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

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Dear bat group member,

Hello and welcome to the March edition of the Bat Group Bulletin! In this issue you can read about the latest updates to guidelines and sign up to BCT's doubling up fundraising opportunity.

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**1. Minimum Standards for Carers on the BCT Bat Care Network.** Now available on the BCT website: <https://bit.ly/43zGuzL>. These guidelines have been created in collaboration with BCT's Expert Bat Care Panel and a selection of known trainers. Trainers should use the guidelines when providing references, and trainees for goals in their training. Those providing a reference for a new bat care contact will be expected to confirm that the new carer shows willing and capacity to adhere to these guidelines when caring for bat patients.

**2. BCT's New Leaflet Procedure.** At BCT, we receive many leaflet requests from members of bat groups, the public and collaborative projects for various wildlife engagement events locally and nationally. Due to the large increase in requests over the past year, we feel it necessary to ensure a procedure is in place. Leaflets are a great engagement and education tool to have at events, as we all know, but they do cost us money to design and print. To try to recoup some of these costs, large leaflet requests may be chargeable for non-partner bat groups, but this will depend on how many and which type of leaflets you need. Leaflet requests from partner bat groups will be treated as non-chargeable but quantity restrictions may apply. If you are a member of a partner bat group and would like to request some leaflets, please use the form within the partner bat group area of the website: <https://bit.ly/4a55Jwd>. For other requests, please continue to use the public leaflet request form: <https://bit.ly/4aune90>.

You can also help us in our conservation mission and consider the environment before requesting our printed leaflets, by downloading our **new e-leaflet flyer**: <https://bit.ly/3PYQ1en>. Displaying this flyer at your event will allow people to download BCT e-leaflets by scanning the QR code.

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**3. Big Give Green Match Fund.** For one week only, BCT have the chance to raise £20,000 for our work thanks to Big Give's Green Match Fund! From **18-25 April** every donation received on our Big Give campaign page will be doubled. Donations must be received via the Big Give website, which will go live on the 18<sup>th</sup> April at midday, and will remain open for one week only, until the 25<sup>th</sup> April (midday). Please sign up to get a reminder of when this campaign goes live:

<https://forms.office.com/e/C9MXJnyxfF>. Read more on the campaign page: <https://bit.ly/4coYnpb>.

**4. Big Green Hike 2024.** is happening on 6-7th April and three BCT staff members are taking part. The Big Green Hike is suitable for everyone, you decide the location, distance and how you want to do the hike. It's not too late to get involved and/or support everyone taking part, find out more here: <https://bit.ly/3TyOAEh>.

**5. Call for Abstracts for National Bat Conference Open.** The National Bat Conference will be held 13-15 September 2024. The Programme Selection Team invite the submission of abstracts: <https://bit.ly/3JPw6ZN>. They are particularly looking for the following themes:

- Quantitative evidence of successful conservation action for bats
- Bats, communities and wellbeing, with particular interest in projects tackling EDI challenges
- Habitat use and landscape-scale management for bats including climate change
- Bats, ecosystem services and natural capital
- Bat surveys, mitigation, planning and licensing
- Use of technology in bat conservation
- Bat ecology and behaviour

Abstracts should be submitted using the [abstract submission form](#) to [nwebster@bats.org.uk](mailto:nwebster@bats.org.uk) by 22<sup>nd</sup> April.

**6. Amendments to the 4th Edition Survey Guidelines.** There are a number of minor amendments to 4<sup>th</sup> edition Bat Surveys for Professional Ecologists Good Practice Guidelines, relating to chapters 2.6 and 7.2.16. The [online version of the guidelines](#) will be updated to reflect these, and those who have purchased hard copies will receive a document noting the changes via email. This amendment document can also be found attached to the bulletin email.

### **7. Bat Surveys for Professional Ecologists Good Practice Guidelines 4th edition: Q & A**

**PUBLISHED.** A Q & A on the bat survey guidelines 4th edition has now been published on the BCT website here: <https://bit.ly/3TtDwbi>. Questions were collated from the Bat Survey Guidelines Webinar in November 2023, the Consultant's Forum in January 2024 and the Bat Survey Guidelines Surgery in February 2024. Many thanks to those who submitted questions.

**8. Change to Natural England Licence Report Return Dates.** Following feedback, the deadline for report returns is moving from June to 30<sup>th</sup> November. This means that the current reporting period (from 1<sup>st</sup> June 2023) has been extended and the report of action will now be due by 30<sup>th</sup> November 2024 instead of 30<sup>th</sup> June 2024. Due to the change, the report of action will need to cover all 17 months of the reporting period (1<sup>st</sup> June 2023 – 31<sup>st</sup> October 2024). Upon the annual renewal of the class licences in January 2025 the condition will revert to a 12-month reporting period i.e. from 1st November – 31st October each year.

**9. British Wildlife Bat Report – Records Wanted.** We are looking for records for the next of the twice-yearly bat reports for British Wildlife (for the May issue), including a round-up of notable records from the last 6 months (or longer if not previously included). Notable records would include vagrants, species discovered outside their typical range, new records of our rarer species, or anything a bit unusual or unexpected. Brief summaries of interesting results from studies can also be

included. Precise locations won't be published unless this is non-sensitive information worth including. If you have any records you'd like considered for inclusion please email Philip Briggs at [pbriggs@bats.org.uk](mailto:pbriggs@bats.org.uk).

**10. Please Nominate BCT in the Movement for Good Awards.** The Movement for Good Awards are a platform for giving, set up by all the businesses that make up the Benefact Group (including Ecclesiastical Insurance – BCT's insurance provider). The latest round of nominations are now open and we could receive a donation of £1,000. We have been successful in the past thanks to your support. The more nominations the higher the chance of being drawn, so please nominate BCT using this link: <https://bit.ly/3SXVtQQ>. You can also nominate your own bat group if they are a registered charity in the hopes of winning an award.

**11. Can you Help with Wildlife Surveys in Devon?** The [Connecting People and Landscapes project](#) is looking at the impact climate change is having on wildlife in farming landscapes, focussing on nine threatened nocturnal mammal species in particular – seven bat species, hazel dormice, and hedgehogs. Delivered by a partnership of eight organizations led by Bat Conservation Trust, the project aims to build understanding of how nature-friendly regenerative farming supports biodiversity and can create resilient landscapes in the face of changing climate. From absolute beginner to experienced surveyor and from individuals to groups, **we need your help to survey wildlife and habitats on farms around the southern half of Devon**. We also need volunteers who'd like to help with conservation activities, such as **habitat creation and tree planting**. By taking part you can learn more about farmland species and habitats, gain surveying skills and experience, meet like-minded people, and get to know the farmers caring for biodiversity. For more information contact Hannah Worthington ([hworthington@bats.org.uk](mailto:hworthington@bats.org.uk) / 07565 147 459).

**12. Wildlife Crime Project Webpages Updated.** The webpages on our Wildlife Crime Project have been updated to share more news about the project and the work it does. The project aims to reduce the level of bat-related crime in the UK by providing specialist support where appropriate. You can take a look here: <https://bit.ly/3TywKkB>.

**13. Reminder – Let us know what working in bat conservation means to you.** For this year's BCT Annual Report, we want to include quotes from bat group members who work on the front line of bat conservation. If you want to take part, then send us a few words about the impact your volunteer work has had on your life. Maybe it's improved your mental wellbeing, got you motivated to learn more, or simply been a pleasure. If you have any photos of you volunteering you can share, that would be great, though not necessary. And do let us know if you're happy for us to contact you should we want to use your quote but edit it, so it fits in the limited space of the Annual Report. Please send your quotes to [comms@bats.org.uk](mailto:comms@bats.org.uk) with the subject line 'Quote for Annual Report'.

**14. 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](#) or included in the bulletin for other bat group members to see. 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/3a2gOM0>.

**BCT Events and Training.** BCT runs a hybrid program of online and in-person events.

- **9<sup>th</sup> April – Bat Care Training.** 6 [online](#) session course will provide an introduction to bat care for anyone interested in bat rehabilitation. <https://bit.ly/3VCtlr>.
- **17<sup>th</sup> April – NBMP level 1 bat detector workshop.** Online workshop providing an introduction to using heterodyne bat detectors and species identification skills. <https://bit.ly/4cA0ab2>.

- **18<sup>th</sup> & 25<sup>th</sup> April – How to Organise & Lead a Bat Walk.** Online training to develop skills to be able to run a bat walk by yourself. From preparing your event to running the bat walk itself, covering some key aspects of bat biology so you can feel confident sharing your enthusiasm and knowledge. <https://bit.ly/3kixqNv>.
- **7<sup>th</sup> May – NBMP level 2 bat detector workshop (“Using Your Ears”).** Online workshop to train your “sonic memory” aiding identification. <https://bit.ly/4cA0ab2>.
- **8<sup>th</sup> & 9<sup>th</sup> May – Surveying for Bats.** In-person course for planning professional bat surveys, as well as developing practical survey skills and field sign identification. <https://bit.ly/3v8SvNn>.
- **19<sup>th</sup> June-24<sup>th</sup> July – British Bats, their ecology and conservation.** Six-session online course designed for those new to bats wanting to develop a broader understanding of bat ecology, threats and conservation action. Nov-Dec dates also available to book. <https://bit.ly/42arupQ>.
- **13<sup>th</sup>-15<sup>th</sup> September – National Bat Conference.** Save the date of the 2024 hybrid conference. <https://bit.ly/2SyHhRB>.
- **November – Tracking Bats Methodologies Conference.** More details to follow. You can register your interest here: <https://forms.office.com/e/Gq8DWkfzyM>.
- **Ongoing – Introduction to bats and artificial lighting.** To develop knowledge and understanding of bat ecology, the impact of artificial lighting and the latest mitigation techniques. CPD certificate on completion. <https://bit.ly/48y8i8s>.
- **Ongoing – Bats and lighting talks.** Hear the talks given by experts who spoke at the Bats and Artificial Guidance Note Update Launch: <https://bit.ly/3TAj9Lk>.
- **Ongoing – 4<sup>th</sup> edition survey guidelines: exploring the changes webinar:** <https://bit.ly/4803R70>.

#### Other Events and Training.

- **23<sup>rd</sup>-24<sup>th</sup> April – Trees, People and the Built Environment 5 Conference.** Hybrid conference to provide a place for built and natural environment professionals to collaborate, with real-world case studies, research, and practical solutions: <https://bit.ly/49yDxlz>.
- **2<sup>nd</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> September – European Bat Research Symposium.** Scientific conference dedicated to the study and conservation of bats in Europe, in Tarragona, Spain: <https://bit.ly/3Rzj6wy>. Currently accepting abstract submissions.
- **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](https://gettingonboard.org).

#### 15. Bat Research Papers, Reports & Other Bat Media.

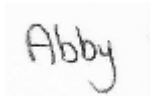
Please note we normally include articles, reports and blogs that are available to read online or download without charge.

- **Evidence for bats as reservoir hosts is lacking in most African virus studies.** Review of 162 papers evaluating presumed virus–host relationships: <https://bit.ly/4cw7rsc>.
- **Doppler shift triggers escape behaviour in horseshoe bats.** Using phantom calls to separate the responses to echo delay changes and Doppler shifts: <https://bit.ly/3VxR8F6>.
- **Diversification of phyllostomid bats linked to diet.** Study uses molars as a model system to examine the dynamics of adaptive radiations: <https://bit.ly/3IQHJ4f>.

- **Birds and bird-eating bats sharing tree cavities.** Novel observation of Eurasian blue tits rearing young in a shared cavity with the greater noctule, supporting the theory that the bats only capture avian prey in flight: <https://bit.ly/43x4BPA>.
- **Mobile devices effectively record bats.** 35 models tested against professional detectors, to support methodology of using mobiles to greatly increase participation and access to citizen science and awareness of bats: <https://bit.ly/3PzT0cE>.

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

Best wishes,

A small, square image showing a handwritten signature in dark ink. The signature appears to be 'Abby' written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

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.**