

Brown long-eared

Plecotus auritus

Description: A medium bat (body length 37-52mm), with a wingspan of 240-285mm. 6-12g. Ears are long and joined at the base, with a narrow tragus (less than 5.5mm). They have obviously big feet. Thumb is larger on brown long-eared bat (greater than 6.2mm). Light brown fur, pale underneath. Adult forearm length: 34-42mm.

Similar to grey long-eared bat.



Matt Hobbs

Droppings: 8-10mm long, 2.5-3mm wide. Medium to coarse texture. Knobbly, often mixed black/brown colour with wings amongst droppings. Often found below roost locations, in a line along main ridge in building.



Flight description: Emerges 45-65 mins after sunset. Gleans prey off leaves and uses feeding perches. Slow fluttering agile flight in vegetation with occasional hovering pauses.

Lifespan: Typically 4-5 years, but can live up to 22 years.

Life cycle: Mating in autumn, continues into winter. Maternity colonies (with males as well as females) established late spring where a single young is born per female. Weaned at 6 weeks.

Roost locations: Buildings (churches, barns, lofts of large houses and mills. Free hanging and loose crevices), trees, bat boxes and caves. Hibernation roosts similar, but less often in trees and buildings.

Habitats: Woodland, farmland, urban areas and parkland. Typically sensitive to lighting.

UK conservation status: Common (but declining) and widespread.

Oxfordshire: Common and widespread.

Legislation:

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

Echolocation:

Lowest frequency: 28.1 kHz

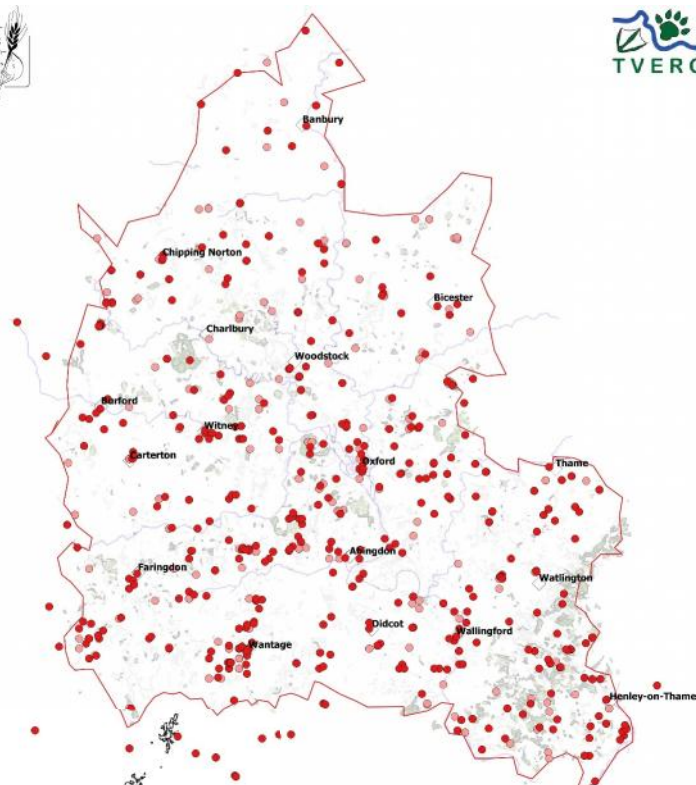
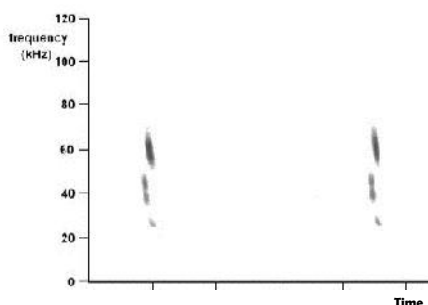
Highest frequency: 50 kHz

Peak intensity: 35 kHz

Average call duration: 0.002 seconds

Description: Quiet ticks. More commonly seen than heard.

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

