

Volunteer with Bat Conservation Trust to help

Swansea Bay Stars of the Night

As part of the Swansea Bay Stars of the Night project, volunteers will help collect baseline information on the movements of lesser horseshoe bats across Swansea using passive acoustic monitoring.

So, what's involved?

Time Commitment and Location

All of our survey sites are based in Swansea. You will select a site from a list of areas that we're interested in monitoring.

You will be asked to collect a bat detector from our equipment hub at Swansea Environment Centre to deploy at your given location and collect it after it has recorded for a period of three nights. Where possible, we ask that the detector is deployed at your survey location three times (i.e. for three separate periods of three nights) between May and October. The detectors can be deployed and collected at your convenience during daytime hours around these requirements and returned to the equipment hub after each deployment.

Landowner permission at all our sites has been organised.

Experience

Anyone can get involved with our citizen science surveys! No prior experience is required. Full training and instructions on how to set up and deploy the detectors will be provided when you sign up.

After the data you've collected has been downloaded and analysed by us, we'll send you a bat report so you can find out what bat species are present in your patch.

What you will need

- Mobile phone or tablet for recording precise location of detector – please download the free app 'Grid Reference UK – OSGB36'
- Sturdy bag for carrying equipment to the survey location e.g. bag for life.
- Some of the survey locations may be on rough or muddy terrain so walking boots or wellies are best.
- A survey buddy if possible.

What you'll gain

- Be part of a research team, helping the local conservation of lesser horseshoe bats
- Training in the ecology and behaviour of lesser horseshoe bats and bat survey techniques
- Opportunities to be involved with other lesser horseshoe bats surveys or events and being sent other Natur am Byth opportunities when they're available!

Volunteer expenses will be available.

To register as a volunteer please complete the sign-up form.

If you have any queries at all, please don't hesitate to get in touch with our Project Officer Bethan Withey – bwithey@bats.org.uk.