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

Dear bat group member,

Hello and welcome to the June edition of the Bat Group Bulletin! In this issue you can find ways to get involved, such as International Bat Night, taking part in surveys or sharing your bat stories.

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1. Retained EU Law Bill Update. Thank you to everyone who [wrote to their MP regarding the Retained EU Law \(REUL\) Bill](#), we know of at least 115 MPs who were contacted by you. Unfortunately, the REUL amendments were withdrawn in the final REUL debate in the House of Lords after the government made it clear that they would oppose them again. This means the government will have the power to change legislation with limited consultation or parliamentary scrutiny. We expect the REUL Bill will become an Act of Parliament this week. We will now need to make sure that repeated promises made by government ministers that they will not use the Bill to weaken environmental protections are upheld. Please do add your name to our campaigns email list if you want to receive future updates: <http://eepurl.com/gGqJDH>.

2. New Research on Viruses in British Bat Species. A new research paper has been published in Nature Communications about coronaviruses in British Bats. The paper titled 'Genomic screening of 16 UK native bat species through conservationist networks uncovers coronaviruses with zoonotic potential' includes information about a newly discovered coronavirus that has the potential to infect human cells (hence the reference to zoonotic potential), but this was in highly artificial laboratory conditions, and it does not mean the virus could be transmitted from a bat to a human. None of the viruses found are currently capable of infecting people. The news piece on our website will help counter misunderstanding of the findings and some of the misleading reports in the media. Read more at <https://bit.ly/3r1EnWd>.

3. Natur am Byth Secures Funding. The National Lottery Heritage Fund has awarded the Natur am Byth partnership over £4.1m after two years of detailed planning. 67 species facing the greatest threat of extinction in Wales have been identified for action in this multi-taxa programme, including lesser horseshoe and barbastelle. Natur am Byth is co-ordinated by Natural Resources Wales, with BCT leading on the lesser horseshoe project on the Gower, and VWT leading on the barbastelle

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project in Pembrokeshire. Read more about the programme here: <https://bit.ly/3r4ntq3>. Darllenwch mwy yma: <https://bit.ly/3r4ntq3>.

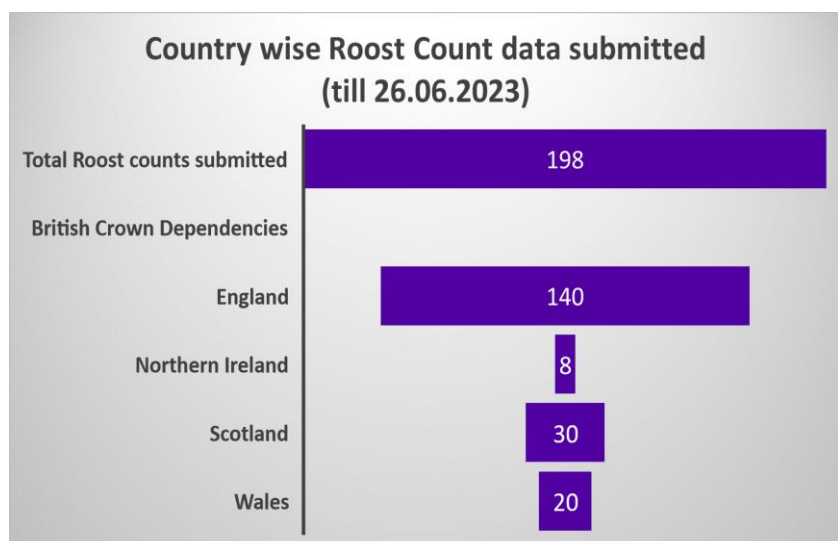
4. Helpline Response Times. The Helpline has new targets for responding to incoming enquiries. These targets help to prioritise the most urgent cases and improve the experience of service users by managing expectations. Enquirers can expect a response to take anywhere [between 1 – 10 working days](#), depending on the urgency of their case. There may be additional delays during the busy summer months. Please continue directing general enquiries to our website in the first instance: bats.org.uk/advice.

5. Voting for the Pete Guest Award 2023. Thank you to all those who submitted supporting statements to nominate an inspirational bat volunteer this year. The nominees will be announced shortly via email and on the [website](#), with voting to open next week via this online form: <https://forms.office.com/e/UNTJs8cG3m>. An email will be sent when voting is open and the webpage will be updated. Please note the form won't be active until then. Voting will then close at 9am on Thursday **31st August**.

6. Request for Detector Donations. Elinor (an early career UK Ecologist and BCT member) is embarking on a trip to work with AfricanBats NPC between October and December 2023. AfricanBats NPC is a charity based in South Africa which is dedicated to investigating and pursuing the conservation of bats in Africa. She will participate in field research and monitoring as well as public outreach. To aid with this work, Elinor would like to ask if anyone has any spare Magenta 5 detectors they would be willing to donate to AfricanBats NPC, it would be greatly appreciated! Elinor will be arranging collection at the National Bat Conference this September, or she can be contacted on [elinorwe\[at\]hotmail.co.uk](mailto:elinorwe[at]hotmail.co.uk) (replace [at] with @ before emailing) for anyone wishing to organise a detector donation separately. AfricanBats NPC are open to creating links with UK bat groups where projects align. More information about the charity can be found on: <https://africanbats.org> or contact info@africanbats.org.

7. International Bat Night. It's not too early to start planning your activities to celebrate International Bat Night on Saturday 26th August. You could run a bat walk, create some bat themed baking or take on a fundraising challenge. BCT's International Bat Night pack contains ideas on how people can celebrate bats on this night: <https://bit.ly/3NzBrpC>. You can register your events on the [BCT website](#) and/or on the Eurobats website which also has a lot of other free resources: <https://bit.ly/3PJ3gQG>.

8. Don't Forget to Submit your Roost Count Data! So far, we've received data from 198 roosts sites across the UK. If you haven't submitted your Roost Counts yet, please add your counts online: <https://bit.ly/44fSCFh> OR post your Roost Count survey form in an envelope marked only 'Freepost BAT CONSERVATION' (do not include our address).



9. Still Time to Take Part in the National Bat Monitoring Programme. This year's **Field Survey** starts in a couple of days. It involves monitoring common pipistrelle, soprano pipistrelle, noctule and serotine while walking a route within a 1km square. Visit your sites on two evenings to carry out surveys. The first survey should be between 1st and 15th July, and the second between 16th and 30th July. We are particularly keen to get more sites surveyed in the north of England, Scotland and Wales. Read more about [how to take part in the Field Survey](#) and select a survey square near you. We have produced a short video showing what it's like taking part in the survey and giving some tips: <https://bit.ly/3Pz9Qt5>.

The **Waterway Survey** takes place in August and involves monitoring Daubenton's bat along a 1km stretch of waterway. This survey is a good place to start if you are relatively new to bat detecting. Read more about [how to take part in the Waterway Survey](#) and select a site near you. [Watch our video](#) on selecting survey sites for the Field Survey and Waterway Survey. See our [bat detector workshops](#) if you would like training on bat detector and survey skills needed to take part in these surveys. If you would like us to arrange training for your bat group, please contact Rosie McCallum at RMcCallum@bats.org.uk.

10. Reminder – Request for 'Bats on Holiday' Stories for Bat News. We are looking for stories and anecdotes of your holiday bat experiences, to put together into an article in our membership magazines. If interested, please email a short blurb (max 200 words) and photos if you have them, to batgroups@bats.org.uk. Please note we are always open to suggestions for articles for the Spotlight on Bat Groups section of Bat News. If your bat group has been doing something great lately we want to share it!

11. Key Dates for Your Diary. Watch this space for dates and reminders of conferences, BCT training and other events you may be interested in. Please do utilise the extra publicity for your events by getting them added to the [BCT events page](#). For more information about training please see our [training pages](#) or email the training team on training@bats.org.uk. You can also get updates straight to your inbox by signing up to BCT's events mailing list here: <https://bit.ly/3a2g0M0>.

BCT Events and Training. BCT is now running a hybrid program of online and in-person events.

- **20th June-25th July – British Bats, their ecology and conservation.** Remaining sessions of the [online](#) course designed for those new to bats wanting to develop a broader understanding of bat ecology, threats and conservation action: <https://bit.ly/42arupQ>.
- **8th & 14th August – Scoping surveys for arborists.** [Online](#) course will develop consideration during tree works for the potential effects on bats and their habitats: <https://bit.ly/3pJN3h>.
- **15th-17th September – National Bat Conference.** Book your early bird place! This year's [hybrid](#) National Bat Conference will be held at the University of Nottingham. Check this page to read the latest: <https://bit.ly/2SyHhRB>.
- **28th Sept & 2nd Oct – Bats for Building Professionals.** [Online](#) course for anyone responsible for buildings and their renovation, development, maintenance or design: <https://bit.ly/3UMgxrr>.
- **3rd October – Bat Workers Forum.** Save the date for this year's [online](#) event. Details and booking to be added to this page: <https://bit.ly/3MYERoC>.
- **4th November – Wales Bat Workers Day.** Save the date for this year's Wales conference event, to be held [in-person](#) in Mid Wales. Venue and programme TBC.

Bat Group Events. If your bat group would like to promote an online talk that is open to members of other bat groups, then please email batgroups@bats.org.uk to be included in this section.

Other Events and Training.

- **26th August – International Bat Night.**
- **Ongoing – Bat Acoustics Analysis.** Online course from BatAbility containing 14 modules and more than 15 hours of content to develop your skills in bat call analysis and, if you want, undertake a graded examination at the end of the course. BatAbility are kindly donating at least 6% to BCT for each participant that signs up. <https://bit.ly/3fvgZHa>.
- **Ongoing – Free Charity and Trustee Webinars.** See gettingonboard.org.

12. Bat Research Papers, Reports & Other Batty Media. Please note we normally include articles, reports and blogs that are available to read online or download without charge.

- **BATScan.** From the University of Haifa and Tel Aviv University, a classification tool to incorporate bats into the framework of radar aeroecology. Along with their dataset, containing over 60,000 bat observations. <https://bit.ly/3NiBAPO>.
- **Assessing the impact of festival music on bat activity.** Experimental approach to provide evidence of its negative effects. <https://bit.ly/3NOFQbA>.
- **Threat of increasing body size in response to warmer summers.** Study looking at genetics of Bechstein's, showing continuing increasing body size could result in a loss of genetic fitness and higher mortality. <https://bit.ly/3NJ2Ich>.

A rolling 12 months of previous bulletins are available on the BCT website at <https://bit.ly/2GGoYRK>.

Best wishes,



Abby Packham
Bat Groups Officer

If you wish to alter your contact preferences, including to opt-out of receiving future communications from us, please contact us by either calling 020 7820 7193 or emailing batgroups@bats.org.uk, **however if you are receiving this bulletin forwarded to you by your bat group, please contact the bat group directly.**