



## **Outline of Introductory Bat Detector Workshop Using Your Ears!**

### **Introduction to the workshop**

This introductory level workshop is designed to teach volunteers and the public about bat detectors and how they can be used to monitor bats as part of the Bat Conservation Trust's National Bat Monitoring Programme. The workshop introduces new volunteers to the world of sound inhabited by the UK's bats and gives those with more experience a chance to brush up on their bat call recognition techniques. Tutors speak on behalf of BCT and use resources and a dynamic workshop format devised within the development of the Monitoring Programme. The format is designed for new, existing and potential volunteers, and the skills will be useful to anyone that wants to take part in voluntary bat work, individually or as part of their local bat group or conservation organisation. You will learn how to identify four of the common species using a simple bat detector and how to take part in monitoring surveys. This course will not provide individuals with sufficient knowledge to undertake professional bat survey work and attendance cannot be used to demonstrate proficiency in bat surveying.

### **Introduction to 'Using Your Ears'**

An important part of identifying bats with heterodyne detectors rests with our own hearing abilities. The detector does not identify a bat species itself, rather it is a tool that provides us with information to interpret. Bat echolocation calls are of such short duration and rapid repetition that we need to push our hearing abilities to the limit in order to discriminate between species. By familiarising ourselves with the basic elements of bat sound and training our hearing through practice, we can begin to identify bat sounds in the field. The workshop introduces the four main elements of bat calls that can be used to help differentiate between species in the field: repetition, rhythm, tonal quality and pitch. We concentrate on each of these elements in turn, explain what to listen for and demonstrate how our ears interpret these different elements. The workshop takes the format of an informal interactive classroom session, with each section interspersed with practical exercises using recordings. Calls of Daubenton's bat, pipistrelles, noctule and serotine are used as examples throughout. The day's events will be followed by an evening bat-walk when you can put your newly acquired skills into practice (weather permitting). Please wear sensible footwear, warm clothing and bring a torch. If you have a bat detector please bring it along!



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### **Programme**

#### **1. Introduction to Bats and the National Bat Monitoring Programme**

#### **2. Using Your Ears**

- Heterodyne detectors
- Sonic memory and hearing
- 4 elements

##### Element 1: Repetition Rate

- Recognising repetition rates
- Relationship with wingbeat
- Body size
- Variation in repetition rate

##### Element 2: Rhythm

- Describing rhythms
- Rhythms of the species
- What can it tell us?
- Relationship between wingshape and pulse rhythm

##### Element 3: Tonal quality

- Sound 'richness'
- Duration

##### Element 4: Pitch

- Why pitch is important
- Finding peak frequencies

#### **3. Round-up & Questions**

#### **4. Bat Walk/Field Session**