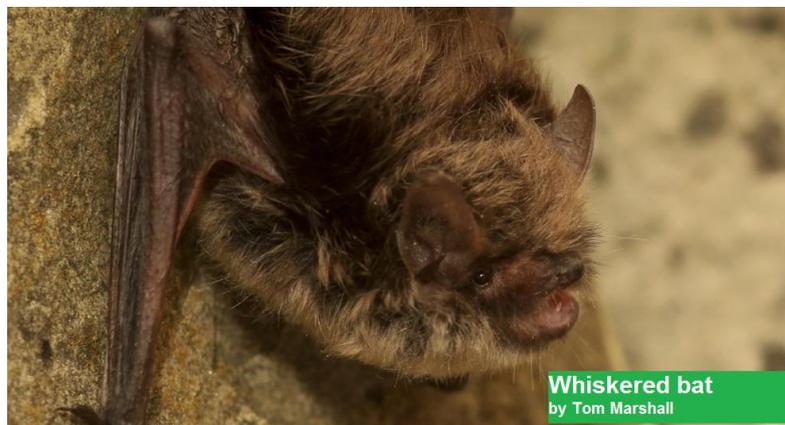


## Bats

### Bats are at risk

- Bats are an 'indicator' species which means they are a sign of a green and healthy environment. Operating at the top of the food chain, bats keep in check the numbers of insects active between the hours of dusk and darkness when birds are largely absent.
- In the UK, bat populations have declined considerably over the last century. Bats are still under threat from building and development work that affects roosts, loss of habitat, the severing of commuting routes by roads and threats in the home including cat attacks, flypaper and some chemical treatments of building materials. Other potential threats can include wind turbines and lighting if they are sited on key bat habitat or near roosts.

<https://www.bats.org.uk/about-bats/threats-to-bats>



### How Wildlife Trusts help

- Campaigning for a strong [Environment Act](#) that would ensure a network of habitats providing wildlife with space to recover its numbers and flourish and for people to thrive, and a watchdog to challenge bad decisions by local authorities.

Managing many **nature reserves** for the benefit of the wildlife including bats and running events and groups to promote interest and knowledge about bats:

- Devon is the northern European stronghold for the Greater Horseshoe bat – [Find out more about the Greater horseshoe bat project](#) run by **Devon Wildlife Trust**
- **Somerset Wildlife Trust** provides support to farmers to help maintain grazing, replant and manage hedgerows, introduce cutting programmes and land management techniques that support Bat species.
- [Visit North Somerset Levels](#) is a crucial habitat for Greater and Lesser Horseshoe Bats says **Avon Wildlife Trust**
- [Brownes Folly](#) run by **Avon Wildlife Trust** is a great place to see bats with 13 species including the threatened Greater Horseshoe Bat as the old mines offer a place of quiet sanctuary
- [Cotswolds Water Park](#) managed by **Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust**

- [Bystock Pools](#) managed by **Devon Wildlife Trust** has species including the largest of our UK bats – the noctule, as well as the serotine and the lesser horseshoe
- [Bat group](#) run by **Dorset Wildlife Trust**
- [Bat detecting events](#) run by **Worcestershire Wildlife Trust**
- [Events including a bat talk in October for members](#) run by **Wiltshire Wildlife Trust**
- [Event for children at Swanwick Lakes](#) run by **Hampshire and Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust**

## How people can help

- Encourage them into your garden with [advice from The Wildlife Trust and the RHS](#)
- Check out the PDF pack from the [Bat Conservation Trust](#) (page 6 onwards: guides to making bat boxes, puppets, hats, masks and silhouettes)
- [wildlifetrusts.org/where\\_to\\_see\\_bats](http://wildlifetrusts.org/where_to_see_bats)
- [wildlifetrusts.org/actions/how-build-bat-box](http://wildlifetrusts.org/actions/how-build-bat-box)
- [www.hiwwt.org.uk/actions/how-attract-moths-and-bats-your-garden](http://www.hiwwt.org.uk/actions/how-attract-moths-and-bats-your-garden)
- Adopt a bat [with Devon Wildlife Trust](#)
- Adopt a bat [with Somerset Wildlife Trust](#)

## Fast facts

1. 18 species of bat in the UK
2. The largest bat is the noctule, which weighs the same as four £1 coins
3. The smallest bat the pipistrelle, which weighs as little as a 2p coin...and can eat more than 500 insects in an hour!
4. One baby a year
5. One species can live for up to 30 years
6. Excellent navigation skills
7. Bats do not build nests but hang up or tuck themselves into cracks and crannies – here in the UK it could be trees, buildings or underground sites such as caves, bridges and disused tunnels
8. The Whiskered bat commonly roosts in homes – [wildlifetrusts.org/wildlife-explorer/mammals/whiskered-bat](http://wildlifetrusts.org/wildlife-explorer/mammals/whiskered-bat)

## Other resources

- [Identifying bats from their calls](#)

