

The Yorkshire Mammal Group (YMG) was established in 1970, making it one of the oldest in the country. Our aims are to promote the scientific study and conservation of mammals and encourage a wider public interest in them, particularly in Yorkshire.

Meetings

YMG holds regular indoor meetings on the first Tuesday of each month (October to May inclusive) at the Bay Horse Public House, Marygate, York. Doors open at 7pm, talks start at 7.30pm. Everyone is welcome. We ask non-members to contribute a £3 fee (£1.50 for juniors, students, unwaged and senior citizens).

Visiting speakers or sometimes our own members discuss a variety of mammalian topics in a relaxed and informal atmosphere. Recent talk topics have included badgers and TB, the exotic alien wildlife roaming Britain, conservation of water voles, cetacean watching, wildlife photography, the Ice Age mammals of our region and the reintroduction of dormice to Yorkshire.

Fieldwork

Field meetings are held throughout the year. These may be part of our own research programmes or be designed to coincide with national mammal surveys. Some are for the simple pleasure of observing wild mammals. Mammal species we have encountered include badgers, bats, brown hares, dormice, grey seals and harvest mice.

News & Views

Members are kept informed of events by a monthly e-newsletter. We also produce an annual publication, *Imprint*, containing reports of YMG activities, mammal news and articles by members.

Mammals in Yorkshire

Most wild mammals are secretive. Often the only clues to their presence are footprints, hair snagged on fences or droppings. But with a little detective work it is not difficult to discover much more about them. There are at least 69 species of wild mammal living in and around the British Isles. A further 29 migratory species occasionally visit. In Yorkshire we have 39 terrestrial mammals, and six marine species are regularly seen off our coast.

Why Study Mammals?

Apart from their intrinsic interest, the state of our wild mammal populations reflects the health of our environment. For example, otters and water voles are a sign of clean rivers, and a healthy population of small mammal prey is good news for predators further up the food chain, such as barn owls and pine martens. We have a duty to protect species - did you know that the British Isles are home to two thirds of the world's grey seals?

Conservation

Many British mammals are declining in distribution and population size. Numbers of several native bats have fallen sharply, and the water vole has become one of the fastest declining mammals in the UK thanks to changes in river management and the spread of alien American mink. Red squirrels are all but extinct in Yorkshire, with just a tiny population hanging on in the western Dales giving a glimmer of hope. But it's not all bad news. Several years ago dormice were thought to be extinct in Yorkshire. Two new populations have since been reintroduced and are being monitored by YMG members. Other native mammals such as brown hares and roe deer are doing well in the region, and off our coast, grey and harbour seals and sightings of several species of whale and dolphin are increasing. It is only by regular monitoring and continued basic research that these changes in our mammal fauna can be detected and understood. YMG often helps with national surveys and has undertaken a number of its own research projects.



MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Name

Address

Postcode

Telephone

Email

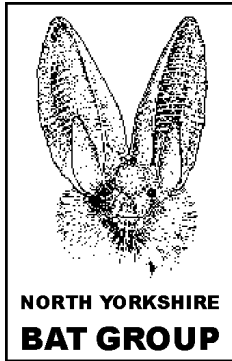
- Full member £15
- Student/unwaged/senior citizen £7.50
- Joint (two members at same address) £20

Please tick as appropriate

Subscription fees help cover the cost of meeting venues, fieldwork events, administration and the production of e-newsletters and our annual publication *Imprint*.

Subscriptions are renewable annually on 1 January. Please make cheques/postal orders payable to The Yorkshire Mammal Group and send with your completed form to the Membership Secretary (details overleaf).

**The Yorkshire Mammal Group
welcomes anyone with an interest in
mammals, professional or amateur.
No experience or specialist
knowledge is needed!**



Membership of YMG includes
associate membership of North
Yorkshire Bat Group.
NYBG promotes the conservation
of bats in the county.
For advice about bats roosts in
properties, sick, injured or
orphaned bats – please contact
the Bat Conservation Trust
Helpline: 0845 1300 228
www.bats.org.uk

Please send membership applications to:
John Drewett
YMG Membership Secretary
No Man's Common
Arrathorne
Bedale
North Yorkshire
DL8 1NA
Tel: 01677 451886
Email: johndrewett@btinternet.com

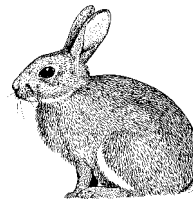
Have you seen mysterious footprints or droppings
and wondered what left them?



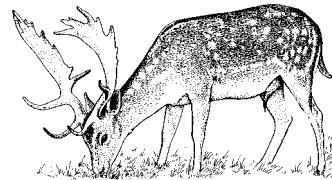
Would you like to know more about
the wildlife on your doorstep?



Are you interested in hearing about wildlife
research projects happening locally and elsewhere
in the world?



Do you sometimes see dead mammals on the roads
and wonder where to report them?



Then why not come along to a meeting?
There's no obligation to join



*The local group for
everyone
interested in
mammals.*