

All about bats

Bats are the only flying mammals. Out of almost 1000 species worldwide, 17 are found in Britain, nine in North Yorkshire.

In summer, female bats gather in nursery roosts where they give birth to a single baby. For several weeks they will suckle their youngster just like human mothers. Roosts may be in trees, bridges, buildings or other crevices.



British bats eat only insects, which they catch in flight using echolocation. A

Pipistrelle bat can eat up to 3000 midges in one night! Because there are few insects about in winter, bats hibernate during the colder months, waking only briefly every few weeks.

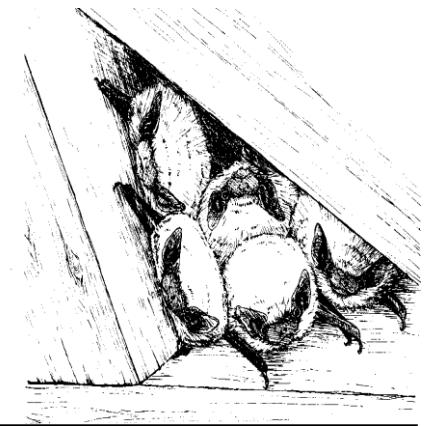
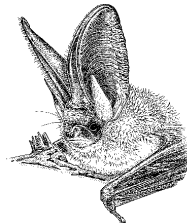
British bats are small. Our two species of Pipistrelle each weigh only 5g, are about 40mm long and have a wingspan of 200mm.

Bat droppings are the dried remains of insects. They do not smell or present any health hazard. Bats are harmless, do not build nests or cause damage to property. They occupy houses mainly between May and September.

Bats are threatened by many factors including agricultural change, development, tree-felling, pesticides and disturbance.

Since 1981 all British bats and their roosts have been protected by law. If you have a bat roost in your property you must seek advice before doing anything which may affect it, whether or not the bats are present at the time.

In recent years a tiny number of bats have been detected with a rabies-like virus which can infect humans, so, for this reason, you are advised to avoid skin contact with bats or bats' saliva. Bats rarely come into contact with people, but if you are bitten or scratched by a bat you should seek immediate medical advice. Having bats in your roof carries no risk from this virus.



North Yorkshire Bat Group

Holds occasional indoor meetings with talks by bat experts

Organises practical events like bat box making & conservation work

Runs guided walks where you can see and hear wild bats

Carries out surveys of bat distribution

Offers advice & information about bats

Cares for sick & injured bats

Provides training for those wishing to become volunteer licensed bat workers

Gives bat talks to other organisations

Is part of the Yorkshire Mammal Group

**YOU can help protect North
Yorkshire's bats.
Please join us now!**

John Drewett, North Yorkshire Bat
Group, Castlerigg, Redmire,
Leyburn, DL8 4EL

Name

Address

Telephone

Email*

Please enrol me/us as:

Member(s) North Yorkshire Bat Group.
£5 per year covers all at one address

Member(s) Yorkshire Mammal Group
which includes membership of North
Yorkshire Bat Group. £15 individual
/ £20 household

I/we enclose a cheque payable to North
Yorkshire Bat Group for £

*Unless otherwise requested monthly
newsletters will be sent by email if an
address is supplied.

*The personal information supplied on this form will be
stored on a computer database for the sole purpose of
keeping members informed of activities.*

Bat Helplines and information

If you want advice or help regarding
bats in your property or if you have
found a grounded bat, call the bat
advice helpline on
0845 1300 228
and you will be put in touch with your
nearest voluntary bat warden

For general information about bats,
or to find out more about the North
Yorkshire Bat Group and its activities
please contact

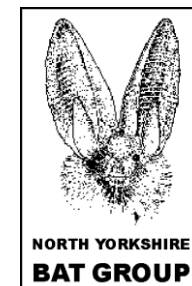
**North Yorkshire Bat Group,
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North Yorkshire, DL8 4EL**

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www.nybats.org.uk



Discovering North Yorkshire's BATS



Working for bats across
England's largest county