

Bats in Churches Study

COVID-19 Guidance for Volunteers

In these difficult times the health and well-being of our volunteers is our top priority. Churches are now re-opening and we feel we can safely resume the Bats in Churches Study in England, while following the latest government instructions to help control the spread of the virus. Below we set out our additional precautions for taking part in the Bats in Churches Study this summer.

We're very glad that churches are re-opening. As you can imagine they'll also be following guidance to ensure the safety of those using and caring for these precious buildings. Further information on specific guidelines for [Church of England](#) and [Churches Conservation Trust](#) churches can be found on their websites.

As ever, the churches will be able to opt into the survey. If your church contact is uncomfortable with you surveying the church this summer, or you feel uncomfortable at the current time, please don't survey this year. There are still two more years of the study. You'll have time in 2021-2022.

Contacting churches

- There's a modified official project letter to send to churches, which now reflects the situation and additional health and safety guidance. Please do contact churches using this new project letter.

Questionnaire

- Please do carry out the questionnaire over the phone with a contact from your chosen church this year. If this is not possible, then please ask your church contact to fill it in and send it back electronically at a convenient time.

Visiting a church to look for evidence of bats

- Please do not carry out a survey if you or anyone in your household has symptoms of COVID-19, or are self-isolating because you have been in contact with someone who has COVID-19.
- Please do not carry out a survey if you have any concerns about the health and safety of yourself or others.
- Please do not carry out a survey if your area/the area where the church is located is in local lockdown.
- We strongly recommended that you do not use public transport to travel to your chosen church. If this is not possible, please assess your ability to follow [current government guidelines](#) and keep yourself and others safe for the entire journey (both ways). If you are not sure that you are able to do this then please do not visit your survey site this year.
- We strongly suggest that you have a survey buddy with you, with whom you do not need to maintain social distancing. This is important as a survey buddy needs to be able to provide immediate assistance in case of an emergency, which is not possible under social distancing. If you are unable to have a survey buddy please inform someone of where you are going and what time you'll be back. Have a clear contingency procedure for what to do if no contact is made by your anticipated return time.
- Please ensure you maintain social distancing with anybody else you encounter while travelling to/from and conducting your survey.
- Please ensure that you sanitise (or wash) your hands before entering the church and after you leave.
- Please avoid touching any fixtures and fittings in the church unless necessary for the survey.