

\*\*\*\*\*

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 September edition of the Bat Group Bulletin! In this issue you can find the latest survey guidelines and resources and events for a bat-filled October and Halloween.

Please use the interactive contents list to jump to the topics of most interest to you.

1. 4 <sup>th</sup> Edition Bat Surveys for Professional Ecologists Good Practice Guidelines.....	1
2. Bat Surveys with Night Vision Aids Consultation Launched. ....	1
3. CIEEM's Bat Mitigation Guidelines.....	1
4. BatFest 2023. ....	1
5. Halloween for Bats.....	2
6. Reminder – Do You Have NBMP Data to Submit? .....	2
7. Reminder – Calling All Creative Writers.....	2
8. Key Dates for Your Diary. ....	2
9. Bat Research Papers, Reports & Other Batty Media. ....	3

**1. 4<sup>th</sup> Edition Bat Surveys for Professional Ecologists Good Practice Guidelines.** BCT's Bat Surveys for Professional Ecologists: Good Practice Guidelines (4th edition) are now available! These guidelines are the essential reference guide for professional ecologists working on bat surveys. The guidelines have been fully updated with new sections on biosecurity, tree surveys, bat sound analysis auto-identification, data science and more! [Download them here](#), or pre-order hardcopies from NHBS at this link: <https://bit.ly/3QIzlss>, where BCT members can get a 20% discount.

**2. Bat Surveys with Night Vision Aids Consultation Launched.** Following the publication of Bat Surveys for Professional Ecologists Good Practice Guidelines 4th edition, BCT are setting up a working group to further develop more detailed guidelines for bat surveys with night vision aids, including thermal imaging and infrared cameras. The working group will attend a kick-off meeting in Autumn 2023 and develop the guidelines through a series of meetings in 2023 and 2024.

We have set up a public consultation to collect information on current practices and desires/expectations from practitioners for new guidelines on this topic: [surveymonkey.co.uk/r/PK753ST](https://surveymonkey.co.uk/r/PK753ST). The intended audience is anyone who works with night vision aids for bat surveys. The consultation will take approximately 10 minutes to respond to, and will **close on 31<sup>st</sup> October 2023**. Please contact Jan Collins ([jcollins@bats.org.uk](mailto:jcollins@bats.org.uk)) if you have extensive experience with both thermal imaging and infrared and would like to contribute to the production of the guidance.

**3. CIEEM's Bat Mitigation Guidelines.** The newly released guidelines bring together the most up-to-date research and case study evidence to inform professional practice. They are based on information at a set point in time, so the guidelines welcome continued input, via highlighted evidence gaps or the sharing of new research: <https://bit.ly/3Beat1Q>.

**4. BatFest 2023.** Celebrating bats throughout October all the way up to Halloween! BatFest offers a range of events and activities exploring the world of bats and celebrating these remarkable animals. Whether you are someone who doesn't know a bat from a bird, a family who wants to learn more about the bats you've noticed in your garden or a bat worker with 20+ years experience - you are

[Back to contents](#)

invited to join the fun! You can also nominate someone for a unique award to recognise their contribution to bats. Many of these events are free to attend and are held online via Zoom. If you are able and would like to make a donation to support our bat conservation work, we (and the bats) would be very grateful. Find out more here: <https://bit.ly/36DshVQ> and in the events section.

**5. Halloween for Bats.** Have you started planning your Halloween activities? There are a host of ideas and resources available on our website to help you plan bat themed events, take a look: <https://bit.ly/3gMN7al>.

**6. Reminder – Do You Have NBMP Data to Submit?** Our National Bat Monitoring Programme (NBMP) summer surveys are coming to an end. A big thanks to all our volunteers who took part. If you still have data to submit please click the below links to submit your data online:

- Add your Roost Count: <https://bit.ly/3EhMH7w>
- Add your Field Survey results: <https://bit.ly/3qQLe5f>
- Add your Waterway Survey results: <https://bit.ly/3Pj7uxZ>

The [Sunset Survey](#) is still open. It runs until the end of October so please take this opportunity to explore your local nighttime wildlife with friends and family.

**7. Reminder – Calling All Creative Writers.** The Batty Laureate Awards are running again this year with categories for both adults and children. The awards celebrate bats in creative writing. Children aged 6-12 years old can submit up to 500 words and adults/young people over 12 years old can enter up to 1500 words of poetry, prose or an extract of a large piece such as a play script. Deadline for entries is **9am 7<sup>th</sup> November 2023**. You can read the previous winning entries and find the submission forms here: <https://bit.ly/3Kio6TI>.

**8. 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](mailto: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 runs a hybrid program of online and in-person events.

- **1<sup>st</sup> October – BatFest Sketch-a-bat.** Free [online](#) tutorial to learn to draw a bat: <https://bit.ly/3rpjqoR>.
- **3<sup>rd</sup> October – Bat Workers Forum.** Booking is open for this year's [online](#) event, open to anyone interested in bats, regardless of whether the interest is professional or voluntary and regardless of experience. Draft agenda and booking link here: <https://bit.ly/3MYERoC>.
- **10<sup>th</sup> October – Caring for bats over winter.** [Online](#) training led by Maggie Brown: <https://bit.ly/48wnzl4>.
- **16<sup>th</sup> October – BatFest Carry on up the Bat Roost aka 50 Shades of Grey (long-eared bat).** [Online](#) light-hearted exploration of weird and wonderful facts and research: <https://bit.ly/457XPPA>.
- **\*NEW DATE\* 17<sup>th</sup> October – Architects' Best Practice Forum 2023, Bats in Churches.** Booking is open for this [online](#) meeting of minds, open to all architects and ecologists with a professional interest in case studies of bat mitigation in church buildings. More information and booking link here: <http://bit.ly/3Qrt1FI>.
- **18<sup>th</sup> October – Introduction to Sound Analysis.** [Online](#) introduction to bat call analysis using sound analysis software. Existing NBMP volunteers receive additional discount. <https://bit.ly/3ERcmEn>.

- **19<sup>th</sup> October – BatFest Wonderful world of bat sounds.** Free online: <https://bit.ly/46m5Tgu>.
- **24<sup>th</sup> October – BatFest Care for Non-Bat Carers workshop.** Free online workshop, Ideal for ecologists, vets and vet nurses or anyone who might come across a bat unexpectedly: <https://bit.ly/2VVMaVn>.
- **26<sup>th</sup> October – Ecologists' Best Practice Forum 2023, Bats in Churches.** Booking is open for this online meeting of minds, open to all ecologists and architects with a professional interest in case studies of bat mitigation in church buildings. More information and booking link here: <http://bit.ly/3DOp8D3>.
- **31<sup>st</sup> October – Bats vs Spiders.** Free online collaboration, BCT is taking on Buglife as each side tries to prove their animals are best: <https://bit.ly/46p3LVd>.
- **4<sup>th</sup> November – Wales Bat Workers Day.** This year's hybrid Wales conference event offers a day of talks, workshops and networking for anyone with an interest in bats. At the Centre for Alternative Technology, near Machynlleth. Find the programme and booking links here: <https://bit.ly/31Xzgdh>.

**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](mailto:batgroups@bats.org.uk) to be included in this section.

#### Other Events and Training.

- **22<sup>nd</sup>–23<sup>rd</sup> November – CIEEM Autumn conference.** Modernising Ecology: Techniques and Approaches: <https://bit.ly/44Hd1Ut>.
- **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](http://gettingonboard.org).

**9. 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.

- **Stochastic modelling on summer decisions.** Studying high latitude summer drivers on bat activity. <https://bit.ly/3Pp0QoA>.
- **Disentangling wind turbine mechanisms of effect on bats.** Study looks at specifics of wind turbines and how each one affects 8 study species of bat. <https://bit.ly/3PQ3Bkq>.
- **Comprehensive review of the effects of climate change on European bats.** Published by Climabats. <https://bit.ly/3PBK2Lv>.

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](mailto:batgroups@bats.org.uk), **however if you are receiving this bulletin forwarded to you by your bat group, please contact the bat group directly.**