

Lesser horseshoe

Rhinolophus hipposideros

Description: A small bat (body length 35-45mm), with a wingspan of 192-254mm (size of a plum). 5-9g. It has a complex horseshoe-shaped nose leaf. It does not have a tragus. Pinky buff-brown. Adult forearm length: 54-61mm.



Matt Hobbs

Droppings: 6-8mm long, 1.5-2mm wide. Medium texture, occasionally ginger in colour. Occasionally, lacewing and small beetle wings found next to droppings. Found beneath roost locations (i.e. beneath central ridge of building) in circular clusters.



Flight description: Emerges within 30-50 mins of sunset. Fairly fast and skilful flight close to the ground along habitat edges in vegetation. Catch prey from perch.

Lifespan: Can live up to 30 years.

Life cycle: Mating occurs mainly in autumn. During summer (May onwards, peaking in June), females form maternity colony where they give birth to a single young. Males also use same roosts as females during summer.

Roost locations: Buildings (stately homes, boiler houses, cellars, attics) and caves. Free hanging. In winter uses caves, disused mines, cellars and tunnels as hibernation sites.

Habitats: Sheltered valleys, woodland edge, pasture and wetlands. Typically sensitive to lighting.

UK conservation status: Rare and has marked decline in population. Confined to South-West.

Oxfordshire: Uncommon but widespread.

Legislation:

- ◆ Habitat regulations 2010 Schedule 2
- ◆ Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 Schedule 5
- ◆ Section 41 NERC Act 2006

Echolocation:

Lowest frequency: 84kHz

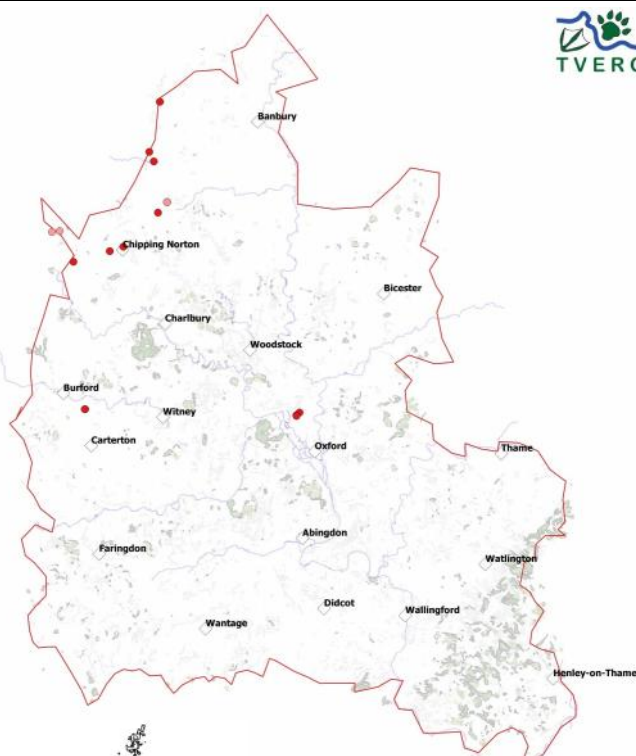
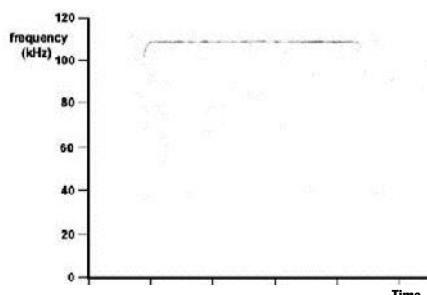
Highest frequency: 113 kHz

Peak intensity: 110kHz

Average call duration: 0.044 seconds

Description: Continuous loud babbling warbles. Very directional.

Typical echolocation sonogram (from Brooks, A. *The Bats of Britain and Europe*).



KNOWN RECORDS

Oxfordshire:

1995-2005 Present = pink

2005-2015 Present = red

Great Britain and Northern Ireland:

1995-2015 Present = yellow

