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# Whiskered Bat

*Myotis mystacinus*

## Quick facts

**Order** Chiroptera

## Conservation status

GB *Data deficient*

RE CE E V NT LC DD

England *Data deficient*

Scotland *Data deficient*

Wales *Data deficient*

Global *Least concern*

**GB trend** *Unknown*

## Size

Head & body 35 - 48 mm

Forearm 30 - 37 mm

Wingspan 210 - 240 mm

**Weight** 4 - 8 g

A cryptic species, easily confused with the Alcaethoe bat and Brandt's bat (despite being only distantly related to the Brandt's bat). These species can only be reliably identified using DNA analyses. Present in England and Wales, mostly absent from Scotland.

## Habitat

Woodlands, orchards, riparian habitats, scrub, grasslands. Seems to avoid urban and arable habitats. Frequently captured along linear features such as hedgerows, woodland edges.

## Behaviour

May roost in same buildings as *Pipistrellus spp.* As with other *Myotis* species, visits swarming sites such as cave entrances in autumn. Adapted to foraging in cluttered environments.

## Diet & Feeding

Small moths, flies, and spiders taken on the wing and off surfaces. Prey selection differs considerably between colonies. Foraging distances of up to 2.3 km or 3.5 km from maternity roosts have been recorded.

## Reproduction

Maternity roosts are in buildings, sometimes in trees or bat boxes.

## Conservation & Threats

Difficult to identify without genotyping due to similarities in appearance and echolocation parameters with other *Myotis* species; likely frequently misidentified. There is no basis for making a population estimate for this species.

The range below represents data from both whiskered and Brandt's bat.

## Range

