

CONSERVATION & HOW TO GET INVOLVED

Bat numbers have declined over the last hundred years due to human pressures such as habitat loss and fragmentation, roost destruction, insecticide use and increased lighting. Thanks to legal protection of bat roosts since 1981, the work of local bat groups and the Bat Conservation Trust (BCT), a few UK species are showing recoveries, but a lot of work is still necessary to ensure a safe future for all our species.

Richmond Biodiversity Partnership has an Action Plan for bats, which aims to raise awareness among planners, land managers and tree contractors; increase knowledge of bat distribution and population changes; protect and create new artificial roost sites in association with suitable feeding habitat; and increase public awareness and participation in bat conservation.

You can help by creating a bat-friendly garden. Put in a small pond and plant a variety of flowering plants, shrubs and trees, which will attract insects for bats to feed on.

Provide roosting spaces by putting up bat boxes and not blocking up gaps in your house or removing old trees. Help support bats locally and nationally by joining your local bat group and the Bat Conservation Trust.



SPOT THE DIFFERENCE

Bats are found foraging after dusk in insect-rich habitats such as wetlands, woodlands, open parkland and suitable gardens.

Ensure your safety by not visiting a site alone, and taking care around water and on uneven ground. Carry a torch to help find your way (but switch it off when bat-watching) and a mobile phone in case of emergency. It can get chilly after dark even in summer, so take an extra layer of clothing and waterproofs in case of rain. Public bat walks led by local experts are run at various sites throughout the borough.

A bat detector is essential for listening to echolocation calls, which are exciting to hear and greatly aid species identification. Visual clues are also highly important including size, wing shape, flight pattern and behaviour. Pipistrelles have an erratic flight, often just above head height. Noctules are larger with long narrow wings and fly very high up with steep swoops. Daubenton's bats forage very low over water often plucking insects from the surface.

Even if you are unable to identify the species, there is great pleasure to be had in simply watching their spectacular aerobatics as bats swoop after their insect prey. For urgent advice on bats call BCT's helpline on 0845 1300 228.



FURTHER INFORMATION

- Richmond Biodiversity Partnership: www.richmond.gov.uk/biodiversity
- Richmond Bat Species Action Plan: www.richenvironmentnet.org.uk/Links.aspx#Biodiversity%20Action%20Plan
- Bat Conservation Trust: www.bats.org.uk
- London Bat Group: www.londonbats.org.uk
- Surrey Bat Group: www.surreybats.org.uk
- The Mammal Society: www.mammal.org.uk

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Please contact us if you need this in Braille, large print, audio tape, or another language on 0845 612 2660.

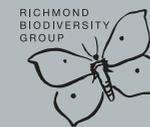
Richmond Biodiversity Partnership,
c/o Parks and Open Spaces,
Civic Centre, 44 York Street,
Twickenham TW1 3BZ
www.richmond.gov.uk/biodiversity

اگر در فهمیدن این نشریه مشکلی دارید لطفاً به میز پذیرش در آدرس قید شده در زیر مراجعه نمایید تا ترتیب ترجمه تلفنی برایتان فراهم آورده شود:

إذا كانت لديك صعوبة في فهم هذا المنشور، فنرجو زيارة الإستقبال في العنوان المعطى أدناه حيث بإمكاننا أن نرتب لخدمة ترجمة شفوية هاتفية.

ਜੇਕਰ ਤੁਹਾਨੂੰ ਇਸ ਪਰਚੇ ਨੂੰ ਸਮਝਣ ਵਿਚ ਮੁਸ਼ਕਲ ਪੇਸ਼ ਆਉਂਦੀ ਹੈ ਤਾਂ ਹੇਠਾਂ ਦਿੱਤੇ ਗਏ ਪਤੇ ਉੱਪਰ ਰਿਸੈਪਸ਼ਨ 'ਤੇ ਆਓ ਜਿੱਥੇ ਅਸੀਂ ਟੈਲੀਫੋਨ ਤੇ ਗੱਲਬਾਤ ਕਰਨ ਲਈ ਇੰਟਰਪ੍ਰਿਟਰ ਦਾ ਪ੍ਰਬੰਧ ਕਰ ਸਕਦੇ ਹਾਂ।

Nese keni veshtersi per te kuptuar kete botim, ju lutemi e jani ne recepcionin ne adresen e shenuar me poshte ku ne mund te organizojme perkthime nepermjet telefonit.



Bats





ABOUT BATS

Bats are the only mammals with powered flight. Their wings are modified hands with a membrane stretched across four elongated fingers. This allows highly manoeuvrable flight, a huge advantage that has enabled bats to spread to every continent except Antarctica and evolve into more than 1,000 species. Being nocturnal, many species use a highly sophisticated sonar system to navigate and locate prey in the dark. Known as echolocation this involves emitting high-pitched calls several times per second and listening for the echoes, which produce “sound pictures” of the surroundings.

Seventeen species are known to breed in the UK, all are insectivores and between them, they feed on a variety of insects including midges, mosquitoes, moths and beetles. Species like common pipistrelle are widespread and adaptable, but more specialist species have dwindled in range due to habitat loss; horseshoe bats



formerly found in London are now largely confined to SW England and Wales.

BATS IN RICHMOND

At least ten species are known to occur in Richmond. Common and soprano pipistrelles are regularly found in parks and gardens, the latter particularly abundant near water.

The nationally rare Nathusius' pipistrelle is frequently recorded, typically found near large lakes, particularly in spring and autumn.

London's noctule population appears to have declined in recent years but in Richmond this species can still be seen feeding high in the sky over the large parks and the river Thames. The closely related Leisler's bat is nationally rare but now seems more common than noctules in the borough. Serotine are occasionally recorded in the larger parks and along the Thames.

Daubenton's bats are commonly seen feeding low over the Thames and most ponds and lakes.

Natterer's bat is only occasionally recorded,

but has been confirmed breeding in the borough. There are a few records of the often ambiguous Whiskered/Brandt's bat from the larger parks. The brown long-eared bat is mainly confined to darker areas such as in the large parks where it's known to breed.

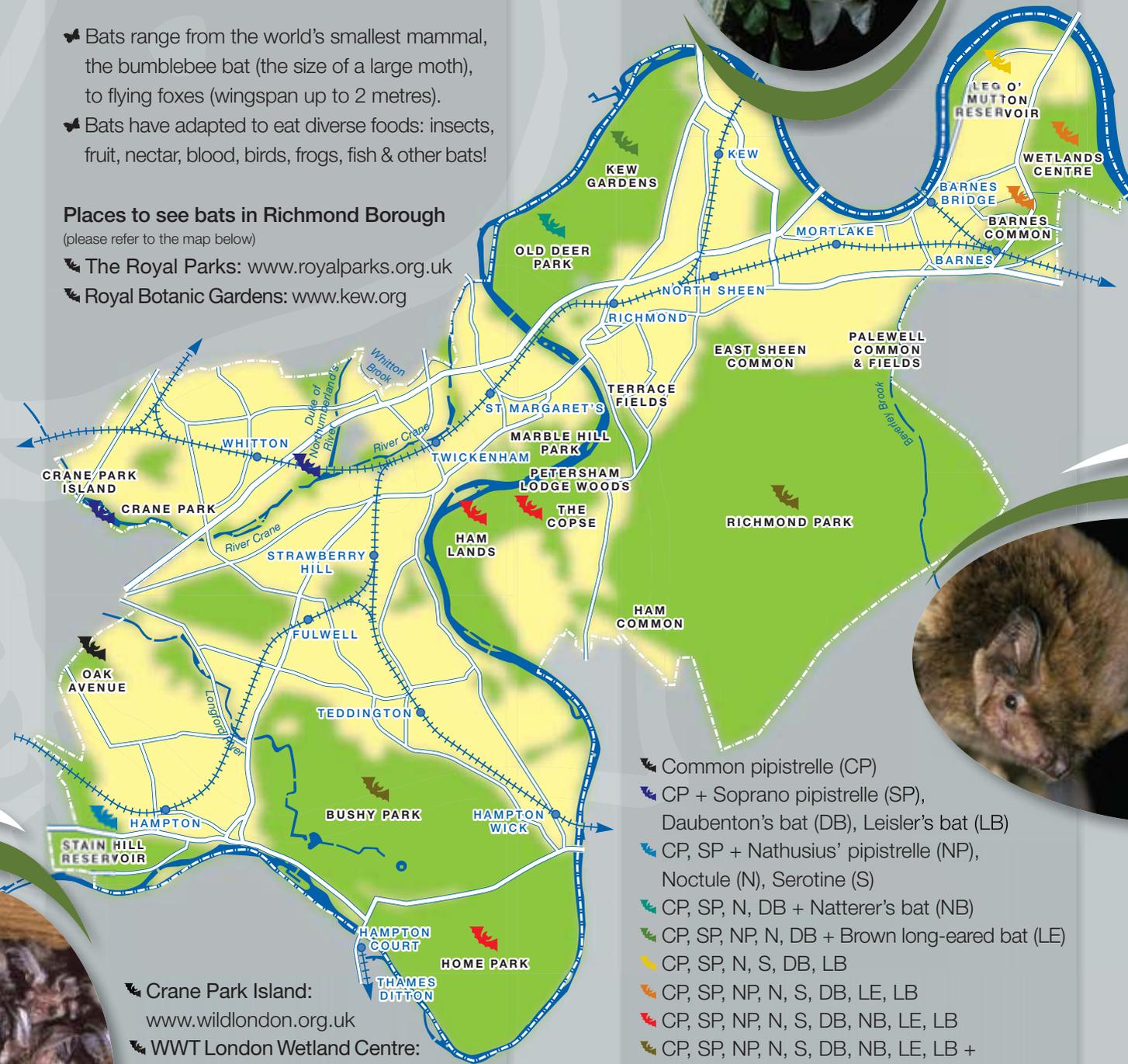
FACTS ABOUT BATS

- ✦ Bats range from the world's smallest mammal, the bumblebee bat (the size of a large moth), to flying foxes (wingspan up to 2 metres).
- ✦ Bats have adapted to eat diverse foods: insects, fruit, nectar, blood, birds, frogs, fish & other bats!

Places to see bats in Richmond Borough

(please refer to the map below)

- ✦ The Royal Parks: www.royalparks.org.uk
- ✦ Royal Botanic Gardens: www.kew.org



✦ Crane Park Island:
www.wildlondon.org.uk

✦ WWT London Wetland Centre:
www.wwt.org.uk

- ✦ Common pipistrelle (CP)
- ✦ CP + Soprano pipistrelle (SP), Daubenton's bat (DB), Leisler's bat (LB)
- ✦ CP, SP + Nathusius' pipistrelle (NP), Noctule (N), Serotine (S)
- ✦ CP, SP, N, DB + Natterer's bat (NB)
- ✦ CP, SP, NP, N, DB + Brown long-eared bat (LE)
- ✦ CP, SP, N, S, DB, LB
- ✦ CP, SP, NP, N, S, DB, LE, LB
- ✦ CP, SP, NP, N, S, DB, NB, LE, LB
- ✦ CP, SP, NP, N, S, DB, NB, LE, LB + Whiskered/Brandt's bat

