

How Bats Navigate

Bats use echolocation to navigate and to locate insect prey. A bat will shout a short high-pitched call and listen for the echo to rebound off nearby objects. These calls are too high-pitched for humans to hear but the bat detector converts the calls to a lower frequency that we can hear.

How To Use the Detector

The detector has two dials, one to switch it on and increase the volume and the other allows you to tune into different frequencies.

Ensure the batteries are fitted before switching on and please disconnect the batteries when not in use.

There are 17 species of bat in the UK but there are at least four that you are likely to find when out on a bat walk in Bradley Stoke.

Different species of bat echolocate at different frequencies and make a variety of sounds.



Pipistrelle

There are two types of pipistrelle, the Common pipistrelle calls at about 46 kHz and the Soprano pipistrelle calls at 55 kHz.

The pipistrelle's call has a medium speed repetition rate and the calls sound like smacks. They have an erratic flight, twisting and turning around buildings, trees and hedges. Length of head and body is 3.3 - 4.8 cm, wingspan 18 - 25 cm.

Daubenton's

The daubenton's bat calls at about 45 kHz, with a fast repetition rate like a Geiger counter.

It flies very low over water, skimming the surface to catch insects with its feet. Length of head and body is 4.5 - 5.5 cm, wingspan 24 - 27.5 cm.

Noctule

The noctule bat calls at 20 - 25 kHz, with a very slow repetition rate sounding like "chip chop".

A noctule tends to fly high overhead in straight lines. It is one of the UK's biggest bats with a head and body length of 6 - 8.2 cm and a wingspan of 33 - 45

cm. This species is likely to be the first to emerge after sunset.

Bat Detecting



With a bat detector borrowed from Bradley Stoke library you can identify local bat species such as Pipistrelles, Daubenton's and Noctules.

When

The best time to detect bats is from dusk onwards, between May and September. They are unlikely to be flying around on a very wet night as their prey will not be out either.

You will need a torch but try not to use it too much as torch light may deter some bats.

Where

Some of the best places to find bats locally are near the Three Brooks Lake or near Stoke Brook as it passes under Bradley Stoke Way or on Bowsland Meadow. Refer to the map on the reverse of this leaflet.



Get Involved

The local conservation group, Three Brooks Nature Conservation Group, would be pleased to hear which bats you detected.

Email us at info@three-brooks.info or find us on Facebook.

If you find an injured bat please call the Bat Conservation Trust helpline on 0845 1300 22

Useful Websites

Avon Bat Group
www.avonbatgroup.org.uk

Bat Conservation Trust
www.bats.org.uk

South Gloucestershire Council
www.southglos.gov.uk

Avon Wildlife Trust
www.avonwildlifetrust.org.uk

Three Brooks Nature Conservation Group
www.three-brooks.info

Other places to look for bats

Check out these two websites for places nearby that are also great for bat detecting:

www.southglos.gov.uk/bataudiotrail
www.bigbatmap.org/

Aerial View of Three Brooks Local Nature Reserve, Bradley Stoke



Leisure Centre
Good Places to Find Bats
Access Points to Nature Reserve