



Worcestershire Wildlife Trust



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Barbastelle Bat

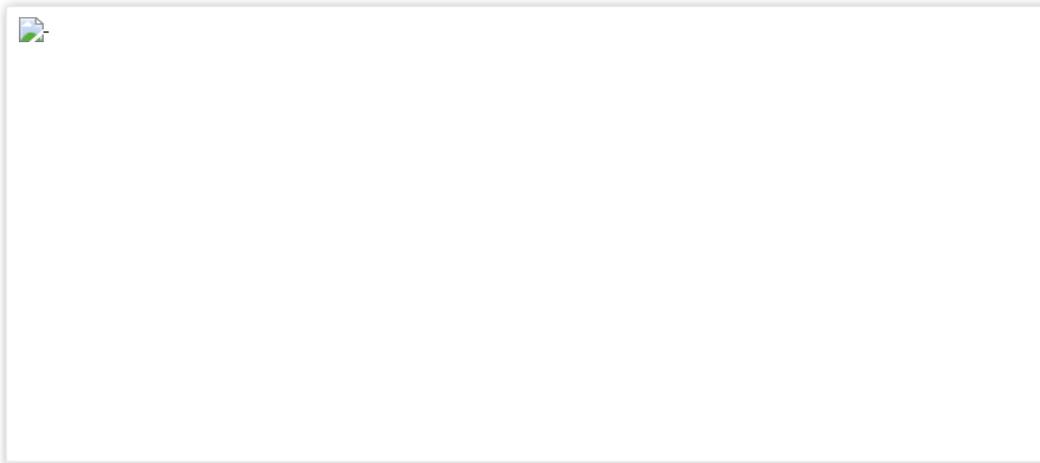
Barbastella barbastellus

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Species information

i **Common name**
Barbastelle Bat

Latin name
Barbastella barbastellus

Category
Mammals

Statistics
Length: 9cm Wingspan:
25cm Weight: 6-13g
Average lifespan: up to
25 years

Conservation status
Classified as Near
Threatened on the IUCN
Red List. Protected in the
UK under the Wildlife and
Countryside Act, 1981,
and classified as a
Priority Species in the UK
Biodiversity Action Plan.

About

An elusive bat, the Barbastelle lives in woodlands, roosting in crevices in trees. All British bats are nocturnal, feeding on midges, moths and other flying insects which they find in the dark by using echolocation. Barbastelles mate in autumn, hibernate over the winter usually underground, and give birth to a single young bat in late spring.

How to identify

Barbastelles have dark brown or black, long, silky fur with white tips. They have rounded ears that meet on the forehead and short, upturned noses, giving them a pug-like appearance.

Where to find it

Only present in southern England and Wales. Only one maternity roost is known and there are only 30 known hibernation sites.

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When to find it



How can people help

Barbastelle Bats are very rare due to the extensive loss of our woodland habitats. Pesticide-use has also reduced their insect-prey. The Wildlife Trusts are working hard to restore our native woodlands and you can help our bats in your own garden, too, by putting up a bat box. Pick a tree that gets some sun during the day, but is near to a hedge or other trees. All UK bats and their roosts are protected by law, which means it is illegal to harm or disturb them.

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