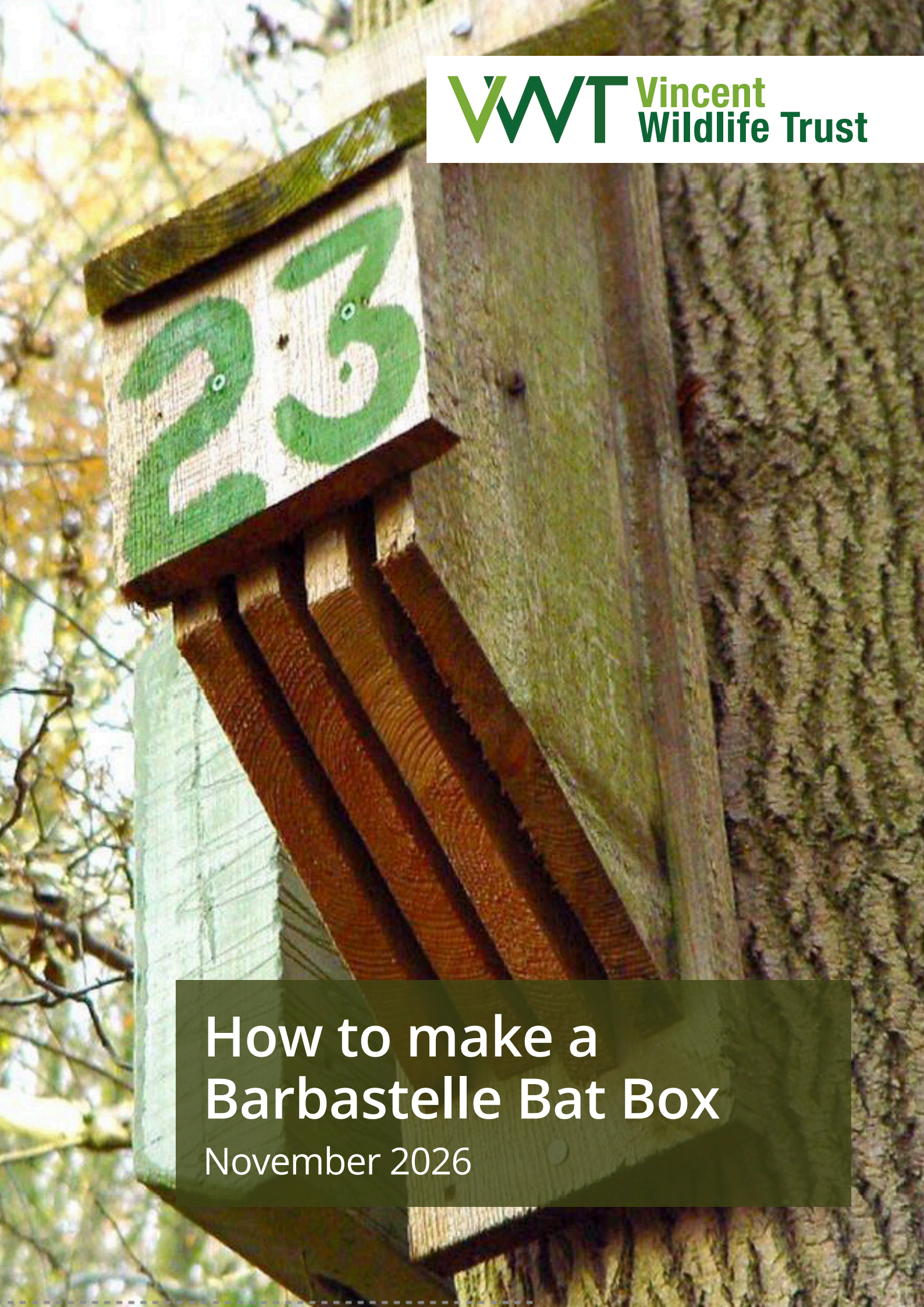


Vincent Wildlife Trust

How to make a Barbastelle Bat Box

November 2026

How to make a Barbastelle Bat Box

Introduction

The slot bat box has been designed to imitate niches where crevice-dwelling bats might roost, such as a splits in tree trunks or behind loose bark.

In this design, the roof has been screwed down and does not allow the bats to be removed from the box. To enable the roof to be removed, replace the screws with nails that push into suitably sized holes.

The open bottom allows droppings to fall from the box, which means that the boxes don't need to be cleaned out.



Barbastelle Bat Box design showing horizontal grooves in the base board to enable bats to cling on and crawl into the slots.

The three vertical 'slots' in this bat box, each of a different width, means that different species of bat can use the box, depending on their size.

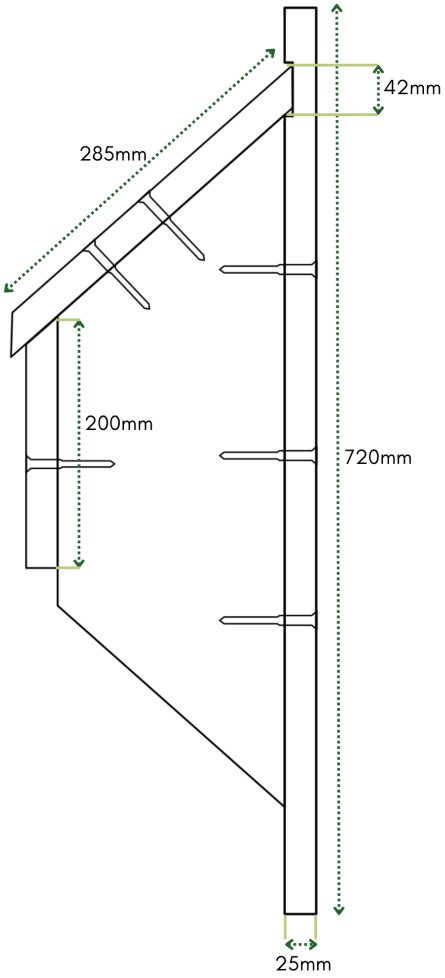
Inside the box, the upper section of the two inner walls have been cut away to give an area for bats to cluster, conserve energy and breed.

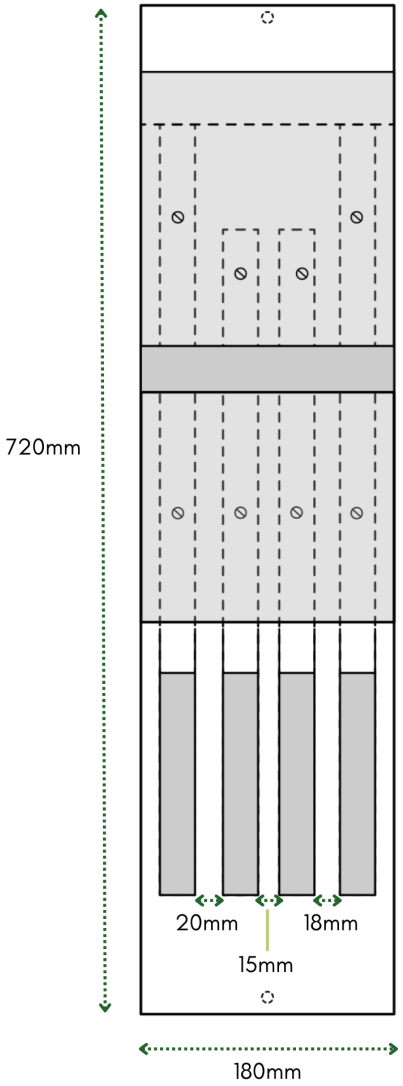
Barbastelle Bat Box Design

NB All timber used is untreated, rough sawn 180mm x 25mm.

Side view

Four slot boards are mounted on the back panel, partially covered with a fixed lid on the top and front panel. The bottom section is left open for entry and exit.





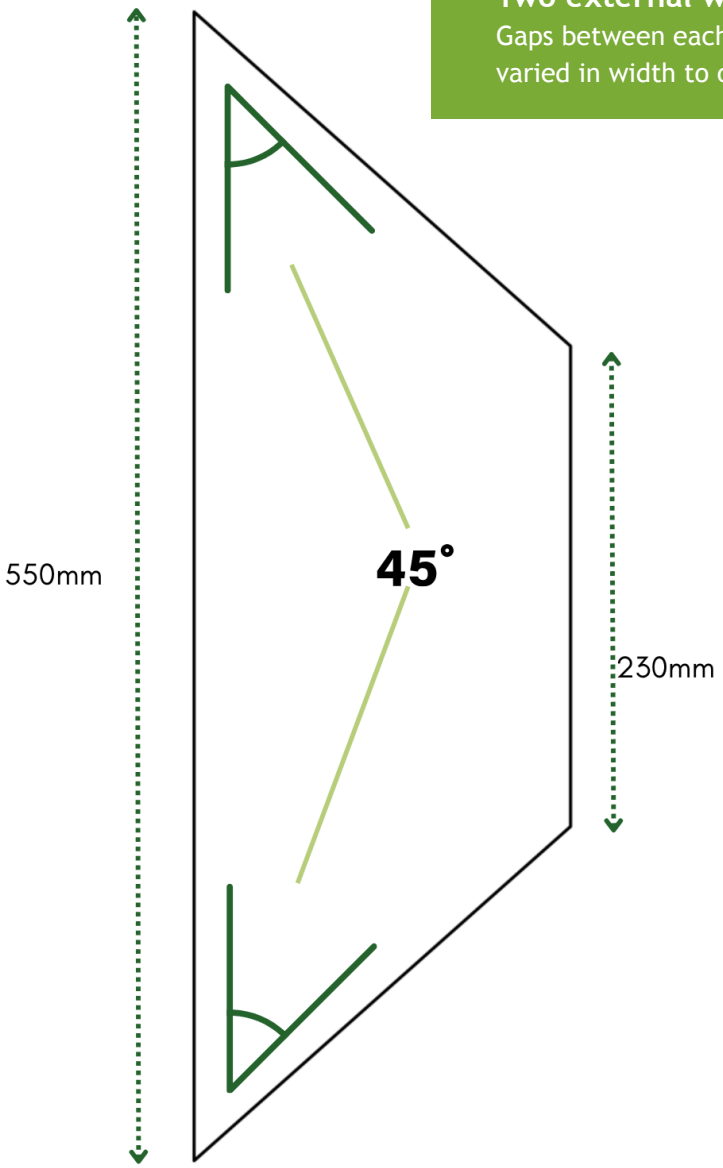
Front and internal view

Gaps between each board are varied in width to offer space for different species of bats. The open space created by the two shorter internal boards allow space for the bats to cluster.

Holes at the top and bottom of the base board will be needed for screws or nails to attach the box to a tree. It is suggested that aluminium nails or screws are best in case they need to be cut through for any reason.

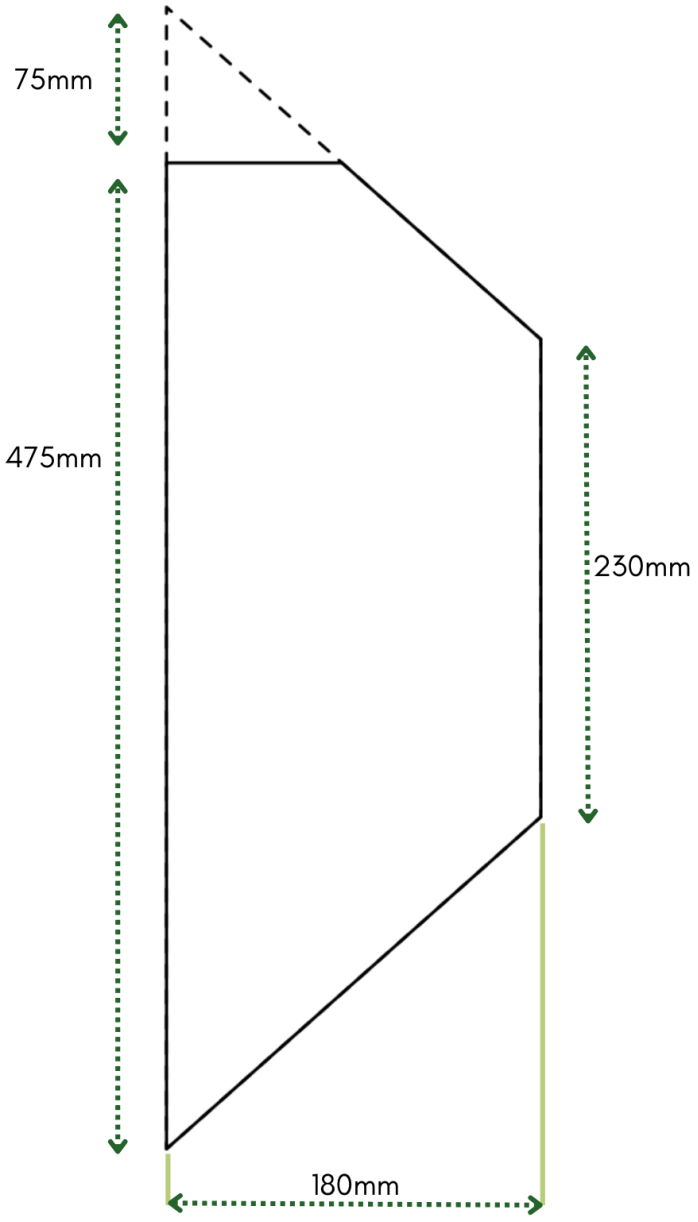
Two external walls

Gaps between each external board and the two internal boards are varied in width to offer space for different species of bats.



Two internal walls

The top 75mm of each of the two internal boards is removed to create a space for bats to cluster inside the box.



To date, a confirmed seven species have been recorded using this design of bat box — barbastelle, Leisler's, common pipistrelle,soprano pipistrelle, brown long-eared, Natterer's and whiskered bats.



Cover image ©Johnny Birks

©Vincent Wildlife Trust 2026 **www.vwt.org.uk**

Charitable Company Limited by Guarantee, Company Registered in England No. 05598716.
Charity Numbers 1112100 (England and Wales), SC043066 (Scotland), 20100841 (Republic of Ireland)