

Bat Conservation Trust



A Guide to Bat Group Affiliation

Bat Groups can affiliate to Bat Conservation Trust (BCT) on payment of a fee of £50 a year (concessionary rates for new and small groups are also available, and can be discussed with the Bat Group Officer).

An important benefit of affiliation is that the Bat Group is covered under the BCT's Third Party Public Liability Insurance for an indemnity of up to £5 million. The Bat Group can also use the BCT logo incorporating "affiliated to" on your headed notepaper, leaflets etc.

There are many other ways affiliated Bat Groups can work more closely with BCT. Some of the assistance BCT can offer is often of particular use for a new group, which may initially have more limited resources than groups that are well established. The overall aim is to enable BCT and Bat Groups to work together for the benefit of both parties in achieving greater support for bat conservation at a local and national level.

We have found that the best way of working together is to establish an initial agreement as to what support BCT can provide when a Bat Group affiliates, depending on the individual bat group's needs. Below are some examples of how such agreements could work in practice.

BCT can:

- Promote membership of Bat Groups in all BCT new members' packs and on the BCT website.
- Provide Bat Groups with a list of BCT Members who requested information on their local groups when they joined BCT.
- Provide advice on design of local Bat Group membership leaflets.
- Provide photos for Bat Group leaflets.
- Provide advice on media/publicity and assistance with drafting press releases to local media where possible.
- Provide basic media training for bat group members.
- Promote Bat Group events to BCT members in the region, through targeted mailing.
- Provide BCT display stands for Bat Group events if required, subject to availability.

BCT can also consider providing incentives for Bat Groups to reward membership recruitment, if you felt this would be well received. For example, gift vouchers for the Bat Bazaar shop, a FSC Field Guide, a Bats book and further discounts on BCT Training Courses.

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The Bat Group can:

- Encourage Bat Group members to join BCT by:
 - Promoting BCT membership in the Bat Group newsletter where possible.
 - Including a BCT *Join Today* membership leaflet in new members' packs.
- Promote BCT membership generally by:
 - Promoting BCT membership when Bat Group membership is also being promoted.
 - Providing information on BCT, including a *Join Today* membership leaflet on bat walks and other public events.
 - Displaying BCT *Join Today* membership leaflets at Bat Group events.
 - Providing an option on the new Bat Group membership leaflets that would allow people to request for their details to be passed on to BCT, so BCT can contact them with selected resources as well as promoting BCT membership.
 - Promoting BCT membership on the Bat Group website if appropriate.
- Help to support BCT by:
 - Displaying a BCT donation tin at events and/or a new BCT pin badges counter-top box.

More information

If you have any further questions about affiliation, contact Laura Dunne, Bat Group Officer at BCT (contact details below):

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