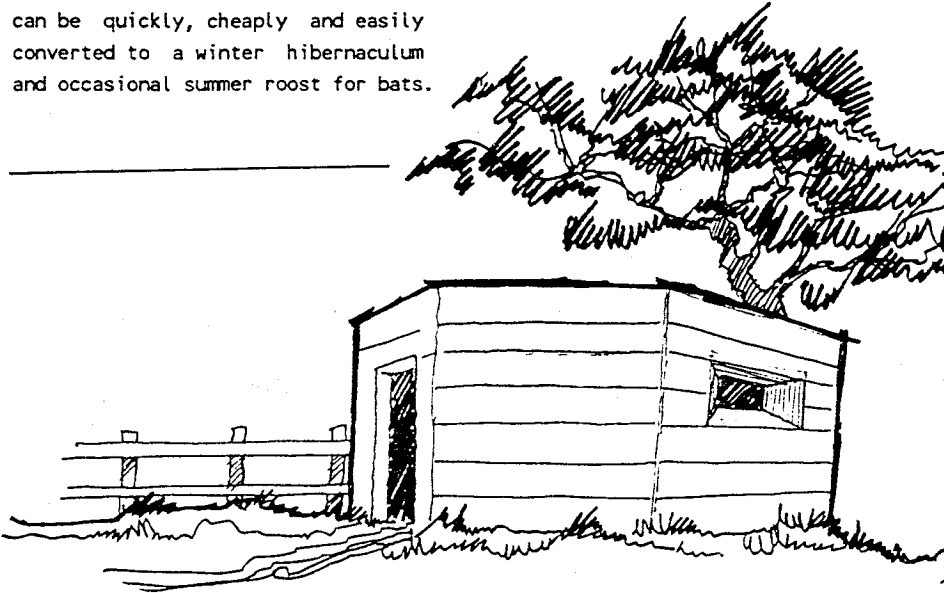


# Creating a Pill-Box Fit for

# BATS

## A Simple Conversion for Conservation Groups

The standard hexagonal pillbox, most common in the South East of England, can be quickly, cheaply and easily converted to a winter hibernaculum and occasional summer roost for bats.

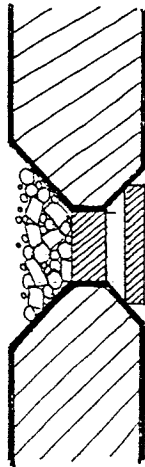


The choice of box for conversion needs some thought. One of the many threats to a hibernating bat is excessive disturbance. Boxes near to houses, roads or footpaths should be a lower priority than remote boxes on private land. Unconverted sites are often already in use as summer night or feeding roosts, although not normally as day roosts. This means a converted box may be readily adopted, even in its first year.

Any conversion where disturbance is possible needs the protection of a stout gate. This increases costs.

.1.

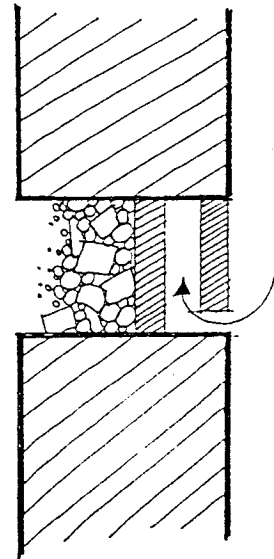
The first requirement is to stabilise the interior temperature and humidity and limit light levels. Cut four-inch medium density concrete blocks in half and, from the inside, cement one into each of the firing slits at its narrowest point.



PLAN

.2.

Three quarters of a similar block is now cemented into the outside, widest part of each firing slit. Leave an eight inch by three-quarter inch gap at the bottom cement layer. You have created a hollow between the inner and outer blocks with bat access to the outside.



SECTION