## Oxfordshire Mammal Group

## **Greater Horseshoe**

Rhinolophus

Description: A large bat (body length 57-71mm), with a wingspan of 290-350mm, the size of a small pear. 17-34g. It has a complex horseshoe-shaped nose leaf. It does not have a tragus. Medium to dark brown. Face and around the eyes usually dark. Adult forearm length: 54-61mm.



Droppings: 9-13mm long, 2.2-2.7mm wide. Coarse texture, tapered at either end. Often silver speckled with wing cases of beetles or moths around. Found beneath roost locations (i.e. beneath central ridge of building) in patches.

Flight description: Emerges within 30-50 minutes of sunset. Slow, fluttering flight with short glides close to the ground along habitat edges or in vegetation. Catches prey on wing and uses feeding

30 years.

Lifespan: Can live up to 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 usually roost singularly. All females and some males migrate up to 50km to maternity roosts from hibernation sites.

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

Habitats: Grasslands, woodlands, farmland and urban areas. Typically sensitive to lighting.

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

Oxfordshire: None known.

## Legislation:

♦ Habitat regulations 2010 Schedule 2

♦ Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 Schedule 5

♦ Section 41 NERC Act 2006

None recorded in Oxfordshire

## **Echolocation:**

Lowest frequency: 64kHz Highest frequency: 84 kHz Peak intensity: 82 kHz

Average call duration: 0.051 seconds

Description: Continuous loud babbling warbles. Very

directional.

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



