

How to cater for species with differing needs

In using this toolkit, you will be provided with summary information and fact sheets about wildlife found in your woodland area. Each of these species will have particular needs and requirements. Some of these requirements may overlap and some may be conflicting.

Below is an example to help demonstrate how seemingly conflicting advice can inform a woodland management regime.

Example

The toolkit output could tell you that there are opportunities within your woodland to improve the habitat for both bats and butterflies. The bat species may require older trees and dead wood for roosting habitat. The butterfly species may require more open areas and worked coppice which allows more light onto the forest floor, providing the butterflies with the plants they need to survive. This is potentially conflicting advice when taken in isolation or if you are considering the woodland as one unit.

In practice there are ways of benefiting both species. This may be across a holding (or Forest Management Unit) where different areas of woodland could be managed to target different species requirements. It could also be achieved within the same area (sub-compartment) of woodland. In the map below you can see how two distinct woodland areas within a woodland holding are being managed differently. One area is being managed as a coppice area with open space which is good for butterfly habitat. The other area is being managed as high forest and is near a river and could provide suitable habitat for bats. It may also be possible to create bat habitat within the coppice area by preserving or creating standing dead wood.

