

MEET
THE

BATS

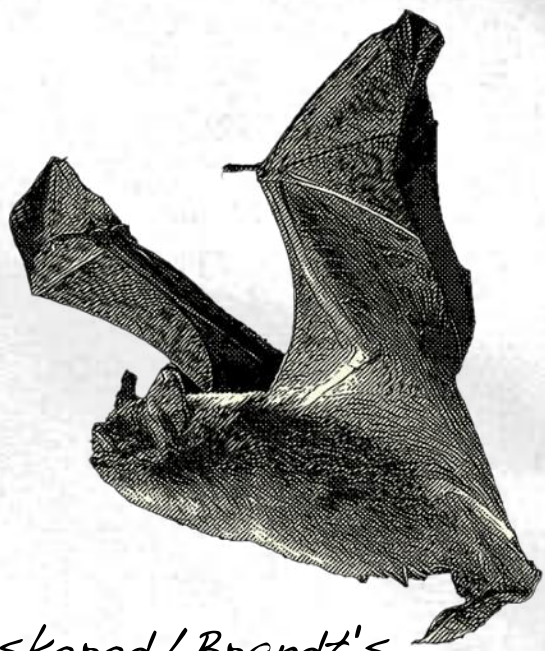
OF
ROTARY WOOD

(HARROGATE)



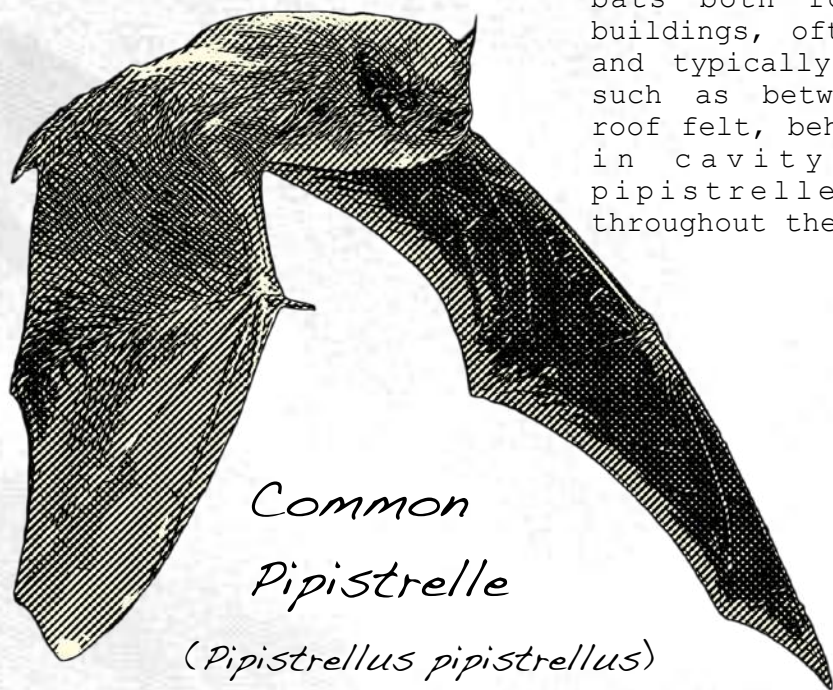
In 2024, Save Rotary Wood & Pinewoods Conservation Group commissioned a bat assessment at Rotary Wood.

Here's what we found!



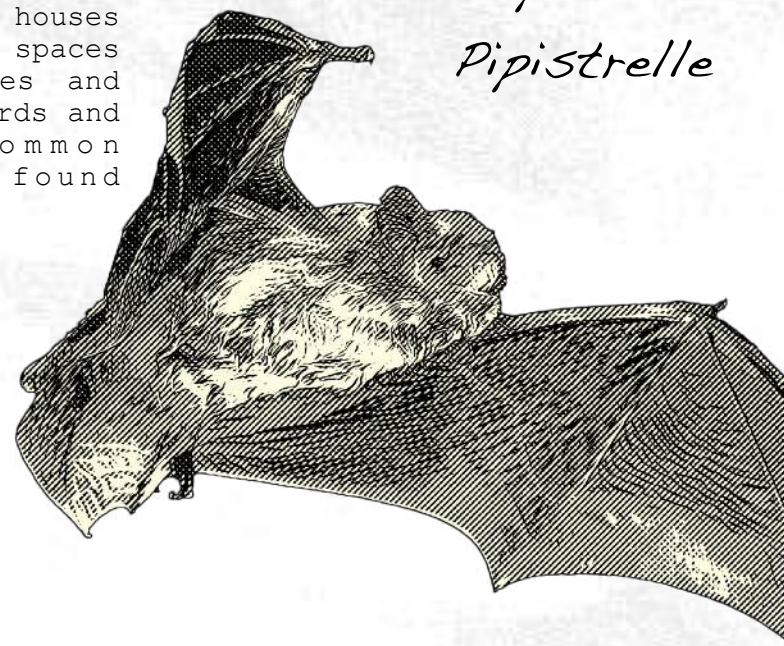
Whiskered/Brandt's

(*Myotis mystacinus*)



Common
Pipistrelle

(*Pipistrellus pipistrellus*)



Soprano
Pipistrelle

(*Pipistrellus pygmaeus*)

Common and soprano pipistrelle bats both roost frequently in buildings, often in modern houses and typically in confined spaces such as between roof tiles and roof felt, behind barge boards and in cavity walls. Common pipistrelle bats are found throughout the region.

A minimum of **seven bat species** have been confirmed at Rotary Wood. Daubenton's bat are also likely to utilise the wood.

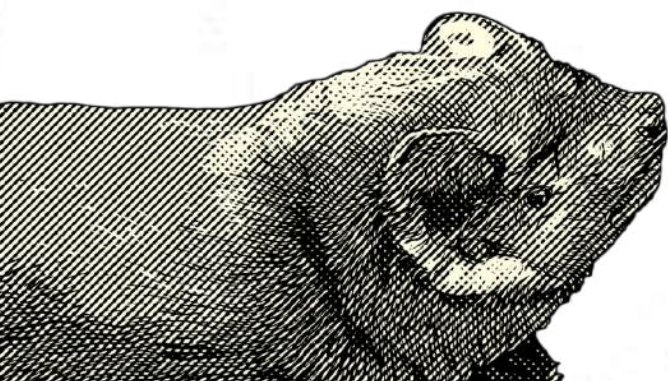
"The site supports commuting and foraging activity"

Myotis Bat's =
Mouse-Eared Bats

Whiskered and Brandt's bats are difficult to separate and are often grouped together. They have similar physical features, habitat preferences and roosting requirements, using houses, barns, churches and sometimes trees for summer roosting, and underground sites in the winter. Brandt's bats will often forage within woodland unlike whiskered bats which prefer to feed along woodland edges and hedgerows.

Noctule bats are considered to have a widespread distribution in the region. Noctule bats primarily roost in rot holes and crevices in large mature trees both in summer and winter but are also occasionally found using buildings and bat boxes.

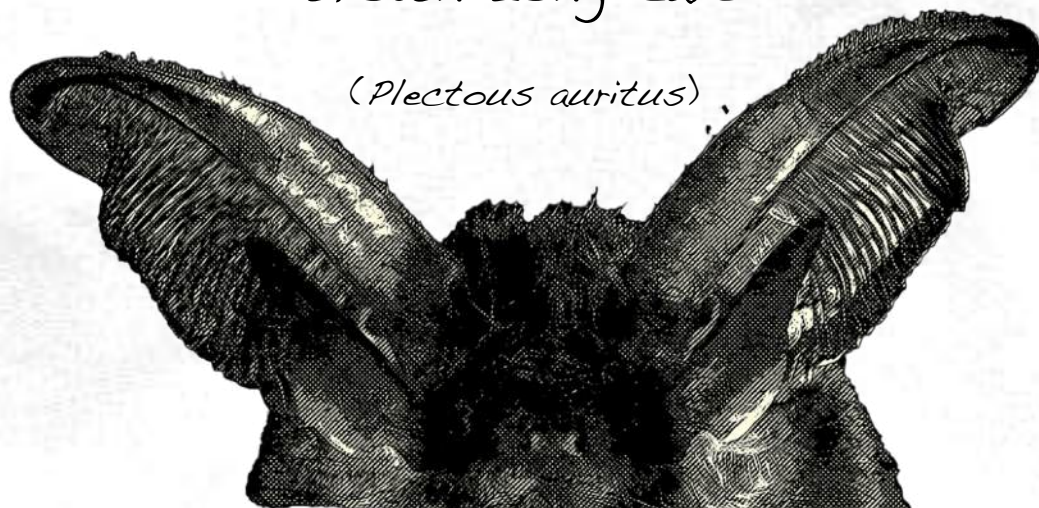
Noctule (*Nyctalus noctula*)



Brown long-eared bats are thought to be relatively common and widely distributed in Yorkshire. This species of bat generally requires large open roof spaces for pre-emergence flight within the roost, but they have been found roosting in tree holes and bat boxes in both summer and winter.

Brown Long-Eared

(*Plectous auritus*)



Natterer's bats tend to roost in old stone buildings, wooden beams in barns, sometimes tree holes but most commonly in churches. In Yorkshire, this species is widely but thinly distributed, deemed as rare in the UK with a few records from North Yorkshire.



Natterer's

(*Myotis nattereri*)



HOW MANY BATS?



Automated Anabat Express (SE 28595 54649), Swift and Chorus (SE 28527 54596) bat detectors were deployed in the western boundary and the centre of Rotary Wood for 5 nights to detect variations in bat activity throughout the survey season.

The survey effort involved a series of Night-time Bat Walkover (NBW) and Automated Bat Detector surveys (ABD) being undertaken across the 2024 active season. It was paid for using Crowdfunded money from the local community.

Results - Automated Bat Detector (ABD) surveys

MAY

JUNE

JULY

AUGUST

16/05/2024 - 20/05/2024

235.8

avg bat detections per night

20/06/2024 - 24/06/2024

219.6

avg bat detections per night

18/07/2024 - 22/07/2024

404

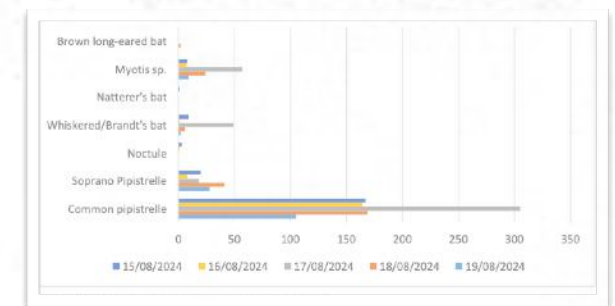
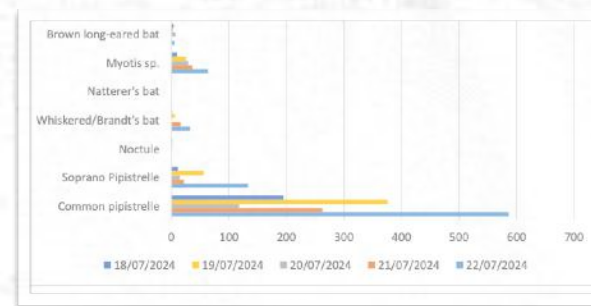
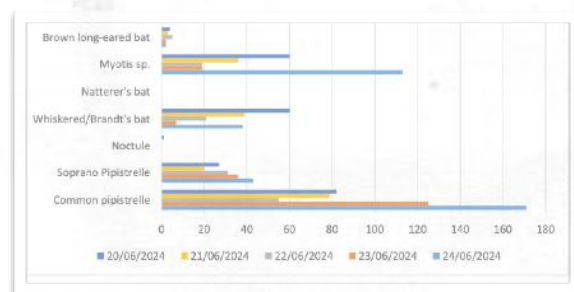
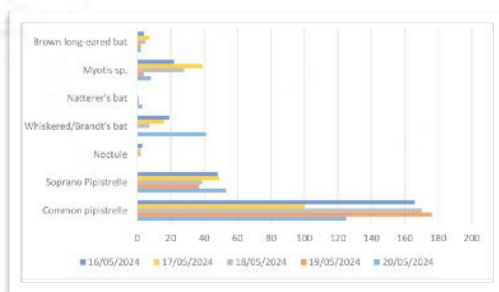
avg bat detections per night

15/08/2024 - 19/08/2024

60.2

avg bat detections per night

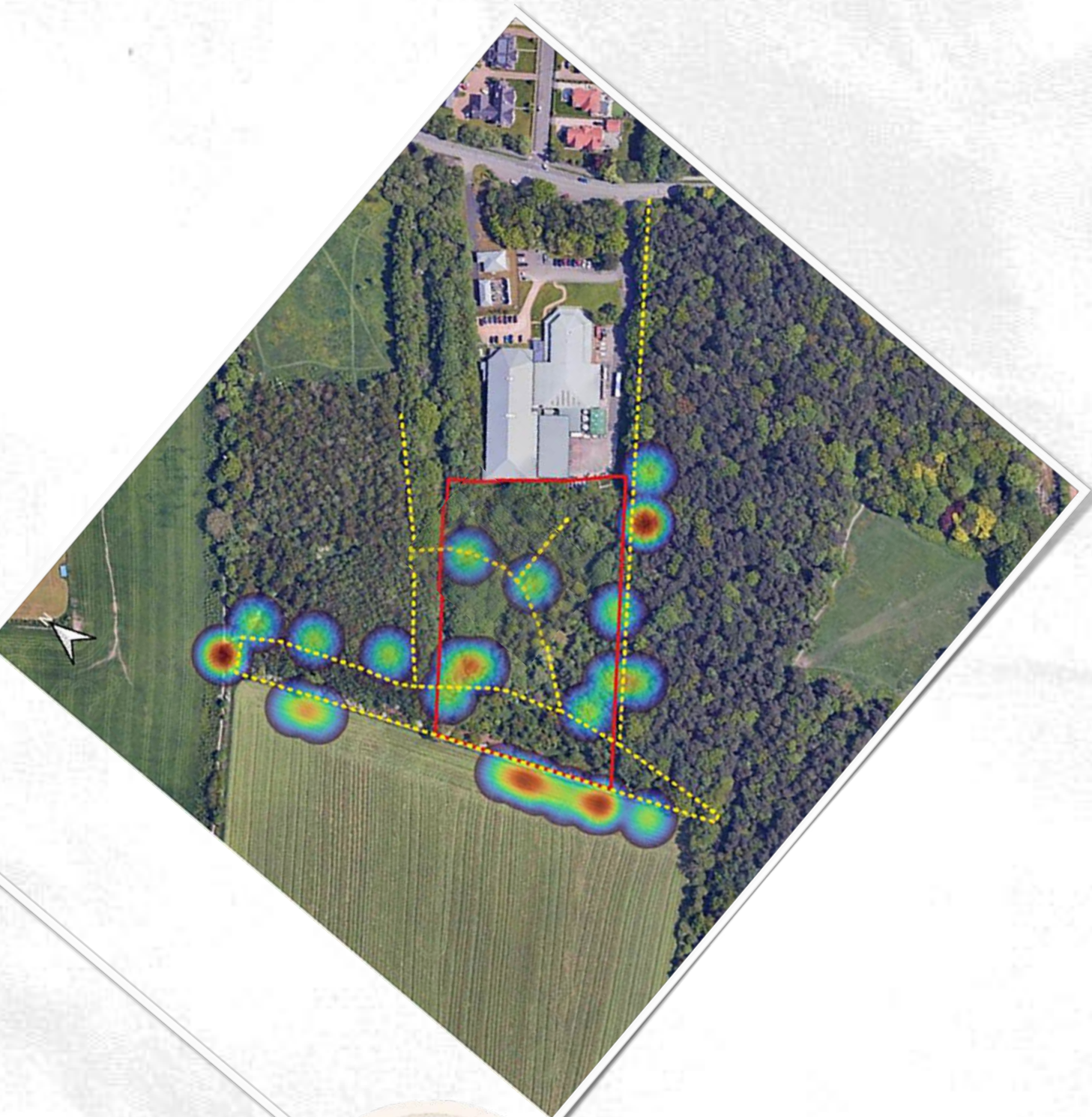
Species most frequently recorded were common pipistrelle and soprano pipistrelle. Myotis bat species (sonograms indicative of Whiskered and/or Brandt's, and Natterer's bats) were recorded in lower numbers, as well as brown long-eared bat and noctule.



BATS OR PLASTIC?

ROTARY WOOD

BAT ACTIVITY HEAT MAPS (2024)



HARROGATE SPRING WATER LTD

PLASTIC BOTTLING EXPANSION PLANS



"the Site does not appear to be of any significant importance to any local bat populations"
Harrogate Spring Water Ltd

Prioritising Profit Over Planet

In January 2021, a high-profile reserved matters application that was 40% larger than the 2017 outline permission looked to fell more trees than had been agreed. It was turned down by Harrogate Borough Council's planning committee.

In June 2024, Brooks Ecological was commissioned by Harrogate Spring Water Ltd to carry out detailed Bat Activity Survey at the proposed development site, the Harrogate Spring Bottling Plant Extension. It concluded:

Despite rejection by the council and the local community (600+ objections) Harrogate Spring Water (Danone) have submitted another plan (October 2024) to expand its operations.

Harrogate Spring Water (Danone) have submitted expansion plans (20/01539/REMMAJ) to North Yorkshire Council. The internationally owned multinational water company wants to remove established trees for its plastic polluting water bottling plant.

If successful this would mean the loss of a community asset and the habitat that bats can use for foraging, commuting and roosting purposes..

Two surveys were undertaken by experienced bat surveyors. One was commissioned by Save Rotary Wood and the other was commissioned by Harrogate Spring Water Ltd

SURVEY COMPARISON

SAVE ROTARY WOOD

Survey by: Smeeden Foreman

4 months

May, June, July and August 2024

6 hours 46 minutes

23/05/2024 - 21:16 - 23:46

24/07/2024 - 21:17 - 23:33

20 days

11th May to 20th May
20th June to 24th June
18th July to 22nd July
15th August to 19th August

5,501

7

Habitats on site were assessed as providing moderate to high value to commuting and foraging bats due to connectivity across the Pinewoods site and to areas of surrounding habitat within the wider landscape suitable for bats

HARROGATE SPRING WATER LTD

Survey by: Brooks Ecological

2 months

September 2023 and May 2024

1 hour 8 minutes

26/09/2023 - 19:32 - 20:04

16/05/2024 - 21:24 - 22:00

10 days

26th to 30th September 2023
10th to 14th May 2024

565

7

Bat activity surveys, undertaken during the autumn and spring activity seasons, have found the Site to attract low levels of bat activity, attributed to common bat species.

Survey Period

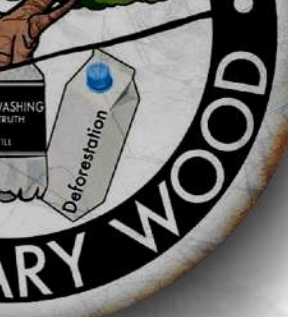
Walkover Transects

Automated Detection

Bat Detections

Species detected

Conclusion



WHAT CAN YOU DO TO HELP SAVE THE BATS OF ROTARY WOOD?



- Object to the planning application

Follow the instructions below:

Go online to: www.northyorks.gov.uk

Choose "Planning and conservation"

Choose "View and comment on planning applications in your area"

Choose "View and comment on planning applications in your area" for the second time!

Click the button "View and comment on planning applications in your area"

Type "harrogate" as your location

Click the link "Public Access"

Use Simple search and type: "20/01539/REMAJ" and click Search

Click "Make a comment" to add your comment/objection.

Remember to select 'object'.

Alternatively, email comments to:

planningcomments.har@northyorks.co.uk



You will need to be registered on the North Yorkshire Council website before you can object. If you are not, do this first before following the instructions

- Things to consider:

The proposed development by Harrogate Spring Water contradicts Danone's deforestation policy.

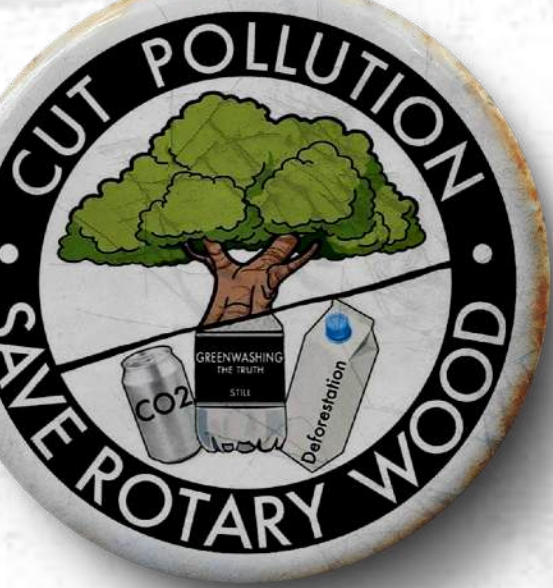
Loss of valuable habitat for other species: evidence of badgers foraging on site and Dutch rush (local priority flora species).

Increase in traffic raising highway safety concerns.

We are in a climate emergency. Accepting the expansion is not in line with council climate emergency declaration or policies, such as Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) and Climate Change Strategy; increased greenhouse gases: CO2 (Industry and Transport), plastic pollution, water extraction during the global water crisis, water pollution (hazardous substances: microplastics), deforestation at "tipping point".

The reputation of our home town Harrogate: for people and planet, or "profit and plastic"?

The loss of public access to 4.25-acre of (ACV - Asset of Community Value) woodland that was planted by the people for the people



WHAT CAN YOU DO TO HELP SAVE THE BATS OF ROTARY WOOD?

- Join the Save Rotary Wood campaign

Join the group on Facebook: *Save Rotary Wood - Again*

Follow us on Instagram: *@saverotarywoodagain*

Follow us on Twitter: *@saverotarywood*

Email us: saverotarywoodagain@proton.me

- Boycott Harrogate Spring Water

If you drink Harrogate Spring Water simply stop! Sometimes, even the threat of a boycott can be enough to force a u-turn. Boycotts have seen some big successes in the past. For example, clothing company Canada Goose announced it would stop selling fur by the end of 2021, following boycotts led by animal rights group Peta.

- Like/share this presentation



the
Stray Ferret

Campaigner buo
show of support
Harrogate's Rota