



DERBYSHIRE BAT GROUP

Records Policy

Submission of bat records

We welcome records from all observers including from commercial surveys undertaken in Derbyshire, in order to improve our understanding of species' distribution and help us protect bats and their habitats.

Some species can be difficult to identify with certainty either with a bat detector or visually, even in the hand. If not seen well or heard only briefly even the more distinctive species can be a real challenge. Please record only what you are sure of. We are quite happy to accept records of e.g. *Myotis* sp., pipistrelle sp. or even bat sp. - these are still valuable and far preferable to an incorrect identification to species level.

Records for which supporting details are requested

We believe that the scientific and conservation value of our records database is maximised by ensuring as far as possible the accuracy of the records it contains. Therefore please do not be offended if we ask you to provide some identification details for scarce or difficult species when you submit records.

All observers are asked to provide supporting information for species in the following categories.

1. Any species not previously recorded in the county since the formation of DBCG in 1984¹.
2. The following species which are on the DBCG list:
Nathusius' pipistrelle
Serotine
Barbastelle
3. Other species on the DBCG list for which the recorder may request supporting details in some circumstances. We encourage observers to include brief identification details with all records in the comments field.

Relevant records should be accompanied by supporting details as described below for consideration by the recorder, without which they cannot be accepted for inclusion in the records database or the DBCG annual report, *Tragus*. The

¹ The current county list is shown at the end of this document.



DERBYSHIRE BAT GROUP

appropriate type of supporting information will vary according to the type of record.

Visual and in the hand

Details of the key features used to confirm the identification including any measurements and photographs taken. Supported by DNA analysis of droppings or fur samples where available².

Echolocation calls

Good quality time expansion or full spectrum WAV files. In some cases (e.g. Nathusius' pipistrelle) good quality frequency division or Analook, WAV or MP3 files will be acceptable. All files should be accompanied by details of the habitat and, if seen, the activity/behaviour of the bat to assist interpretation. Separation of *Myotis* bats by echolocation call alone is rarely possible and then only for one or two species.

There are a number of auto-recognition software packages available to support high-end bat detectors. Whilst these may be useful to screen out large numbers of calls of commoner species (e.g. common and soprano pipistrelles) they should not currently be relied upon, in our opinion, to identify other calls to species level. Please therefore only submit such records which have been subject to a manual check and again don't hesitate to record calls to genus level if appropriate.

Species recorded by DBCG since 1984

Daubenton's bat
Brandt's bat
Whiskered bat
Natterer's bat
Noctule bat
Leisler's bat
Common pipistrelle
Soprano pipistrelle
Nathusius' pipistrelle
Serotine bat
Barbastelle
Brown long-eared bat

² Handling of bats or clipping to remove fur samples must only be undertaken with an appropriate licence from Natural England.