

# Sunset - Sunrise Survey

Do your bit for bats this summer



## Contact details

Name .....

Address .....

..... Post Code .....

Email address .....

## Survey details

Date of survey .....

Survey type  Sunset  Sunrise

How many surveyors? .....

Did you see bats?  Yes  No

Species? (simply write 'bat' if you're not sure) .....

ID method?  Visual  Bat detector (please note model below) .....

Type of sighting?  In flight  Roost  Swarming

Survey location (grid ref or post code) .....

What other species did you see or hear?  Hedgehog  Stag Beetle

Rabbit  Tawny Owl  Fox  Other .....

If you are happy to be contacted by BCT with information about other bat surveys you may be interested in please tick the box

For further instructions (including videos) and to enter your results online visit

[www.bats.org.uk/our-work/national-bat-monitoring-programme/surveys/sunset-sunrise-survey](http://www.bats.org.uk/our-work/national-bat-monitoring-programme/surveys/sunset-sunrise-survey)

**Brown long-eared bats** usually fly close to trees. Their flight is slow and hovering. Their long distinctive ears can sometimes be seen in flight.



The **noctule** is one of our biggest bats. They fly very high above tree tops, in straight lines and with steep dives.



Flight path

You're most likely to spot a **pipistrelle**. They have erratic flight with lots of twist and turns and downward swoops. There are 3 species of pipistrelle that look similar: common pipistrelle, soprano pipistrelle and the rarer Nathusius' pipistrelle.



**Daubenton's bats** fly very low over water, skimming the surface to catch insects with their feet. If you look closely you can see their white bellies.



# Ever sat in your garden or local park on a warm summer evening and watched bats flitting around?

The Bat Conservation Trust has been counting the UK's bats since 1997, with the help of thousands of volunteers. We need to understand what is happening to our bat populations so that we can work effectively to conserve them.

Taking part in the **Sunset-Sunrise Survey** couldn't be simpler, you don't need any equipment or experience and you may not even need to leave your back garden! Simply spend the hour after sunset and/or the hour before sunrise in your garden or local open space and look for any bats or other nocturnal animals you can spot.

## You can carry out your survey anytime from April to September.

This period is when bats are most active. Between June and August is the best time to see them swarming as they return to the roost.

## You will need:

- Survey form
- Pencil/pen
- Torch
- Watch

## If you are doing your survey in the evening start at sunset. If you are doing your survey at dawn start one hour before sunrise.

To find out the sunset and sunrise times at your location you can enter your nearest city and the word 'sunset' or 'sunrise' into Google, or visit [www.bbc.co.uk/weather](http://www.bbc.co.uk/weather) or [www.timeanddate.com/sun](http://www.timeanddate.com/sun) and search for your nearest city.

## Spend an hour looking for bats and any other nocturnal animals you can see or hear.

Record the animals that you see on the form overleaf. After sunset you may spot bats **emerging** from their roost or **foraging** for food. Before dawn you may see bats **swarming** before they return to their roost - bat swarming is when several bats circle around a building or tree. If you have already completed a survey at sunset and saw bats flying past, then you may be able to locate their roost just before dawn by walking in the direction from which they came and looking out for swarming bats.

## Which bat is it?

There are eighteen species of bat in the UK, but you are most likely to see one of five species: common pipistrelle, soprano pipistrelle, brown long-eared bat, noctule or Daubenton's bat. The form overleaf shows you how to tell them apart from their flight pattern. If you do not know which species of bat you have seen simply enter 'bat' on the online data entry form.

## Send us your results

Please go to [www.brc.ac.uk/irecord/external/bct-sunset-sunrise](http://www.brc.ac.uk/irecord/external/bct-sunset-sunrise) to send us your results using our online form.

**Thank you for your valuable contribution to bat conservation!**

If you have enjoyed this survey and would like to take part in other

National Bat Monitoring Programme surveys go to <http://nbmp.bats.org.uk/Surveys.aspx>