



BATS In the



Water, Mills & Marshes, The Broads Landscape Partnership Scheme, has been hard at work since 2018 restoring and preserving several of the iconic drainage mills of the Broads. With support from the National Lottery Heritage Fund we are working closely with local millwrights, trusts and partner organisations to restore these nationally important heritage buildings in this the UK's most important wetland. Now obsolete, the drainage windmills of the Broads stand as silent sentinels of a bygone era when wind power, manual labour and clever engineering kept the Broads Landscape, much of which is below sea-level, from flooding.



6 Mile House Mill on the River Bure near Great Yarmouth, Feb. 2021

While the focus of our work is to restore the windmills so that they will continue to stand in the landscape for generations to come, we are also making enhancements to the structures to provide habitat for numerous invertebrates, birds, reptiles, and bats. Using the recently restored 6 Mile House drainage mill on the River Bure as an example you can see just how we are now providing a home for the many different species of bats found in the Broads. The brick tower mills, so common along our rivers and in the Marshes, provide a perfect roosting space for bats. Apart from local church towers, the mills are some of the tallest features in the area. We take care to ensure that these important flying mammals are able to easily enter into the mill through special gaps in the reglazed windows and around the mill cap. We have been busy installing internal crevice boxes on the upper floors of the mills, adding special material to exposed beams and leaving small cracks and crevices in the brickwork where we can. All these places give the bats lots of places to "hang out!" We are also installing special bat boxes and bat-bricks outside of the mills to allow for even more places to roost.



High's Mill on the Halvergate Marshes nearly complete with its restoration Sept. 2021



We've been adapting our glazing to incorporate small ledges and gaps for a bat colony to safely enter and leave a mill. We are also leaving gaps around our caps to allow for easy access to the top spaces of the mill.



We have been working with students from City College Norwich to create lots of timber crevice boxes that we are mounting to the internal structures of the mills. These boxes provide a safe, warm place for bats to roost and hibernate.



Our external boxes are made of a special material called "woodcrete", a special blend of concrete and wood fibres. This material is long lasting, gives some insulation and provides the rough surface that bats need to be able to climb and cling to with their wing digits and feet.



Made possible with

Heritage Fund



WATER, MILLS & MARSHES

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