

Bat Conservation Trust



BCT Quarterly Report July - Sept 2011

The Bat Conservation Trust has a clear vision – **A world where bats and people thrive together in harmony.** Our mission is to **secure the future of bats in a changing world.** This report summarises progress for the quarter against BCT's four key objectives:

<i>Objective</i>	<i>Projects/Areas of activity</i>	<i>Page</i>
DISCOVER		
1. To establish the capacity of the landscape to support viable populations of bats		
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Surveys, monitoring and research

NBMP

State of the UK's bats 2011

This was launched at the National Bat Conference at the University of Warwick in September. This leaflet, compiled by KB, summarises the latest findings from the NBMP and related projects. This year the focus was on the wider application of NBMP data and the report included how the population trends are contributing to the UK Biodiversity Indicators, and how NBMP data are being used to improve our understanding of how bats use the landscape. The leaflet will be sent to government agency stakeholders in the NBMP and also to all our recent NBMP volunteers, as well as being available electronically on the BCT website.

Survey Organisation

The table below shows the number of volunteers who have already returned data for this summer's surveys as of 22nd September 2011. The total number of volunteers returning data for these surveys in 2010 is also shown for comparison. The aim is to at least equal the 2010 figures by the time work begins on analysing the data which is due to commence in November. It is encouraging that high numbers of volunteers have returned data before the end of the summer survey season and before reminders have been sent out. The number of volunteers returning data for the Sunset Sunrise survey is already higher than in 2010, and it is likely that many new volunteers taking part found out about the survey through its promotion on the BBC programme Springwatch.

For the Woodland Survey the number is lower this year due to the focus only on sites which have been designated as Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) for barbastelle, whereas last year surveys were carried out by volunteers at additional non-SAC sites. The total number of returns for the National Bat Colony Survey (formerly run by the Robert Stebbings Consultancy and currently run as part of the NBMP since 2002) is expected to be lower this year. We have sent all volunteers survey forms for NBMP Colony Count in addition to their NBCS forms and encouraged volunteers to return their data in this format instead. We have not received any data from the Nathusius' Pipistrelle Survey yet as this survey runs until 30th September.

Survey	2011	2010
Pipistrelle Colony Count	309	395
Serotine Colony Count	25	36
Brown long-eared Colony Count	48	66
Natterer's Colony Count	25	42
Lesser horseshoe Colony Count	35	48
Greater horseshoe Colony Count	9	15
<i>National Bat Colony Survey</i>	32	46
Field Survey	172	196
Waterway Survey	174	294
Sunset/Sunrise Survey	141	119
Woodland Survey	5 (Focusing on SAC sites only in 2011)	23 (SAC and non-SAC sites surveyed in 2010)
Nathusius' pipistrelle Survey	0 (surveys carried out until 30 th September)	58

Note: 2011 shows number of volunteers who have returned data for each survey as of 22nd September, compared with total number of volunteers who submitted data from the 2010 summer survey season.

We will shortly be sending reminders to volunteers who have not yet returned their survey forms and begin the process of inputting the 2011 data onto the NBMP database. When all received survey data have been inputted, volunteers who returned data will be sent thank you emails or letters with a link to online maps showing this year's survey coverage and where species were recorded.

Species verification at roosts

This year volunteers were again offered the opportunity to borrow BatBox Baton frequency division detectors and digital recorders in order to record the species counted at roosts and enable species verification. The aim is to enable roosts that are currently in the "pipistrelle unsure" category to be included in the appropriate species population trend. 17 volunteers volunteered to take part and were sent equipment. So far we have received recordings from 10 volunteers and hope to receive more once reminders have been sent.

Greater horseshoe bat Colony Counts

This survey is funded in England by Natural England. The survey method has been standardised since 2005, including the survey period, and there are now 26 greater horseshoe Colony Count sites in the NBMP network for the UK. In 2010 information was submitted to the NBMP from 20 greater horseshoe bat roost sites in England and Wales, 16 of which are in England and 17 of which contributed data to the Colony Count population trend.

In 2011, survey packs have been sent out for 26 sites. Forms have been received so far from eleven of these sites plus three new ones. Reminders have been sent to surveyors who have yet to return their data, and early indications are that at least 25 sites have been surveyed this year.

Woodland Survey

This survey is funded by Natural England with the aim of monitoring barbastelle activity at sites designated as Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) for this species. The main aim of the barbastelle monitoring in 2011 was to re-survey all the transects completed in 2010, both new and existing, in as many of the three survey periods as possible with the volunteer resources we have available.

The survey periods are as follows:

- Period 1 - 25th July to 8th August
- Period 2 - 9th to 23rd August
- Period 3 - 24th August to 7th September

The table below summarises the transects surveyed at SAC sites in 2011 in each of the three survey periods. Recordings from surveys are currently being collated and will be analysed over the coming months to determine presence of barbastelle.

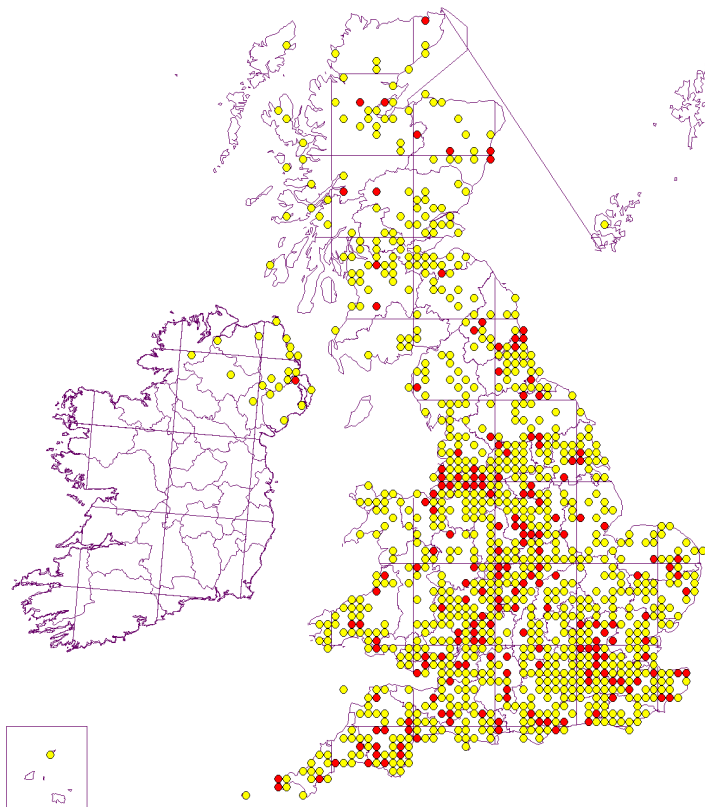
SAC	County	Woodland name (where applicable)	Transect no.	Period 1	Period 2	Period 3
Ebernoe Common	West Sussex		Transect 1	Y	Y	Y
			Transect 2	Y	Y	Y
The Mens	West Sussex		Transect 1	Y	Y	N
			Transect 2	Y	Y	N
Mottisfont	Hampshire		Transect 1	Y	TBC	TBC
		Spearywell Wood	Transect 2	Y	TBC	TBC
		Mason's Copse and Drove Copse	Transect 3	Y	TBC	TBC
		Holm Moor and Deborah Copse	Transect 4	N	N	Y
Exmoor and Quantock Woodlands	Somerset	Quantocks: Hodder's Come and Somerton Combe	Transect 1	Y	Y	Y
		Quantocks: Holford Combe	Transect 2	Y	Y	Y
		Exmoor: Horner Wood 1	Transect 3	Y	Y (no recording)	Y (partial recording)
		Exmoor: Horner Wood 2	Transect 4	Y	N	Y
Eversden and Wimpole Woods	Cambridgeshire	Eversden	Transect 1	Y	Y	Y
		Wimpole	Transect 2	Y	Y	Y
Bridlesford Copses	Isle of Wight	Bridlesford Copse	Transect 1	N	N	N
		Bridlesford Bridleway	Transect 2	N	N	N
North Pembrokeshire Woodlands	Pembrokeshire	Pengelli Forest	Transect 1	Y	Y	N
		Ffynnon-ddu	Transect 2	Y	Y	N

Nathusius' pipistrelle survey

This survey was run again this year after two very successful pilot years in 2009 and 2010. The focus this year was on filling gaps in the survey coverage and a list of counties that have yet to be surveyed was provided on the BCT website. Volunteers were particularly encouraged to survey sites in these counties but volunteers in lower priority counties were still welcome to take part in order to increase coverage in their area. Frequency division detectors and recording devices were available on loan to volunteers, with priority given to volunteers who had surveyed sites with heterodyne in previous years and noted hearing likely or possible Nathusius' pipistrelle calls. 151 volunteers requested survey forms compared with 116 in 2010.

Volunteer recruitment and support

249 new volunteers were recruited between July and September 2011. This brings the total number of active NBMP volunteers to 2465. The map below shows the distribution of current NBMP volunteers including new volunteers signing up in this period. Each 10km spot may represent more than one volunteer.



Distribution of existing NBMP volunteers (yellow dots) and new volunteers (red dots) signing up between July and September 2011

A breakdown of recruitment sources is shown in the table below. Local bat groups remain a key source of recruitment, with 53 volunteers signing up after finding out about the NBMP through their bat group. The second most important source was the Sunset/Sunrise Survey, with 50 new volunteers recruited. For this survey, volunteers are able to download the survey form and instructions online and new volunteers are signed up to the NBMP when they submit data. Following the promotion of the Sunset Sunrise Survey on BBC's Springwatch programme, an additional 8 volunteers quoted this as their source, adding to 20 volunteers in the previous quarter who had done the same. It is likely that many of the new volunteers returning data for the Sunset/Sunrise Survey had also heard about the survey through the programme and downloaded the survey form online. Webpages and emails encouraging volunteers to survey new sites in priority areas for the Nathusius' Pipistrelle Survey were also successful in attracting new volunteers. Another important source of recruitment was the internet, with additional volunteers specifying the BCT website, Facebook or Twitter pages as their source. NBMP detector workshops, which were run all around the UK this summer, continue to be successful in recruiting new volunteers.

Recruitment source	No. of new volunteers
Local Bat Group	53
Sunrise survey	50
Internet	36
Unknown	17
Nathusius' Pipistrelle Survey	14
Bat detector workshop	11
BCT Website	11
NBMP Workshop	10
BBC Springwatch	8
Bat Walk	7
Other NBMP volunteer (WOM)	6
BBC news website	3
Data in	3
Facebook	3
New Roost Owner	3
BCT Member	2
Public event	2
Wildlife Trusts	2
Woodland Survey	2
Bat Group Contact	1
BCT Leaflet (misc)	1
BCT Training course	1
Research project/University	1
Roost visit	1
Twitter	1

During this period, the NBMP team have been developing an online questionnaire to better understand the motivations, experiences and satisfaction of our NBMP volunteers. Through the questionnaire we aim to gather data on who are our NBMP volunteers (demographics), their reasons for taking part, their experiences of the NBMP training programme, their response to feedback from NBMP and their motivations to take part, as well as how well they feel valued as an essential part of the NBMP.

The questionnaire will go live online in October 2011. In order to gather information from as wide an audience as possible, the survey will be sent to all present and past NBMP volunteers for whom we have email addresses, in addition to participants of NBMP training workshops who have not gone on to sign up for NBMP surveys.

Data Management

Data are being uploaded to the NBN Gateway for 2010 surveys. An updated dataset from the Hibernation Survey was submitted and has now been uploaded onto the NBN. This follows datasets from the Waterway Survey and Field Survey that were submitted earlier in the year. An updated dataset for the Colony Count is currently being prepared. Changes are being made to how the data are submitted from NBMP surveys, and in future we will be including the name of the surveyor with the data for each site, where the surveyor has agreed to be named. A tick box has been added to NBMP survey form in summer 2011 where volunteers can indicate if they are happy for their name to be included against their records in future.

In September NBMP data updates were sent to all bat groups who have signed a Data Supply and Use Agreement form in order to receive data for their bat group area.

NBMP training workshops/talks

Our target is to deliver 30 NBMP workshops in 2011. We had delivered 26 workshops to the end of June 2011, and in this period we have delivered an additional 7, exceeding our target for 2011.

KB also delivered Using Your Ears for a visually impaired audience as part of the Count Bat workshop at Grittleton, Wiltshire in August. The workshop was modified for the specific needs of this audience and some notes have been written up to assist any future delivery of this workshop to similar audiences by NBMP staff.

KB has started to discuss handover of provision of training in sound analysis to bat groups from NBMP to the Partnerships Officer LW. KB and PB have updated resources for sound analysis training to focus on introductory guidance for analysis of frequency division recordings using a number of widely available software packages. LW will take over delivery of this training to bat groups using the updated resources in 2012.

The table below shows NBMP workshops delivered between July and September 2011.

Date	Location	Workshop delivered	Trainer/speaker
2 nd July	Dartmoor National Park	Introduction to NBMP	Philip Briggs / Kate Barlow
15 th July	Somerset	Using Your Ears	Edward Wells
18 th July	Northumberland	Waterway Survey mini workshop	Philip Briggs
19 th July	York	Using Your Ears	Kate Barlow
26 th July	Hertfordshire	Waterway Survey mini workshop	Felicity Bates
17 th Sept	Warwickshire	Introduction to sound analysis	Kate Barlow / Philip Briggs
18 th September	Warwickshire	Advanced sound analysis	Kate Barlow / Dean Waters

Meetings and events

KB, PB, FB, NL and JR all attended the National Bat conference at the University of Warwick from 16th to 18th September. The State of the UK's bats 2011 report was launched at the conference, and results of the NBMP to 2010 were displayed. Two workshops on sound analysis were also delivered by the NBMP team.

KH represented NBMP at the European Bat Research Symposium in Vilnius in August. During the meeting she drew attention to the plans for developing a pan-European Bat Indicator (see project development under International) and liaised with other national surveillance groups over methodology and analysis developments.

PB and FB have been working on video training resources for the Count Bat project to go onto the BCT website. Two short videos are being produced which demonstrate how to take part in two NBMP surveys: the Sunset/Sunrise Survey and the Colony Count. The aim is to show that anyone can take part in these surveys even if they do not have previous bat survey experience or specialist equipment, though for the Colony Count the volunteer does need to know of a roost at which they can carry out counts. Filming was completed between July and September and the footage will be edited together during October/November with a view to launching the videos on the BCT website in winter 2011/12.

The NBMP team have provided support and advice to Clare Gray, MSc student from Imperial College working within the WAMP on verification of bat species identification using heterodyne and frequency division bat detectors. The project included analysis of some NBMP data from Field Surveys and is currently being written up by Clare.

In this period KB completed a draft chapter on interpreting survey results for the new BCT survey guidelines.

An NBMP Steering Group meeting was held at the JNCC office in Peterborough on 31st August. KB, KH from BCT and Deborah Proctor and Stuart Ball from JNCC attended.

The main topic discussed was the re-development of the NBMP database. In July 2011, KB had provided updated documentation for JNCC on the specification required for online recording from the Colony Count survey and database requirements, building on the work started earlier in the year that had been delayed due to staff changes at JNCC. The advice from JNCC was that there was still a lot of work to do to have a full and complete specification for the new database, and that this would be required in order to send out an invitation to tender to potential developers for the work. We are in discussion with JNCC about how we best achieve this full specification as the skills required for the document are technical skills beyond those within the NBMP team. As their contribution to this partnership, Stuart Ball is currently improving the specification. JNCC confirm that following the staff changes, they are still committed to continue providing support on specifying the work, recruiting and selecting contractors for the upgrade of the database. They advise making the specification modular, requesting potential tenderers to cost each module separately in order for tenderers to contribute identifying potential cost savings and efficiencies.

Research collaborations and publications

Bats, Churches and the Landscape: Sustainable conservation of bats in the East of England)

This project, which is funded by SITA Trust and focuses on soprano pipistrelles is a collaboration between BCT and the University of Bristol. The first project advisory group meeting took place on 30 June at Defra offices in London. Attendance by the newly established Project Advisory Group (PAG) was excellent (NE species and licensing experts, NT, Churches Conservation Trust, Church of England Church Buildings Council, English Heritage, Philip Parker). Following the meeting a member of the Ecclesiastical Architects and Surveyors Association (EASA) has also agreed to sit on the advisory group. Madeleine Ryan has undertaken her first summer of fieldwork, based in Norfolk, conducting surveys of bat presence in churches, and radio-tracking bats from selected church roosts. Requests for information and historic data to bat groups and individuals have been met with generosity, and these data will be of value for modelling work.

Mitigating the impacts of Natterer's bat in churches

This research project is led by University of Bristol, with BCT listed as a subcontractor. The first meeting of the Project Advisory Group (PAG) was held back to back with the SITA Trust study above and was well supported. During the summer, Dr Emma Stone's work has focused on identifying potential study sites and in late summer radio-tracking was begun to provide information on typical patterns of church and wider landscape usage (whether bats move between roosting locations inside the church, and whether alternative non-church roosts are used by the colonies). Two churches have been identified so far as potential sites for mitigation studies next year. BCT are organising focal group meetings with the

communities associated with these churches in early November, to ensure there is good understanding between the research team and communities on the impact of the bats on the communities, and the potential mitigation strategies.

KH and Emma Stone assisted James Hales (conservator at UCL and member of the soprano pipistrelle PAG) on a bats and churches workshop at the national bat conference in Warwick in September.

Impact of domestic exclusions on soprano pipistrelles

This research project is led by University of Bristol, with BCT and BTO as sub-contractors. The Project Advisory Group (PAG) which oversees both this study and the Natterer's bat churches research met for the first time on 30 June. BCT's communication to bat workers about the project in the Bat Bulletin resulted in several offers of help and suggestions of sites where owners have applied for exclusion licences, that might be suitable for the study. Further information on potential study sites was received from batworkers at the National Bat Conference in Warwick, where Emma Stone drew attention to the study during her talk. BCT is liaising with bat roost visitors, NE, roost owners and University of Bristol to locate potential study sites for field studies in spring 2012.

Bechstein's Bat Project

All surveys have now been completed for the Bechstein's Bat Project which is now in its final stages. Due to some initial problems with the database this summer, the statistical analysis of the data has been delayed. The final project report that was due to be completed on 30 September has therefore been delayed and will be completed in November.

The following information provides a summary of the information collected as part of the project:

Aims

The Bechstein's Bat Project aimed to:

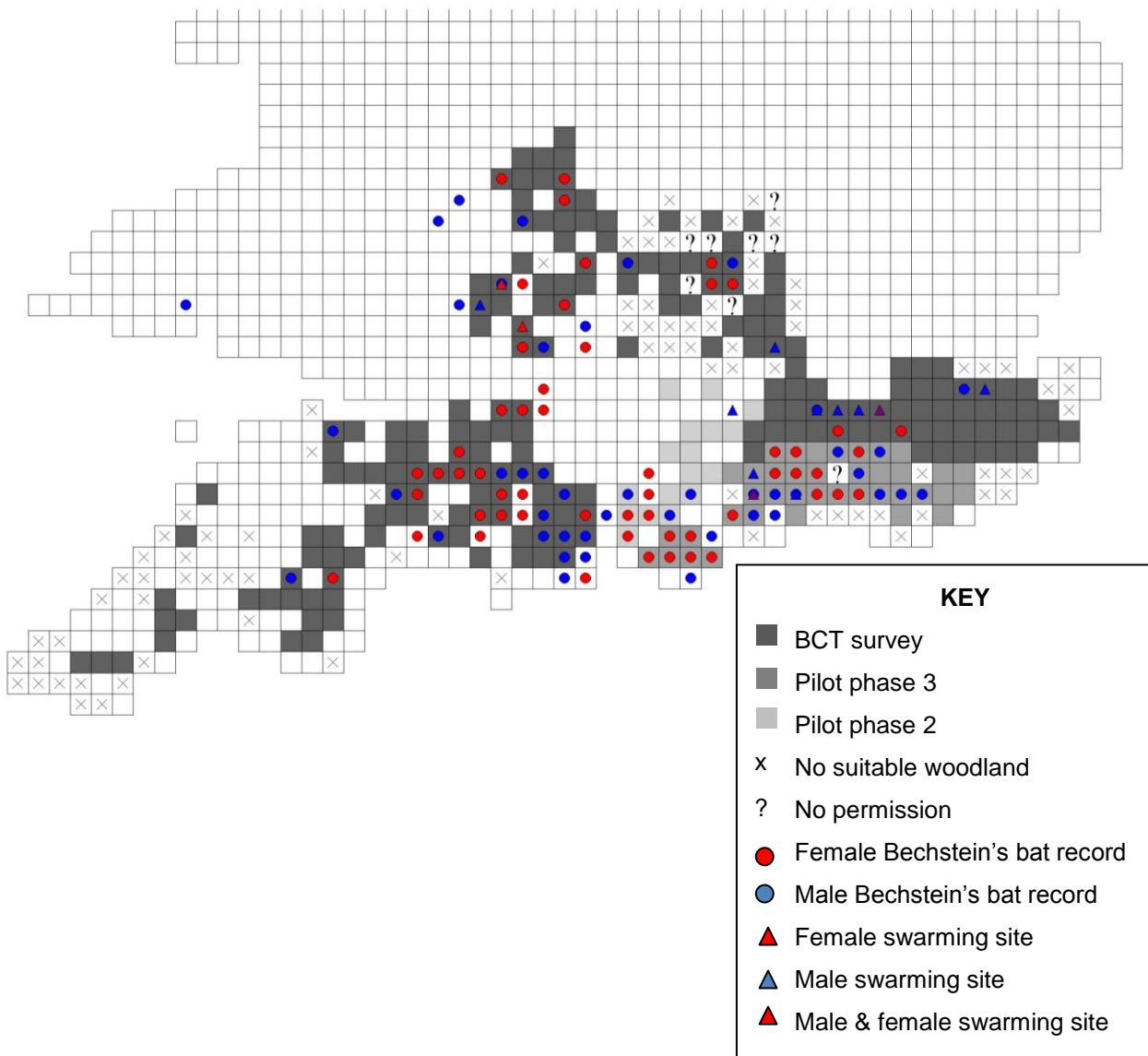
- To deliver systematically acquired baseline distribution data for Bechstein's bat across its entire range in England and Wales
- To better delineate the species' range and hotspots for conservation action
- To better understand the habitat associations of this woodland species across its range in the UK
- To provide conservation management guidelines for land owners and managers of sites where Bechstein's bats are present
- To provide a baseline against which ongoing presence/absence of the species in 10km squares can be monitored for future Biodiversity Action Plan reporting and conservation status assessments. (Note the survey is about breeding presence/absence, male only presence and total absence, a much more detailed result than just presence/absence).

In addition, the project aim for wider woodland bat communities is:

- To provide preliminary data on the distribution of other woodland bat species in relation to woodland quality by recording all other species caught during the surveys. This will provide a valuable foundation for a comprehensive study of the relationship between woodland quality and the structure and diversity of bat communities.

Results

Between 2009 and 2011 the project surveyed 198 woodlands across ten counties and recorded 57 Bechstein's bats (30 female and 27 males) at 37 brand new sites for this species. When combined with the records collected as part of the pilot project (on which the BCT project is based), and other recent records we have been able to collect from local groups, we have been able to produce a baseline distribution map



New Bechstein's bat records were found in Buckinghamshire, Dorset, Gloucestershire, Kent, Somerset, Surrey and Worcestershire. Through this work we have identified hot spots, particularly in Dorset/Somerset, southwest Hampshire/IOW and Sussex. We have also been able to extend the known range of this species within the UK. The records collected in Buckinghamshire and Worcestershire are now the most northern records for breeding females of this species in the UK.

Our work has shown that it is possible to use a habitat model to identify suitable woodlands for survey and that through this method the discovery of new woodlands for this species can be achieved.

In addition to the Bechstein's bat data collected, the project also collected data on a range of bat species and surveyed many woodlands for which there were no prior records. In total 828 bats were caught of 12 species.

All species data collected as part of the project has been sent to local bat groups and local record centres. It is also accessible through the National Biodiversity Network Gateway.

Indicator Bats Program (iBats)

BCT secured funding from the Rufford Foundation to continue to coordinate the iBats project in Eastern Europe until September 2011 and enable Ukraine to continue to participate in the project in 2011. In addition, the funding has been used to launch and maintain the online iBats data management system and produce new support materials associated with the new iBats website and the recently completed smartphone applications.

The iBats application for the iPhone and smartphones utilising the Android operating system are both now available from the iPhone App Store and Android Market. The application allows a smartphone to be directly attached to the ultrasonic detector and the geo-referenced sound files can then be automatically uploaded onto the web portal, thus replacing the recording device, GPS unit and the recording sheets.

The new iBats web portal was launched in June 2011 and was used successfully by volunteers during the 2011 field season to manage data, either through direct uploads via a PC or via the new smartphone applications. Although the site is a huge improvement on the previous site, users have reported a few technical issues and bugs that require fixing and would like the site to be more user friendly.

ZSL issued a press release about the project on 20th June 2011 to coincide with the official release of the iBats application for the iPhone and this generated a huge amount of interest in the project with hundreds of volunteers requesting to join projects.

Eastern European counties have continued to collect data during 2011 with almost 5000km of transect data being uploaded to the iBats database to date. This includes 16 events (10 routes) from Bulgaria, 27 events (18 routes) from Hungary, 58 events (30 routes) from Romania, 41 events (22 routes) from Russia and 36 events (18 routes) from Ukraine. Some data has still to be uploaded.

The lack of a project coordinator in the UK in 2011 has resulted in an overall drop in the number of surveys carried out. This has primarily been due to the lack of UK technical support for the new website although the complexity of the current method employed to obtain a reasonable species identification for UK calls via the website has had an impact.

iBats was shortlisted for the Best Community Project and the Best Environmental Project of the Year in the Project Excellence Category for the UK IT Industry Awards. The winner will be notified in October 2011.

BCT and ZSL are currently looking for other funding sources to support the project in late 2011 and 2012.

Welsh Agri-environment Monitoring Programme

The WAMP project is in its third year and the final field season is now complete. The 2011 field team comprised RA and five field assistants (Emma Douglas, Laura Bambini, Louise Davis, Nathan Robinson and Nik West), and two Masters project students (Claire Feniuk from Leeds University and Clare Gray from Imperial College London). As in previous years, the team were sometimes joined on survey by local and residential volunteers.

The team worked throughout south Wales (Pembrokeshire, Carmarthenshire, Ceredigion, Glamorgan, Monmouthshire, Brecknockshire and Radnorshire) carrying out three types of bat survey together with the associated habitat surveys: Field Surveys (noctule and pipistrelles), Waterway Surveys (Daubenton's bat) and Horseshoe Bat Surveys (lesser and greater horseshoe bats). This season, 20 pairs of new farms and 10 core farm pairs were recruited and surveyed twice for Field Surveys. For Waterway Surveys, 12 pairs of

new farms and 10 core farm pairs were recruited and surveyed twice. Horseshoe Bat Surveys were carried out at 16 pairs of farms. This means that all 2011 targets were exceeded.

Over the course of the project, 684 surveys have been carried out at 290 farms. A total of 60 farm pairs have been surveyed for the Field Survey element (target 55 farm pairs), 40 farm pairs for the Waterway Survey (target 40 farm pairs), and 45 farm pairs for the Horseshoe Bat Survey (target 40 farm pairs).

Three MSc dissertations associated with the project have been submitted this year:

- Jelena Burazerovic 'Effects of linear features, land cover and the Tir Gofal agri-environment scheme on the activity of bats (Chiroptera)' in the agricultural landscape of Wales'
- Claire Feniuk 'The effects of landscape scale habitat variables and sympathetic land management practices on bat activity on Welsh farmland'
- Clare Gray 'A comparison of two bat surveying techniques; do heterodyne and frequency division produce inconsistent results?'

A Partner's Meeting was held in July at Cardiff, and RA attended. A poster of the project's progress to date was displayed at the Welsh Bat Conference at Llandrindod Wells in July, and the National Bat Conference held at Warwick University in September.

Roofing membranes

During the last quarter the Bats and breathable roofing membranes project has taken some positive steps forward, helped by Stacey's relocation to Reading and a much closer relationship with BCT.

One of the biggest steps for the project has been the completion of the literature review. This has formed the basis on which the rest of the project will work around. Testing has begun on tearing and puncturing of membranes, to allow a comparison with tests already carried out.

In September I also presented a workshop for the National Bat Conference at the University of Warwick. This was fully subscribed and received some good feedback at the event. This workshop was an excellent networking opportunity and has already contributed new sites for the positioning of dataloggers during re-roofing projects.

Biodiversity/Conservation

Survey Guidelines:

An initial consultation of the survey guidelines was carried out at the National Bat Conference. A draft version is now complete. The audience has changed to focus on: professional bat workers; consultants; planners and others associated with development

The guidelines have been restructured to provide greater emphasis on the following:

- principles of good survey design
 - the need to address necessary survey objectives and questions when surveying
 - deviation from guidelines clearly backed with evidence based rationale
- how to review and assess the quality of survey reports
 - emphasis on professional standards

- importance of understanding answers are needed from surveys
- interpretation of guidance rather than broad brush approach
- the importance of data analysis and the interpretation of results
 - use of basic statistical analysis for large volumes of data
 - presenting data clearly relating to the survey objectives
 - highlighting significant results more effectively

The overall structure of the document has been altered to become more succinct guidance and re-emphasise the principles of good survey design and practice. The main changes are:

- (1) The previous chapters relating to individual survey types (underground, catching, buildings etc.) have been encompassed into two chapters: Activity Surveys and Roost Surveys.
- (2) New chapters on:
 - Pre planning considerations
 - Equipment and techniques
 - Assessing survey reports
 - Long term surveys for larger infrastructure projects
 - Surveying for wind farms
 - Interpreting results

Biodiversity process

This quarter two long awaited documents were launched, the **Natural Environment White Paper** and the **England Biodiversity Strategy (EBS “Biodiversity 20:20”)**. BCT engaged with shaping these papers through Wildlife and Countryside Link and welcomes the emphasis placed on the value and importance of nature and towards a more integrated, landscape scale approach to nature conservation. BCT and other wildlife NGOs continue to have concerns about how the strategy will result in both cross governmental engagement and local engagement with the Biodiversity Strategy. JH attended the launch of the EBS and a Natural England & Link meeting on the next steps. Defra will be leading on developing a **Biodiversity Delivery Plan** over the next 6 months which will break down the EBS outcomes for 1: Land habitats/ecosystems, 2: Marine, 3: Species, 4: People, into bite sized chunks to be delivered by NE, EA, FC and biodiversity partners. There will be rolling 3 year milestones drawn up with stakeholders and spatially represented, for delivery of outcome 1 & 3 targets, with specific organisations taking responsibility for delivery against these milestones.

Local Nature Partnership

BCT have established two partnerships to prepare for applying to be recognised as a Local Nature Partnership later in 2012. The LNP fund has two objectives:

1. To enable existing environmental partnerships who aspire to become Local Nature Partnerships, to broaden their agenda, membership and vision – to better reflect those of a Local Nature Partnership.
2. To support some partnership development work in areas where no partnership currently exists. This would create a strong foundation for those aspiring to become Local Nature Partnerships.

Capacity building activities that this fund is designed to support include those which:

- Bring together the range of organisations interested in forming a Local Nature Partnership and develop common agreement about the way forward. Identify opportunities and priority outcomes

using an ecosystems approach and define the linked benefits for local communities and businesses. Work collaboratively with a range of relevant stakeholders across sectors.

Consultation: National Planning Policy Framework

BCT submitted a response to the draft National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) and the Commons CLG Committee [call for evidence](#) on the NPPF. The industry reaction was divided, with the development sector broadly welcoming the document and the environmental sector sharply criticising the document's potential to undermine long term environmental interests.

Regulatory Reform:

The Law Commission are just starting a programme looking at regulatory reform of wildlife legislation, to be implemented in 2014. Much of this is very relevant to our work and offers opportunities to improve legislation, licensing, set standards for environmental consultants and planners etc JH attended a workshop at Natural England and BCT will be engaging in follow up consultations.

Wildlife and Countryside Link (WCL)

We continue to receive regular electronic communications from WCL and its groups. WCL's Biodiversity Working Group and Biodiversity Campaign Task & Finish Group continue to exchange emails on a regular basis. A number of face-to-face meetings have also taken place.

Technical Advice

Technical advice leaflets and standard letters have been produced by LH for use by the Natural England Bat Helpline. These have been on the installation of solar PV panels, micro turbines and the application of planning law.

Investigations

Operations

Whilst the Spring quarter showed significant year on year decreases in the number of bat crimes being reported to BCT and the Police the past three months has seen that position being overturned. As would be expected the summer has proven to be the busiest period and as a consequence bat crime statistics have yet to be finalised. It is however clear that reporting rates will again show a considerable increase. This can be evidenced by the fact that in this period alone we have referred 66 cases to the Police for investigation compared to 36 in the same period last year. Many of these cases are either still under investigation but we have been asked to supply conservation impact statements in two cases. Such documents are generally only asked for where the investigating officer feels that there is a case to be prosecuted.

The Police service generally continues to respond well to referrals of bat crime in particular where preventative rather than investigative responses are needed. Police Community Support Officers (PCSO's) seem to be becoming more heavily involved in this area of work. Whilst there may be concerns that Police constables should be tasked to deal with such matters the fact of the matter is that PCSO's are being utilised to carry out a far broader range of duties than had been initially envisaged and there have been instances where they have delivered outstanding results for bat conservation.

Training

During the past three months training has been provided for the National Wildlife Crime Officers training course and a wildlife crime training course. We have also been able to ensure that a recent wildlife crime court awareness day featured a bat crime case study. This year's UK wildlife crime enforcers conference does not feature a presentation on bat crime but the profile of BCT will continue to be high as Pete Charleston organises that event.

Wildlife Crime Priorities

The wildlife crime bat crime priority group has met since the last report. A bat crime strategy and delivery plan has been produced. We have also produced minimum standards for the investigation of bat offences which has now received ACPO endorsement and is in the process of being circulated to all forces in the UK.

Intelligence

Recent information from the National Wildlife Crime Unit reveals that despite dramatic rises in the number of bat crimes known to BCT in the past two years we are only made aware of 40% of incidents contained in monthly returns made to the unit by UK police forces. We will work to improve on this position.

Bats and the Built Environment

BCT Bat box partnership with Ecosurv

BCT is embarking on a partnership with Ecosurv on their integrated bat box. BCT will provide design guidance and literature in exchange for using the box as a research and monitoring tool and receiving a percentage of the pre-sales revenue. The box has been rebranded as Habibat and is available from NHBS.

Green roof monitoring in Victoria

KG worked with Sam Lyme from Natural England and Huma Pearce, a bats and green roof researcher, to monitor bat activity on roofs in the Victoria Business Improvement District (VBID), London. A number of the businesses in the VBID will be installing green roofs in the next year, so our aim is to monitor the sites before and after installation to see whether green roofs enhance for bats. Six roofs are being monitored using Anabats from August to October.

Mitigation website

BCT launched the new mitigation website, called *Roost* in September. *Roost* allows consultants and roost owners to upload their own examples of bat roost mitigation. To date we have 10 case studies and are looking for more.

Deveronside, Moray, Scotland

KG and AY have been consulting with the architects and homeowners on design options for a house extension that works for the resident bats and the family. Two design options are currently being detailed.

Talks, Events and Conferences

- Bats for Building Contractors (12 July): KG shadowed course presented by Roger Martindale.
- Breakfast briefings: KG teamed up with Sarah Yarwood-Lovett of The Ecology Consultancy to present two breakfast briefings on “Planning and Designing for Bats”. The briefings were held on the 4 August and the 22nd September and were very well attended. The Ecology Consultancy hopes to run similar briefings in their Norwich and Lewes’ offices in before the end of the year.
- London Underground: at the request of London Underground (LU) KG presented a 90 minute presentation on ecology, surveying and enhancing for bats to their Health, Safety and Environmental managers.
- National Bat Conference (17 and 18 Sept): KG co-presented two workshops on Measuring Mitigation Success with consultant, Pat Waring.

Communications

KG is assisting the Helpline with guidance relating to solar pv installation and bats.

Training

KG attended a week long Eco-Refurb course at the Centre for Alternative Technology in Wales (26-30 September 2011).

Meetings

27 July – Biodiversity Planning Toolkit steering group meeting
28 July – Breathable Roofing Membranes project meeting
22 August – meeting with RESET and Ecobuild to discuss Biodiversity Pavilion for 2012
23 August - Biodiversity Planning Toolkit steering group meeting
25 August – UCL Urban Sustainability and Resilience project meeting
7 September – met with Inge Laursen of Panter Hudspith Architects
8 September – meeting at Kew Gardens to discuss bat enhancement for their new Quarantine House
13 September – meeting with JD Products to discuss bat tile vent

Woodland Officer

Dr Carol Williams came into post as Woodland Officer on 11th July. CW has previously worked in the post for the Built Environment Project whilst on secondment from Natural England.

England Woodland Biodiversity Group

CW has attended two meetings of this group in this quarter as the representative for Link. Additionally CW has taken the lead in compiling a paper entitled 'England Woodland Biodiversity Group Wildlife (EWBG) position statement to the Department of Energy and Climate Change (DECC) on the Woodfuel Strategy for England as part of the Renewable Heat Incentive (RHI)'. This paper will represent the both conservation and forestry sectors and a sub- group is currently working on final adjustments to make it a document that all can sign up to.

Responses to consultations

The Independent Panel on Forestry has been set up to advise Government on the future direction of forestry and woodland policy in England. In July the Panel called for views. A response had been prepared by both Link and the EWBG and comments on both of these drafts were subsequently incorporated prior to their submission. In addition BCT submitted our own response.

Collaborative Projects

BCT are a partner on the South West Woodland Wildlife Initiative. This innovative and collaborative project aims to take a partnership approach to the conservation of woodland biodiversity in the south west with the specific aim of helping to halt and, over time, reverse the declines of our most threatened wildlife across the region. It is recognised as important that all conservation interests involved should work together to deliver the same consistent conservation message and ask of woodland owners. CW has been developing a data set for use by the project and working with the partnership to take these aspirations forward. CW continues to work with the RSPB on a literature review of the evidence base for optimising woodland creation and expansion.

Cross taxa work

In considering the importance of woodland for British bats CW has also commenced working with a number of experts in other areas of woodland biodiversity to understand the synergies and conflicts that may exist between the different taxa and future management of the UK's woodland resource. The synergies may result in bats in woodlands having added value as indicators across a wider range of taxa. The organisations represented so far include the British Lichen Society, Buglife, Butterfly Conservation, British Bryological Society, mycologists at Kew and the Natural History Museum and RSPB.

Contributions to reports

'The State of the UK's Forest report' is being compiled by the Woodland Trust to mark the International Year of Forests. CW has reviewed all sections of the draft report and compiled a 500 word perspective from BCT's point of view for inclusion in the biodiversity section.

Meetings

25th July - England Woodland Biodiversity Group

9th August - A meeting Nick White of Natural England on EBS strategy

9th August – Warren Footpath Arcadia lighting Project filming

7th September – Meeting at Department for Business, Innovation and Skills

26th September – England Woodland Biodiversity Group (Chairing session on woodfuel)

International

European Bat Research Symposium, Vilnius, Lithuania

KH, JH and HR attended the EBRS. In addition to the work undertaken to establish a pan European indicator partnership and launch BatLife Europe (see below) this provided the opportunity to attend an open meeting of the IUCN Chiroptera specialist group and a monitoring workshop hosted by the Dutch Mammal Society. Notable talks included work by Carlos Flaquer, demonstrating a defined economic benefit of foraging soprano pipistrelles on rice field pests in Iberia, possibly the first work of its kind in Europe; Herman Limpens' work to develop a bat friendly spectrum for artificial light and updates on mycoses of bats in hibernation sites in Czech Republic.

Pan European Indicator

In collaboration with Dutch Mammal Society and Statistics Netherlands, BCT has been awarded a tender to develop a prototype pan European biodiversity indicator based on data collected from hibernation monitoring schemes across Europe. The contract is a follow on to successful work undertaken for EEA in 2008. A workshop bringing together scheme organisers will be held in October in the Netherlands to discuss the data, the species to incorporate, methodological issues including how to weight the contributions from different countries, and how the exercise could be repeated in the future. We are required to base the indicator on data from 6-8 countries, but have now received offers to share data from 10 countries (UK, Netherlands, Belgium, Slovakia, Slovenia, Austria, Germany, Hungary, Latvia and Portugal). Much of the work to establish partnership with these groups was done at the EBRS meeting in Lithuania in August, and the co-operation is being done under the banner of BatLife Europe.

BatLife Europe

BatLife Europe was successfully launched at the XII European Bat Research Conference in Lithuania. The first AGM approved the membership of 17 national bat conservation NGOs from 15 countries across Europe and elected a Board of 13 Trustees. There are currently a further 13 NGO's whose membership is under consideration by the Board of Trustees. Through NGO pledged fees and BCT's contribution BatLife has a current income for 2011/2012 of £4,400. JH will remain a Batlife Europe Trustee and Chair for the next three years.

Bat Group Partnerships & BCT's work across the UK

BCT-Bat Group Relationships: UK overview

Scotland and Wales are covered separately below. Across the rest of the UK (England, Channel Islands, Isle of Man and Northern Ireland) there are currently 42 Partner Groups and 16 Network Groups.

Bat Group Bulletins

Six bat group bulletins were circulated this quarter, four general bulletins and one special research edition about the three new research projects BCT is working on with the University of Bristol, Natural England and other partners. These were circulated to nominated contacts of Partner and Network Groups only, with a short list of additional contacts (including SNCOs).

Information included: the need for more bat carers for the BCT UK Bat Care Network; request from the Partner Bat Group Nominated BCT Trustees for questions or issues to be raised at the summer Trustees Meeting; announcement of Hertfordshire & Middlesex Bat Group Roost Fund; Natural Environment White Paper; publication of two new papers using NBMP data; first ever National Bat Carers Workshop; announcement of Gail Armstrong stepping down as Trustee; request for details of local bat hotspots; an Introduction from BCT's new Woodlands Officer; details of the four bat groups awarded National Bat Conference Bursaries; Pete Guest Award Nominations; request for volunteers for Nathusius' pipistrelle surveys, announcement of Project Support Fund awards to two bat groups; National Bat Conference reminders; request for information on bat groups and consultancy work (requested by a local bat group); green deal cavity wall insulation; re-launch of the Big Bat Map; request for Pete Guest Award nominations; agenda for the Bat Workers' Forum; request for information on early departure of bats from maternity roosts (requested by a local bat group); update on helpline and training organisational changes at BCT and on-going reminders of key dates for people's diaries.

The special edition bulletin included details on the research into the impact of exclusion of bats from roost in houses; the two bats and churches projects, as well as details of how people could keep up to date and who to contact with any questions.

White-Nose Syndrome

Helen Miller and Lisa Worledge are lead contacts for white-nose syndrome (WNS) related enquiries. In the last quarter no suspect fungal samples and specimens have been submitted to the VLA.

BCT maintains a log of all cases on the BCT website (on a dedicated WNS information for bat worker page, which we advise hibernation workers to check prior to visits). It has also followed up on all cases to thank bat workers and continues to encourage and promote the decontamination procedures recommended in the BCT WNS Guidelines.

The guidelines are currently being rewritten based on feedback received from bat workers during the 2010/11 hibernaculum survey season, contacts in Europe and following discussions with Alex Barlow at AHVLA regarding decontamination procedures. Prior to release to bat workers the revised draft will be shared with the SNCOs. Additional guidelines will also be issued for bat carers. Once the revised content has been agreed both documents will be circulated and added to the BCT website, which will also be updated with the relevant changes.

Rabies

An EBLV Liaison Group meeting took place on 12th July and was attended by Helen Miller and Julia Hanmer from BCT. This meeting was an opportunity for partners to update on their work and included discussions on: rabies policy, the National Bat Helpline, AHVLA's surveillance programmes, illegal

landings and quarantine processes, Government funding and a clarification of the roles and responsibilities at Defra.

We have also been discussing record sharing with the AHVLA. BCT have been provided with records collected through the passive surveillance programme. We are seeking clarification on whether we can share this data with bat groups at a finer resolution than 10km (the previously agreed resolution). Once a decision has been received from the AHVLA, the data will be shared at the relevant resolution with Partner and Network bat groups on a county by county basis.

Enquiries to Partnerships Officer

The contact details for Partnership Officer are found at several places on the BCT website and also on the Natural England web page (in relation) to rabies. Since beginning of July, Lisa has received 103 external enquiries, 42 from bat groups and 61 from other organisations and members of the public. The bat group enquiries are very diverse ranging from general support to specific projects and funding requirements. The majority of public enquiries relate to information on local bat group contacts (18), planning issues (19), bat records (5) and events (3), the other enquiries were very diverse ranging from recommendations for bat detectors, surveying, to contact information for organisations internationally.

Training for Local Bat Groups

Lisa is working on taking over the provision of sound analysis training to bat groups from the NBMP team. Kate Barlow and Philip Briggs have updated resources for sound analysis training to focus on introductory guidance for analysis of frequency division recordings using a number of widely available software packages. Lisa is working on additional elements of the training and materials relevant to the voluntary sector and for freely available software. The delivery of this training to bat groups will be taken over by Lisa in 2012 (first session is scheduled for April 2012, with practice acting as support for one session to be delivered in November 2011).

BCT–Bat Group meetings (*meetings in Wales and Scotland dealt with separately below*)

Partner Group Meetings

The Bat Group Officer /Partnerships Officer attended meetings with the following Partner Groups this quarter:

- Hertfordshire and Middlesex Bat Group – 30th June (not listed in previous report)
- Sussex Bat Group – 6th September
- Isles of Scilly Bat Group – 12th September

Information generated from these meetings about bat group needs, primary interests, volunteer numbers, record sharing, NBMP involvement, projects and contact data has been stored in the Bat Group Database to assist future reporting, project development and analysis. Meetings are being scheduled for the next quarter (with seven meetings already planned and more expected as bat groups begin their autumn/winter meetings).

Bat Workers Forum

This took place on Friday 16th September at Warwick University, prior to the start of the National Bat Conference. It was attended by around 40 people with representatives from a range of bat groups, BCT, Natural England (NE), Countryside Council for Wales (CCW) and other organisations. This provided an opportunity to update bat workers on aspects of BCT's current work, receive updates from NE and CCW, discuss current research projects, share news from local groups and discuss any issues pertinent to bat workers. The next Forum will be in September 2012.

Pete Guest Award

This year the Pete Guest Award was jointly won by Peter and Maggie Andrews. Peter sadly died in June, a great loss for bat conservation. A long-time Chairman of the Merseyside and West Lancashire Bat Group, Peter was able to engage and inspire people of all ages and abilities with his passion and enthusiasm. He used his skills as a physicist to pioneer the use of bat detectors long before they were commercially available and he developed his own automatic data recorders (some of which are still in use and generating valuable data at his study sites). Peter and Maggie (also a scientist) have presented and published many papers on greater horseshoes, lesser horseshoes and 55kHz Pipistrelles, with topics as diverse as cadmium levels in droppings, acoustic orientation, ultrasound calls and social calls, clustering behaviour and the effects of weather on breeding and fecundity. The majority of this work was carried out in Wales, with grants from CCW. They were regulars at conferences, including BCT's National Bat Conference where Maggie accepted the Pete Guest award this year and gave a highly engaging presentation. We sincerely hope Maggie will continue their valuable research and continue to inspire new generations of bat conservationists.

BCT in Wales

Engaging with wider environmental and political network

Work on the emerging Natural Environment Framework and the proposed Single Environment Body continues to take place through our partnership with the Wales Environment Link. We have attended quite a few meetings with WEL organisations usually in an advance of meeting with senior civil servants of the Welsh Government and/or relevant work streams especially the Regulatory Framework work stream. We also attended the Institute of Wales Affairs conference on the proposals for a SEB at which there were many groups and interests represented. In addition, we continue our dialogue with Welsh Government on the Targeted Element of the Glastir agri-environment scheme.

The Wales Biodiversity Partnership Policy Group has been disbanded since the group now has representatives from WG departments sitting on it. This means that BCT's only involvement with the WBP is through the Species Expert Group and so I shall be asking for a seat on the WBP Steering Group. The Species expert Group and the Wales Mammal Biodiversity Action Plan Forum continue to meet and exchange emails.

BCT was also present at this year's Wales Biodiversity Partnership conference on 14-15 September.

Consultations

We have drafted, on behalf of WEL, a response to a Welsh Government consultation on Local Area Summary Statistics based on one of WEL's key asks for better ecological audit and reporting. This was submitted as WEL response.

Wales Environment Link (WEL)

We continue to receive regular electronic communications from WEL and its various groups. WEL's Biodiversity Working Group, Biodiversity Campaign Task & Finish Group, and Land Use group continue to exchange emails on a regular basis.

Maintaining and enhancing the existing volunteer support

Formal meetings with bat groups continue as time and other commitments permit. Regular contact is maintained through electronic bulletins and other ad hoc emails whenever the opportunity arises.

Partnership Agreements

There has been no further work on the Partnership Agreements this quarter due to other commitments but I continue to talk to bat groups.

Outreach

We attended the Gower Show 7 August and the Monmouthshire Show on 25 August and have led walks for the National Trust on the Gower.

Volunteer support and training

Wales Bat Conference

A most successful conference took place 1-3 July at Trinity College, Carmarthen. 109 delegates took part in the weekend – some delegates came from Ireland and Holland. The success of the Conference has clearly demonstrated the significance of working in partnership with bat groups to deliver this type of project and grateful thanks must go to Tom McOwat of Dyfed Bat Group for this.

National Bat Carers Workshop

We have been working with Bat Care News to organise and deliver the first National Bat Carers Workshop that will take place in October at Llandrindod Wells. This will replace, for this year, the usual Wales Bat Workers Day. A Wales Bat Workers Day is being planned for early April 2012. The Workshop is fully subscribed and we have a small reserve list.

BCT in Scotland

Building volunteer network

The Scottish Officer delivered an evening talk (for adults) in St Margaret's Hope (Orkney) at the request of Orkney Bat Group (9th September). The talk was very well attended (despite horrendous weather) and led to several new volunteers joining the bat group and several new bat records for the bat group database and local records centre.

Training in hand netting and handling bats was delivered to members of Central Scotland bat group in late July.

There were no other meetings with bat groups but regular contact was maintained via Bat group mail outs, emails and telephone.

Preparation for the Scottish Bat workers conference at Stirling is underway: The programme, speakers and workshops have been agreed and bookings should open in early October.

Training

No formal training talks or courses were delivered by the Scottish Officer this quarter. Informal advice, instruction and loan of bat detectors were delivered to Gillies Hill local community group to help them carry out a bat survey of the area.

New Volunteer Recruitment

A talk on NBMP was delivered at a "Citizen Science" event (5th July at Battleby) to an audience of around 100. NBMP and BCT's Big Bat Map was promoted at talks and in press releases. 15 new recruits have joined from Scotland this quarter.

Public Education/Enabling involvement of the public

- BCT Displays/resources were used during at least 4 events; including bat walks and talks over European Bat weekend and talks by the Scottish Officer.
- The SBO delivered a bat talk at St Mary's nursery school and gave advice on the siting of bat boxes. A second talk/ afternoon of activities was delivered to Allan's School in Stirling.
- 2 x bat talks and bat walks for the public were delivered (Stirling, Doune)
- In Finstown (Orkney) The Scottish Officer delivered an evening of batty arts/ crafts and activities followed by a bat walk for the local Wildlife Explorers group. 30 children plus parents attended. The event featured in local newspapers, news websites and radio.

- At least 12 events in Scotland featured on the BCT events page for European Bat weekend as a result of encouragement/ nagging from the Scottish Officer.

Media

The Scottish officer;

- Gave 1 x TV interview (BBC Scotland- bat bite case)
- Gave 3 radio interviews (Dunbartonshire local radio, Inverness Monster Radio, BBC Orkney- various themes)
- Instigated 2 news items in local papers (Stirling Observer, Allanwater Herald)
- Instigated item on BBC highland News website – Bats and bad weather
- Instigated interview with NES bat group and BBC Out of Doors team (dawn swarming)
- Dealt with several enquiries from media re bat bite and exclusion
- Supplied information (text, photographs, sonograms and sound clips) for BBC Radio Orkney website

Legal

No potential bat crime incidents were reported to Pete Charleston. The Scottish Officer attended the PAWS Plenary Group meeting in Edinburgh (27 Sept).

Personal Training/office matters

Staff meetings in London were attended to keep up to date with other staff/ projects (15/16/17th September)

The Scottish Officer (and all her office equipment, displays, dead bats etc.) moved from Scottish Churches House to RFL House in Dunblane in early July. (Nightmare!) . The office is now set up and functioning smoothly (new address cards printed, website details updated, phone and internet connected etc.)

Education & Engagement

Hon Education Officer.

July-September 2011

Publications

Working on *Young Batworker* 82.

On Editorial Committee for *Bat News*

Courses /talks

3/7/11 Tutor for *How to organise and lead a bat walk* course at Dunorlan Country Park, Tunbridge Wells

21/7/11 Interview by X.H.videod for Count Bat

Meetings, conferences

26/7/11 At BCT office. Editorial meeting HMc, LW

16-18/9/11 Attended BCT National Conference, Warwick

Local surveys/monitoring for BCT

NBMP: Soprano pipistrelle July count

Two waterways Daubenton's surveys

Two NSP surveys

1 Nathusius pipistrelle survey

4 evening survey s for Bechstein's

Twelve walks/talks in Kent

National Conference

The National Bat Conference took place at Warwick University on 16-18 September. Over 350 attended over the two days, and feedback was overall positive about both the standard of the presentations and workshops, and about the new venue. Abstracts will be up on the website shortly.

BCT speakers included:- Julia Hanmer who gave a general update on BCT. Helen Miller presented the concluding results of the Bechsteins bat project. Lisa Hundt gave a presentation on strengthening professional practices to deliver biodiversity and Dan Merrett and Jude Hirstwood (Bedfordshire bat group) gave a presentation on reaching out to new audiences.

In 2012 the conference will take place at York University, 14-16 September. A call for abstracts was made at the conference, and will be publicised more widely over the next couple of months. Aspects of the conference will be organised by an external conference provider this year while Michelle Beckett is on maternity leave.

Vincent Weir Awards 2011

The Vincent Weir award was presented to Dr Matt Zeale (University of Bristol) at the Conference. Matt presented a talk on his important work on barbastelles to the assembled audience.

Training

Professional training

Strategy and marketing

A proposed new training course structure for consultants was finalised and marketing materials produced for the National Bat Conference. New courses will be delivered in 2012 and will be advertised in subsequent marketing and the 2012 training brochure.

Bats and Bat Surveys

The course ran at Orielton in July (taught by Sandie Sowler) and was attended by 11 people. No more courses are scheduled to run in 2011.

Planning and Preparation of Surveys

No course ran in this quarter and none are planned for the remainder of 2011.

Surveying Buildings (including Bat Identification)

The course ran at Lackham Countryside Centre in August (taught by Sandie Sowler and Peter Shepherd) and was attended by 10 people.

The remaining date and venue for 2011 is as follows, with bookings to date:

17-18 October	Clumber Park (Nottinghamshire)	10 booked
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Bat detector courses

Following the completion of two new bat detector courses in the last quarter we successfully ran the intermediate bat detector course on 28-29 June (at Preston Montford FSC in Shropshire) and on 18-19

August (at Nettlecombe FSC in Somerset). Unfortunately due to low bookings both of the advanced course dates had to be cancelled.

A meeting was held on 2 September to review the courses and decide on the best approach to be taken for 2010 courses. It has been decided that some modifications need to be made to these courses, such as combining the advanced course with a new consultants' course we are developing. We will also review the marketing of these courses and the experience level required.

Surveying Barns

Due to low numbers this course that was due to take place on 7 October was cancelled.

Surveying Bridges

Dates for 2011 are as follows, with bookings to date:

31 October	Juniper Hall FSC Centre (Surrey)	5 booked
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Surveying Trees

Dates for the remainder of 2011 are as follows, with bookings to date:

7 November	Bewerley Park (North Yorkshire)	5 booked
5 December	Richmond Park (Surrey)	7 booked

Arboriculture and Bats

One course ran in this quarter at Richmond Park, with 16 attendees. The course was taught by Mark Robinson and Adam Curtis.

One course was cancelled because of low numbers and another because the tutor was unexpectedly unavailable.

Dates for the rest of 2011 are as follows

10 October	Harcourt Arboretum (Oxfordshire)	12 booked
11 October	Harcourt Arboretum (replaces Bewerley course)	7 booked

Fibrescope course for arborists

This course will run on 23 August at Richmond Park with 12 attendees. It was taught by Mark Robinson and Adam Curtis.

Bats and Bridges: an awareness course

Due to low numbers this course that was due to take place on 30 September was cancelled.

Building for Biodiversity

HM has been liaising with organisations such as RIBA to investigate the possibility of running a new course for architects through their regional CPD training sessions.

Other projects

Training standards

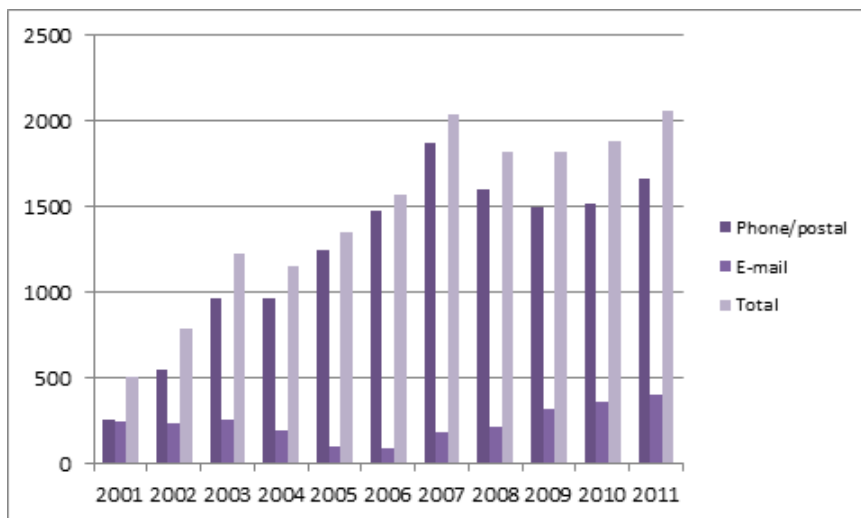
A display of the professional training standards, including example sections from the draft syllabus was displayed at the National Bat Conference in Warwick on 16-18 September. The aim is to publish the final version of this document in late 2011.

Staff changes

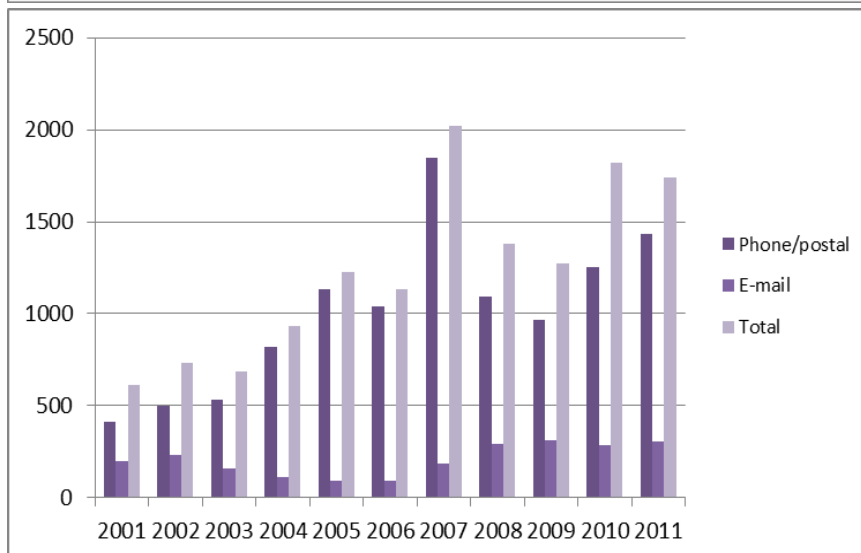
Helen Miller took over as Training Manager at the end of September. Dave Sutton remains as Training and Events Administrator.

Helpline and Casework

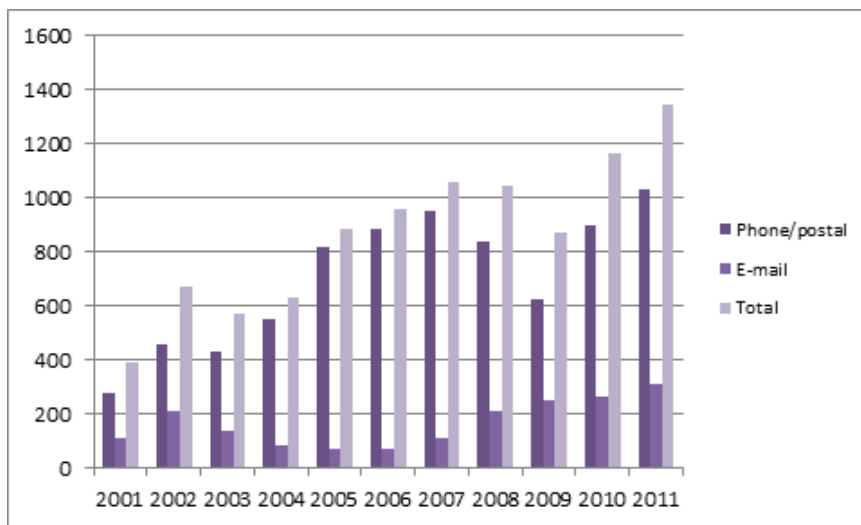
Helpline Figures; Numbers of enquiries



July 2011



August 2011



September 2011

The above graphs illustrate a comparison in the total number of phone/postal and e-mail enquiries taken in the third quarter (July, August, September) from 2001 to 2011

Helpline Overview

The Helpline's contribution to bat conservation is on-going rather than through individual projects. As a consequence, the Helpline's continued input and improvement in advancing the BCT's objectives is best measured by growth in the number of enquiries dealt with and the increase in efficiency in which these are handled. The Helpline has shown both an increase in the number of enquiries handled in this quarter compared to the same quarter in 2010, and has also increased the efficiency in which telephone enquiries and Natural England casework are handled.

The Helpline continues to contribute towards establishing viable populations of bats by recording data on roosts via Natural England casework, directing interested members of the public to the National Bat Monitoring Programme and the Big Bat Map, and assimilating and distributing information to interested landowners and professionals. By promoting bats to interested members of the public, helping to retain and protect bat roosts via Natural England casework and advising on planning and habitat conservation, the Helpline conserves and enhances bat populations.

The period from July to September usually sees a significant increase in calls and queries as we complete the maternity roost season and receive an increase in queries relating to building works. We get many phone calls and e-mails from members of the public who have found a bat or baby bat and give advice on the care that is required. Many calls are also from people who have discovered a previously unknown roost in their house and are having issues or require advice for works. In accordance with the appearance of the first pup report on 22nd May this year, the standard advice given out for all bat care calls was adjusted for baby bat care but in the last week of September, we began offering autumn bat advice in certain cases.

The third quarter has proven to be the busiest time of year for us so far. The total number of enquiries was 5152 this quarter compared to 3880 last quarter, an increase of 33%. When compared to the 4866 enquiries received in this quarter last year, there has been an increase of 286 enquiries (6%). The total number of enquiries in July rose from 1881 in 2010 to 2065 in 2011 (a 10% increase on last year). Interestingly the number of enquires in August 2011 has decreased

5% since the figures of August 2010 from 1823 to 1741. The total number of enquiries significantly increased in September from 1032 in 2010 to 1346 in 2011 (a 30% increase).

The decrease in overall enquiries in a crucial month in the bats breeding cycle, August, may indicate that bats have had a more successful year. Ordinarily, approximately half of the calls we receive during this period are relating to grounded, injured, baby bats or other scenarios relating to bats found in trouble. If enquiries have decreased overall for August, it will also mean a decrease in calls of this nature. This year we noticed bats seemed to return to their roosts earlier in the spring and we then received reports from bat workers that they were leaving their maternity roosts earlier than normal. This may back up the theory that they had a more successful year, however this did seem to lead to an increase in the numbers of follow-on roost use. This often caused problems for roost owners later in the year, mainly relating to a large build-up of droppings from the roost containing normal numbers plus this year's young. We have had a noticeably warm end of September and so have received a large number of enquiries relating to bats found during building works.

The Helpline continues in the work to contribute towards establishing viable populations of bats. This is done by recording data on roosts via Natural England casework, encouraging interested members of the public to get involved in the National Bat Monitoring Programme surveys and to visit the Big Bat Map to input their bat records, lots of which lead to roost records. We also encourage more bat carers to join our Bat Care Network to eventually get involved in outreach projects at schools etc. where they can. Some of the calls we receive about baby bats also lead to new roost records as our bat carers and local bat groups sometimes carry out visits which locate these after a baby bat has been found.

The Out of Hours Volunteer service

This year, the Out of Hours service ran from the 13th May to the 22nd October. Due to technical issues with the newly installed phone system, diversions to external phones were not possible, leading to a delay in the service which was planned to begin on 3rd May. There was also an extension to the originally planned service period due to unforeseen weather conditions and no sign of a decrease in the number of calls. The OOH service remained available over the weekend of the 1st and 2nd of October, again covered by members of Helpline staff.

Originally we had signed-up 25 out of hours (OOH) volunteers who answer emergency calls coming in to the BCT Helpline on weekdays from 5.30 to 11pm and 7.30 to 9am, as well as at weekends and bank holidays between 9am and 11pm. A member of BCT staff is assigned as back-up throughout these shifts so that any particularly difficult or sensitive calls can be immediately passed to BCT. The training days took place in London on the 9th April and Manchester on the 16th April. Unfortunately, four volunteers dropped out on the day of training so we began the service with a total of 21 volunteers. By September many more had dropped out and we were running the service with only 14 volunteers. The reduced number meant that members of Helpline staff had to step in and take over shifts.

The total OOH calls received during the period was 1316. The busiest month was July when we received 438 calls through the service. The busiest shift was a Sunday in June when 49 calls were received. It was decided that due to the increase in calls received, the weekend shifts would be split during the month of July so one volunteer covered from 9am until 4 pm and another volunteer covered from 4-11pm.

Bat care network

The Bat Care Network continues to be run by Bea Ayling. The bat carer list is constantly expanding, reducing the burden on other bat carers and increasing the number of bats rescued. In this quarter, a lot of time has been dedicated to increasing the number of carer contacts throughout the UK by targeting the local bat groups directly, as well as continuing to maintain up to date vaccination records. If you are aware of any interested parties please contact Bea Ayling on bayling@bats.org.uk A National Bat Carers Workshop is to take place in October 2011, aimed at new and experienced bat carers.

Bat care calls represent a large percentage of the overall enquiries and act as a valuable educational and recruitment tool. Many roosts are discovered from the routine questions asked during such calls.

The Natural England Contract and Casework

The Natural England contract has been in operation since 2004, and since 2008 includes 8 of the 10 NE Lots (North East, Cheshire & Lancashire, West Midlands, East of England, South East, South West, Cornwall & the Isle of Scilly and Yorkshire & the Humber). Over the past year, emphasis has been put on the importance of filling out the most recent NE roost report form for *all* visits, even if no bats are found, which aids in standardising our bat roost records. A new and improved roost report form is also currently being trialled by a selection of bat workers. The helpline's commitment to chase up bat workers for their roost report forms and monitor the letter writing process has meant that we have continued to keep to our set NE targets and increase the amount of letters we send out within the fifteen day deadline.

The Helpline organised a total of 729 roost visits in this period (293 in July, 223 in August and 213 in September) compared to 670 in this period in 2010 (288 in July, 207 in August and 175 in September); an increase of 9% the same quarter last year. Last quarter we organised 481 roost visits (78 in April, 144 in May and 259 in June) compared to 410 in the last quarter in 2010 (88 in April, 118 in May, 204 in June), an increase of 17% on last year.

Continuation of Natural England Bat Advice Service

BCT continues to carry out the casework contract on behalf of Natural England, advising members of the public on bat roosts and developments, organising roost visits and writing method statements and informative letters. Natural England implemented its strategy to increase service efficiency and spending cuts on the 1st May 2011. This resulted in bat advice for all regions provided by a single dedicated team of 11 dealing with specific bat related queries in our regions and continuing to support BCT in our capacity as bat advice contractors in these areas. This comprises, among others, Lucy Bellini leading on technical advice, Martin Rhodes, managing volunteers and a new contact for us, David Overton, leading on contractual matters. David has also offered to act as the main point of contact and follow up on any issues that we may have in between our quarterly reports.

We have noticed an increase in queries relating to licencing and planning and development. These calls would have been dealt with by Natural England previously, however this increase can partly

be attributed to the streamlining of services Natural England provide and their decision to step back from planning and development queries.

Staff Changes

There have been many staff changes this quarter. The July to September 2011 Helpline team comprised Kit Stoner (Helpline Manager), Amanda Adebisi (Helpline Technical Advisor), Crystal Schintz (Assistant Helpline Technical Advisor); full time Helpline Officers Xenia Snowman, Bea Ayling, Zoe Tubbs and Charlotte Wevill; and part-time Helpline Officer Jennifer Pope. Kit Stoner pursued her plans to undertake a part-time MPhil which has meant that she has now left the Helpline Manager role, however she is continuing in her role as Deputy CEO. The role of Helpline Manager was jointly offered to Amanda Adebisi and Crystal Schintz starting from 1st September. Amanda and Crystal will continue to provide technical advice to the Helpline in this joint-role.

David Urry has continued his seasonal Helpline Officer role since April 2011, shortly followed by Jessamy Barker in May. Joining us as seasonal Helpline Officers on 13th June were Kerry Leslie and Chris Werren. At the same time Sian Moore also started with us as Helpline Intern. Katy Daffarn joined us on 8th August as our second Helpline Intern of the season. Chris Werren secured himself a job in the Planning Department of Lewisham Council and his last day was 2nd September 2011. This meant we could offer Sian Moore a temporary part-time role as Helpline Officer. Sian was also offered the role of Administrative Assistant and started on 30th August. Following the completion of her contract in November, Jess will be taking over Sian's part-time role of Helpline Officer position for two days a week. When David's seasonal contract comes to a close in October, he will then be taking over this part-time two day role Helpline Officer permanently. Kerry's contract came to an end on 30th September.

Line management of the helpline team continues to be shared between Kit Stoner, Helen Miller and Amanda Adebisi, however as Michelle Beckett went on maternity leave on 9th September, Crystal has permanently taken over her line manager duties.

Count Bat

The project continues to run under budget and on target. As we approach the end of the project (January 2011) the staff decided to focus on distinct aspects of outstanding work to most effectively deliver the final aims. The North and East Officer Tina Wiffen has concentrated on delivering a high number of events, mainly in the north-east where traditionally BCT impact has been low. She has also run a trial of Green City Bat in the area and acted on the opportunity to develop a co-ordinated series of survey events and public involvement based around locating Nathusius pipistrelles which appeared for the first time in an examining area of the north-east this year. This freed up time for London Officer Xavier Hamon to focus on producing and collating the resources that will be key to sustaining the project and supporting the volunteers that have taken part. Co-ordinator and South West and West Midlands Officer Dan Merrett has done a mix of both and is looking to the future to develop a follow-on community project based around opportunities and needs identified through Count Bat.

The key cross-team projects that have been progressed this quarter are;

- Count Bat video Project (lead person Xavier)

Good progress has been made on the filming and the editing of most of the five videos. Two of them are now being finalised:

- Working with communities including culturally diverse groups (based around a 'bat fun day' type event)
- Working with young people, including learning difficulties youth groups (based around school/youth events)

We hope to have all five short films produced by November 2011. These films will be put up on our website and will be accompanied by 'how to' guides and online resources.

- Community Project Resource Pack (lead person Xavier)

To prepare the legacy and the end of the project, we are now working on a Resources Pack to enthuse and support more people to run community projects. The pack will include:

- a USB card with the 5 short films and useful resources. A navigation menu will allow end users to access easily the different sections of the contents.
- a booklet with a selection of inspiring case studies, a summary of the CB project ethos as well as a thank you to all volunteers and funders.

This Resources pack will be produced by December 2011.

Count Bat cumulative delivery to date (11/12ths of way into project)

	Key full project target delivery (attendees in brackets)	
	Total 4 year Target	Delivered to date
Training events	63(675)	58(869)
Education Events	108(3633)	136(12,150) + further 12,024 at large events
Surveys	90(900)	80(1012) + c2000 on big bat map
Events delivered in partnership with target groups	72(672)	130(4129)

Count Bat Region 1: London and the South East – Xavier Hamon

This quarter has seen the delivery of a few more events for 2011.

Events and trainings

- Bat day at Oakley School – 28th June (*not mentioned in last quarterly report*)

Around 50 students from Oakley School and three other schools, members of the Eco-School project, participated in this day of talks and activities (bat box making, art and craft). The teachers from the Eco-schools group have been handed-out material to run similar events in their own school.

- Bat walk with Action for Blind – 11th August

A very successful evening for the residents of Bradbury Oak house (Forest Hill, London) who, after a social picnic around the lake, had the chance to hear five different species of bats. All the participants (22

in total) were blind and were accompanied by sighted guides. Everyone fully enjoyed the experience and some of them have booked on the 'Going Batty' training course held in Grittleton (Wiltshire) the same month (see Count Bat region 3 for more information).

- Introduction to bats and bat walk for the Urban Forest project in Elephant and Castle – 18th August

Right in the middle of Heygate Estate in Elephant and Castle (London), a volunteer group has expressed the need to know more about bats and to borrow some detectors to monitor bats in this urban forest. Following this interest the Count Bat regional officer delivered an Introduction to Bats training course for 17 volunteers of this group. The evening was a success and the group is planning on organising local batty events with the community as well as keeping an eye on their local bats.

Green City Bats scheme in London

The bat season 2011 is getting to an end and we are now collecting information from all the GCB groups to monitor the success of this year's events delivery. All figures will be collected and reported in the next quarterly report.

The Autumn 2011 e-bulletin will be published at the beginning of October and will feature some stories and photos from events organised by the GCB groups.

Before the end of the year, we will send Project Evaluation Forms to all the groups to assess the GCB scheme and will provide information to the groups regarding on-going support from BCT and local bat groups as well as training opportunities for next year.

Future Plans

No more events are being planned for the rest of the year. The Count Bat films and Resources pack (see above) are however the main area of work for the following months.

Count Bat Region 2: South West & West Midlands – Dan Merrett

A key focus of this quarter was a three-day advanced residential training event for visually impaired people which took considerable planning. A presentation was given at the National Bat conference. Dan has been continuing to work on the Bath mitigation work (between ½ and 1 day per week) and has been filming for the 'how to' videos.

Events and training

During July, August and September, Dan delivered the following:

03/07/11 – Party in the park at Burbury Brick Works, Sparkhill, Birmingham. A fun day at a site in a culturally diverse area of Birmingham where the local community group had previously worked with the

project officer in running bat walks. A bat craft stall was manned with support from Brumbats volunteers. Around 200 people attended.

18/08/11 Walking for Health walk leaders training in Bristol on bats and leading bat walks. This followed on from the Active Bristol funded work in the city last year and was funded by Bristol council. 12 people attended.

22-24/08/11 Residential 3 day bat course for visually impaired people at Grittleton in Wiltshire. Run in response to suggestions from the project steering group that we should be looking at opportunities for greater involvement for people with a visual impairment. 13 visually impaired people attended together with 13 sighted guides and the event was used as an opportunity to trial non-visual training resources and methods with a final feedback session included. London and South East Officer Xavier Hamon supported on all three days and led some of the training whilst NBMP manager Kate Barlow developed and led an audio-only version of 'using your ears' training. The event will form part of the visually impaired video. A previously unknown lesser horseshoe probable maternity roost was uncovered as part of the training.

01/09/11 Ford Hall Farm bat walk, Market Drayton, Shropshire. A bat walk at a community owned farm . 30 people attended.

A number of events were also run this quarter by attendees at last quarters Green City Bats training however the data will be collated systematically next quarter and reported then.

Count Bat Region 3: North and East - Tina Wiffen

The focus in this quarter has been the delivery of events, training sessions and surveys.

Events and training

During July, August and September, Tina delivered the following:

Training

Five training events were held this quarter and two at the end of last quarter which weren't included in that quarters report.

28.6.11 NBMP Field survey training , Rufford. (20 attendees)

29.6.11 NBMP Field survey training , Gibside, County Durham (5 attendees)

11/07/11 – How to Lead a Bat Walk & Intro to Bats training session, Holmbridge, West Yorkshire. (6 attendees). Run for RSPB and United Utilities staff members to gain the skills to lead bat walks around Dovestones. A total of four bat walks have been organised as a result of this training session.

12/07/11– How to Lead a Bat Walk & Intro to Bats training session, Castle Eden Dene, Peterlee, County Durham (4 attendees) Run for Natural England staff and volunteers to allow them to gain the skills to lead bat walks around Castle Eden Dene. One bat walk was organised in response to this training.

18/07/11 – NBMP Waterway Survey Training, Morpeth, Northumberland

This was a joint workshop organised with the NBMP team and was led by Philip Briggs. 18 people attended, including people who had taken part in the NBMP Field survey at Gibside.

11/08/11 – How to Lead a Bat Walk, Introduction to Bats training session, Housesteads, Northumberland (20 attendees). Run for National Trust staff and volunteers to allow them to gain the skills to lead bat walks around their properties and to gain enough skills for volunteers to undertake a bat project within their estate. An extended indoor session due to torrential rain and high winds!

27/08/11 – Bat walk practical training session, Allenbanks, Northumberland (17 attendees). This practical training session was run for National Trust staff and volunteers as the first outdoor session had to be abandoned due to adverse weather.

Four general bat walks were led

12/08/11 – Bat walk , Leazes Park, Newcastle (27 attendees). A city centre Victorian park in Newcastle, 20-30 common pipistrelles were feeding over the lake

14/08/11 – Bat walk , Humshaugh, Northumberland (24 attendees) Humshaugh is a small village in the North Tyne valley. Starting at the church, common and soprano pipistrelles and myotis were seen.

19/08/11 – Bat walk , Gosforth Park, Newcastle (17 attendees) Gosforth Park is a SSSI to the north of the urban area.

28/08/11 – Bat walk, Rising Sun Country Park, North Tyneside (36 attendees) Organised by the rangers at the Rising Sun Country Park, they provided craft activities for the children and Tina led the bat walk. A local security company were present showcasing their infra red CCTV cameras and so we were able to see bats in flight on a large TV screen set up just in front of the screen hide, amazing!

Two events were held as part of a Bioblitz event at Dovestones on the outskirts of Oldham;

08/07/11 – Bat talk and walk 36 people attended

09/07/11 – Bat stall, A stall was manned during the daytime Bioblitz event with images and information about bats and craft activities and a bat trail for the children to do. The stall was manned by Tina and local volunteer Jacky O'Hara and around 200 people engaged directly with us.

A further bat craft event was held

26/08/11 – Bat crafts, Castle Eden Dene, Peterlee, County Durham (15 attendees). Organised by Natural England staff, the project officer supported NE volunteers with bat crafts and activities. People were maybe deterred by heavy and persistent rain.

Surveys

4 NBMP surveys were arranged and led to build on the NBMP Field survey technique training session held last quarter on 29th June;

07/07/11 – NBMP Field survey, Gibside, County Durham (7 attendees).

20/07/11 – NBMP Field survey, Gibside, County Durham (6 attendees).

02/08/11 – NBMP Waterway survey, Gibside, County Durham (11 attendees)

24/08/11 – NBMP Waterway survey, Gibside, County Durham (7 attendees)

Additionally there were a small number of events that were run as a result of the project officer's work, which did not require BCT involvement. These were as follows:

30/06/11 – Bat walk run by Lowestoft Field Club

This walk was organised and run by the Lowestoft Field Club as a result of previous work undertaken by Diana Hagues. The Count Bat project loaned out bat detectors for this walk which was attended by 7 people.

23/07/11 – Bat walk, Ebchester, County Durham

This walk was organised and lead by two volunteers who had participated in the NBMP training session at Gibside and had come along to the NBMP Field and Water way surveys. Six local people attended the event.

26/08/11 – Bat walk, Castle Eden Dene, Peterlee, County Durham

This bat walk was part of the bat themed day had been organised by Natural England staff as part of their summer activity week. The walk attracted eight people, a lower number than was expected and had booked, but people were maybe deterred by heavy and persistent rain.

16/09/11 – Bat walk run by Mid Suffolk District Council Rangers

This walk was organised and run by the Mid Suffolk District Council rangers The Count Bat project loaned out bat detectors for this walk which was attended by 20 plus people.

Bat activity and craft sessions in special needs schools

Tina has worked closely with Groundwork North East, to deliver the bat component of the Bees, Birds and Bats sessions being offered to special needs schools throughout Northumberland. Tina worked with two groups of children (15) and young people (5) on 1st July at Collingwood Media College, Morpeth, delivering activity sessions around bats and echolocation to pupils with learning and behavioural difficulties. On September 26th similar sessions were delivered to four groups of pupils at Barndale House School, Alnwick. The whole school, a total of 37 pupils with learning difficulties, physical disabilities and severe sensory needs, took part in these bat activities.

Northumberland Nathusius' Project

In May 2011 a member of the Northumberland Bat Group (NBG) recorded Nathusius' pipistrelle bats foraging along the river Wansbeck in Ashington; these bats were found to still be present in the area in June. BCT and NBG have undertaken a series of surveys throughout the summer months to try to find the roost site(s) used by these rare bats. BCT and NBG attended the Ashington Community Gala day where they met and chatted to members of the local community to communicate what we were doing and why and also to find out more about the distribution of bats in and around Ashington. Around 50 people made contact with the volunteers during the day, the public had the chance to find out about the rare Nathusius' pipistrelle bats present in the local area and also told us of 12-13 unknown bat roosts and local bat hotspots.

Leaflets were printed; 'Have you seen your bat?' and these were handed out to people and distributed widely to shops in the centre of Ashington and in the surrounding area. Several people contacted Tina as a result of these leaflets and we have made contact with around 30 extra individuals as a result.

Bat survey work has been undertaken in the Ashington area from June onwards to locate where the Nathusius' bats are feeding and to try to find out where they the bats were coming from. The surveys included emergence surveys, foraging surveys, NBMP surveys and walked and driven transects.

Some of the surveys and events are listed below:

17/07/11 – Bat stall, Ashington Community Gala, Ashington, Northumberland (50 attendees)

Surveys

26/07/11 – River survey, Ashington, Northumberland (7 attendees)

27/07/11 – Driven transects, Ashington, Northumberland (4 surveyors)

08/08/11 – NBMP Waterway survey, Morpeth, Northumberland (8 attendees)

16/08/11 – Routes to the river survey, Ashington, Northumberland (7 attendees)

22/08/11 – NBMP Waterway survey, Morpeth, Northumberland (8 attendees)

07/09/11 – Seven co-ordinated NBMP Nathusius' pipistrelle surveys, Northumberland (11 attendees)

13/09/11 – Five co-ordinated Nathusius' pipistrelle surveys, Northumberland (7 attendees)

20/09/11 – Three co-ordinated Nathusius' pipistrelle surveys, Northumberland (5 attendees)

22/09/11 – Seven co-ordinated NBMP Nathusius' pipistrelle surveys, Northumberland (11 attendees)

27/09/11 – Six co-ordinated Nathusius' pipistrelle surveys, Northumberland (11 attendees)

To date this project has involved 22 individuals during the summer, the majority are members of NBG but we have also attracted other interested volunteers.

28/08/11 – Bat walk, Ashington, Northumberland

A public bat walk was organised at the Wansbeck Countryside Park in Ashington to thank the local community for their input into the Nathusius' project and to show these rare bats to the public. The weather was unseasonably wet and cold and only five people came along to the walk.

27/09/11 – Nathusius' pipistrelle release, Newbiggin, Northumberland

A juvenile male Nathusius' pipistrelle had been seen to fly in from the sea at 08:50 and fall to the floor on 16th September; this bat had been in care and was ready for release. The bat was ringed and then released at the site where it was found. The release became a bit of an event, our eleven volunteers were joined by the finder, his daughter and four local residents; luckily the bat flew off well.

Green City Bats: A Newcastle Pilot Project

Green City Bats is an initiative aiming to bring 'Friends of Groups' together to share enthusiasm and experience and to learn how to lead batty events for the wider public. Newcastle was chosen as a potential area for a network of Green City Bats groups, but due to the late stage of the project, it was decided to offer the scheme as a pilot this year to gauge the level of local interest.

Two training/introduction nights were run in August with invites being sent out in mid July by email to many of the local groups that are responsible for parks, cemeteries, allotments or other green spaces. The first night was held at the Rising Sun Country Park in North Tyneside on 9th August. Twelve people attended this evening, representing seven different organisations and six groups expressed an interest in GCB and took an information pack. The second session was held at Jesmond Dene Visitor Centre, Jesmond, Newcastle on 10th August and was attended by eight people, representing five different groups. Five groups expressed an interest in GCB and took an information pack. Both nights consisted of an indoor session before heading out to see bats in action; at the Rising Sun we got spectacular views of noctules hunting low above rough grassland.

The GCB pilot project has resulted in a few events:

25/08/11 – Bat walk and survey, Friends of Jesmond Dene, Newcastle (13 attendees)

01/09/11 – Bat box checking, Friends of Jesmond Dene, Newcastle (11 attendees)

In addition Jesmond Dene has run a number of bat walks and batty events during the summer, lead by Sarah Capes the head ranger. Sarah Capes has attended training sessions run by Diana.

23/09/11 – Wild Iris Night, Friends of Iris Brickfield, Newcastle (38 attendees)

The Friends of Iris Brickfield organised this community night to involve local people with the nature reserve in urban Newcastle. There was a bat talk given by a local council ranger, trail cameras had been placed on the site for a few days before the event and the fox photos were shown to the community.

Marketing

Communications and Marketing

Year of the bat/ 20th anniversary

Exclusive cotton bags were made to celebrate 20 years and distributed to members at the conference as a perk. We will also be using them at the remaining events this year as a membership incentive.

European Bat Weekend and re-launch of the Big Bat Map

The new Big Bat Map was re-launched on the August bank holiday with a focus on being a one stop shop for people new to bats to share sightings and find out where to see bats. We had over a 100 bat events listed, a selection of hotspots recommended by bat groups and hints and tips on spotting bats. It featured on the BBC News site and was advertised in BBC Wildlife newsletter, to date 1000 sightings have been added more than all of last year with the old map.

E-communications

Facebook 'fans' and twitter 'followers' continue to impress us and increased this quarter reaching over 12,370 social media followers'

Website

Following feedback from staff and users a website redesign has been scheduled to take place in the next quarter funded by Count Bat with the aim of improving usability, accessibility and the information architecture.

Media

A mixed quarter for media coverage; Positives were: Julia appeared on Alan Titchmarsh and BBC Gardener's World covered bats for wildlife gardening, Radio 2 featured interviews with Amanda Adebisi on the Breakfast Show and with Julia on their drive-time show. The Guardian and Newsnight mentioned BCT on the planning reform bill. While bats received negative coverage in the Telegraph amongst others and in Yorkshire press due to Mr Mortimer (see last quarterly report)!

Fundraising

Membership

Membership figures this quarter have risen from 211 new memberships in Q2 2011 to 331 in Q 2011, this coupled with lapsed memberships increasing from 126 in Q2 2011 to 187 in Q3 2011 has led to an overall increase in memberships to 4818 up 132. This increase is below our projected targets and as such we are still focusing on decreasing the number of lapsing members. Life Members have increased to 25.

Decreasing lapsed members-

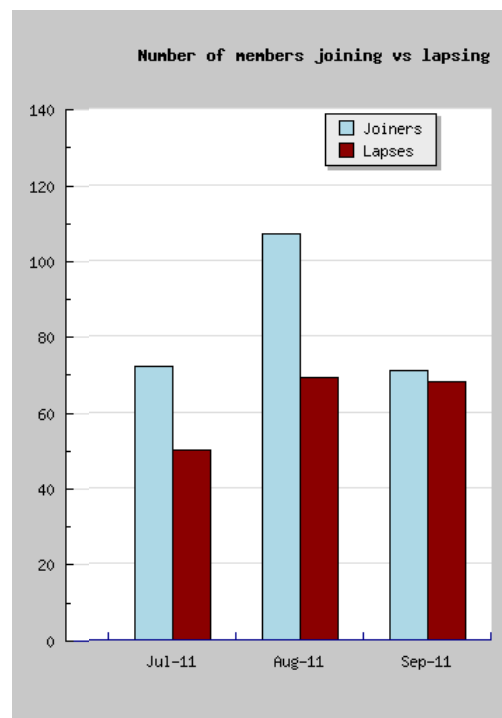
- Monthly membership by Direct Debit has been developed and implemented during Q3, there has been a slow uptake on this membership payment method but we are hopeful it will be fruitful in the quarters ahead.
- Ringing-up lapsed members has been under resourced this quarter and may be the reason for the increase in lapses.

Free roost owner's membership

- This incentive is to stop at the end of Q3 and a targeted appeal letter will be sent to all 64 who opted in to the membership. We will then be developing a method to entice those who were given a free membership to continue to support us and undertake analysis to see if it is worth offering this membership in following years.

Membership review: Review communications, processes and membership offering. Improve retention, membership development. The review of membership benefits and communications has been planned out and is due to start during Q4; this will include telephone interviews, questionnaires and focus groups.

Membership Breakdown	Count of Members end Q2 2011	Count of Members end Q3 2011
1) Benefactor	80	79
2) Concession	475	487
3) Corporate	16	15
4) Family	1860	1936
5) Honorary	8	8
6) Individual	1750	1780
7) Life	25	26
8) Supporter	128	128
9) Young BW	284	292
10) Teacher/leader	60	67
Total	4686	4818



- **Appeals to individuals and bat groups**

Summer appeal: The summer appeal has broken all records and BCT's most successful appeal to individual ever!! In total we raised **£11,947.50**. Sent to 3700+ members and donors we had a 9% response rate and 2% were new donors attracting more donations, and a bigger average donation than ever before!

Bat Group Appeal: The Investigations Appeal was sent to 50 bat groups in England has so far received 14 donations from Bat Groups totalling £5,050

The Scottish Bat Group Appeal was sent to 12 bat groups and has received 5 donations totalling £800

The Wales Bat Group Appeal was sent to 18 bats groups and has received 3 donations totalling £450

New fundraising initiatives launched

- **Adopt a Bat:** This was launched on the week commencing 12 September. We have so far had 16 people adopt bats and are now planning a marketing drive for Q4 in the lead up to Halloween and Christmas which will hopefully see this figure rise significantly.
- **Monthly/ Regular giving:** This was implemented in August allowing donors to make regular donations on a monthly basis via an online, telephone or hard copy sign up process and will be implemented alongside adopt-a-bat so that members, bat adopters and donors all have the option to pay monthly by Direct Debit if they wish. So far uptake has been low.
- **Community fundraising:** We are launching a big community fundraising drive at the beginning of Q3 with the aims of encouraging the public to have Halloween parties and raise funds for bats. There are downloadable packs and helpful hints and tips on our website.

Events

Bird Fair: This year BCT's aims at Bird Fair had changed from a more education vibe to that of a membership drive. In many aspects this meant that it was a "new" venture for us as the staff attending and organising had not been before. 20 members were recruited however we believe there is the potential to recruit more at this event.

National Bat Conference: The membership drive of giving cotton bags to members and those who joined at the conference here resulted in 27 members signing up and there were also some renewals too, although unsure we believe there was only around 100 non-members at the conference and so are now thinking of ways to entice even more to join next year.

Future events:

Bats and Spiders Weekend: This is being held over a weekend at the London Wetland Centre and is focusing on education and community involvement encouraging people to undertake community fundraising for bats through Halloween parties.

Wildlife Expo: This is being held over two days at Alexandra Palace and we were able to secure a free stand. We are hoping to have a big membership push as there could be up to 10,000 attending the show.

The Communications and Marketing team have also discussed upping the amount of events we attend over the next 4Q's and are aiming to attend at least one event a month from April through to October during 2012.

Support Services

Finance, HR & Office Services

Finance and Office Services Team

Finance

The Accounts have been produced for the Board of Trustees meeting. So far the changes to the accounts procedures have lived up to expectations. The new reporting pack will now include:

- Balance Sheet
- Income statement
- Budgets
- All funds report
- Comparative reports – Actual v's Budgets
- Investment Report
- Funds report – initially giving the restricted income v's expenditure.

All the relevant reports will be produced from sage – except the All Funds Report which is formatted differently.

Reports at the meeting will be based on the YTD September and September Actuals – produced two weeks after month end. With this in mind a commentary and all the reports will be produced on Friday.

Office Services

IT

All the major problems we had with access and speed are now a thing of the past and we now have a stable and fast environment to work in. Remote access is much faster, secure and stable. This is due to new equipment purchased when we moved office, as well as operating with two external connections – one being fibre optic.

There is a new administrator in place and a training program has been devised and will take place over the next 6 weeks so that all network administration and minor trouble seeking can be done in-house.

Administration

Hannah has now moved to take over from Michelle as PA to the CEO and Fundraising Officer during Michelle's maternity leave and a new administrator appointed – Sian Moore. Sian was previously working as a volunteer for the Helpline so has an excellent understanding of the work that we do at BCT.

Health & Safety

All the H & S issues highlighted before our move have been resolved – the new fire proof window installed on the 4th floor and the fire escape upgrade completed.

A health and safety risk assessment has been completed and a report will be presented at the meeting.

HR (additional information to that highlighted in the report thus far)

Staff changes and Recruitment

Michelle Beckett went on maternity leave on 12 September and Hannah Rawnsley was recruited as her maternity cover. Kit Stoner starts an MSc part time from October, so Helen Miller is taking on a full time Training Manager role (previously shared part time with running the Bechstein's Survey) and Amanda and Crystal are jobsharing the Helpline Manager role.

Team meetings

Team meetings take place regularly on Monday mornings.

Senior Management Team (SMT)

Topics discussed during this quarter included; Changes to the finance system, research study on soprano pipistrelle exclusion, risk register, prioritisation of Critical Strategic Areas (CSA)s and ideas for new CSAs.

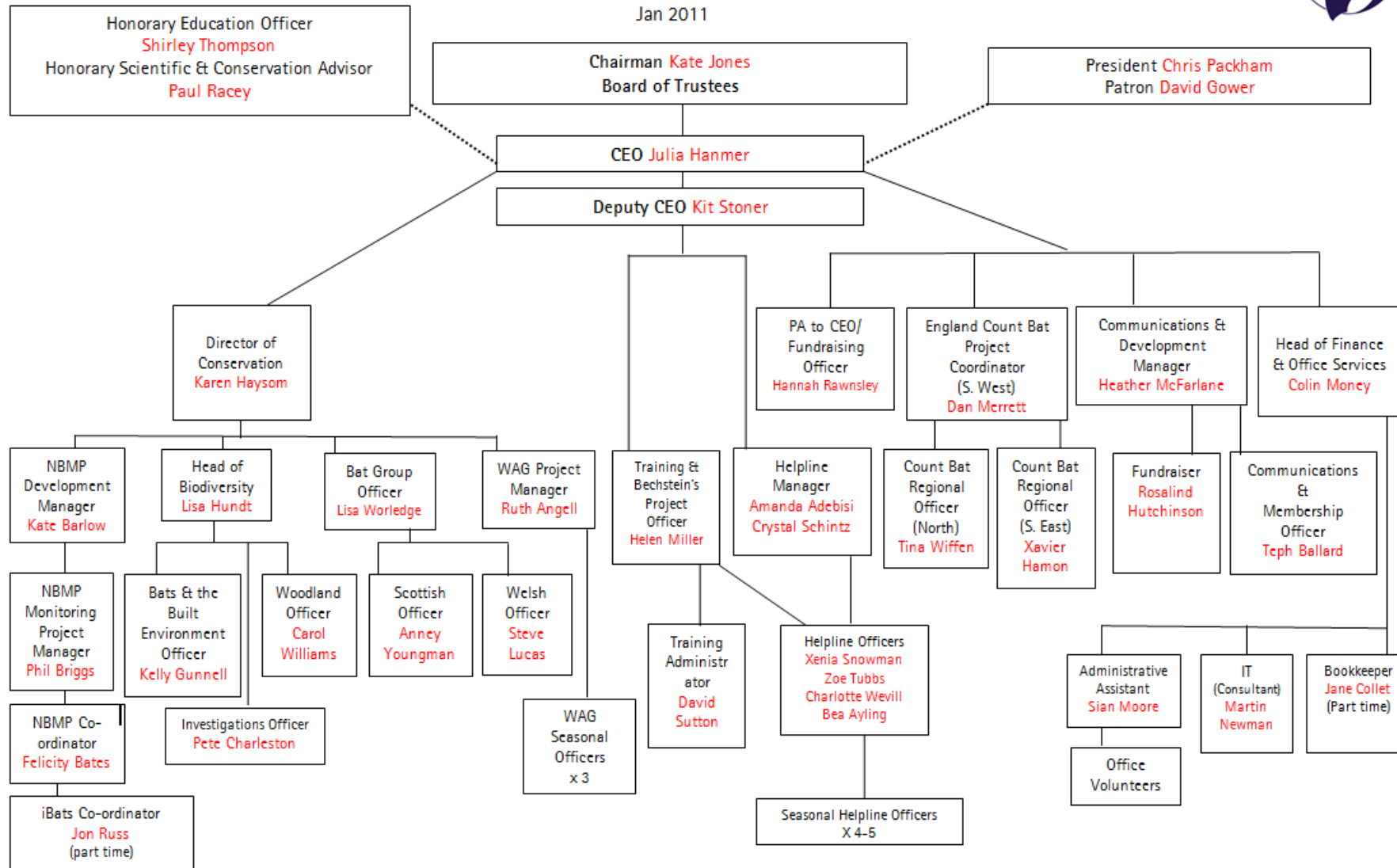
Trustees

There was a Board of Trustees meeting in July

Appendices

Organisational Structure

Jan 2011



Staff List

Chief Executive	Julia Hanmer	JH
Deputy Chief Executive.	Kit Stoner	KS
Director of Conservation	Karen Haysom	KH
Head of Biodiversity	Lisa Hundt	LH
Senior Research Scientist/ Project Manager	Ruth Angell	RA
Seasonal Field Assistant	Emma Douglas	ED
Seasonal Field Assistant	Nik West	NW
Seasonal Field Assistant	Louise Davis	LD
Seasonal Field Assistant	Laura Bambini	LB
Seasonal Field Assistant	Nathan Robinson	NR
Bats & the Built Environment Officer	Kelly Gunnell	KG
Woodland Officer	Carol Williams	CW
Investigations Officer	Peter Charleston	PC
Bat Group Officer	Laura Dunne (maternity leave from 7 June 2011)	LD
Partnerships Officer (maternity cover)	Lisa Worledge (from 3 May 2011)	LW
Scottish Bat Officer	Anne Youngman	AY
Wales Bat Officer	Steve Lucas	SL
NBMP Development Manager	Kate Barlow	KB
Monitoring Projects Manager	Philip Briggs	PB
NBMP Survey Co-ordinator	Felicity Bates	FB
iBats Project Co-ordinator	Jon Russ	JR
Co-ordinator		
Bechstein's Bat Project Officer & Training Development Officer	Helen Miller	HM
Training & Events Administrator	Dave Sutton	DS
Count Bat Co-ordinator	Dan Merrett	DM
.	Diana Hagues (maternity leave from 28 June 2011)	DH
Count Bat Regional Officer (maternity cover)	Tina Wiffen (from 31 May 2011)	TW
Count Bat Regional Officer	Xavier Hamon	XH
Communications & Development Manager	Heather McFarlane	HMcf
Fundraiser & Membership Officer	Stephen Ballard	SB
Fundraiser (Trusts & Grants)	Rosalind Hutchinson	RH
Helpline Manager	Amanda Adebisi	AA
Helpline Manager	Crystal Schintz	CS
Helpline Officer	Xenia Snowman	XS
Helpline Officer	Zoe Tubbs	ZT
Helpline Officer	Charlotte Wevill	CW
Helpline Officer	Bea Ayling	BA
Seasonal Helpline Officer	Jessamy Barker	JB
Seasonal Helpline Officer	David Urry	DU
PA to CEO/Fundraising Officer	Hannah Rawnsley	MB
	Michelle Beckett (maternity leave from 12 Sep 11)	
Head of Finance and Office Services	Colin Money	CM
Administrative Assistant	Sian Moore	HR
Book Keeper	Jane Collett	JC
Honorary Posts		
Hon. Education Officer	Shirley Thompson	ST
Hon. Conservation and Scientific Adviser	Paul Racey	PAR

Glossary

Appendix A: Glossary of definitions of acronyms used in the text

Acronym	Description
BAP	Biodiversity Action Plan
BARS	Biodiversity Action Recording System
BCT	The Bat Conservation Trust
BRE	Bat Related Enquiries
BRIG	Biological Recording and Information Group
CCW	Countryside Council for Wales
CSL	Central Science Laboratories
DEFRA	Department for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs
EAF	Environmental Action Fund (Defra)
EBLV	European Bat Lyssavirus
GPG	Good Practice Guidelines
HAP	Habitat Action Plan
HCT	Herpetological Conservation Trust
HLF	Heritage Lottery Fund
HPA	Health Protection Agency
KBG	Kent Bat Group
LWT	London Wildlife Trust
MTUK	Mammals Trust UK
NBMP	National Bat Monitoring Programme
NE	Natural England
NDGB	Non Departmental Government Body
NSP	Noctule, Serotine & Pipistrelle
NTS	National Trust (Scotland)
PAWS	Partnership Against Wildlife Crime
PPG9	Planning Policy Guidance
PPS9	Planning Policy Statement
RDS	Rural Development Service
RSPB	Royal Society for the Protection of Birds
SAP	Species Action Plan
SNH	Scottish Natural Heritage
SSPCA	Scottish Society for the Protection of Animals
VLA	Veterinary Laboratories Agency
WCO	Wildlife Crime Officer
WOM	Word of Mouth
WWF	World Wildlife Fund