



*Bat Week*

23 – 29 September 2018

**Isle of Axholme and Hatfield Chase  
Landscape Partnership**

**Bat Survey Pack**

# Bats on the Isle of Axholme

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There are 17 species of bats resident in the UK, that's more than a quarter of our mammal species. British Bats are insect predators, eating a wide variety of prey including beetles, moths, flies and midges. Although bats have good night vision they locate their prey and objects in the environment by using a pattern of returning echoes from their high frequency ultrasonic calls known as 'echolocation'. Their echolocation skills are so good that they can avoid objects as small as a strand of hair, so there is no likelihood of them touching you whilst they are in flight.

## *Some interesting bat facts:*

- A tiny pipistrelle bat can eat up to 3,000 insects in a night.
- Bats can live up to 30 years.
- Bats are more closely related to people than mice.
- Britain's most common bat, the pipistrelle, is only 4cm long and weighs about 5 grams - less than a 2p coin!
- Bats do not get dizzy when hanging upside down for hours.
- Some species like pipistrelle make echolocation calls through their mouths; others like Horseshoe Bats make calls through their noses.

## *Threats to bats in Britain*

UK bat populations have declined considerably during the past century. They continue to be threatened by various factors including:

- Loss of feeding habitats and flight lines.
- Loss of insects to feed on as a result of habitat loss, pesticides.
- Climate change.
- Loss of roost site
- Loss as a result of building and development work.
- Artificial light illuminating roosts and delaying emergence of bats, leading to shorter hunting windows for the mammals.

## *Gardening for Bats*

As natural habitats for bats are threatened, our gardens are playing a more important role in securing a future for bats. Here are some hints to turn your garden into a bat haven.

- Plant night-scented plants, to attract night flying insects
- Build a pond
- Let your garden go a little wild
- Put up a bat box
- Create linear features e.g. hedgerows or tree lines
- Reduce or remove artificial lighting
- Keep cats indoors at night

## *UK Bats and the Law*

All British bats and their roosts are protected by UK law and it is an offence to handle or intentionally disturb a wild bat unless you possess the appropriate licence. These restrictions are vital to ensure these threatened small mammals are afforded as much protection as possible.

# Noctule Bat (*Nyctalus noctula*)

This widespread and fairly common bat is found throughout Britain up to southern Scotland. It is a large species with a wingspan of between 320 - 450mm and roosts in trees, rarely in buildings. Emerging 5 - 10 minutes after sunset and occasionally before, this bat has a fast, straight flight above trees and open habitats, diving steeply when hunting.

## Bat Detector Information:

Peak frequency range (kHz): **20.3** (16.8 - 26)

Call frequency range (kHz): 15.2 - 52.8

Call description: slow, irregular, very loud, metallic 'chinks' or 'chip-chop' calls over the whole frequency range.



# Common Pipistrelle Bat (*Pipistrellus pipistrellus*)

This widespread and small species is found throughout Britain. It has a wing span of 200 - 234mm and roosts in both old and new buildings, trees and in bat boxes. The common pipistrelle emerges 20 - 30 minutes after sunset, and sometimes before. Its flight is fast, erratic at head height, twisting and turning often along habitat edges.



## Bat Detector Information:

Peak frequency range (kHz): **46.5** (41.7 - 51.8)

Call frequency range (kHz): 40.8 - 83.3

Call description: irregular, loud, 'wet slaps' developing into clicks at the higher end of the frequency range.

## Daubenton's Bat (*Myotis daubentonii*)

The Daubenton's is a widespread and common bat, found throughout Britain. With a wingspan of 230 - 275mm, this medium sized species roosts under bridges and in trees, buildings and tunnels. It emerges 40 - 50 minutes after sunset and has fast, straight flight most often low over smooth water and sometimes along habitat edges.

### Bat Detector Information

Peak frequency range (kHz): **47.8** (39.5 - 56.7)

Call frequency range (kHz): 32.0 - 87.5

Call description: Medium loud, rapid series of regular 'clicks' resembling rapid machine gun fire.



## The Whiskered Bat (*Myotis mystacinus*)

A widespread but rare species, this small bat is only found in England and Wales. It has a 190 - 225mm wingspan and roosts in trees and buildings. Emerging 30 minutes after sunset, the whiskered bat has fast and straight flight along habitat edges.



### Bat Detector Information:

Peak frequency range (kHz): **50.0** (41.7 - 69.4)

Call frequency range (kHz): 32.7 - 88.9

Call description: medium loud, rapid series of more irregular 'clicks' resembling rapid machine gun fire.

# The Brown Long Eared Bat (*Plecotus auritus*)

Brown long-eared bats are medium-sized. The ears are nearly as long as the body but not always obvious. It has a 230mm - 285mm wingspan and roosts are usually located in older buildings, barns, churches and trees. It emerges from roost sites usually only in the dark, around an hour after sunset. Flight is slow, fluttering and low, generally close to vegetation. Often includes sweeping glides and hovering.

## Bat Detector Information

Peak frequency range (kHz): **35**

Call frequency range (kHz): 25 - 50

Call description: very quiet and are heard as a series of clicks rather like those produced by a Geiger counter, hence their nickname the '*whispering bat*'.



# Let's Go Batty – Survey Results



You do not need any special equipment or experience. You just need to spend an hour after sunset to see bats emerging from their roosts to feed on insects.

|                            |                    |                               |                        |                          |                                 |                     |
|----------------------------|--------------------|-------------------------------|------------------------|--------------------------|---------------------------------|---------------------|
| <b>Date</b>                |                    |                               |                        |                          |                                 |                     |
| <b>Time of day</b>         |                    |                               |                        |                          |                                 |                     |
| <b>Location</b>            |                    |                               |                        |                          |                                 |                     |
| <b>Number of bats seen</b> | <i>Noctule Bat</i> | <i>Common Pipistrelle Bat</i> | <i>Daubenton's Bat</i> | <i>The Whiskered Bat</i> | <i>The Brown Long Eared Bat</i> | <i>Unidentified</i> |
|                            |                    |                               |                        |                          |                                 |                     |

|                 |  |
|-----------------|--|
| <b>Name</b>     |  |
| <b>Address</b>  |  |
| <b>Postcode</b> |  |
| <b>Email</b>    |  |

I consent to my details being collected and stored by the IoAHC Landscape Partnership. I understand this information will be protected and used only by the Partnership, their partners and project leads.

**Signed:**

**Date:**

Thank you for helping us with this survey.



Please return this sheet to us at [landscapepartnership@northlincs.gov.uk](mailto:landscapepartnership@northlincs.gov.uk) or IoAHC Team c/o Environment Team, Church Square House, 30-40 High Street, Scunthorpe, North Lincolnshire, DN15 6XQ.