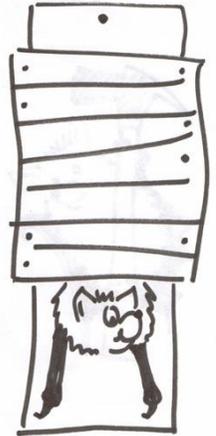




# The Luton Bat Project



## Why put up bat boxes?

1. To provide extra roosting spaces for bats. There may not be enough in the natural environment.
2. To be able to monitor bats more easily than if they live on a tree.

If all you want to do is see bats, don't put up a box, just go out and watch them.

## What's special about the Kent Bat Box?

This is a relatively new design but we know from a project in Priory Park Bedford, that it is preferred over more traditional bat boxes

The box can be checked for bats without disturbing the bats

Birds will not nest in these boxes as there is no floor

You can download instructions for making these boxes from our website [www.bedsbatgroup.org.uk](http://www.bedsbatgroup.org.uk)

## Where should I put my box?

1. Away from predators such as cats and owls. DO not put it near an owl box
2. High enough that the bats can swoop down out of it and people cannot disturb it.
3. Bats need a clear flight path to and from the box, and this mustn't be obscured by leaves and branches
4. Boxes are often put on a wall or building. In general avoid north facing boxes, south and south west orientations are probably best
5. Do not place boxes near flues or hot air vents
6. Bat droppings are not caustic or a health hazard, but you might want to site boxes away from things like patios
7. If you are placing boxes in woodland, things are more complicated. Contact the Bat group and we will be happy to give advice.



## Checking your box

Don't disturb the boxes once they are up. Check the box by shining a torch BRIEFLY into the box.

Bats use boxes rather like hotels. They tend to come and go rather than take up permanent residence



Bats are unobtrusive and may use the box without you ever being aware of it. They may use it to have a rest during feeding at night, or snooze away the daylight hours

If you find bats please let us know. Our e mail address is [batsinbeds@fsmail.net](mailto:batsinbeds@fsmail.net).



**Bedfordshire  
Bat Group**  
[www.bedsbatgroup.org.uk](http://www.bedsbatgroup.org.uk)

### Care of your box

Please do not paint or stain your box as the paints and stains are toxic to bats. .If building more **always** use untreated wood

The box will weather over the year, but is still serviceable – we have some boxes in their twentieth year of occupation.

At the end of the box's life , if it has ever been used as a roost, put up a replacement box nearby for a while prefer removing the original box.

## Bats and the Law



All bat roosts are protected by law and you must take great care not to disturb them.

Once a bat has been found in a box, that box becomes a roost and you can not take it down as it is legally protected even if the bats are not longer present

Thank you for supporting bat conservation

### How else can you help bat conservation?

Come and join in with bat group activities. Most are open to non members

Join the Bedfordshire Bat Group

Join the National Bat Monitoring Programme run by the Bat Conservation Trust



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