



Bat Conservation Trust

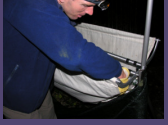
An Introduction to the Bechstein's Bat Project

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Background

- Lead partner – BAP priority species
- 3 year funded project
- Builds on pilot study
- New survey methodology
- Baseline distribution data
- Target areas across England and Wales



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Aims of the project

- Systematically acquired baseline distribution data across the entire range.
- Identify hotspots for conservation action.
- Better understand the habitat associations.

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Aims of the project

- Provide conservation management guidelines for land owners and managers.
- Generate presence/absence data for BAP reporting & conservation assessment

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Aims of the project

- To engage and train bat groups within the species distribution range
- To engage stakeholders within the species distribution range



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The project

- Area to be surveyed
- Target audience
- Bat group involvement
- Individual Involvement
- Training
- BCT support
- Running the survey


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Area to be surveyed

- Known distribution range
- Both current and historical records
- Counties neighbouring those with records





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Target audience


- Bat Groups
- Bat Group involvement is key to this project





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Bat Group Involvement


- 4 bat groups in year 1 (2008)
- 4-5 bat groups in year 2 (2009)
- 4-5 bat groups in year 3 (2010)





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Individual Involvement

- 2 experienced individuals
- Co-ordinate project for each bat group involved




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Training

- 1 day training course – select woodlands for survey
- 4 day training course
- Project licence – working with SNCOs
- Recruit and train other individuals


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BCT support


- Project Officer
- Meet with bat groups
- Provide training
- Loan equipment
- Pay expenses



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BCT support



- Available for questions
- Collate data
- Maintain database
- Input into NBN and biodiversity work



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Running the survey

- Select woodlands using model
- 1 woodland = 1 night of surveying
- Aim to cover entire county in one survey season (May – August)
- Equipment – 1 set per bat group for survey period

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End Result



- After 3 years – baseline distribution data
- Limits of species range
- Presence/absence of a colony within survey woods
- Other species data




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End Result



- Roosting requirements of Bechstein's bat across its range
- New skills and knowledge in bat groups
- Relationships with landowners – conservation management
- Feed into BAP and BBTAG



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Thank you to

- BBC Wildlife Fund
- Countryside Council for Wales
- Forestry Commission
- Forestry Commission Wales
- People's Trust for Endangered Species
- Thames Valley Biological Records Centre
- Scottish Forestry Trust
- Landfill Communities Fund of Waste Recycling Group (WRG), administered and distributed by Waste Recycling Environmental (WREN)