

# Bat Conservation Trust



## BCT Quarterly Report April - June 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>
<b>DISCOVER</b>		
<b>1. To establish the capacity of the landscape to support viable populations of bats</b>		
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<b>ACT</b>		
<b>2. To secure and enhance bat populations to the full capacity of the landscape</b>		
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<b>INSPIRE</b>		
<b>3. To win the level of support required to achieve and maintain these bat populations</b>		
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# Surveys, monitoring and research

## NBMP

### Survey Organisation

The table below shows the number of volunteers who have been sent packs for each survey in 2010 (or are due to be sent packs for the forthcoming surveys marked with an asterisk), compared with last year's figures. For most surveys the numbers of volunteers signed up are higher than last year. The exceptions are the National Bat Colony Survey (formerly run by the Robert Stebbings Consultancy and currently run as part of the NBMP since 2002) for which we do not recruit new volunteers, preferring instead to recruit volunteers to the NBMP Colony Count surveys. Data from the NBCS are incorporated into the NBMP Colony Count. For the Woodland Survey the number of volunteers is much lower as this year we will be focussing only on sites that are designated as Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) for barbastelle.

Survey	No. of volunteers sent survey packs	
	2011	2010
Pipistrelle colony count	731	709
Brown long-eared colony count	149	145
Serotine colony count	81	69
Natterer's colony count	79	73
Lesser horseshoe colony count	88	76
Greater horseshoe colony count	20	18
Field Survey	640	575
<i>National Bat Colony Survey</i>	66	67
Waterway Survey*	719	626
Sunset/Sunrise Survey	828	617
Woodland Survey*	6 (Focussing on SAC sites only in 2011)	98
Nathusius' pipistrelle survey	154	116

### Species verification at roosts

This year volunteers have again been 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. Full instructions are provided on how to use the equipment and make recordings that are suitable for analysis. By the end of June, 15 volunteers had offered to help with this exercise and have been sent equipment. The aim is to enable roosts that are currently in the "pipistrelle unsure" category to be included in the appropriate species population trend. Recordings are also being made at roosts where the species has previously been identified in order to check that the identification is correct.

### 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. In 2010, NE funded additional work which involved recruiting volunteers to design and survey extra transects at SACs to increase coverage of these sites, to provide additional equipment to volunteers to help them monitor the sites, and to provide sound analysis training to volunteers who take part in the surveys at SAC sites to allow them to carry out sound analysis of the recordings collected on their surveys. A one-day workshop was developed and delivered on two occasions in early 2011 which included a basic introduction to sound analysis of frequency division recordings followed by a more detailed session on analysis of barbastelle calls and recordings from the Woodland Survey.

A report was submitted to Natural England at the end of April 2011 on the findings of the barbastelle monitoring work and the greater horseshoe Colony Count surveys carried out in 2010. This report also contained recommendations for the continuation of these monitoring programmes as part of the NBMP.

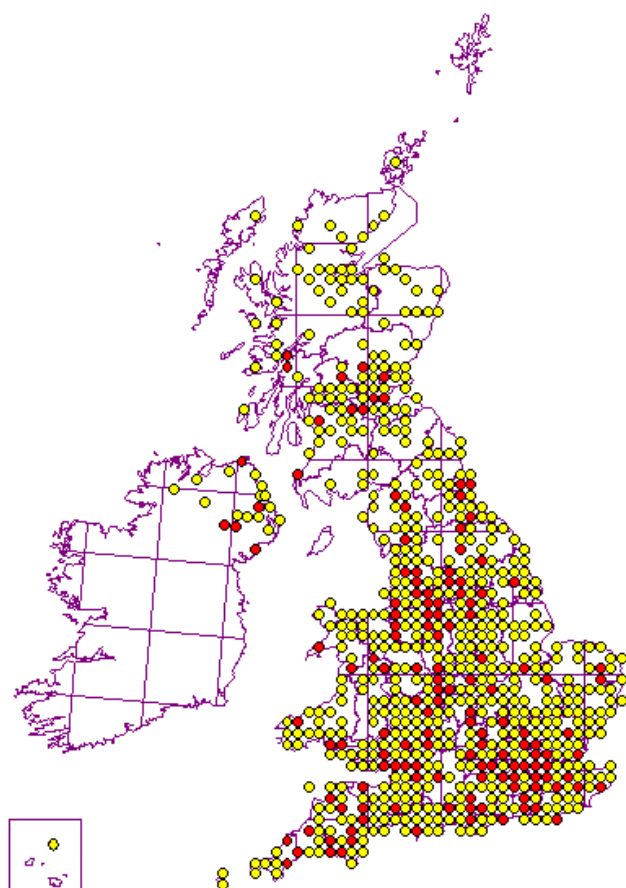
These two surveys will continue into 2011. The main aim of the barbastelle monitoring in 2011 is to re-survey all the transects completed in 2010, both new and existing in as many of the three survey periods as possible with the volunteer resources we have available.

### **Nathusius' pipistrelle survey**

This survey will be run again this year after two very successful pilot years in 2009 and 2010. In July volunteers will be sent a summary of the first year's results and asked if they would like to participate in September 2010. The focus this year will be on filling gaps in the survey coverage.

### **Volunteer recruitment and support**

193 new volunteers were recruited between April and June 2011. This brings the total number of active NBMP volunteers to 2012. 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 April and June 2011**

A breakdown of recruitment sources is shown below. The majority of new volunteers were recruited online. New volunteers recruited via other sources also signed up by completing the online sign-up form, for example after being provided information on the NBMP from their local bat group, other NBMP volunteers or after attending NBMP bat detector workshops or public events. Local bat groups proved a

key source of new volunteers, followed by the BBC's Springwatch programme which promoted the Sunrise/Sunset Survey on one of their shows in June.

Recruitment source	No. of new volunteers
Internet	66
Local Bat Group	29
BBC Springwatch	20
Unknown	19
Bat detector workshop	17
Other NBMP volunteer (WOM)	5
Public event	5
Bat Walk	4
Wildlife Trusts	4
Conference / Workshop	3
Roost visit	3
Scottish Bat Officer	3
Bat Detector leaflet	2
BCT Helpline	2
Employment/volunteering	2
New Roost Owner	2
Bat Group Contact	1
BCT Member	1
Count Bat	1
Help Us Count Bats leaflet	1
Misc. Enquiry	1
Misc. Leaflet	1
Research project/University	1
Bat Detector leaflet	1

### NBMP training workshops/talks

We are aiming to deliver 30 NBMP workshops in 2011. The table below shows the workshops delivered between April and June 2011. The total number of workshops delivered in 2011 to end of June is 26; a further 6 workshops are already organised for the remaining months of the year and therefore we will reach our target for the year. We have also received funding from OPAL to deliver additional NBMP workshops between May 2011 and 2012, and to provide training over the winter for new Regional Bat Detector Workshop Leaders.

The table shows workshops delivered between April and June 2011.

Date	Location	Workshop delivered	Trainer/speaker
2 <sup>nd</sup> April	South west conference, University of Plymouth	Using Your Ears	Nick Tomlinson
2 <sup>nd</sup> April	South west conference, University of Plymouth	Introduction to Sound Analysis	Philip Briggs
8 <sup>th</sup> April	Croydon	Using Your Ears	Philip Briggs
8 <sup>th</sup> April	Newcastle	Introduction to NBMP	Diana Hagues
17 <sup>th</sup> April	South Lancashire	Introduction to Sound Analysis	Kate Barlow
11 <sup>th</sup> May	London	Using Your Ears	Philip Briggs
14 <sup>th</sup> May	Edinburgh	Using Your Ears	Natalie Todman
17 <sup>th</sup> May	East Sutton Prison	Using Your Ears	Xavier Hamon

19 <sup>th</sup> May	Newcastle	Using Your Ears	Clare Rawcliffe
21 <sup>st</sup> May	Inverness	Using Your Ears	Natalie Todman
24 <sup>th</sup> May	Kent	Using Your Ears	Philip Briggs
24 <sup>th</sup> May	Glasgow	Using Your Ears	Ian Cornforth
27 <sup>th</sup> May	London	Field Survey mini workshop	Philip Briggs
10 <sup>th</sup> June	Somerset	Using Your Ears	Edward Wells
11 <sup>th</sup> June	Cumbria	Using Your Ears	John Martin
11 <sup>th</sup> June	North Wales	Using Your Ears	Richard Dodd
11 <sup>th</sup> June	Coventry	Using Your Ears	Rebecca Collins
11 <sup>th</sup> June	Dorset	Field Survey mini workshop	Nick Tomlinson
16 <sup>th</sup> June	Herefordshire	Field Survey mini workshop	Jules Agate
19 <sup>th</sup> June	Kent	Introduction to Sound Analysis	Kate Barlow
25 <sup>th</sup> June	Suffolk	Field Survey mini workshop	Bill Landells
28 <sup>th</sup> June	Lancashire	Field Survey mini workshop	Philip Briggs
28 <sup>th</sup> June	Coventry	Field Survey mini workshop	Kate Barlow

### Meetings and events

PB attended the South West bat conference in Exeter on 2<sup>nd</sup> April and delivered a sound analysis workshops.

In April a meeting was held with Dr. Phil Thomas, Principal Ecologist for the Ministry of Justice. Opportunities for working together to improve involvement of Ministry of Justice sites and staff in bat work including NBMP surveys, and training opportunities were discussed.

In April PB visited Worcestershire Bat Group to give a talk on the NBMP and survey coverage/gaps in the county.

Data are being uploaded to the NBN for 2010 surveys. Initial datasets from the Waterway Survey and Field Survey have been submitted, and further data from the remaining 2010 surveys are 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.

On 22<sup>nd</sup> May, the International Day of Biodiversity, the UK Biodiversity indicators were published including the UK bat indicator which is a National Statistic (<http://jncc.defra.gov.uk/page-4271>). This year the NBMP Annual Report was completed and published to coincide with the publication of the UK Indicator, so that all species trends (which are Official Statistics) for 2010 were also publicly available on the same day. The NBMP Annual Report 2010 was published online for the first time this year ([http://www.bats.org.uk/pages/national\\_bat\\_monitoring\\_programme\\_annual\\_report\\_2010.html](http://www.bats.org.uk/pages/national_bat_monitoring_programme_annual_report_2010.html)).

KB completed training in use of bat detectors and sound analysis for the 2011 WAM Project field team in Abergavenny from 17<sup>th</sup> to 20<sup>th</sup> May.

FB prepared resources, with help from KB, for an Echolocation Room at the Natural History Museum's bat festival held on 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> June. This is the first time we have had an indoor display on bat echolocation. FB, KB and volunteers manned the room over the two days and videos and bat sounds were on display.

An NBMP intern has been recruited to the team. Nicole Lechiara will be working in the NBMP for 3 months from 13<sup>th</sup> June for 4 days a week assisting with NBMP work particularly relating to surveys, workshops and sound analysis and gaining experience of working with bats.

An NBMP Steering Group meeting was held in the Vauxhall office on 6<sup>th</sup> June. KB, KH and Deborah Proctor attended. The main topics discussed were as follows:

1. Plans for the publication **State of the UK's Bats** for this year, which we will focus towards stakeholders, include information on the wider uses of NBMP data, and publish to coincide with the National Bat Conference in September.
2. Plans for a **volunteer questionnaire** which we will develop and launch over the summer months to find out more about our NBMP volunteers, what motivates them, how we are doing with our training, and where we can improve to better engage both existing and new volunteers in the work of the NBMP.
- 3 **NBMP database re-development**. Work on the NBMP database has been delayed from the planned timetable due to staff changes at JNCC. However, an outline specification for the first stage of updating works is almost complete. KB will work with JNCC to complete this document in June so that it can be sent out to tender during July 2011. We expect that the first stages of updating work will be completed in late summer / autumn of this year.

## Indicators

As mentioned above, the UK Biodiversity Indicators, including the UK bat indicator, were published in May 2011 to coincide with the International Day of Biodiversity.

## Research collaborations and publications

### Vincent Weir Awards 2011

The Vincent Weir award was advertised on the BCT website and advertised via the Bat Group Bulletin and direct mailings to university research groups. Kate Jones, Karen Haysom, and Paul Racey judged the award on 22 June. The award winner will be invited to the BCT conference in September.

### Katherine Boughey, UEA

Katherine has been analysing associations between bat records from the colony count and field surveys and a complex set of landscape variables using tools such as GIS. She has two papers in Biological Conservation:

Boughey, K.L., Lake, I.R., Haysom, K.A., Dolman, P.M., 2011. Improving the biodiversity benefits of hedgerows: how physical characteristics and the proximity of foraging habitat affect the use of linear features by bats. *Biological Conservation* 144: 1790-1798.

Boughey, K.L., Lake, I.R., Haysom, K.A., Dolman, P.M. Effects of landscape-scale broadleaved woodland extent and configuration on roost location for six bat species across the UK. *Biological Conservation* in press.

### SITA Trust soprano pipistrelles in churches PhD (*Bats, Churches and the Landscape: Sustainable conservation of bats in the East of England*)

Funding for the third party contribution of 11.5% was donated by Natural England at the end of the financial year, and so an agreement for the project is now in place with SITA Trust. We were delighted to receive almost 30 applications for the PhD studentship, and we were able to select a student from a very strong field of applicants. The project will be undertaken by Madeleine Ryan, who has previously worked for Pond Conservation, has a background in ecological consultancy, and already holds a bat licence. Madeleine started her studentship on 1 May. A project advisory group has been established with representation from Natural England, English Heritage, National Trust, Church of England, Churches Conservation Trust and SITA Trust. In addition we are in the process of recruiting an architect from the

Ecclesiastical Architects and Surveyors Association (EASA). This summer Madeleine will be undertaking general surveys for bat presence in churches as a basis for further modelling work, and will be looking to undertake radio-tracking work of a soprano pipistrelle colony at one church. We held a meeting with the SITA Trust contract manager on 6 May and the first project advisory group meeting will take place on 30 June.

## **Bechstein's Bat Survey Project**

### Final year of project

With the project due to finish in September this year, the focus of the last year is to complete remaining surveys and ensure all data is collected so that it can be included in the final project report.

North Bucks, Gloucestershire, Somerset and Worcestershire bat groups have been surveying during May and June to complete outstanding squares. This has resulted in a further four woodlands (in Somerset) discovered so far with Bechstein's bats.

The primary outcome of the project is to produce a new distribution map for this species based on the data collected. HM has also sent a request to bat groups for additional non-project records to try and ensure that the new map produced accurately represents our current understanding of Bechstein's bat across the UK.

### Volunteer feedback

Bat group volunteers that took part in the project have been asked to complete a questionnaire to provide feedback on volunteer involvement withing the project and the impact that involvement has had on bat groups that took part. The results of this questionnaire will feed into a paper currently being written on the volunteer aspect of the project.

### Additional surveying

In counties where the project has discovered records of breeding female Bechstein's bats, bat groups have been given the opportunity to complete some additional surveying in the remaining part of this summer. This will involve the survey of woodlands that surround sites where records have been discovered to provide a better understanding of the use of the surrounding habitat. Dorset and Kent bat groups have currently agreed to take part in this work with Dorset already having identified further woodland with breeding females.

North Bucks bat group are also undertaking some additional surveying around records that have been discovered during the project. This work is being carried out by Bernwood ECS Ltd in conjunction with the North Bucks bat group. BCT has agreed to lend this local project the required equipment for the purposes of this work as the methodology used is in line with BCT's own additional survey work. Records from this work will be submitted to BCT to be used in our wider Bechstein's bat conservation work.

## **Indicator Bats Program (iBats)**

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 is now live – [www.ibats.org.uk](http://www.ibats.org.uk). The website not only improves the data management aspect of the project but also allows volunteers will be able to explore their data more easily – e.g. generate maps of data, download survey routes and geo-referenced bat call data, and produce

reports. The new web portal will incorporate transect data gathered using the application for the iPhone and phones running the Android operating system.

ZSL are planning a press release about the project on 20<sup>th</sup> June 2011 to coincide with the official release of the iBats application for the iPhone.

JR has been building an iBats Resources website which contains instructions on how to use the iBats web portal and how to participate in the project, downloads of the project survey protocols and publications and an image gallery.

BCT has secured funding from the Rufford Foundation to continue to coordinate the iBats project in Eastern Europe until September 2011 and enable Ukraine to continue participate in the project in 2011. In addition, the funding will be 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. We are currently looking for other funding sources to support the project in late 2011 and 2012.

Igor Prokofyev (PERESVET) received a Whitley Award project grant of £30,000 - donated by The Garfield Weston Foundation - for his project entitled "People and bats: Russia's first community-led Bat Conservation movement, Western Russia". Igor and his team have been working on the iBats project in Western Russia for the past two years and this award will allow them not only to continue to participate in the iBats project but also to launch "Bat Conservation Russia", an NGO dedicated to conserving Russia's bats. The Award ceremony was attended by Dr Karen Haysom.

## Welsh Agri-environment Monitoring Programme

The WAMP project is now its third year. Fieldwork preparations included recruitment of the field team and setting up accommodation and offices, and the progression of site selection. Following the team's induction and training in May, farm recruitment and fieldwork started in June.

The 2011 field team comprises 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 are sometimes joined by local and residential volunteers.

This year the team are again working throughout south Wales carrying out three types of bat survey: Field Surveys (noctule and pipistrelles), Waterway Surveys (Daubenton's bat) and Horseshoe Bat Surveys (lesser and greater horseshoe bats). Part of the team is based in Carmarthen and surveying the core farms (twenty pairs of farms that are surveyed for Field and Waterway Surveys every year of the project) in Carmarthenshire and Pembrokeshire, and some new farms in Pembrokeshire and Ceredigion. The rest of the team is based in Crickhowell/Bwlch and surveying new farms in Monmouthshire, Brecknockshire, Glamorgan and on the Gower. The Horseshoe Bat Surveys (using Anabats) are also being carried out across south Wales.

The consortium partnership monitoring biodiversity of selected species in the Welsh Agri-environment scheme Tir Gofal gave a seminar on project progress to representatives of the contract funders, the Welsh Government (James Skates, Colin Chapman, Linda Makepeace). KH delivered the BCT presentation and all the partner presentations were well received this year. In particular James Skates commented on the value of the bat recording to improving the species records resource in Wales.

## Roofing membranes

Stacey Waring has analysed the results of scissor cut and trouser tear tests. These and other preliminary data will be presented at the TSBE student conference in July, which will be attended by Kelly Gunnell representing the Built Environment project. Stacey will be continuing to progress a literature review to underpin the research work, and to develop a mimetic claw for the purpose of standardised tests on the mechanical responses of the membranes to interaction with bats. Stacey and her Reading supervisor visited Dupont, a major manufacturer of breathable membranes to learn more about the manufacturing process.

## Biodiversity/Conservation

### **LINK Policy Directors meeting, 13 April 2011**

KH represented BCT at the LINK policy directors meeting on 13 April. The meeting focused on evaluating the performance of LINK against its new strategy which aims to achieve more co-operative working, a more cohesive message, work that is more anticipative and less responsive with the overall aim of putting biodiversity and conservation higher up the government agenda. LINK's new approach of being choosier about the consultations it contributes to was broadly welcomed. This 6-monthly meeting is a useful intelligence exchange point, with effort directed particularly at political forecast and analysis of the coalition government progress against strategic objectives (1. sustainable land and water use (CAP, planning reform, key performance indicators); marine; 3. political profile and economic value of biodiversity (NEWP); 4. access to nature (keep compatible with wildlife conservation); 5 animal welfare / protection for animals). It was noted that with many influential items about to be published (e.g. NEWP, response to Lawton bill, England Biodiversity Strategy and others) the meeting had fallen at a time of lack of clarity about the political scene and that there was likely to be a need to revisit the real issues soon after these come out. A particular challenge for LINK members was seen to be the challenge of focusing effort in a particular direction at a time when many important aspects of the framework were being changed simultaneously (e.g. planning, biodiversity, government, Big Society). The meeting also reported on the progress of LINK's Greenest Government Ever project. This paper is being led by the nature CEOs group aimed at holding the Coalition Government to account for its performance on the natural environment, as part of its commitment to be the "greenest Government ever. The Greenest Government Ever project plans to evaluate progress in the specific areas in which government made promises while also showing the areas government have missed.

### **Natural England Partnership working**

#### *Memorandum of Agreement*

LH, LW, KB and JH have drafted the renewed work plan for the memorandum of agreement for partnership working with NE for the forthcoming year. The work plans remain largely the same although there is a greater focus on local delivery and partnership working at the landscape scale.

### **Woodland**

#### *Recruitment of Woodland Officer*

LH and JH completed a successful recruitment process. There were some fantastic candidates. Carol Williams has accepted the offer of this position and will be starting on July 11<sup>th</sup>.

#### *Woodland literary review with the RSPB*

LH has been working with the RSPB to conduct a literature review on the evidence base for optimising woodland creation and expansion. The project aims to: (1) conduct a review of scientific and grey literature to guide new woodland expansion and creation; (2) Provide a critique of woodland creation and expansion schemes and their ability to improve overall woodland biodiversity; (3) Identify gaps in knowledge that should be addressed through research to further inform woodland expansion.

## **Position statements**

LH drafted a number of position statements for use by the helpline when getting queries and to put on the website. These are:

### *Bats and radio/microwaves*

This is to pre-empt all of the queries we have been getting from the helpline, partly in relation to the announcement that Wi-Fi is going to be installed on all churches and partly the general calls we get about mobile phone masts.

### *Localism Bill and Planning Reform*

The Localism Bill contains a number of proposals to give local authorities new freedoms and flexibility. It is a long and complex piece of legislation. The focus of the bill is on new arrangements for strategic planning, and new neighbourhood plans. The position statement provides an overview of BCT thoughts on the process.

### *HS2 and Bechstein's*

LH commented on statement drafted by HM on the planned development of the High Speed Rail network in Buckinghamshire. This development is running through some areas where Bechstein's have been recorded, so it is important that the development takes this into account. We are submitting a national response and giving bat groups the opportunity to input at a local level too.

### *Planning statement for press and helpline*

The changes in NE structure have meant that there is a larger volume of calls coming to the helpline concerning planning and legislation. This statement is developed to help the helpline and other members of staff to deal with planning questions and clarify our position to the press.

## **Survey Guidelines**

### *Wind Farm Chapter*

The new guidance chapter has been drafted and circulated. It aims to become an individual chapter of the second edition of the Bat Surveys Good Practice Guidelines (to be published in their entirety in the autumn). It can also be used as a standalone document. It is intended for all types of onshore wind farm for which bat surveys are required, from single to multi-turbine developments. The document is available from the BCT website.

## **Policy developments and consultations**

LH responded to several consultations, and attended various meetings on the following policy developments and consultations: Localism Bill, the Natural Environment White Paper, the new England Biodiversity Strategy and the national Ecosystem Assessment.

### *National Ecosystem Assessment (NEA)*

The National Ecosystem Assessment was released last week. The aim of the document is to provide a comprehensive overview of a way of estimating biodiversity as part of our national wealth. Natural

### *Environment White Paper (NEWP)*

There are good statements in the NEWP about planning and protection of our natural environment. However, it makes clear that economic growth will be top priority for the forthcoming NPPF and a recent Government amendment to the Localism Bill declares local financial considerations can be a material factor in planning decisions. These put at risk the NEWP's ambitions and could have serious consequences if not addressed.

### *England Biodiversity Strategy (EBS)*

Early indications from meetings indicate that the new England Biodiversity Strategy will focus on 'engagement and delivery'. There will be no measurable species targets, with the main focus species delivery will remain embedded within habitats. Species integration groups will no longer exist, but NE have not provided an indication as to whether Biodiversity Integration Groups will continue. There is a launch date of 28 June.

## Investigations

### **Operations**

In comparison to 2010 this quarter (March to May) has produced significantly fewer reports of bat crime to BCT's helpline with 43 incidents reported (78 in 2010) of which 27 have been referred to the Police for investigation. (42 in 2010). Whilst many of those incidents have been dealt with quickly and effectively there are a number that are still subject of investigation.

The past months have started to reveal the impact of the financial restraints on the Police wildlife crime network with a number of full time posts and high profile officers being lost. Whilst the Police service promise that front line services will not be affected by reorganisation there is already clear evidence that in some areas officers are simply unable to effectively investigate anything but the most basic of bat crimes. Consideration needs to be given as to how we can ensure proper investigation of bat crimes. In the meantime evidence of the problem will continue to be gathered.

### **Training**

During the past three months training has been provided for the National Wildlife Crime Officers training course and a wildlife crime training course held for officers from West Midland Police. The second of these courses was significant in that West Midlands Police have up until this year had little regard for wildlife crime and did not have a recognised team of wildlife crime officers. This change of direction can be attributed to a well publicised case last year where a man was detained at Birmingham airport in possession of peregrine falcon eggs. Input on our investigations project has been provided to both Dorset and North Bucks bat groups

### **Wildlife Crime Priorities**

The wildlife crime bat crime priority group did not meet in this quarter but will do so in March. Key members have all agreed to participate and a number of work streams are being progressed.

## Bats and the Built Environment

### **Mitigation website**

The new website, called *Roost*, allows consultants and roost owners to upload their own examples of bat roost mitigation. KG has completed content for the site and has tested it with users. The site will go live in June 2011 with a soft launch to encourage our network of contacts and consultants to upload case studies. By the end of July we will do a proper launch with the associated marketing.

### **Landscaping for Bats**

As part of the Bats and the Built Environment leaflet series we are producing a guidance document aimed at landscape architects, designers and planners. We are compiling the document with contributions from external experts including Blackdown Greenroofs, Gary Grant and Janine Pattison Garden Design. The leaflet should be completed by August 2011.

### **Bats and Lighting**

KG has contributed to the bat biology and wildlife impacts sections of a new comprehensive Bats and Lighting guidance document led by Dr Emma Stone. The new guidance document should be available from October 2011.

### **Talks, Events and Conferences**

- SW Regional Conference – Plymouth (2 April) – KG gave a talk on the BBE projects and gave a workshop on Designing Buildings for Bats and Biodiversity
- CIEF/CIRIA – Ecosystem Services seminar and IHDC reception (24 May) – KG attended
- GreenBuild Expo – Manchester (29 June) – KG presenting talk on Designing for Biodiversity

### **Communications**

- KG wrote a feature article on the impacts of lighting on wildlife for *GreenBuild* magazine in the June issue.
- KG has written an article about the new *Roost* website for *Roofing Today* magazine for the June edition.

### **Meetings**

- Ecosurv – meeting with Graham Jeffery to discuss bat box proposal
- Biodiversity Planning Toolkit – Steering Group Meetings
- Blackdown and Huma Pearce – meeting to discuss Bats and Green Roofs
- BRE – meeting to discuss Building for Biodiversity proposal

## **International**

### **EUROBATS, 2-7 April 2011, Tbilisi, Georgia.**

KH and JH attended the 16th meeting of the Advisory Committee to the EUROBATS agreement, this year held in Georgia. This meeting was the first after the meeting of parties in September, at which point the new work plan and many resolutions were agreed. The first meeting after a MOP is dominated by the formation and re-establishment of inter-sessionary working groups (IWGs), and the drafting of individual workplans for these groups.

The full meeting report is available at

[http://www.eurobats.org/documents/pdf/AC16/EUROBATS\\_AC16\\_Record\\_incl\\_Annexes.pdf](http://www.eurobats.org/documents/pdf/AC16/EUROBATS_AC16_Record_incl_Annexes.pdf) .

Particular points of note were:

The indicators and Pan European Monitoring Bats of Underground Sites (PEMBUS) IWGs have combined and are now convened jointly by KH and Jasja Dekker of Dutch Mammal Society. The group is working towards establishing an international workshop of countries willing to contribute data to a pan European indicator.

There is a Georgian /Bulgarian /German collaboration studying Bechstein's bats in the Caucasus. KH has provided HM with details of the key contacts.

The Turkish delegate was impressed with the Count Bat animated introduction to bats in the local area. Subsequently this tool has been shared with Turkey and translated into Turkish.

Lethal fungal infections IWG. Prof. Paul Racey, convenor of the IWG on WNS shared a paper confirming, by molecular analysis, the presence of *Geomyces destructans* in eleven European countries, and photographic evidence of its existence in further four. Evidence revealed that the disease has spread beyond the nose and can now, in some cases, be found in the wings, feet and occasionally abdomen of bats. The new evidence highlighted the need to maintain a monitoring system and that the IWG should continue its work.

Roads IWG. Jean Mathews of CCW is convening this IWG to collate information and guidance from across Europe, with the aim of producing a EUROBATS publication.

JH was updated EUROBATS delegates on progress establishing BatLife Europe and the forthcoming launch event in Lithuania at the European Bat Research Symposium.

**BatLife Europe** – Following a series of skype Trustees meetings in June, we contracted bat conservation NGOs across Europe inviting them to become members (partner organisations) and to nominate Trustees for election at the first Meeting of Partners at the European Bat Research Conference in Lithuania in August.

JH is chair of the founding Board of Trustees and we are actively recruiting further Trustees

# Bat Group Partnerships & BCT's work across the UK

## **BCT-Bat Group Relationships: UK overview**

### **New Partnerships Officer**

Lisa Worledge has been appointed as Partnerships Officer acting as maternity cover for Laura Dunn. Following the successful implementation of the new relationship approach with bat groups, Lisa's role will include a focus on developing more joint-working with Partner Groups (depending on local interests) to develop and implement projects that help BCT to meet national biodiversity targets (in line with BCT's strategic objectives). There is also an increased emphasis on enhancing BCT's capacity to delivery volunteer training. Management of Bat Group relations, communication between bat groups and BCT, and delivery of regional conferences continue to be a high priority.

### **Bat Group Bulletins**

Four bat group bulletins were circulated this quarter. These are circulated to nominated contacts of Partner and Network Groups only.

Information included: promotion of the Wales Bat Conference in July; appointment of new Partnerships Officer, planning review in England; various requests from PhD/MSc students undertaking bat research; Government's "Red Tape Challenge"; the new Guidance on Surveying for Onshore Wind Farms (part of second edition of Good Practice Guidelines); BCT position statement on Localism Bill in England; bees in bat boxes, sharing NBMP data with bat groups, call for bat group articles for summer edition of Bat News, request for contributions to the BCT website review; announcements of births (bats and Laura's baby), BCT position statement on Bats and Radio Waves, National Ecosystem Assessment; promotion of European Bat Night posters; request for details of bat group events to be added to website; Defra Biodiversity in Your Pocket; information on research projects; publications associated with NBMP data and thank you to volunteers.

### **White-Nose Syndrome**

Helen Miller and Lisa Worledge are lead contacts for WNS related enquiries. In the last quarter three suspect fungal samples and specimens have been submitted to the VLA from Staffordshire, Isle of Arran and Powys, in accordance with BCT's guidelines. Fungal samples have been taken from two dead lesser horseshoe bats, both of which were negative for *G. destructans* - the fungus associated with white-nose syndrome in the US. Samples have also been taken from a live parti-coloured bat and dead brown long-eared bats, tests on these samples are continuing.

BCT has maintained a log of all these 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 continue to encourage and promote the decontamination procedures recommended in the WNS Guidelines.

### **Rabies**

Kit Stoner and Helen Miller had a meeting with Defra in relation to funding for the helpline rabies work. The need for an EBLV Liaison Group meeting was identified and this will be taking place in July.

BCT has a spreadsheet of past VLA records (from the passive surveillance programme) that we have permission to share with bat groups at a 10km resolution. The intention was to share a regional version of this data during the past quarter but due to Laura Dunne's maternity leave the first circulation of records to bat groups will now be next quarter.

### **Enquires 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 being in post at the beginning of May, Lisa has received 72 external enquiries, 33 from bat groups and 39 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 (13), events (8) and planning issues (8).

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

### **English Regional Conferences**

The summary of priorities in the North of England, identified at the regional conference that took place in March, has been circulated to all delegates and is available on the BCT website. Feedback forms have now been collated. A total of 58 delegates responded of which 54 (93%) rated the overall event as Excellent or Good and 49 people (84%) thought the price was also Excellent or Good. The majority of respondents (83%) had been involved in bat conservation for 10 years or less (over half for less than 5 years) and the event was identified as helping delegates improve their knowledge by 53 (91%) respondents and as a good networking opportunity by 35 (60%) people. The only Poor ratings were from 7 respondents (12%) about the catering and one respondent in relation to the length of the talks.

The South West Bat Conference took place on 2<sup>nd</sup> April at the University of Plymouth. The event was attended by 150 delegates and was actually oversubscribed with a waiting list for places. The summary of priorities in the South West identified at the event has been circulated to all delegates and is available on the BCT website. We received 60 feedback forms for the conference of which 58 (97%) rated the overall event as Excellent or Good with the price being considered Excellent or Good by 57 (95%) of people. Over half of the respondents had been involved in bat conservation for 10 years or less and the event was identified as helping delegates improve their knowledge by 56 (93%) respondents and as a good networking opportunity by 44 (73%) people. The only Poor ratings were from one delegate in relation to the venue.

The detailed feedback from both of the 2011 conferences will be used in planning the three taking place in 2012.

### **Partner Group Meetings**

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

- Berkshire & South Buckinghamshire 6<sup>th</sup> April
- Somerset 9<sup>th</sup> April
- East Yorkshire 12<sup>th</sup> April
- Lee Valley 31<sup>st</sup> May (changed from a Network Group to Partner Group)

Information generated from these meetings about bat group needs, primary interests, volunteer numbers and contact data has been stored in the Bat Group Database to assist future reporting, project development and analysis. The questionnaire template used for the meetings has been updated to capture more information about record sharing, make-up of group membership and NBMP data. Meetings are being scheduled for the next quarter.

## **BCT in Wales**

### **Engaging with wider environmental and political network**

Politically, this first quarter has been relatively quiet due to the four-yearly elections of Assembly Members and the referendum for strengthening law-making powers within devolved areas. The result of the referendum was that Wales should have further powers and this is likely to result in the formation of a new Single Environmental Body from the merger of the three SNCOs. We have attended a number of meetings about the creation of a SEB and possible regulatory changes in relation to the Natural Environment Framework for Wales. The Welsh Government is likely to go its own way on the environment and we can expect to be inputting to and providing comment on this, over the coming months. The new Government has yet to bed down and we wait to learn what the new Minister's position will be with regards to the Glastir Agri-environment Scheme.

### **Consultations**

There have been no consultations during this quarter.

### **Wales Environment Link (WEL)**

We continue to receive regular electronic communications from WEL and its groups. WEL's Biodiversity Working Group and Biodiversity Campaign Task & Finish 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**

In Wales there are 15 bat groups and two mammal groups. Some bat groups have renewed their partnership arrangements with BCT but a number have not and these will be followed up this quarter.

### **Outreach**

We have started a new Urban Bat survey project in Carmarthenshire and so far 44 new volunteers have signed up for the project. In addition to this, the UBS project is operation once again in Cardiff, Swansea, Neath and Clwyd (north Wales) with a mixture of existing volunteers from previous years and new volunteers.

We also attended the annual Small Holders and Green Gardens Show at Royal Welsh Agricultural Society's grounds at Builth Wells 21 and 22 May. This was supported by volunteers from Monmouthshire and Brecknock Bat Groups. The stand was visited by a wide range of interested people and especially farmers who are joining the new Glastir agri-environment scheme.

A display was also put up at Neath Port Talbot's Gnoll Park for Wales' Biodiversity Week 4-10 June at which I also helped lead a bat walk.

### **Volunteer support and training**

#### **Wales Bat Conference**

The Conference will take place 1-3 July at Trinity College, Carmarthen. It is being organised in partnership with Dyfed Bat Group who are organising the programme and BCT is dealing with the administration. 78 residential delegates and 10 day delegates have so far booked to attend.

### **Other activities**

CCW have reduced the level of funding to BCT this year and we have therefore considered relocating the Swansea Office. This savings from this will help balance the reduced funding.

## BCT in Scotland

### **Building volunteer network**

The Scottish officer met up with five bat groups this quarter. Meetings were attended with Central Scotland bat group, Clyde BG and Lothian's bat group, a bat identification training night was delivered to NES BG and a family "Batty Event" delivered with Cowal Bat group. All partner groups were regularly contacted with email bulletins.

### **Training**

A "Bats and Development" talk was delivered to Council staff (planners, architects, building control officers and similar) at Hamilton to an audience of around 25.

Six training talks, bat detector sessions and bat walks were delivered to field clubs and wildlife groups (including Orkney Field club.)

A course on "How to Organize and lead a bat walk" was delivered to 10 Countryside rangers. Feedback from all of these has been very good.

### **New Volunteer Recruitment**

NBMP was promoted at talks and training sessions. 11 new recruits have joined from Scotland this quarter.

### **Public Education/Enabling involvement of the public**

- BCT Displays/resources were used at 8 events, (by the Scottish bat officer, bat groups and other organizations e.g. Forestry Commission.)
- The SBO continued a Batty book review project with St Mary's school. The reviews for use in later editions of Young Bat Worker
- An article for the BCT blog was produced on Bats and waterways "Flat bats' Easter adventure...in response to British waterways selecting bats as wildlife to watch.
- 2 x bat talks and bat walks for the public were delivered

### **Identify and Co-ordinate Priority projects in conjunction with bat groups.**

The newly formed Tayside bat group will monitor squares in Dundee not covered in the original survey 2007 survey.

### **Legal**

There were no incidents to forward to the BCT Investigations officer this quarter.

### **Personal Training/office matters**

Staff meetings in London were attended to keep up to date with other staff/ projects and see the new BCT offices.

A sharing best practice seminar on "Habitats Regulations Appraisal of Plans" will be attended on 28<sup>th</sup> June.

At the end of June the SBO will move to another office in Dunblane as Scottish Churches house is to be sold. (*She tried saying she was a threatened species and could not be excluded without a license but to no avail.*)

# *Education & Engagement*

*Hon. Education Officer*

## **Publications**

Edited *Young Batworker* 81.

On Editorial Committee for *Bat News*

## **Courses/Presentations/talks**

06/04/11 Training new Helpline staff

12/04/11 Talk for Count Bat at Pepenbury

08/06/11 Presentation on *Gardening for Bats* at the Wildlife Gardening Conference at the NHM.

23/06/11 Training new Helpline staff

28/06/11 Bat day at Oakley School for Count Bat. Several talks involving four school

## **Meetings**

04/04/11 At BCT office. Editorial meeting HMc

Meeting re Building course material HM

23/05/11 At BCT office HM. As 4/4/11

08/04/11 With James Hales on the effect of bats droppings in churches. Given materials to place in roosts to assess effect of droppings

## **Other**

Arranged for UYE and Sound Analysis course for Kent Bat Group from OPAL funding

02/04/11 Attended Count Bat Green City lunch

Locally NBMP count of serotines, pipistrelles and brown long-eared

## **National Conference**

Conference bookings are going well, the Early Bat booking discount was a success. We have 2 confirmed sponsors for the conference; Conference Dinner (incl table wine) is sponsored by Wildlife Acoustics and a Major Sponsor of the event is Titley Scientific UK.

Places are booking up so people need to book now to ensure they have a place!

## **Training**

### **Professional training**

#### **Bats and Bat Surveys**

The course ran at Juniper Hall in April (taught by Sandie Sowler and Roger Martindale and attended by 17 people) and Nettlecombe Court in June (taught by Peter Shepherd and attended by 10 people).

The remaining 2011 dates and venues are as follows, with bookings to date:

25-27 July	Orielton FSC Centre (Pembrokeshire)	5 booked
12-15 August	Malham Tarn FSC Centre (Yorkshire)	2 booked

#### **Planning and Preparation of Surveys**

The course ran at Juniper Hall in May (taught by Sandie Sowler) and was attended by 5 people. Dates and venues for the remainder of 2011 are as follows, with bookings to date:

24 August	Lackham Countryside Centre (Wiltshire)	4 booked
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#### **Surveying Buildings (including Bat Identification)**

The course ran at Juniper Hall in May (taught by Sandie Sowler and Peter Shepherd) and was attended by 11 people.

The remaining dates and venues for 2011 are as follows, with bookings to date:

25-26 August	Lackham Countryside Centre (Wiltshire)	8 booked
17-18 October	Clumber Park (Nottinghamshire)	3 booked

### **Bat detector courses**

The development of two new bat detector courses has now been completed. These courses are Using Bat Detectors and Sound Analysis Intermediate course and Using Bat Detectors and Sound Analysis Advanced course. Unfortunately the first dates for both courses were cancelled due to low numbers (due to on-going development the dates for these courses were not placed in the 2011 training brochure). Remaining dates for 2011 are as follows:

- **Intermediate**

28-29 June	Preston Montford FSC (Shropshire)	10 booked
18-19 August	Nettlecombe FSC (Somerset)	2 booked

- **Advanced**

3-4 August	Preston Montford FSC (Shropshire)	2 booked
1-2 September	Nettlecombe FSC (Somerset)	0 booked

### **Surveying Barns**

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

7 October	St Ippolyt's Hall (Herts)	1 booked
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### **Surveying Bridges**

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

31 October	Juniper Hall FSC Centre (Surrey)	2 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)	1 booked
5 December	Richmond Park (Surrey)	6 booked

### **Arboriculture and Bats**

One course ran in this quarter at Juniper Hall, with 11 attendees. The course was taught by Mark Robinson and Adam Curtis.

The remaining dates and venues for 2011 are as follows:

4 July	Hinchingbrooke Country Park (Cambs)	7 booked
1 August	Margam Park FSC Centre (Glamorgan)	4 booked
22 August	Richmond Park (Surrey)	4 booked
27 September	Bewerley Park (N. Yorkshire)	4 booked
10 October	Harcourt Arboretum (Oxfordshire)	0 booked

### **Fibrescope course for arborists**

This course will run on 23 August and currently has 12 people booked.

### **Bats and Bridges: an awareness course**

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

30 September	Juniper Hall FSC Centre (Surrey)	2 booked
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### Building for Biodiversity

HM, LH and KG had initial discussions about the development of a new course for architects. We hope to develop and pilot this course by the end of 2011.

### Volunteer training

#### Introduction to Bats and How to Lead a Bat Walk Courses

The How to Lead a Bat Walk ran in Dunblane, Perthshire in June. It was taught by Anne Youngman and was attended by 10 people.

#### Bat Care

A final bat care course took place in Wales with the help of SL (in the previous quarter two other bat care courses took place in Wales). These courses were tutored by Maggie Brown.

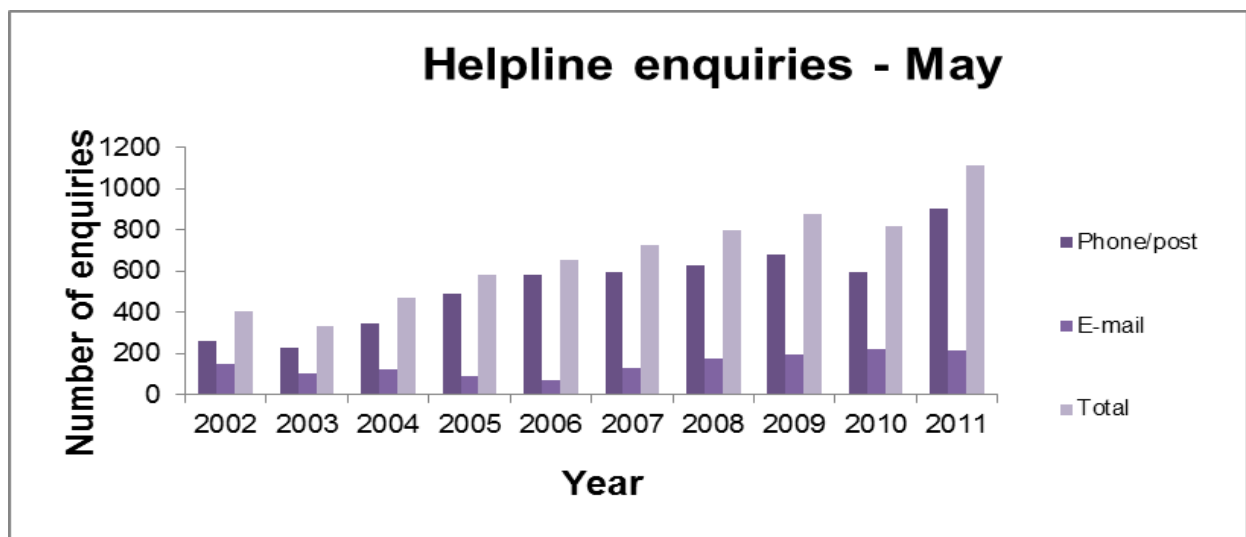
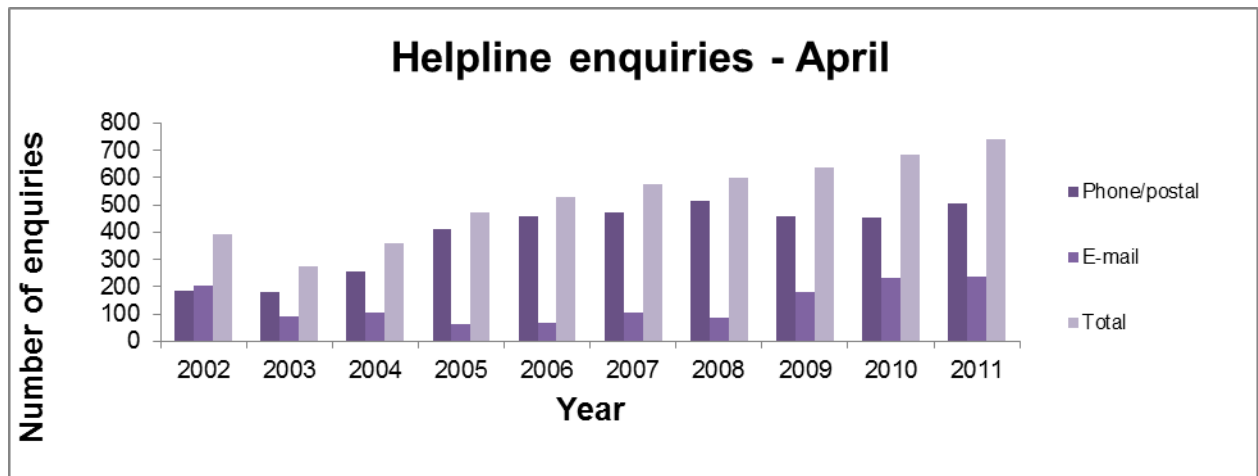
### Other projects

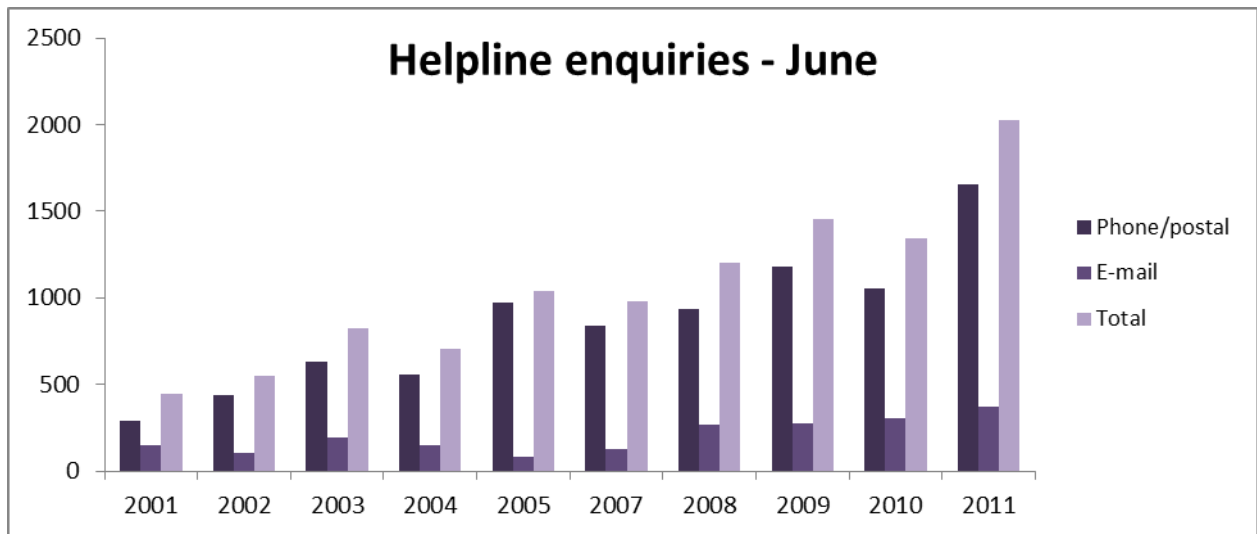
#### Training standards

A draft syllabus for professional surveyors was completed and submitted to IEEM's professional affairs committee in May. It is hoped that the syllabus will form the basis of the professional licensing scheme and once comments have been received from IEEM and agreed by the training standards panel it is hoped that the final version will be published later this year.

## Helpline and Casework

Helpline Figures; Numbers of enquiries





The graphs illustrates a comparison in the total number of phone call and e-mail enquiries taken in the second quarter (April, May and June) from 2002 to 2011

### Overview

The period from April to June usually sees a significant increase in calls and queries as we enter the maternity roost season. This year is no exception as the second quarter has proven to be the busiest time of year for us so far. The total number of enquiries in April rose from 683 in 2010 to 742 in 2011 (an 8% increase upon the previous year). The number of enquires for April has steadily increased for the past 9 years from 391 in April 2002 to 742 in 2011. The total number of enquiries significantly increased in May from 816 in 2010 to 1114 in 2011 (a 27% increase) and in June from 1294 in 2010 to 1848 in 2011, this figure was taken up until the end of 26 June 2011 a 30% increase on the figures from the same period in 2010. This record number of enquiries received in June is probably due to the fluctuations in severe weather conditions over a short space of time, compounded by the large increase in call taken about planning and development as part of the changes occurring in Natural England's structural organisation .

In this period we get many phone calls and e-mails from members of the public who have found a bat, baby bat or recently discovered a roost in their house that they were previously not aware of. A lot of calls during this period, particularly during the spring and summer months, are in relation to baby bats and the care that is required, additionally there are a lot of calls relating to roost visits from members of the public who have recently discovered a roost are having issues with a roost.

Many of the calls at the end of this period are from concerned people that have found bats that may have got into difficulties in some way or baby bats that have become removed from their mothers. In accordance with the appearance of the pups in mid to late May this year the standard advice given out for all bat care calls was adjusted for baby bat care.

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 total number of enquiries handled by the helpline in this quarter has seen a very large increase to that in the same quarter of 2010, however, the helpline has increased the efficiency in which telephone enquiries and Natural England casework are handled. The total number of enquiries for this quarter was 3204 a huge increase from the 1695 enquiries taken for this time last year, a 81% increase in calls taken. This exceptional increase can be partly attributed to the streamlining of services in Natural England and their decision to step back from planning and development queries, as a result we have seen a substantial increase in queries relating to licencing and planning and development. The proportion of

emails is slightly higher this quarter compared with last year, a total of 784 (April 198, May 244, June 342 (as of 24 June 2011)) email queries which makes up 20% of the total enquiries, whilst the number of email enquiries is similar to last years the percentage of emails enquiries from total enquires is reduced from 31% in 2010.

The Helpline continues in the work to contribute towards establishing viable populations of bats by recording data on roosts via Natural England case work, encouraging interested members of the public to the UK Bat Monitor 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 Out of Hours Volunteer service**

This year, the Out of Hours service will be running for the peak bat activity season from May to September. The Out of Hours was due to start on the 3 May, however because of some technical issues with the new phone systems diversions to external phones were not possible. So the first OOH shift was on Friday 13 May, this will run until the 30 September. The service is using 21 trained volunteers, who answer emergency calls coming in to the BCT Helpline after 5.30 pm and at weekends and Bank Holidays. A member of BCT staff is assigned as back-up every night and weekend during this period, so that any particularly difficult or sensitive calls can be immediately passed to BCT.

We initially held two training days: one in the London office on the 9 April, and one in Manchester on the 16 April. No further training days are planned.

So far the dedicated volunteers have done a great job this year answering the calls. From 13 May – 13 June, there were a total of 157 calls recorded from the Out of Hours Helpline.

### **Bat care network and bat bites**

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 maintenance of vaccination records and extending further training to current carers. A substantial carer recruitment drive in East of England, the South West, parts of Yorkshire and South West Midlands was started in the last two weeks of June. If you are aware of any interested parties please contact Bea Ayling on [bayling@bats.org.uk](mailto:bayling@bats.org.uk) Further training courses are planned for the summer of 2011.

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

The number of bat bite cases dealt with by Helpline increased significantly over the last two years with 17 cases this quarter up from 0 and 9 recorded cases in 2009 to 9 in 2010 respectively. This is an important aspect of Helpline's work as it is vital to ensure the safety of the public and also provide a positive image of bats at a sensitive time.

### **The Natural England Contract and Casework**

The new system for monitoring letters has continued to increase the amount of letters sent out within the fifteen day deadline.

The Natural England contract has been in operation for 2 and half years and includes 8 of the 10 NE Lots (North East, North West, West Midlands, East Anglia, 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 standardizing our bat roost records. 15 April saw the BCT office move however due to the digitization of all records in December the transition was smooth with little impact on our ability to follow up NE casework during this time.

The Helpline organised a total of 489 roost visits in this period (April 80, May, 147, June, 224107 (up until 24 June 2011) compared to 405 in the same quarter in 2010 (April; 88, May, 118, June 204), an increase on 17% the same quarter last year.

### **Continuation of Natural England Bat Advice Service**

Natural England implemented its strategy to increase service efficiency and spending cuts on the 1 May 2011. This resulted in the collectivization of all regions for bat advice into a single dedicated department based in Bristol. The new system sees a team of 11 headed up by Lucy Bellini dealing with specific bat related queries in England and continue to support BCT in our capacity as bat advice contractors.

The BCT continues to carry out the contract on behalf of Natural England for advising members of the public on bat roosts and developments, organizing roost visits and writing letters for eight Natural England Lots; East of England, North East, Cheshire and Lancashire, West Midlands, East Anglia, South East, South West, Cornwall & the Isles of Scilly and Yorkshire & Humberside.

### **Staff Changes**

There have been many staff changes this quarter. The April to June 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, with full time intern Demian Lyle. However, Demian left to pursue his career in Ecological Consultancy on 11 April 2011. Two new seasonal helpline officers were trained up at the beginning of April; unfortunately one member had to leave BCT after a brief period due to personal reasons. Two further seasonal staff were recruited in mid-May, again after a brief period one of the staff members moved on due to a long term job opportunity. For this reason two more further seasonal staff members and the first of the summer interns started on 13 June 2011. In summary the seasonal staff for this year are as follows; David Urry, Jess Barker, Kerry Leslie, Chris Werren and intern Sian Moore (with BCT until early August).

Line management of the helpline team continued to be shared between Kit Stoner, Helen Miller, Michelle Beckett and Amanda Adebisi.

## **Count Bat**

The project continues to run under budget and on target. 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 filming the different events and interviews necessary for the editing of the following videos:

- 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)

The footage is being sent to our editing company and the first film (Culturally Diverse) should be edited by the end of July. 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.

- The Big Bat Map

Is being overhauled with new version due to go live in August in time for European Bat Weekend. To date over 1100 bat sightings have been recorded on the old version of the big bat map.

- End of project report/ Community Project Resource pack

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

- a DVD with the 5 short films and useful resources sorted by event type and audience
- a booklet (or loose sheets) with a content sheet, 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 (just under 5/6ths of way into project)

	Key full project target delivery (attendees in brackets)	
	Total 4 year Target	Delivered to date
Training events	63(675)	46(704)
Education Events	108(3633)	119(11,357 + further 12,024 at large events)
Surveys	90(900)	59(925) + 1100 on big bat map
Events delivered in partnership with target groups	72(672)	96(3226)

## Count Bat Project Co-ordination and in South West and West Midlands Region – Dan Merrett

In April Dan attended the South West bat conference and recorded a bat podcast with Avon Wildlife Trust as part of their 'Bats in Bath' project. In May he attended a BCT bats in buildings course and started work on his Bath Mitigation Project work one day a week. This project is separate from the Count Bat work and is funded by Bath & North East Somerset Council, with the aim of following up a number of bat-conditioned planning consents from the past 10 years in the district to assess the outcomes. He has also been working on developing future community based projects in liaison with fundraising officer Roz Hutchinson to hopefully run when Count Bat finishes in spring 2012.

### Events and Training

#### 27.4.11 Bat walk at Badocks Wood, Bristol

60 people attended including two visually impaired guide-dog users. Two volunteers from Avon Bat group who had previously been on Count Bat accessibility training attended to guide the visually impaired walkers.

#### 3.5.11 Bristol Green City Bats training in Knowle

13 people from friends of groups in the south of the city attended and learnt about bats and holding batty events and surveys in their parks. Feedback was good and already at least two groups have arranged to borrow the projects bat detectors to run their own surveys/events.

#### 11.5.11 Bristol Green City Bats training in Redland

22 people from friends of groups in the north of the city attended in a repeat session of the above training. At least one group has since arranged a community bat survey in its' park using the projects detectors.

A further survey event is to be held on 29.6.11 in south Gloucestershire

#### Bristol Green City Bats

The two May training events were the final events to fulfil the Active Bristol funding requirements and a final report was submitted at the end of that month. Attendees at training held last year as part of the same funding continue to be active and led two bat walks themselves this quarter in the city through Walking for Health, using the projects bat detectors.

### Count Bat Region 3: North and East – Diana Hagues/Tina Whiffen

Diana Hagues went on maternity leave at the beginning of June and had a week's handover period with Tina Wiffen who took over as the Count Bat Regional Officer for the North and East at the end of May. The majority of Diana's last two months was spent on delivering events and training as listed below, and preparation of notes and files for handover to Tina. Since starting Tina has attended the BEN conference in Peterborough (1<sup>st</sup> June) and set up several events for the next quarter. She has already delivered two bat survey nights at Gibside, Gateshead.

#### Events and training

During April and May, Diana delivered the following activities with the last of the £1573 grant money awarded by Newcastle City council Byker and Ouseburn ward committees:

- 8/4/11 – Introduction to NBMP surveys workshop, Newcastle

This workshop took place at the Ouseburn Community Centre. 19 people attended, all of whom were new to bats or had little experience in surveying for bats. The group included a park ranger, conservation group volunteers and local residents. A mock survey was carried out at the end of the evening to give participants the opportunity to spot potential places bats might roost and we encountered two species of pipistrelle bats down in the Ouseburn.

- 20/4/11 - Bat box building at Ouseburn Farm

This was a new group that Diana worked with. Ouseburn Farm is a busy city farm and environmental visitor centre in the heart of Newcastle upon Tyne. They run a variety of activities for the able-bodied and people with disabilities, and involve them in day-to-day activities of the farm. Diana worked alongside a group of 10 vulnerable adults, staff volunteers and students on placements at the farm to build bat boxes, which were put up at the farm. Some were also taken home by the group to put up in their gardens or allotments. The materials for the bat box kits were purchased with section 106 money awarded by the city council. Diana also gave an introductory bat talk and the event was filmed as part of the Count Bat video project.

- 7/5/11 – Let's go batty event at Ouseburn Parks Visitor Centre, Jesmond Dene

Count Bat provided bat box kits for this event that was led by the park rangers. 18 people took part in making bat boxes that were later put up in the park and some were taken home.

- 12/5/11 – Bat walk at Ouseburn Parks

18 people attended the evening with an introductory bat talk given by a park ranger, who had previously participated in bat training with Count Bat (i.e. Introduction to bats training at Moorbank Botanic garden in 2009). This was followed by a bat walk around Jesmond Dene.

- 19/5/11 – Using your ears workshop, Newcastle

This was a joint workshop organised with the NBMP team and was led by Clare Rawcliffe. 15 people attended, including participants who had taken part in the Introduction to NBMP training in April.

Tina Wiffen joined the project on 31<sup>st</sup> May and has delivered two survey nights at Gibside, Gateshead.

- 7/6/11 – Bat survey of Cut Thorn Farm, Gibside

This was a joint event with the National Trust and provided bat survey techniques training whilst undertaking emergence survey work. 12 people attended the session which was lead by Helen MacDonald

(National Trust) and Tina Wiffen. The participants were a mixture of long standing volunteers and those new or recently interested in bats, two participants had attended Diana's previous training session on 8<sup>th</sup> April in Newcastle.

- 16/6/11 – Bat survey of the Orangery and Derwent Bridge, Gibside and the Boat House at Ebchester

This was a joint event with the National Trust and provided bat survey techniques training whilst undertaking emergence survey work. 9 people attended the session which was lead by Helen MacDonald (National Trust) and Tina Wiffen. The participants were a mixture of bat group members and four people who were experiencing bats in the field for the first time.

### **Savio Salesian College, Bootle, Merseyside**

At the end of 2009, Count Bat supported this college with their mini-enterprise project to make a dual purpose box for both bats and birds (BOB box) by providing some funds for the materials. Diana did a bat box building session with them in spring 2010 and, together with Charlie Liggett of Merseyside and West Lancashire bat group, provided considerable support and advice about bats to Mr Stephen Burrowes (English teacher and special needs coordinator) who had developed the project with his Year 8 class. The college has since gone on to make and produce BOB boxes that have been put up in and around areas in Merseyside, such as Knowsley Safari Park, Rainhill Cricket Club and local nature reserves. Earlier this year, Stephen was told that the BOB box project won the Ecover Ethical Kids Award as part of The Observer Ethical Awards. The awards ceremony took place on 9<sup>th</sup> June at the Albert and Victoria Museum in London and the Bat Conservation Trust has been mentioned in a number of publicity in recognition of our support to this project.

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

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

### **Events and trainings**

- Bat walk for Shaftesbury Primary School families (Wandsworth, London) – 01st April

To follow up the school assembly delivered in March, 30 children and parents attended this first bat walk of the season. This event was delivered with the help of the London bat group (Jason Cunningham)

- Green City Bats Lunch (Camden, London)

To celebrate the start of the bat season and try to network the existing groups, the GCB lunch gathered 36 volunteers from different part of London. New displays have been created and have been inspiring the groups to deliver more community events and use BCT resources.

- Using your ears and intro to NBMP surveys workshop (Croydon, London) – 08<sup>th</sup> April

To encourage local groups (incl. GCB groups) to undertake NBMP surveys this workshop was well attended (26 people) and had been followed by a mock survey of South Norwood lake.

- Bat talk at Pepenbury (Kent) – 12<sup>th</sup> April

Pepenbury is residential for adults with learning disabilities. A bat talk gave the residents and staff more background on bats and this will be followed up by a walk in late summer. This event was co-delivered by Shirley Thompson, Val Sutton (Kent Bat group) and CB officer.

- Bat Fun day at HAFAD (Hammersmith and Fulham, London) – 19<sup>th</sup> April

To continue the conservation project started last year with the young people of HAFAD (40 people), more bat boxes have been made (and put up on the 5<sup>th</sup> may in Bishops Park) and an original bat music has been put together using bat recordings. A bat walk will be organised in late summer.

- How to lead a bat walk workshop (Croydon, London) – 6<sup>th</sup> May

To encourage local groups (incl. GCB groups) to run their own bat walks, 24 people came along to this workshop, including a mock bat walk around the lake, led by a volunteer.

- Bat talk at Bradbury Oak – 12<sup>th</sup> May

Co-delivered with the Huma Pearce and London Wildlife Trust this very successful evening gave the opportunity for 12 people with visual impairments to learn more about bats and their environment. A new smooth bat box has been created for the occasion. A bat walk will be organised in August for this very keen group.

- Introduction to bats and NBMP surveys (East Sutton, Kent) – 17<sup>th</sup> May

Workshop delivered for the women prison of East Sutton park where after an inside talk (12 attendees), a mock sunset survey has been held. Only a small group has been allowed to go on a bat walk outside of the walls of the prison.

- How to lead a bat walk workshop (Haringey, London) – 20<sup>th</sup> May

24 attendees from north London came along to this workshop (incl. GCB groups). Very successful workshop and mock bat walk.

- Field Survey NBMP workshop (Greenwich, London) – 27<sup>th</sup> May

To support the GCB groups and other groups of East London in running NBMP surveys, this workshop was attended by 30 people.

- Bat Camping (Morgans' Wood, Sussex) – 01<sup>st</sup> and 02<sup>nd</sup> June

Two days and one night in the woods with the Croydon Youth Forest Project (12 young people). A very successful bat camping during which we have made bat boxes, built a giant willow bats and went on a bat walk in the evening. The group will carry on doing batty activities including a bat and canoe event in August.

- Bat Festival at the Natural History Museum – 04<sup>th</sup> and 05<sup>th</sup> June

Nearly 2,000 visitors attended the 3<sup>rd</sup> Bat Festival at the NHM in London. A very colourful and successful weekend, with lots of activities (face painting, crafts, bat boxes...etc.) and talk/workshop (echolocation room, bat talks) held for all age and origins in the Wildlife Garden and the Darwin Centre. Event organised in partnership with the Wildlife Garden and the NHM.

## **Green City Bats scheme in London**

The Green City Bats lunch (see above) is a first stepping stone in networking all the registered groups in London and more effort will be made to continue linking up groups within the capital. This event has been a great opportunity for groups to meet each other, discover new resources and go away with new ideas and batty projects for the summer. A similar event may be held at the end of the year.

Following the four training courses delivered around London (see above), twelve bat detectors have been handed over to two different London councils (Croydon and Haringey) to help support the groups in accessing resources locally for bat walks and surveys.

A second e-bulletin will be released in July and groups are actively delivering events throughout the capital during these summer months.

## **Future Plans**

A few bat walks are being planned for late summer. The Count Bat films and Resources pack (see above) are however the main area of work for the following months.

# Marketing

## Membership

Decreasing lapsed members-

- Ringing up lapsed members, this is currently being undertaken sporadically but with great success so far with an average re-join rate of around 25%. (We are also taking this opportunity to collate information from those who choose not to re-join as to the reasons why, this information is to be collated and used in conjunction with the proposed membership review.)
- Monthly membership by Direct Debit has been developed and will be implemented at the beginning of 3Q, with a view to making membership more affordable and flexible.

Free roost owner's membership

- Roost owner's traditionally received an information pack very similar in contents to our membership pack and therefore there was no incentive for them to join. To address this we have introduced the free roost owner's membership which commenced at the beginning of June for a trial period. Available to the public who ring up the Helpline and require a NE roost visit it is offered as a thank you for seeking advice about the roost as well as part of our 20 years anniversary in the hope we can retain the members in future years. They receive a standard individual membership with all mailings and benefits including a targeted appeal.

## Communications and Marketing

### Year of the bat/ 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary

We got Year of the Bat mentioned on Springwatch (hooray!) with a plug for our events page and link on their site to it. May was Monitoring month with the release of indicators and the NBMP annual report. June saw us going batty with the Bat Fest at the Natural History Museum. July will see Bat Helpline and baby bats as the focus of year of the bat communications, with blogs, facebook all linking in with the Helpline summer appeal. August will be community action with the Big Bat Map launching for European Bat Weekend.

### E-communications

Facebook 'fans' and twitter 'followers' continue to increase this quarter reaching over 10,600 social media followers'.

### Website

Following feedback from BCT staff and users some changes will be made to the site over the next quarter. However in the future a website redesign will be needed as it is now 3 years since the new website was launched (so it will soon need refreshing) and there is lots of information on the site but users do not always find it easy to get what they want. Overall there was an increase in number visitors on this quarter last year

### Events

#### The Regent's Park Bat Walk

The Regent's Park Bat walk was held on Thursday 12 May 2011. This is an annual event aimed at funders, life members and major donors and the media/press. The event was a success despite a low number of people attending. Wholefoods providing a cake and wine and a lot of bats were spotted in the walk including pipistrelles, daubentons and noctules!

## **Natural History Museum**

See Count Bat sections for details, five members were recruited at the event far fewer than anticipated as a result the membership promotion for this event is being reviewed.

**Future events:** BCT will be attending Bird Fair in August and promoting Adopt-A-Bat and membership.

## **Media**

As expected for the start of the season, bats have featured with increasing frequency this quarter with both positive and negative news stories. BCT have been involved with a Newsround piece, an article in the Sunday Telegraph, and Xav was profiled in Third Sector. There has been some coverage of the Bechstein's project in relation to the HS2 in Buckinghamshire in local press including Helen in a radio interview BBC 3 Counties Radio about the project. We were also involved (with Natural England) with the press due to the Helpline case of Mr. Mortimer who was calling for a review of the law protecting bats in the media following his application for an exclusion. It attracted regional and some national press, however BCT maintained a good relationship with Mr Mortimer and he spoke highly of BCT in the media despite his stance on the protection of bats. We also managed to get The Sunrise and Sunset Survey mentioned on Springwatch!

## **Fundraising**

- **Appeals to members and donors**

**Summer appeal:** The summer appeal was being sent to just under 4000 members and donors in the last week of June. The appeal focuses on the Bat Helpline Out of Hours Emergency Service and target of the appeal is £7180. The appeal will be supported by online communications including social media.

**Bat Group Appeal:** **The Investigations Appeal** was sent to 50 bat groups in England has so far received 12 donations.

**The Scottish Bat Group Appeal** was sent to 12 bat groups and has received 3 donations.

**The Wales Bat Group Appeal** was sent to 18 bats groups and has received 2 donations.

- **Fundraising initiatives in development**

**Adopt-a-bat:** Development is continuing on this project, the WebPages are nearly complete and the design of the adoption pack is in the finalisation stages. The bat toys have now been ordered and will be arriving at the beginning of the 3Q alongside a newly designed bat magnet. We still intend to do a soft launch initially to enable and administration flaws to be rectified before launching a heavy promotion focussing on the 4Q for Christmas.

**Monthly giving:** This has been developed and will be implemented at the beginning of 3Q making regular giving possible.

**Community fundraising:** An online resource pack to aid with community fundraising is currently being developed and will be available during Q3 and it is intended to drive up community fundraising leading up to Halloween.

**Text donations:** The system to use text donations is now complete and up and running, the system was trialled during the bat festival using a poster campaign but with poor results. We are now planning on using it after talks, walks and during appropriate presentations.

- **Trust fundraising**

**Ongoing/in development:** Each week a number of each of these bids is sent out to newly discovered trusts. An application for funding for our volunteer work has been sent out to 10 charitable trusts; a bid for funding to support BCT's national bat helpline is awaiting approval and a Count Bat bid will be developed once project plans for the area are confirmed.

Bat Matters, a newsletter for charitable trusts and funders has been developed and will be sent out to some 400 funders and potential trusts in the last two weeks of June.

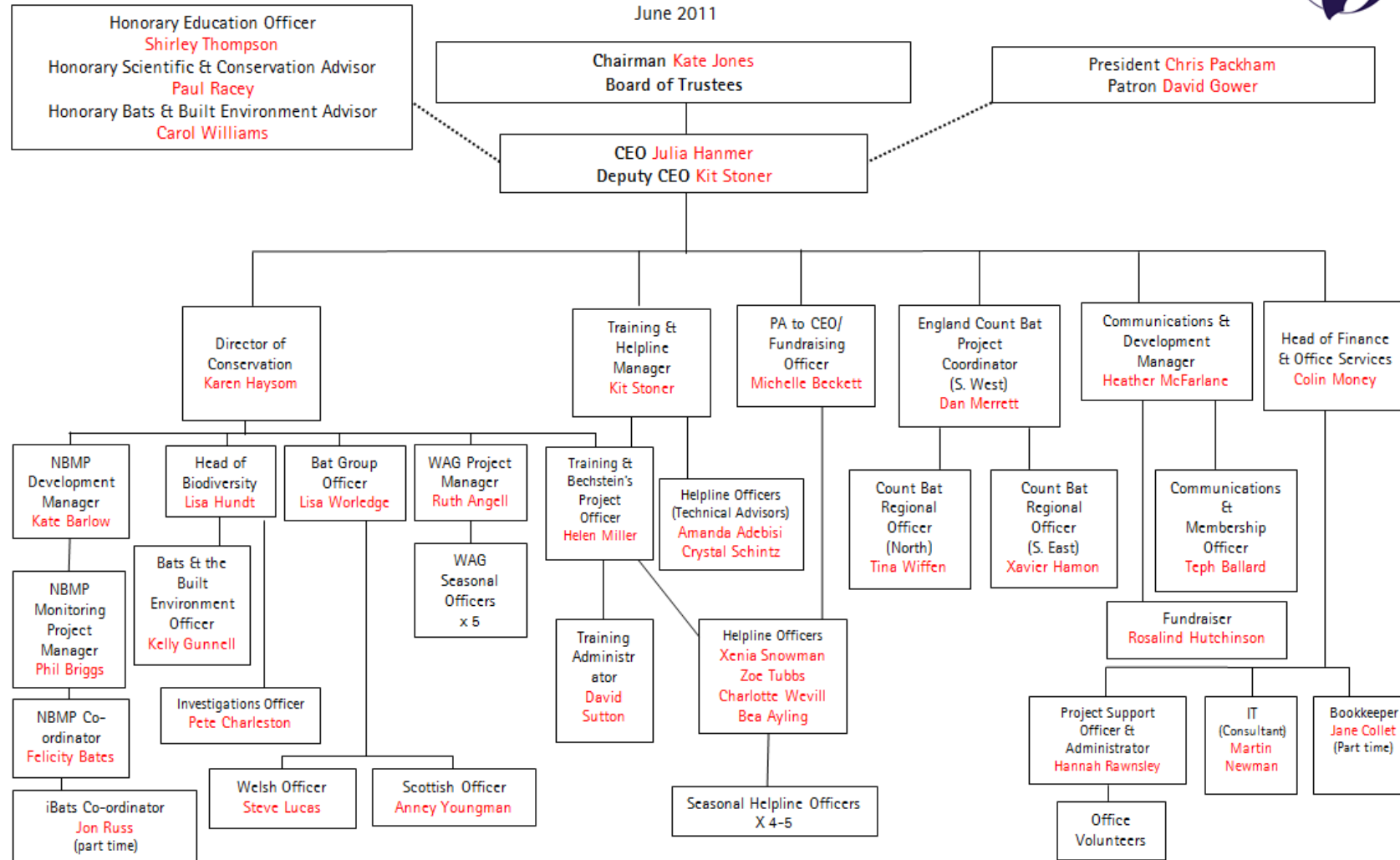
In a recent edition of the publication, Third Sector, an article drew attention to the number of new trusts that are being registered without any details of the type of applications they are willing to fund or of the level of funding that they are prepared to grant, the article said that this accounted for some 80% of new trusts registering.

# Appendices

## Organisational Structure

June 2011

Bat Conservation Trust



## Staff List

Chief Executive	Julia Hanmer	JH
Deputy Chief Executive/Training & Helpline Manager	Kit Stoner	KS
Director of Conservation	Karen Haysom	KH
Biodiversity Officer	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
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
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 Officer/ Technical Advisor	Amanda Adebisi	AA
Helpline Officer/ Technical Assistant	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
Seasonal Helpline Officer	Kerry Leslie	KL
Seasonal Helpline Officer	Chris Werren	CWe
Helpline Intern	Sian Moore	SM
PA to CEO/Fundraising Officer	Michelle Beckett	MB
Head of Finance and Office Services	Colin Money	CM
Administrative Assistant	Hannah Rawnsley	HR
Book Keeper	Jane Collett	JC
<b>Honorary Posts</b>		
Hon. Education Officer	Shirley Thompson	ST
Hon. Conservation and Scientific Adviser	Paul Racey	PAR
Hon. Bats and Built Environment Advisor	Dr Carol Williams	CW

# Glossary

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

<b>Acronym</b>	<b>Description</b>
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