

MEMBERSHIP FORM

I would like to join the  
**Leicestershire and  
Rutland Bat Group:**

Name:

Address:

Postcode:

Tel:

Email:

☐ Please tick this box if you are happy to receive communications from the Bat Group and for your data to be stored by the Group. We do not pass on or exchange membership details with third parties or other organisations.

HOW TO JOIN

To apply for membership of the Leicestershire and Rutland Bat Group please fill in the form opposite and send it to:

**Ann Gleave**  
8 Hartfield Road,  
Leicester LE5 1HS

Membership of the group is £5 per calendar year. Children under 16, £3 per year. From 2015 membership £7.50, Children under 16, free

Please make cheques payable to:  
LRWT (Bat Group)



FIND OUT MORE AT:

**LEICESTERSHIRE & RUTLAND BAT GROUP**

W: [www.lrbatgroup.btck.co.uk](http://www.lrbatgroup.btck.co.uk)  
E: [batgroup1enquiries@gmail.com](mailto:batgroup1enquiries@gmail.com)  
c/o 20 King George Avenue, Loughborough,  
LE11 2NU

**THE BAT CONSERVATION TRUST**

W: [www.bats.org.uk](http://www.bats.org.uk)  
E: [enquiries@bats.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@bats.org.uk)  
5th Floor, Quadrant House, 250 Kennington Lane  
London SE11 3RD

If you find a grounded bat, or have an urgent query about a bat contact the bat group or the BCT Helpline on 0845 1300 228

SUPPORTED BY



# ABOUT BATS



Bats are amazing creatures but their numbers have declined dramatically over the last 50 years. Look inside to find out how you can help to conserve these incredible flying mammals for future generations.

Noctule bat  
R.E. Stebbings/BCT



## WHAT IS A BAT?

Bats are amazing. They are the only truly flying mammals. British bats eat insects, which they usually catch in flight, using echo-location. In one night our smallest bat, the Pipistrelle can eat up to 3000 insects.

## WHERE DO BATS LIVE?

In summer female bats gather in warm nursery roosts, which may be in trees or buildings, where they give birth to a single baby. In winter, when there are few insects, they hibernate in cool places, such as trees, buildings, caves and tunnels.

## WHAT IF I'VE GOT BATS IN MY ROOF?

Bats can take up residence in the eaves, soffits, cavity walls or roof space of your home. They are not pests and do not cause damage to the fabric of your home. If you have bats in your home you must contact Natural England before doing anything which may disturb them or their roost, such as carrying out repairs or improvements to your roof or loft.



Brown Long-eared bat Hugh Clark/BCT



Brown Long-eared bat R.E. Stebbings/BCT

## BATS IN LEICESTERSHIRE AND RUTLAND

Thirteen of the UK's bat species have been recorded in Leicestershire and Rutland, including the rare Leisler's, Nathusius Pipistrelle and Barbastelle. The commonest bat in the two counties and Britain is the Pipistrelle which is only 4cm long and weighs less than a 2p coin. They roost in small crevices and like modern houses as well as old ones. Although bats rarely live in belfries many of the counties' churches provide roosts for two or more species.

In the two counties, bat numbers have declined in the last 20 years, especially the large, high flying Noctule bat. However, Natterer's and Daubenton's bats seem to be doing reasonably well.

Woodlands, hedgerows, waterways, old pastures, parkland and gardens all provide good feeding habitat where bats can be found.

## LEICESTERSHIRE AND RUTLAND BAT GROUP

LRBG was formed in 1985, and is one of nearly 100 local bat groups in Britain. It is a voluntary organisation for people who wish to learn about bats, and take practical steps to study and conserve them. It is affiliated to the national charity The Bat Conservation Trust (BCT).

The group's activities include:

- Local surveys of bats
- Surveys for the National Bat Monitoring Programme
- Visits to roost owners and churches
- Talks and guided walks to see bats
- Informing public and professionals about bats and the need to conserve them
- Care and rehabilitation of sick or injured bats
- Training to know more about bats or become a licensed bat worker.



Common Pipistrelle Hugh Clark/BCT



Noctule bat J.J. Kaczanow/BCT

## HOW YOU CAN HELP BATS

By joining the Leicestershire and Rutland Bat Group, you will be helping bats. You will receive copies of our newsletter with details of meetings, walks, talks, surveys and projects that you can take part in. Our training events include talks on bat ecology, identification, survey techniques and the use of bat detectors.

Help bats by reducing or avoiding the use of pesticides, planting native shrubs and trees, growing nectar-rich flowers and leaving some wilder areas where insects gather. Ponds are great - the bigger the better. Suitably placed bat boxes can also provide additional roosting sites.

## THREATS TO BATS

All British bats have declined dramatically over the last 50 years.

Threats include:

- Loss of feeding habitat e.g. hedgerows, old trees and species-rich grassland, drainage of wetland, use of pesticides and light pollution.
- Loss of roost sites in buildings and trees e.g. from loft and barn conversion, re-roofing, soffit replacement, timber treatment and other renovations.
- Loss of hibernation sites e.g. buildings, tunnels, trees from development or vandalism.

## BATS AND THE LAW

Due to their vulnerability and recent declines all bats and their roosts are protected under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) and in England and Wales the Countryside & Rights of Way Act 2000. It is illegal to kill, injure or disturb a bat, or to damage or obstruct access to a roost site, even when bats are not in residence.

If you know of a bat roost, please inform the bat group, as every piece of information helps us to understand bats, and enables us to take appropriate action to conserve them.



Anne Youngman/BCT



R.E. Stebbings



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