

Barbastelle

Species Description

Scientific name: *Barbastella barbastellus*

An elusive bat, the Barbastelle lives in woodland and roosts in crevices in trees. All UK bats are nocturnal, feeding on midges, moths and other flying insects that they find in the dark by using echolocation. Barbastelles forage over a variety of habitats and are fast and agile fliers. They mate in autumn, hibernate over the winter (usually underground), and give birth to a single pup in late spring.

This species is protected in the UK under the Wildlife and Countryside Act, 1981. Priority Species under the UK Post-2010 Biodiversity Framework. European Protected Species under Annex IV of the European Habitats Directive. Listed as Near Threatened on the global IUCN Red List of Threatened Species.



Photo: Jean Roulin

Key ID features

Upturned nose gives pug-like appearance (see above)

Large, rounded ears meet in middle of forehead

Long, silky, blackish brown fur—with white tips



Photo: C. Robiller / Naturlichter.de