Oxfordshire Mammal Group

Whiskered bat

Myotis mystacinus

Description: A small bat (body length 35-48mm), with a wingspan of 190-225mm. 4-8g. Tragus straight and sharp. Dark grey or brown, golden tips on back and greyish underneath. Adult forearm length: 30-37mm. Straight calyx 1/2 length of tail.

Very similar to Brandt's bat.



Droppings: 6-9mm long, 2-2.3mm wide. Medium texture, not tapered at either end. Often found below ridges or vertical structures (e.g. chimneys) in circular clusters.

Flight description: Emerges about 30 mins after sunset. Moderate speed hawking (catching prey on the wing). Fast straight flight at head height along habitat edges.

Lifespan: Can live up to 24 years.

Life cycle: Mating in autumn, continues into winter. Maternity colonies established late spring when a single young is born per female. Weaned at 6 weeks, although females will crèche young after 3 weeks.



Roost locations: Trees, timber-framed barns, stone buildings and bat boxes. In loose crevices. Hibernation roosts are underground.

Habitats: Woodland, parkland and farmland

UK conservation status: Common and

widespread.

Oxfordshire: Frequent in woodland areas.

Legislation:

- ♦ Habitat regulations 2010 Schedule 2
- ♦ Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 Schedule 5

Echolocation:

Lowest frequency: 32.7 kHz Highest frequency: 89 kHz Peak intensity: 45 kHz

Average call duration: 0.004 seconds

Description: Medium-loud, rapid series of irregular clicks (resembling machine gun). similar to Daubenton's but not as regular and often slower).

Typical echolocation sonogram (from Brooks,

A. The Bats of Britain and Europe).



