



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 taken part in surveys at over 4,500 roost and field sites, allowing us to produce statistically robust population trends for 11 of the 17 UK bat species.

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.

Join today and help save our bats!

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

Join BCT today and receive a range of special membership benefits, including a subscription to *Bat News* magazine (*The Young Batworker* for junior members), a Bat Fact Pack, a bat pin badge and discounts on training courses. Most importantly, you will be helping our bats hang on. To join, simply complete the attached form and return it in the freepost envelope provided. You can also join online at www.bats.org.uk/join.

Bat Conservation Trust



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Bat Helpline: 0845 1300 228 **www.bats.org.uk**

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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 bat	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!

