

The Bats of Wycoller

THE aisled Barn at Wycoller is the summer home of a colony of Natterer's bats.

Natterer's Bats are found throughout the British Isles, but Wycoller is one of relatively few summer roosts that are known and the British population of the species is of international importance.



A Natterer's Bat

The colony of bats in the barn move from roost to roost within the barn throughout the summer.

Sometimes they live between the timbers and the stone roof slates of the barn and at other times they make their home in one of the two Bat Boxes that have been fitted to the oak structure by the Friends of Wycoller.

The boxes are fitted to a large oak post at the 'stage' end of the barn. It is sometimes possible to see the bats in the bottom entrance slit of the boxes - but beware do not stand directly underneath as bat poo sometimes falls out!

The Bat Boxes have been fitted with CCTV cameras and the Friends plan to arrange for Wycoller's own 'Spring Watch-style' TV show to allow visitors to watch what is happening within the Bat Boxes via a live video feed.

Together with the Bat Conservation Trust and local Bat Groups the Wycoller colony is also

being studied to try to add to the knowledge of Natterer's bats. It would be particularly interesting to know where they go to hibernate in the winter months, but it is thought they could travel many miles to their winter home.

While the bats are at Wycoller a number of evening Bat Walks are organised by The Friends to allow visitors to get to know more about the Natterer's and other types of bats that live in the Wycoller area. Keep a close eye on notice boards and the Friends of Wycoller website to discover details of the latest walks.

During the walks electronic Bat Detectors are available to allow visitors to 'hear' the ultra-sonic sounds made by bats.



Bat Boxes in the barn

More details about the Natterer's bats are given on the Information Sheet produced by the Bat Conservation Trust.