

## WARWICKSHIRE BAT GROUP



Warwickshire Bat Group is one of over 90 local bat groups in Britain and is affiliated to the Bat Conservation Trust. We always welcome new members with any level of knowledge who share our interest in some of the most fascinating of British mammals.

### WHERE TO SEE BATS

On fine summer nights bats start leaving their day roosts around dusk. This is often the best time to try and spot their silhouettes against the sky before it gets too dark. Different wing shapes have evolved in bats to suit each species' lifestyle. **Noctules** have long thin wings so that they can fly fast and high over the treetops, reaching speeds of 30mph. **Brown Long-eared** bats have short broad wings so that they can hover and snatch insects off leaves. **Daubenton's** bats have a medium wing and cruise just above the water's surface like little hovercraft.

The best places to look for bats is where insects gather at night – around woodland, hedgerows, rivers, ponds, lakes, gardens, or even white street lights! The peak time for insects' emergence is in the first two hours after sunset and just before dawn. Flying uses up a lot of energy so bats need to catch plenty of these insects to stay healthy. Our smallest bat, the **Pipistrelle**, may eat up to 3,000 insects in one night!



In the summer find out about locally organised bat walks where special electronic devices called 'bat detectors' allow you to listen in to the calls of bats as they find their way about in the dark.

For further information and advice contact:

### BCT BATLINE

(0845) 1300 228 (local rate)

[enquiries@bats.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@bats.org.uk)

The Bat Conservation Trust operates a national UK Helpline for people with enquiries about bats. Alternatively you could email your enquiry to [enquiries@bats.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@bats.org.uk), which will be answered as soon as they can during normal working hours.

This helpline also handles calls on behalf of Natural England. They can provide advice or arrange a visit from a licensed batworker if bats are unwelcome or you plan to do some work that may disturb them.

### THE BAT CONSERVATION TRUST

(020) 7627 2629

<http://www.bats.org.uk>

This is a charitable organisation solely devoted to the conservation of bats and their habitats in the British Isles.

### NATURAL ENGLAND (West Midlands Region)

Birmingham (0121) 2339399

Herefordshire (01531) 638500

Shropshire (01743) 282000

Staffordshire (01902) 743711

Worcestershire (01905) 763355

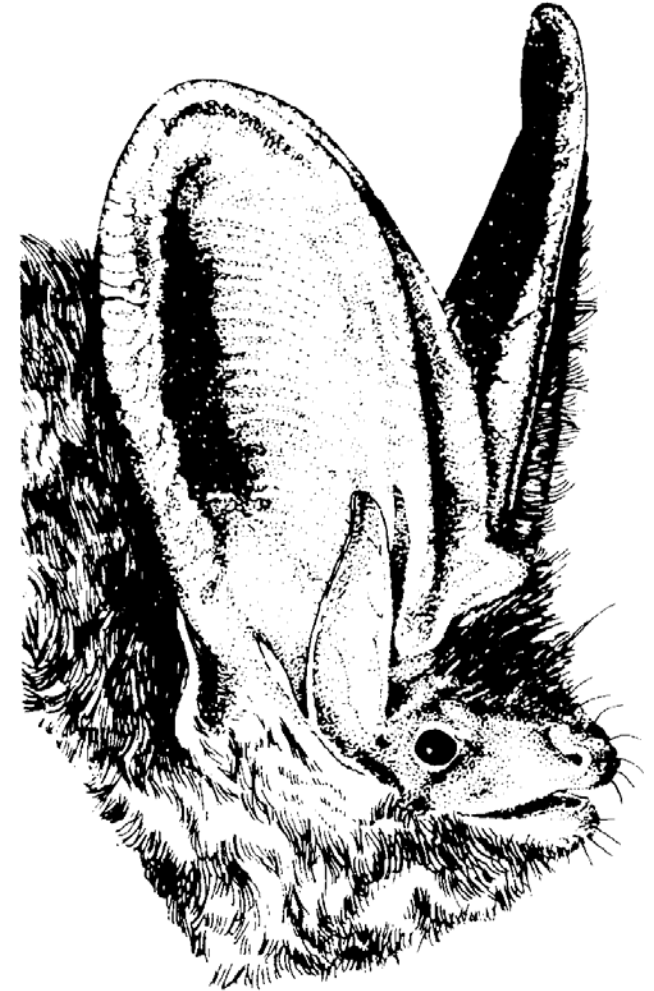
<http://www.naturalengland.org.uk>

### WARWICKSHIRE BAT GROUP

Find out more about us on our website:

<http://www.warksbats.co.uk>

# Warwickshire Bat Group



Bat Conservation Trust

Affiliated to



[www.warksbats.co.uk](http://www.warksbats.co.uk)

## ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP RATES

Individual	£7.50
Family	£10.00
Concessions	£5.00

Please make cheques payable to:  
"Warwickshire Bat Group".

Name .....

Address .....

.....

..... Postcode .....

Telephone .....

Email .....

Please add me to Warwickshire Bat Group's  
email discussion list

Membership fee   £.....

I also wish to make a donation of   £.....

Total amount   £.....

How did you hear of Warwickshire Bat Group?

Bat Walk at .....

Warwickshire Wildlife Trust

Friend

Article in .....

Other .....

.....

Send this form and your membership fee to:

Warwickshire Bat Group  
Membership Secretary  
Penny Angold  
4 Manor Road  
Dorridge  
Solihull  
B93 8DX

## BAT FACTS



Bats are the only truly flying mammals. Like us they have fur and give birth to live young, which they suckle on milk.



Bats are not blind and would hate to get tangled in your hair! They see well in low light but cannot see colours.



There are 17 different species of bats in Britain and all of them eat insects. More than half of these have been recorded in Warwickshire.



There are nearly 1,000 different types of bats in the world. Bats are found on every continent except for Antarctica and a few oceanic islands.



Bat mothers congregate in gatherings known as 'maternity roosts' in June or July and usually have just one baby each year.



Bats do not build nests or gnaw wood – they just hang up or crawl into small spaces.



Bats roost in trees, caves, mines and a variety of buildings, including modern houses.



Britain's smallest bat, the Pipistrelle, is only 4cm long and weighs about 5g - less than a 2p coin! With its wings folded it can fit inside a matchbox



Bats' wings are giant hands, with skin stretching between elongated fingers. They use their thumb, which has a small claw, for grooming and climbing.



British bats detect their prey using echolocation – a sophisticated form of sonar.



Bats are more closely related to us than to mice and can live for over 30 years.

## BATS & THE LAW

Under the **Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981** and the **Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000**, bats have become amongst the most protected animals in Britain. The acts make it illegal to recklessly disturb, injure or kill a bat, or to damage or obstruct access to any place that a bat uses for shelter. It is not illegal though, to remove bats from the living area of a house or to rescue injured or abandoned bats as they may be released when recovered.

If bats are unwelcome or work is planned in a building suspected of housing bats at any time, contact Natural England (see overleaf) or the BCT Bat Helpline on 0845 1300 288. Work will not necessarily be prevented, but advice given on the least disturbing way of doing it.

## BATS IN DECLINE

As recently as the 1950's colonies of thousands of bats could be seen but today even our most common bat, the Pipistrelle, appears to have suffered serious decline. It is thought to be the result of many factors including:

- The treatment of timber with toxic chemicals
- Loss of roost sites due to vandalism, blocking of access holes, mine capping and tree felling
- The destruction of suitable habitat and changes in agricultural practices

In December 1995, the Bat Conservation Trust was commissioned to carry out a five-year programme of research (1996-2000). Called the National Bat Monitoring Programme (NBMP), its overall goal was to develop an effective and on-going monitoring strategy for resident species of bats in the UK. The programme has continued and relies on data gathered by volunteers across large numbers of sites. For further details of how you can help the BCT survey British bats contact them on (020) 7501 3622 [nbmp@bats.org.uk](mailto:nbmp@bats.org.uk)