



What's causing their decline?



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Populations of all bat species in Britain are declining and vulnerable. Even the most common bats have declined dramatically. Pipistrelle numbers dropped by 70% between 1978 and 1993.

Causes include loss and fragmentation of suitable habitat and reduction of insect food supplies due mainly to agricultural intensification and the use of pesticides. Bats roosting in houses are also vulnerable to pesticides used for wood preservation treatment, and human disturbance.

Bat Protection

All bats and their roosts are legally protected, and some species (Greater and Lesser horseshoe bats, Barbastelle, Bechstein's mouse-eared and Pipistrelle) have been designated as priority species.

All bat species are listed as Priority Species in the Avon Biodiversity Action Plan, and the Avon Biodiversity Partnership are actively conserving bats and their habitats.



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What can you do?

Get involved

Join your local bat group, the Bat Conservation Trust or The Mammal Society.

Garden for Bats

Avoid using pesticides, create a pond and plant native trees and shrubs and plant night scented flowers, such as honeysuckle, to attract moths and insects.

Place bat boxes on south facing walls or tree trunks, ensuring a clear drop below the box to allow easy access for bats.

House Roosts

Don't block off access to roost sites, such as attics, and avoid treating timbers with products that are harmful to bats.

Create access holes 20 mm wide along eaves near the corner of buildings or at gable apices. If you intend to extend or convert your house ask for advice; development and bats can often both be accommodated.

Further Information

- The Bat Conservation Trust (0845 1300228) www.bats.org.uk
- The Mammal Society www.mammal.org.uk
- The Avon Biodiversity Partnership www.avon-biodiversity.org.uk