

# BAT TRAIL-7

## Chudleigh Town and Countryside

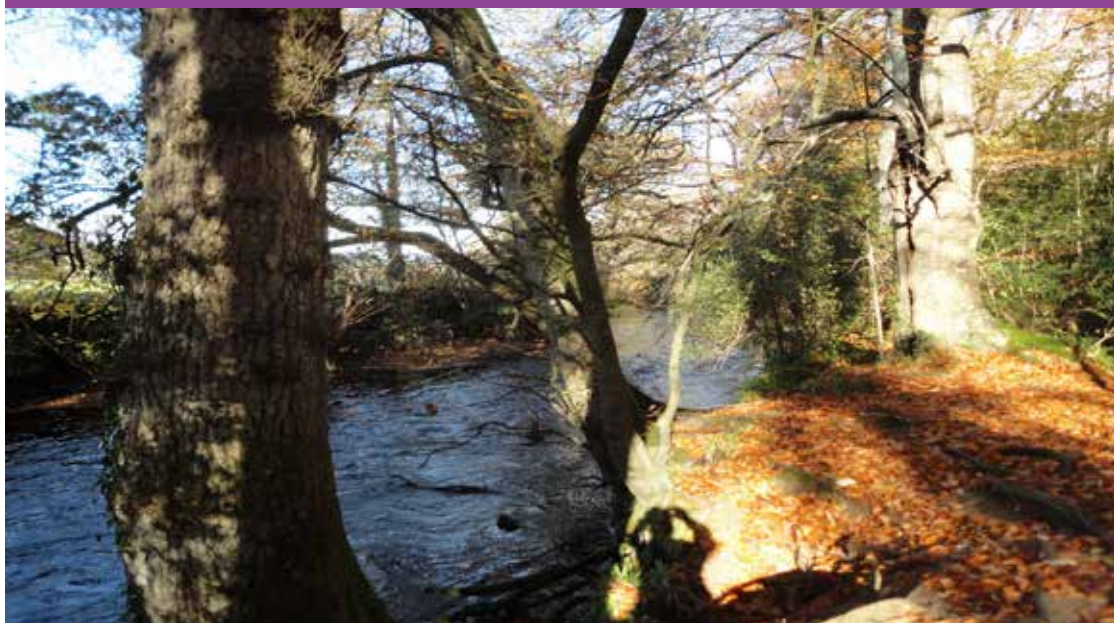


Photo: Woodland by River Teign

Chudleigh is an ancient town on a limestone ridge, meaning that the landscape is riddled with caves and old quarries. Lanes and footpaths crisscross the rich countryside which is a Special Area of Conservation for greater horseshoe bats. Limestone caves and woodland provide a great place for bats to live. During the walk, you will find out more about why these areas are so important.

Bats eat insects and are Britain's only flying mammal. Of the 18 species of bat in this country, the greater horseshoe bat is one of our larger and rarer species. As bats are nocturnal, it is very

unusual to see them during the day, but this walk will take you through some of their favoured habitat. Evening walks in and around Chudleigh may reward you with glimpses of common pipistrelles as well as many other species, including the greater horseshoe bat.

This bat trail leads you west from the Town Hall in the central Square, past cafes and pubs down Fore Street, passing close to the greater horseshoe bat roost.

DEVON  
GREATER  
HORSESHOE  
BAT PROJECT



### ROUTE INFO

|  |   |
|--|---|
| <b>Start:</b>                              | Chudleigh Town Car Park<br>50p per hour, £3 over 5 hours  |
| <b>Distance and timings:</b>               | 4.5 miles (approximately 3 hours)   |
| <b>Circular Walk:</b>                      | Yes   |
| <b>Terrain &amp; Description of paths</b>  | Road and footpaths across fields and through woods. Moderate grade difficulty. Not wheelchair or pushchair friendly |
| <b>Obstacles and Gradients:</b>            | Muddy with some slippery rock, not very steep   |
| <b>Public Transport:</b>                   | No.39 and 182 buses   |
| <b>Toilets:</b>                            | Near car park/ Town Hall  |
| <b>Refreshment &amp; Other Facilities:</b> | Variety of cafés and pubs in Chudleigh  |
| <b>OS Map:</b>                             | Explorer OL44; Landranger 191 and 192   |
| <b>Grid Reference and postcode:</b>        | SX 868 796  |



Photo: Woodland walk



Photo: Phil Richardson



Photo: Frank Greenaway



Photo: Kissing gate to field

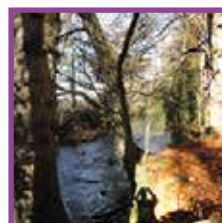


Photo: Woodland by River Teign



**Devon**  
Wildlife Trust



Supported by  
**The National Lottery**  
through the Heritage Lottery Fund





## DIRECTIONS

- 1** Turn right from car park, in front of Co-op, and then right onto Fore Street, continuing past the church. Turn right down Oldway and continue for quarter of a mile. Just after Lower Trindle Close turn left through a hand gate into the Devon Wildlife Trust bat field. This field is great for bats, they can navigate using the hedges and feed on the insects – particularly dung beetles on the cow pats! At the top of the field is a double hedge to provide a sheltered flyway. Return to the road.
- 2** Cross the road taking the lane downhill and under the A38. Bats fly under the A38 to the upper parts of the Teign valley for foraging, travelling along hedgerows and woodland edges. A lot of the land is permanent pasture, which is really important for greater horseshoe bats who rely on cattle to provide the right conditions for their insect food.
- 3** Turn right onto the path through the woods beside the River Teign. Part way along you will see a ruined farm building where you can take the lower or upper path, and will come out onto Teign Lane. Churches and old buildings can be perfect roosts for many bat species. Greater horseshoe bats need to be able to fly straight into their roost and hang upside down, meaning that they can't roost in trees or bat boxes. But churches, barns, caves and mines make great homes for them, making Devon perfect for greater horseshoe bats.
- 4** Turn right up the hill through the woods with wild cherries and old oaks. When you reach the top of the hill turn right on the road and cross over the A38 on the bridge. Shortly after take the footpath on the right and go across the field to Highlands Park, or if you wish you can go straight down

Woodway and turn right at the bottom in front of the Town hall and return to the car park now.

- 5** If you wish to continue cross the road at the end of Highlands Park on to Colway Lane. Cross the main road on to a tarmacked footpath towards the cricket field. The fields beyond the cricket field are mixed arable and permanent pasture grazed by cattle so there are good supplies of cockchafer in May, and dung beetles, both food for greater horseshoe bats.
- 6** Cross the leat bridge and turn left on the footpath that runs alongside the leat. This footpath leads across the fields, across a footbridge over the Kate Brook and on to Hams Barton. At the road turn right to return to Chudleigh. Streams like this are really important for greater horseshoe bats, who will fly low over them, using them to navigate through the valley.
- 7** At the junction turn right again, continuing until you see a footpath sign straight ahead, take this path through Millstream Meadow and past an orchard – an important habitat for greater horseshoe bats which use the trees to navigate and access all the grassland to hunt for insects. Take the second footbridge on the right, cross the road, turn left past the waterwheel then turn right up Clifford street, carry on up to Conduit square and cross the square to the Town Hall and car park.