

How can I help bats near me?

How can I do to help bats locally?

There are endless ways that you can help protect your bats locally! Simple things like turning off external lights at night to reduce light pollution and letting a patch in your garden or local area grow a bit wild, will all help.

Planting more night-scented flowers which attract insects, the food of bats, helps provide a boost to local populations. Flowers with pale colours and long narrow petal tubes help to attract nocturnal insects. Honeysuckle, lavender and primroses are all excellent.

Reducing the amount of pesticides and chemicals in the garden and local areas, will do wonders for local ecosystems, supporting all manner of creatures, not only bats!

Providing homes for bats is one of the easiest ways to attract bats to your area. Find out more about this below.



As well as being fantastic for pollinators like bees in the day, scented flowers such as lavender are also great for night flying insects, which in turn make great food for bats.

Where do bats live?

Bats can be found all over the UK in different habitats. The exact location of each bat depends upon factors such as the species of bat you are looking for and the time of year – as this affects what they might be doing.

What does a bat call home?

The place where bats call home is called a roost. There are many different types of roost as bats need a different one depending upon the time of the year. In the summer, female bats will gather together to give birth and raise young in a maternity roost, whereas in the winter, bats use hibernation roosts.

Bats in the UK live predominantly in caves and hollows in trees. However, due to the disappearance of their natural habitat, bats have evolved in recent years to roost in buildings such as churches, barns, houses, tunnels and bridges. You can provide safe and secure homes for bats more easily than you think in your own back garden or attached to your own house or flat!

How can I provide a home for bats?

Bat boxes provide much-needed refuge for British bats. Bat boxes are available for siting on trees, external walls, and for building into the masonry or roof of new buildings and renovations.

Specific designs are available for summer occupation, hibernation and maternity roosts, as well as access panels which allow bats to enter roof spaces or wall cavities. Bats are not rodents, so you do not need to worry about them nibbling your wiring!

What type of bat box is suitable for the bats near me?

Different bat species prefer different types of bat box. There are two main types of bat boxes available - suitable for crevice-dwelling and cavity-dwelling bat species.

Generally speaking, smaller British bat species prefer crevice bat boxes, whereas the larger bat species prefer cavity boxes.

Crevice-dwelling species include Pipistrelles, Brandt's and Whiskered bat.

Cavity-dwelling species include Brown Long-Eared, Daubenton's and Natterer's bats.

There are a range of bat boxes available made from different materials, allowing you more flexibility. Wooden bat boxes are more affordable and can be easily sited on external walls or trees. Modern boxes made from WoodCrete, a blend of concrete and wood, create robust long-lasting bat boxes which will be around for many years to come. Recycled plastic bat boxes also exist, providing excellent thermal properties.

Please see our NHBS Nest Box Price List for the details of all bat boxes available arranged by type, material and siting location. We offer a range of bat boxes suitable for all budgets and requirements.



A well situated bat box can provide safety for entire colonies and perfect nurseries for bats and their young.

Where do I site my bat box?

Bat boxes should be positioned at least 2 metres above the ground, ideally 4 metres above the ground where safe to do so. They should be sited away from artificial light sources and in a sheltered sunny position (usually South or South-West facing). It is often beneficial to have multiple bat boxes facing different directions as this will provide the bats with a range of temperature conditions to choose from.

Bats take their time to get used to new homes, so be patient. It could be several months or even years before you have resident bats.