

Do your bit for bats

If you've enjoyed looking for bats this evening, why not sign up for the National Bat Monitoring Programme (NBMP)? The NBMP enables us to track changes in bat populations across a range of habitats with the invaluable assistance of a network of volunteer surveyors. Since the NBMP began in 1997, more than 2,000 volunteers have done surveys at over 3,200 roost and field sites, adding up to a remarkable 15,000 evenings of work.

You don't need to be a bat boffin to help us monitor the UK's bat populations. We have a wide range of surveys to take part in that are suited to every level of experience and knowledge, and all of them are lots of fun!

For more information on the NBMP visit www.bats.org.uk, email nbmp@bats.org.uk or call the Bat Helpline on **0845 1300 228**.

The NBMP is core-funded by the Joint Nature Conservation Committee (JNCC).

Join us

The Bat Conservation Trust (BCT) wants a future where everyone, everywhere can enjoy seeing and hearing bats as a natural part of their environment. Join BCT today and help us ensure that bats and their habitats are around for future generations to enjoy.

To find out more about the bats in your area, and for more details on how to see them, why not join your local bat group? There are nearly 100 bat groups around the UK. Call the Bat Helpline or visit the BCT website for contact details of your nearest group.



Bat Conservation Trust, 15 Cloisters House
8 Battersea Park Road, London SW8 4BG
Call the Bat Helpline today on 0845 1300 228
or visit www.bats.org.uk
Email enquiries@bats.org.uk

The Bat Conservation Trust is a registered charity (number 1012361) and a company limited by guarantee (registered in England, number 2712823)



Bat Conservation Trust



What bat is that?



There are seventeen species of bat in the UK, but there are four that you're most likely to see when you're out on a bat walk. Here's a handy guide to telling the difference between them, whether you're using your eyes or a bat detector!

Follow the red lines to identify each bat's flight path...

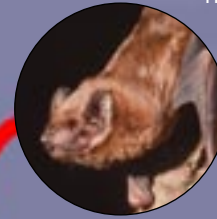


The **brown long-eared bat** comes out after dark. It usually flies very close to trees, which makes it quite difficult to spot. Its flight is slow and hovering, a bit like that of a big butterfly.

Using a bat detector to identify bats

Bats use high frequency calls, normally beyond the range of human hearing, to build up a sound picture of their surroundings. This system, called echolocation, enables them to wing their way through the night and hunt down even the tiniest of insects. Humans can usually hear echolocation calls only by using a device called a bat detector, which makes the bats' echolocation sounds audible to humans. Different species echolocate at different frequencies, and can sound completely different as well.

Species	Best listening frequency	Call repetition rate	Sounds like
Common pipistrelle	46kHz	Medium	'smack'
Soprano pipistrelle	55kHz	Medium	'smack'
Brown long-eared	45kHz-50kHz	Very fast	'chip'
Daubenton's	45kHz	Fast	'tik-ke'
Noctule	20kHz-25kHz	Very slow	'chip-chop'



The **noctule** is one of our biggest bats; noctules emerge early in the evening, just as it starts to get dark. They can sometimes be seen flying in a straight line, high overhead. The noctule looks about the same size as a starling, and has distinctive narrow wings.



Pipistrelles emerge around sunset, and these are the bats that you are most likely to spot. They have an erratic flight - twisting and turning around buildings, streetlights, trees and hedges. There are three species of pipistrelle that look very similar: the common pipistrelle, the soprano pipistrelle and the rarer Nathusius' pipistrelle.



If you see a bat flying very low over water, skimming the surface like a mini hovercraft, it's probably a **Daubenton's bat**. Watch Daubenton's bats very carefully and you may see them touch the water's surface to seize an insect with their big hairy feet!