

Lisa Worledge

From: Lisa Worledge
Sent: 21 January 2019 10:42
Subject: BCT Bat Group Bulletin No. 162: 18 January 2019

This email has been sent to bat group contacts only. Please forward this information to others in your group.

Dear bat group member,

With the first Bat Group Bulletin of 2019 we'd like to wish you a bat-tastic New Year.

We are getting off to a great start with a bumper edition. There are lots of great batty events coming up this year, so do take a look at the details in various items below, and in the events section at the end, to start planning your best batting year yet!

We are always pleased to receive suggestions of content for the Bulletin so please do get in touch if there is ever anything you would like to share. This edition includes:

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1. Two Vacancies at BCT (inc. Bat Groups Officer)

We are advertising for two new roles. One is a re-advertisement of the Fundraising and Development Officer, with some amendments to the job description. We are looking for a new team member to maximise project fundraising income from large statutory, trust, corporate and other grant funders by leading across the BCT team on developing and submitting project bids.

Deadline for applications: 9am 15th of February 2019

Interviews: Monday 4th of March 2019

The other vacancy is for a new Bat Groups Officer to replace the bat group liaison part of my role. With increasing responsibilities and new projects, including a new role in the Bats in Churches Partnership Project, unfortunately I no longer have the capacity to provide the necessary pro-active support for bat groups. BCT are therefore recruiting a

new member of staff to cover this work, reflecting the essential role that bat groups play in bat conservation in the UK.

I can heartily recommend the post, it's the best job I've had (it was not an easy decision to give it up!) and working with bat groups across the British Islands (I cover England, Northern Ireland, Channel Islands and Isle of Man) is a real privilege. I have been so grateful for all the support bat groups have given me over the last eight years. (You won't get rid of me completely as I'll be line managing the new role and will still be involved in a number of bat group related projects!)

Deadline for applications: 9am Wednesday 6th February

Interview date: Thursday 21st February

The adverts and associated documents for both roles, including the job descriptions, can be [viewed on our website](#).

2. BCT supports calls for an end to culls of the Mauritius Fruit Bat

BCT, along with other bat conservation organisations, would like the government of Mauritius to reconsider its decision to cull 13,000 endangered Mauritius fruit bats. Previous culls, in 2015 and 2016, have already caused significant damage to this vulnerable population of endemic fruit bat.

Read the full BCT statement, along with links to statements by the IUCN and Bat Conservation International on the [BCT website news page](#).

3. Reminder About National Bat Conference 2019 Call for Abstracts

As we mentioned in the December Bat Group Bulletin the deadline for abstracts for talks for the 2019 National Bat Conference is 15 February. We would encourage abstract submissions from bat groups. For more details see the [BCT website](#).

4. BCT Conservation and Technology Conference

This one day conference will explore technological advances and new applications of technologies in the field of wildlife conservation (not just bats!). It will take place on Friday 6 September, University of Nottingham (the day before the National Bat Conference). The conference will bring together researchers, ecologists and conservationists using diverse technologies to conserve a variety of wildlife. In addition to the talks and networking opportunities, there will also be a range of exhibition stands showcasing equipment and technology applications.

More details about the programme will be [added to the webpage](#) as they are confirmed. To register your interest in the event, email Naomi Webster: nwebster@bats.org.uk

5. North of England Bat Conference 2019 – Venue Confirmed

Taking place on Saturday 6th April, the North of England Bat Conference will be returning to the University of Lancaster (where we last held the conference in 2015). The day will be a great opportunity for volunteer and professional bat workers in the North of England to spend time together: updating knowledge, sharing best practice, developing skills and catching up on the latest 'bat chat'.

This is a one-day event primarily for people who live or work in the North of England or who are members of bat groups in the region. The area covered is: Cheshire, County Durham, Cumbria, Lancashire, Merseyside, Northumberland, Yorkshire, and the Isle of Man. The delegate rate will be £40 for BCT members and £45 for non-members. The rate includes lunch and refreshments (all vegetarian). Bookings will open in the next week or so. If you would like to be notified when more information is available and bookings open please email Naomi Webster at: nwebster@bats.org.uk

6. Wildlife Assessment Check Launched

Since 1970 many UK wildlife species have been in decline, with over 1,200 species now extinct or threatened with extinction (State of nature report, 2016). One of the factors that has caused this decline is land use changes from urban development.

Smaller developers may be unaware that it is a statutory requirement for local authorities to consider the ecological impact of developments, and promote a positive contribution to biodiversity.

To respond to this gap, the [Partnership for Biodiversity in Planning](#) has launched the [Wildlife Assessment Check](#). It is a free online tool, designed to help householders and smaller developers check whether their proposed site and works are likely to require expert ecological advice before making a planning application. It aims to smooth out the planning application process by encouraging applicants to address potential ecological impacts early on, reducing unnecessary delays and costs. It also aims to support local planning authorities who lack in-house ecological capacity by encouraging applicants to take responsibility in addressing ecological considerations.

The [Wildlife Assessment Check](#) has been developed by the project partners who are inviting user feedback over the next few months to ensure that the tool works well and is straight forward to use. For further information contact: pbp@bats.org.uk or see: www.biodiversityinplanning.org

7. Curiosity Funding for Science Engagement Projects

Does your Bat Group have a project that could help make a positive difference to the lives of disadvantaged children and young people in the UK through engagement with and participation in science? If so then do take a look at the BBC Children in Need & Wellcome Curiosity project funding. There are events around the UK about the funding available and the deadline for applications is 12th April 2019. More details are available on the [BBC website](#).

8. Wildlife Acoustics Product Grant Scheme

Wildlife Acoustics are continuing to offer their quarterly grant scheme, which offers products to support research projects, during 2019. The next deadline is February 15th and more information about this (and deadlines for subsequent rounds) is available on the [Wildlife Acoustics website](#).

9. Strategic Planning for Landscape Scale Conservation Symposium – Presentations Now Available

The Strategic Planning for Landscape-Scale Conservation Symposium took place on Thursday 11 October 2018 at Arup in London. This BCT event shared knowledge and best practice regarding strategic, landscape-scale planning for biodiversity (not just bats). It is now widely recognised that we need to act at a landscape-scale to create ecological networks and fulfil the Lawton vision of more, bigger, better and joined sites for nature conservation.

As with previous built environment symposia, we had attendance and presentations from a diverse audience representing a cross section of the industries involved in strategic planning for landscape-scale conservation. The [presentations from the Symposium is now available online](#).

10. BCT Statement on TLX Batsafe Roofing Membrane

Modern Roofing Membranes (formerly Breathable Roofing Membranes) currently are of a spun poly-bounded construction made up of long fibres, bats claws are sharp enough to pull these fibres loose, which entangle and ultimately kill bats.

BCT are aware there is a new roofing membrane on the market called TLX Batsafe which claims it is safe for use in bat roosts, however BCT has not seen test data to verify this. Therefore the original advice still stands, currently the only 'bat safe' roofing membrane is bitumen 1F felt that is a non-woven short fibred construction.

11. Defra Biodiversity Net Gain consultation

Defra are consulting on proposal for mandatory biodiversity net gain. This is for England only. If anybody wants to see what is being proposed and to respond then you can get details at <https://consult.defra.gov.uk/land-use/net-gain/> Closing date is 10 February 2019.

There is an article about this consultation and what it means on the [Partnership for Biodiversity in Planning website](#), written by Rosalie Callway at BCT.

12. Planning Reform Consultation

The Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government and HM Treasury recently ran a consultation "Planning Reform: Supporting the high street and increasing the delivery of new homes". Full details are [available on the GOV.UK website](#).

The following statement from BCT was included as part of the Wildlife & Countryside Link submission:

“The Government should also take the opportunity of the review to clarify how European Protected Species should be considered as part of Permitted Development. There continues to be a great deal of uncertainty amongst Local Planning Authorities (LPA) about the need to consider European Protected Species (EPS) as part of Permitted Development. Whilst it is not disputed within Government that all development, including under permitted development rights, must comply with all relevant legislation and regulations, including EU regulations such as the Conservation of Species and Habitats Regulations 2017, until this clarity comes from a Government source it will not be heeded. This uncertainty has resulted in inconsistency in approaches taken by LPAs across the country, with EPS not being given any consideration in a significant proportion of LPAs. CIEEM, ALGE and BCT have produced guidance on this issue, and Link members would be happy to engage with MHCLG to update the relevant Planning Practice Guidance to add the clarity needed.”

13. Bats and Lighting Symposium – Save the Date

Please save the date for the next Built Environment symposium on ‘Bats and Lighting’ on 21st May 2019, hosted by Arup in London. This will bring together a cross section of the industry to present and discuss new research, technologies, case studies and guidance, five years on from the first lighting symposium!

14. Upcoming BCT Training Courses

We have some great training courses coming up over the next few months, including:

- 9 May – [Using Bat Detectors](#) – Juniper Hall, Surrey
- 10 May – [Bat Ecology and Conservation](#) – Juniper Hall, Surrey
- 16 May – [Surveying for Bats](#) – Nettlecombe Court, Somerset

For more details about BCT’s training offering please see [our website](#).

15. Bat Research Papers, Reports & Other Batty Media

Please note we normally only include bat related articles, reports and blogs in this section where they are available to read online or to download without charge. For more information about how to access journal papers (including details of a variety of relevant open access journals) [see the BCT website](#).

- **Bats and onshore wind turbines: survey, assessment and mitigation** – this new guidance updates best practice information for developers and planners to ensure that onshore wind energy developments pose minimal risk to bats. It is available to download from the [Scottish Natural Heritage website](#).
- **Why a ‘no deal’ Brexit increases risks to the environment** – a Greener UK blog post from Martin Harper of the RSPB. The full blog is available to read on the [Green Alliance website](#).
- **Variability and repeatability of noctule bat migration in Central Europe: evidence for partial and differential migration** – this research examined individual migration patterns of noctules in Central Europe and reveals that whilst traveling distances vary greatly among individuals, overall females travel further than males. The [paper is available to read or download online](#) and there is a [summary article on the Phys Org website](#).
- **Bats as potential suppressors of multiple agricultural pests: A case study from Madagascar** – in this research it was found that some of Madagascar’s bat species actively forage over rice paddies and may have an important role to play as pest controllers. The [full paper is available online](#) and a summary article is available on the [Phys Org website](#).
- **Stronger together: Combining automated classifiers with manual post-validation optimizes the workload vs reliability trade-off of species identification in bat acoustic surveys** – this paper looks at how combining automatic and manual identification of bat calls optimizes their classification. The [full paper is available online](#).

16. Key Dates for Your Diary

Watch this space for dates and reminders of conferences and other events you may be interested in. Please don't forget you can get some extra publicity for your events by getting the details added to the BCT website, [see online](#) for more information.

BCT Events

- 16 March 2019 – **South West Bat Conference**, University of Exeter. ****LAST FEW PLACES REMAINING**** [Book online](#).
- 06 April 2019 – **North of England Bat Conference**, University of Lancaster. Bookings will open later this month. If you would like to be notified bookings do open then please email Naomi Webster at: nwebster@bats.org.uk
- 21 May 2019 – Bats and **Lighting Symposium**, London. ****SAVE THE DATE**** more details to follow soon!
- 06 September 2019 – **Conservation & Technology Conference**, University of Nottingham. See the [BCT website for further details](#) and to register your interest in the event, email Naomi Webster: nwebster@bats.org.uk
- 06-08 September 2019 – **National Bat Conference**, University of Nottingham. See above for the call for abstracts, with further details on the [BCT website](#).
- 09 November 2019 – **Scottish Bat Workers Conference**, Battleby. ****SAVE THE DATE****.

Other Events

- 9 – 11 May 2019 – **National Forum for Biological Recording Conference**, BTO, The Nunnery, Thetford, Norfolk. For more information see the [NFBRC website](#).
- 28 July-01 August 2019 – **18th International Bat Research Conference** (18th IBRC), The Slate, Phuket, Thailand. For more information see [the event website](#). (There are travel grants available for this conference, a BCI grant aimed specifically for developing countries but also an open grant for anyone who meets the criteria, see the [IBRC 2019 website](#) for more details)

Back issues of the bulletin (a rolling 12-months) are [available on the BCT website](#) and following requests from bat groups we are now adding the latest bulletin on the day it is circulated to bat groups.

Finally, the bat group bulletin is also available as a PDF file. If your group would like to receive a PDF copy in future please let me know.

Kind regards,
Lisa.

If you wish to alter your contact preferences, including to opt-out of receiving future communications from us, please contact me by either calling 020 7820 7176 or emailing lworledge@bats.org.uk (if you are receiving this Bulletin forwarded to you by your bat group, please contact the bat group directly rather than emailing me).

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There are dedicated Bat Group pages on the BCT website at:

www.bats.org.uk/pages/resources_for_bat_groups.html

Find us on: www.bats.org.uk | [Facebook](#) | [Twitter](#) | [Instagram](#)

Get involved and help BCT conserve the UK's bats and their habitats by [joining BCT as a member](#), or remember us by [leaving a gift in your Will](#).

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