

Bats

Most mammals live on the land and walk. But bats fly. Bats are the only mammals in the UK that fly ...

However, over a quarter of the UK's mammal species are actually bats!

There are 17 species of bats that breed in the UK and they all eat insects.

Bats need somewhere to roost during the day and in winter.



Look at the photo of the Pipistrelle bat, can you spot the 'arm' and 'finger' bones that provide the frame for the membrane (two layers of skin) that form the wings?



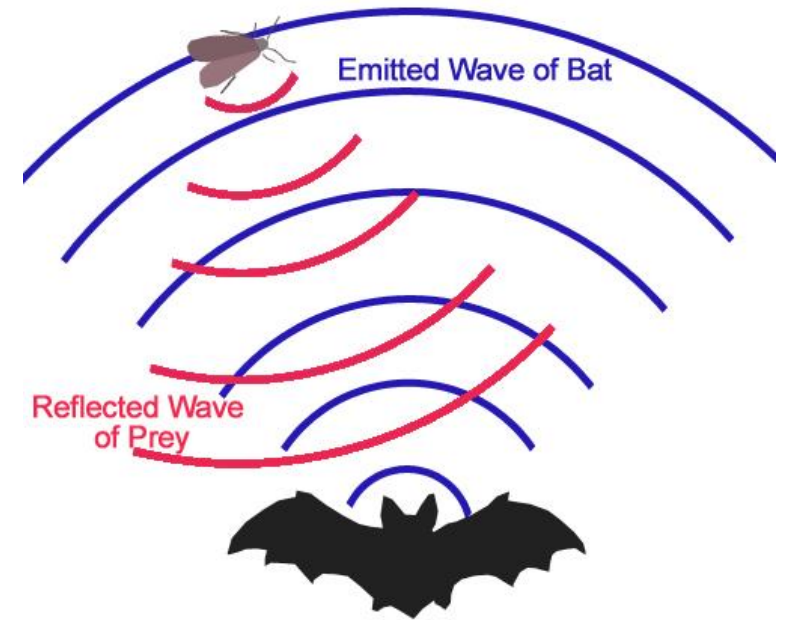
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Echolocation

Bats are special because they use sound to find their prey like moths and other insects.

The bat makes a high pitched sound that bounces off from objects around them. The reflections that return give the bat information about what is in front of them including the size and shape of an insect as well which direction it's going in.

This is called echolocation. Different bat species echolocate at different frequencies. We can use a bat detector (a small machine) to identify a bat from its echolocation frequency.



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Why don't you play the 'Bat and Moth' game to understand echolocation better? [Here's a link to the rules of the game](#) (number 12, page 14)



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Lesser Horseshoe Bat...

The Lesser Horseshoe Bat is one of the rarer bats in the United Kingdom that hunts for food in Celtic Rainforests. Like all other mammals it needs a safe home that is the right temperature, enough food and suitable areas that it can hunt for food.

During the last century they declined in numbers significantly – can you discover why?

Follow this [link](#) to find out about the important work that North Wales Wildlife Trust have done to conserve the Lesser Horseshoe Bats at Gwaith Powdwr, near Penrhyndeudraeth.



Map yn dangos dosbarthiad yr ystlum pedol lleiaf ym Mhrydain ag Iwerddon o'r DVD 'British Mammal Guide'.



Gwarchodfa Natur
Gwaith Powdwr
Nature Reserve



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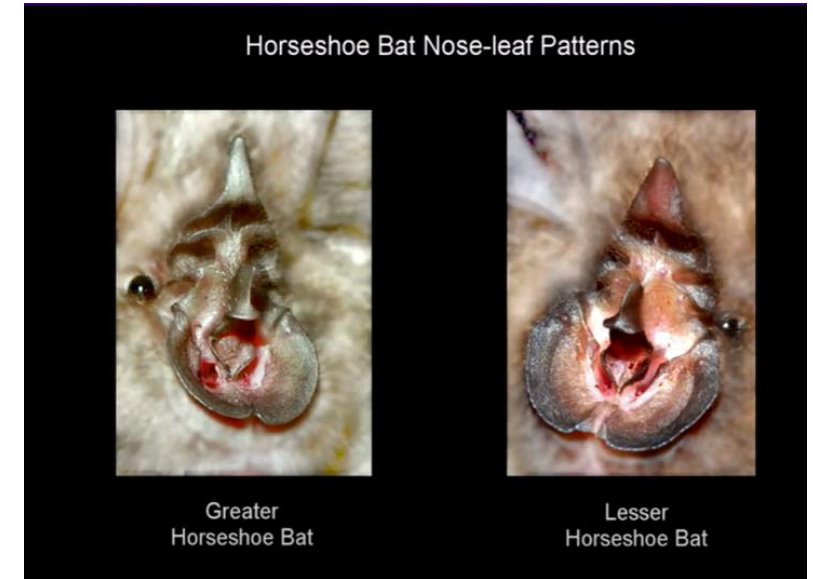
Echolocation: Lesser Horeshoe Bat



Did you know? ...

That Lesser and Greater Horseshoe Bats use their noses to echolocate...

Imagine having to sneeze to find your dinner!



Ystlum Pedol Mwyaf

Ystlum Pedol Lleiaf

From the DVD 'British Mammal Guide'

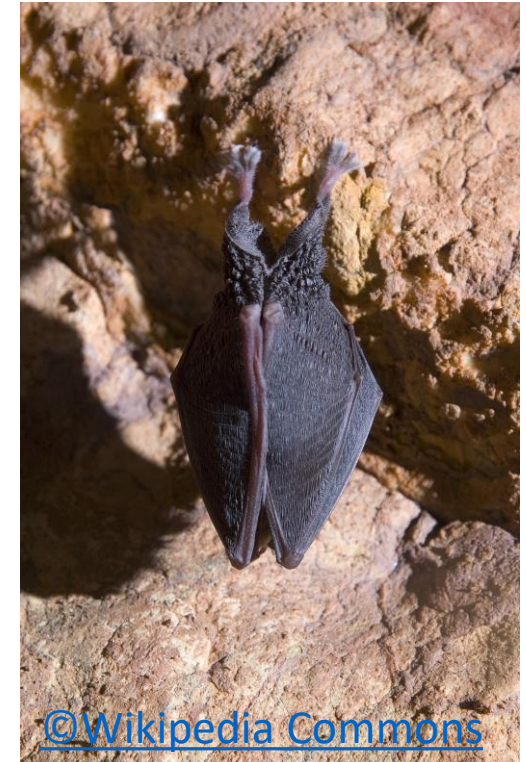
Why not learn about the Lesser Horseshoe Bats that are in Nantclwyd y Dre in Ruthin, Denbighshire [here](#)



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Researching Lesser Horseshoe Bats further ...

- [Watch this video 'Nature's Keepers' about the lesser horseshoe bat conservation work being undertaken in Ireland.](#)
- [Official video about how to identify a lesser horseshoe bat that shows the species well and includes some factual information](#)
- ['BBC Wildlife Magazine' article about the lesser and greater horseshoe bats.](#)
- [Fact sheet about Lesser Horseshoe Bats by the 'Bat Conservation Trust'](#)



Why don't you create a presentation or a video about the lesser horeshoe bat for other pupils or your parents?

Which other bats live in a Celtic Rainforest?



The Lesser Horseshoe Bat isn't the only type of bat that lives in a Celtic Rainforest. Other bat species also feed on insects in the woods and are very fond of roosting in holes in old trees.

Why not research some other species of bat and discover which ones make themselves at home in Celtic Rainforests?

Lesser
Horseshoe
Bat
*Rhinolophus
hipposideros*
Ystlum Pedol
Lleiaf



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Further bat research...

- <https://www.bats.org.uk/resources/education-outreach-resources/resources-for-teachers-youth-leaders/explore-the-world-of-bat-conservation-through-the-national-curriculum>
- <https://www.bats.org.uk/resources/education-outreach-resources/bats-for-all-resource-pack>
- <https://www.bats.org.uk/about-bats/what-are-bats/uk-bats>
- <https://naturalresources.wales/permits-and-permissions/species-licensing/list-of-protected-species/what-to-do-if-you-find-bats-in-your-home/?lang=en>
- <https://naturalresources.wales/permits-and-permissions/species-licensing/list-of-protected-species/bat-licensing/?lang=en>

A bat is no bird but a winged
mouse; for she creeps with her
wings. Is without feathers and
flyeth with a kind of skein as
bees and flies do.
Excepting that the Bats wings
hath a farre thicker and stronger
skin.
And this creature thus mungrell
like, cannot look very lovely.
John Swan in 1635

Here is a rhyme from the 'culture'
resource of the Bat Conservation Trust

What is your attitude to bats?
What do you know already and what
would you like to learn about them?



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