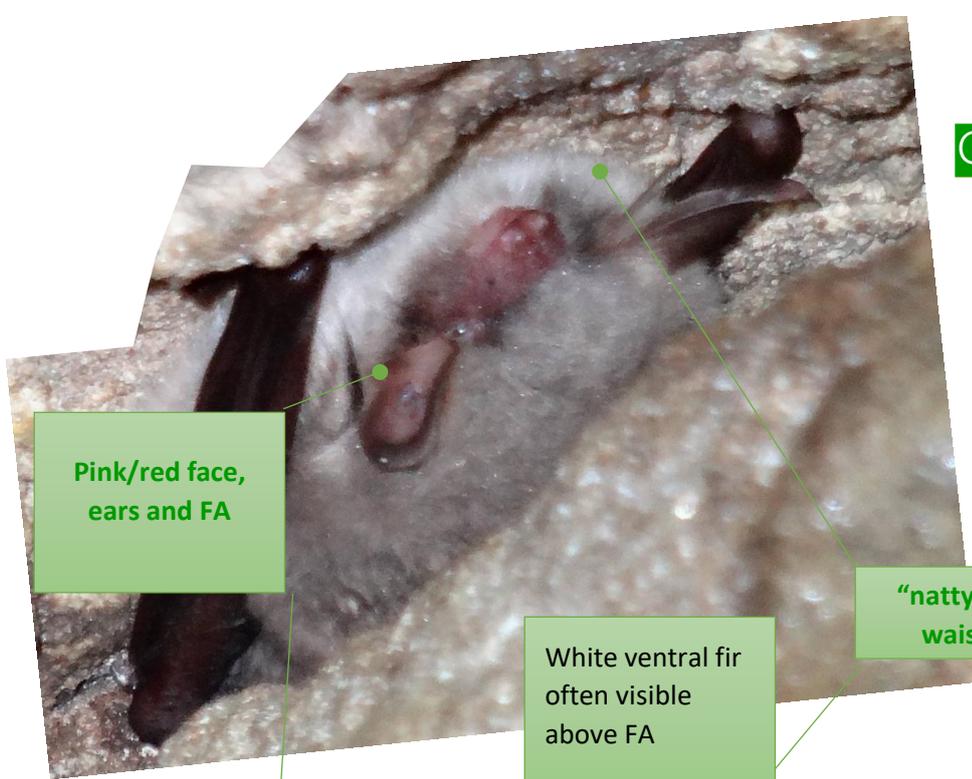
In red the Natterer's, in grey the Bech.



Note shape of hairline and compare with Myo Myo



Natterer's



Pink/red face, ears and FA

"natty" white waistcoat

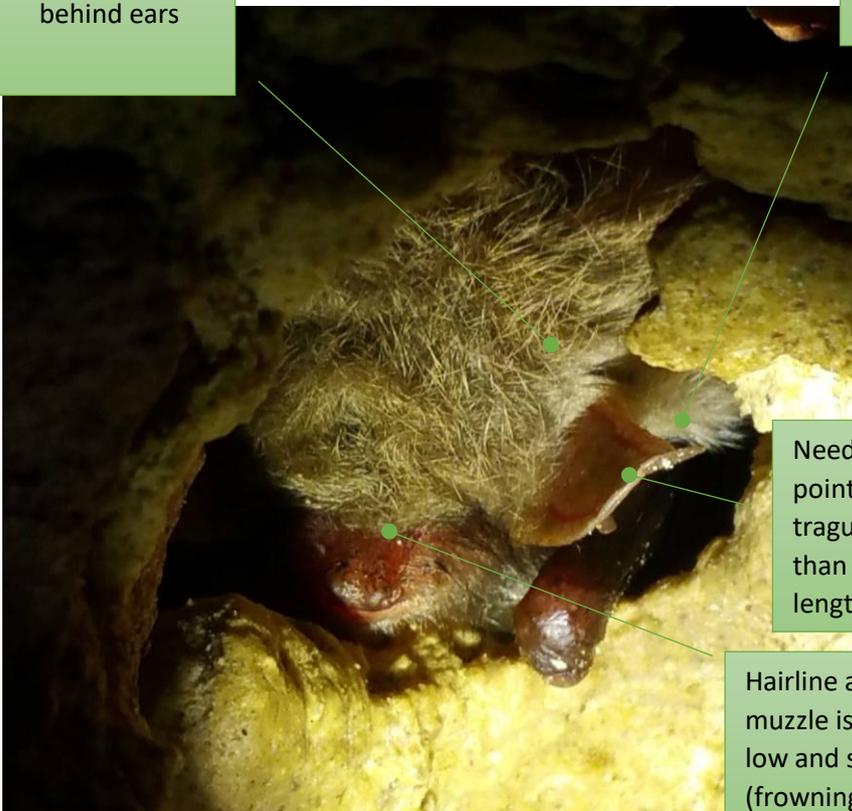
White ventral fur often visible above FA

Ears widely spaced.



Long ears which come past end of nose with re-curved tip.

Light patched behind ears



Needle pointed tragus, more than 1/2 length of ear

Hairline above muzzle is more low and straight (frowning)



Daubenton's



Chocolate, brown ears and FA and nose.

Dirty white belly

Pinkey bare face and muzzle especially around eyes but nose brown.



Hairs on large feet extend beyond claw



Short & thick fur

Short, thick/fleshy ears

Neat and rounded appearance

Blunt tragus

When viewed from below ears & muzzle form angle of $>90^\circ$



Small Myotis (whiskered, Brandt's and Alcatheo)



Small bats with shaggy fur

Black or dark brown ears, nose and membranes

Longish, pointed ears

When viewed from below ears & muzzle form angle of 90°



Brown long-eared



BLE in crevice
bottom of hole is
floor of
hibernacula



Mostly hangs with 2 sides of
body touching substrate. But
also in crevices at all heights



Often ears
tucked under



Often wrists close
together in front of
face

Characteristic "C"
shaped nostrils



Tragus projecting forwards

Barbastelle

Small dark bat, often well back in crevice



Distinctive muzzle shape

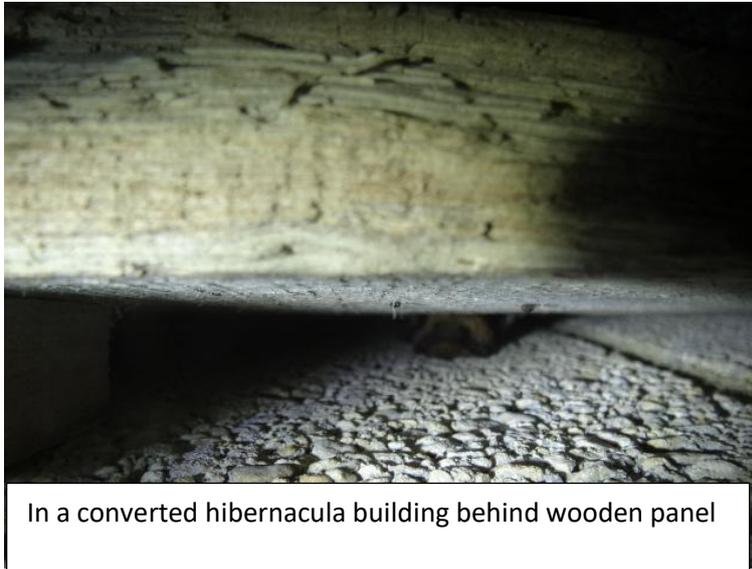
Distinctive tragus shape

Black face and ears

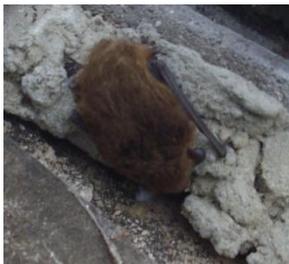


Pipistrelles

Not often found underground, if found tend to be near entrance. More common bat boxes and buildings. Very small, dark membranes, variable fur colour. Look for contrast between fur and membranes to distinguish common and soprano. N.B. Nathusius' not recorded hibernating in UK but could be distinguished by size and face shape.



In a converted hibernaculum building behind wooden panel

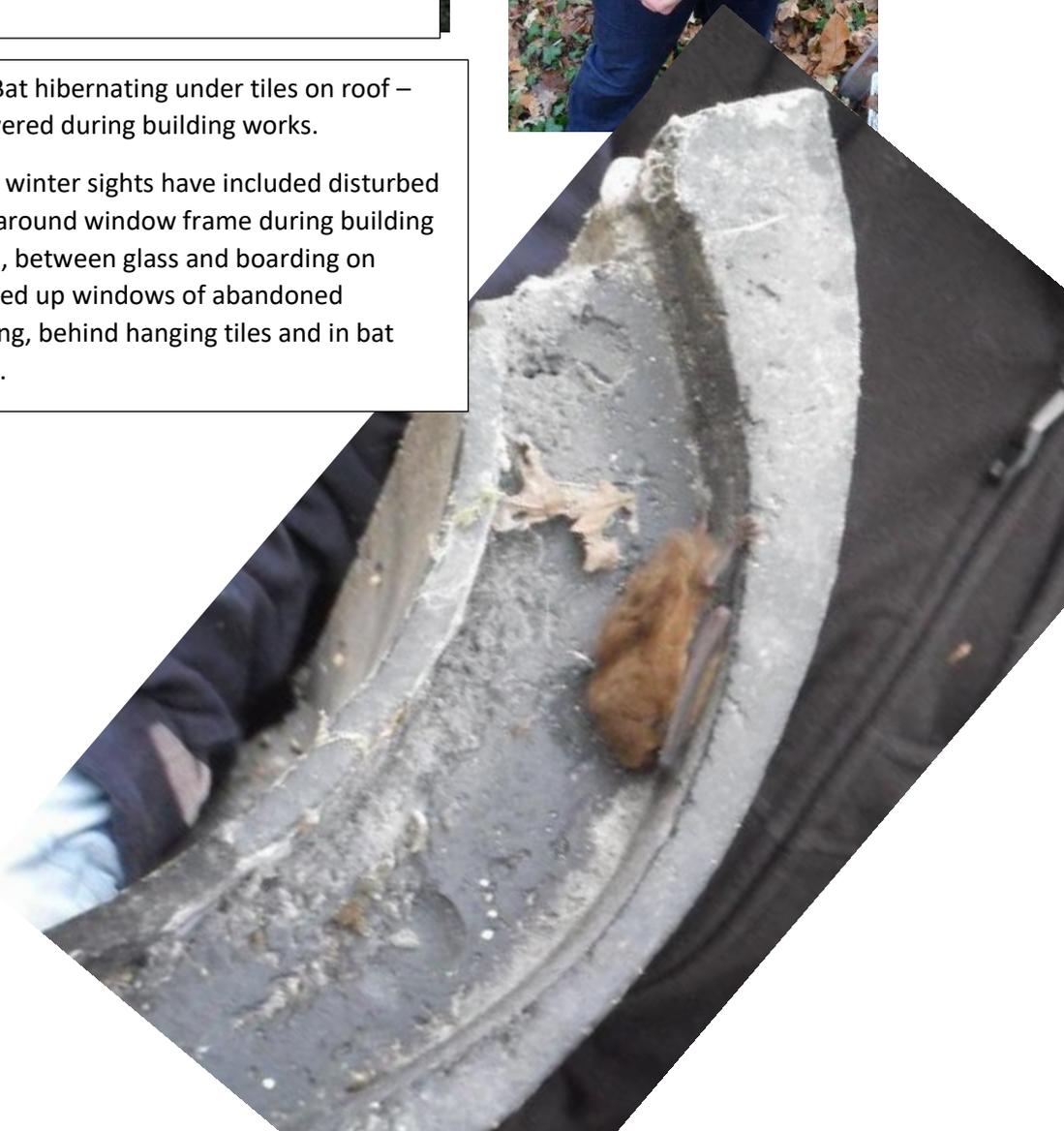


Left. Bat hibernating under tiles on roof – uncovered during building works.

Other winter sights have included disturbed from around window frame during building works, between glass and boarding on boarded up windows of abandoned building, behind hanging tiles and in bat boxes.

In Europe large winter roosts have been discovered in large buildings in urban areas. With estimated numbers between 150 and 1500 bats.

Buildings with large expanses of brick or concrete, typically buildings from 1960's to 1980's not necessarily in typical optimum bat habitat.



Greater Horseshoe

Winter ID: Wings not fully around bat. Hang freely from the roof with  found either singly or in dense groups of up to 300 individuals with immature adults. Adult  tend to be solitary in winter.

Lesser Horseshoe

Winter ID: Hang together but **clusters do not occur**. Wings wrap fully around bat. Hanging freely high above the ground, occasionally found in lower crevices.

Greater mouse eared

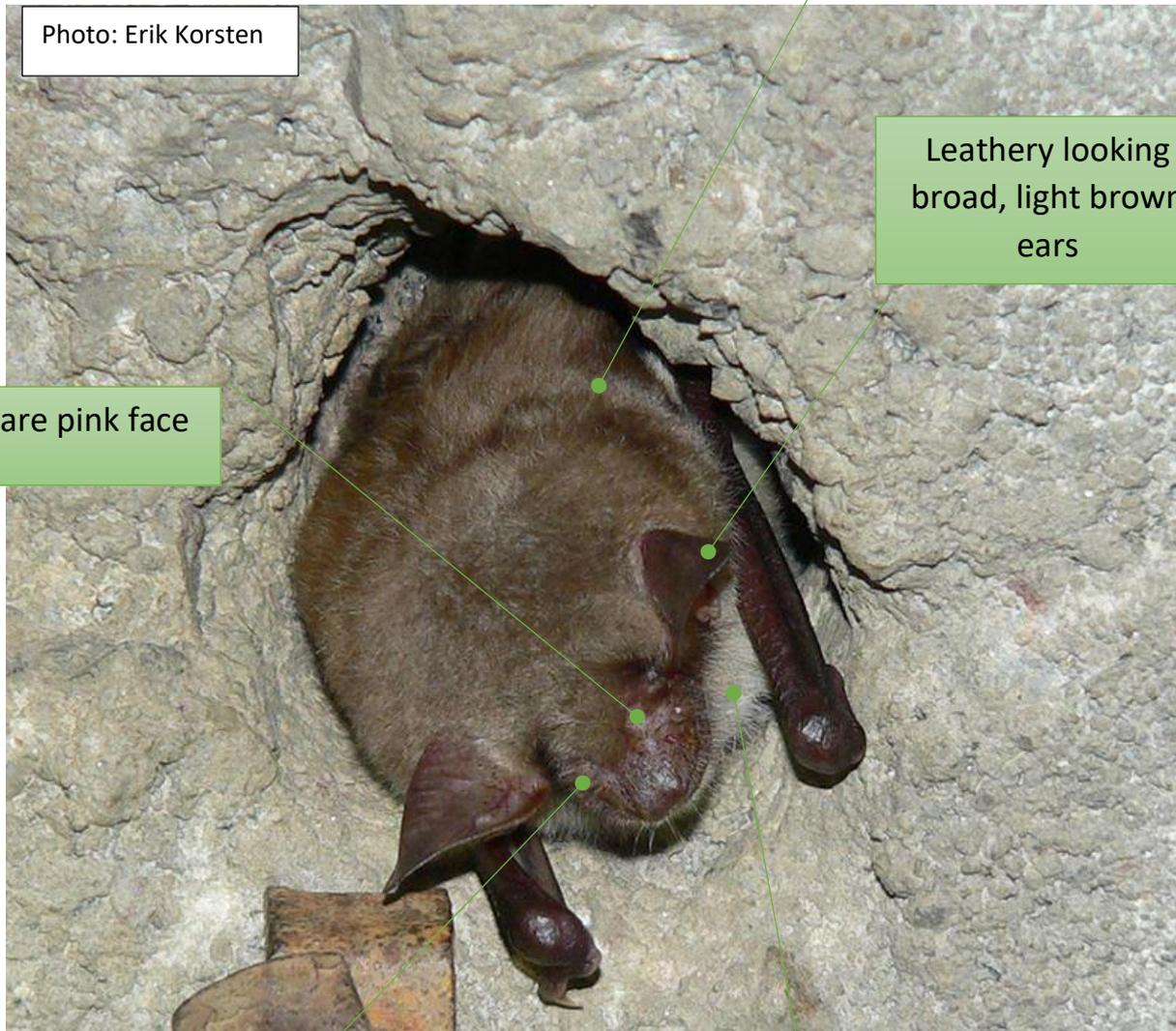


Photo: Erik Korsten

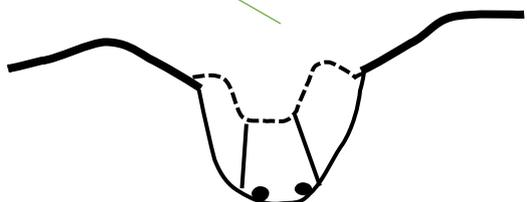
Bigger bat

Leathery looking broad, light brown ears

Bare pink face

Wavy hairline

Brown dorsal fur and grey white ventral fur.



Geoffroy's bat

Ear notch

Photo Edward Bell



Long, woolly fur. Tri coloured, grey at base, beige in middle and red at tip

Ears bumpy like orange peel

The fur parts in neat lines across the front

Photo Edward Bell



Pointed nose