

Bat Conservation Trust

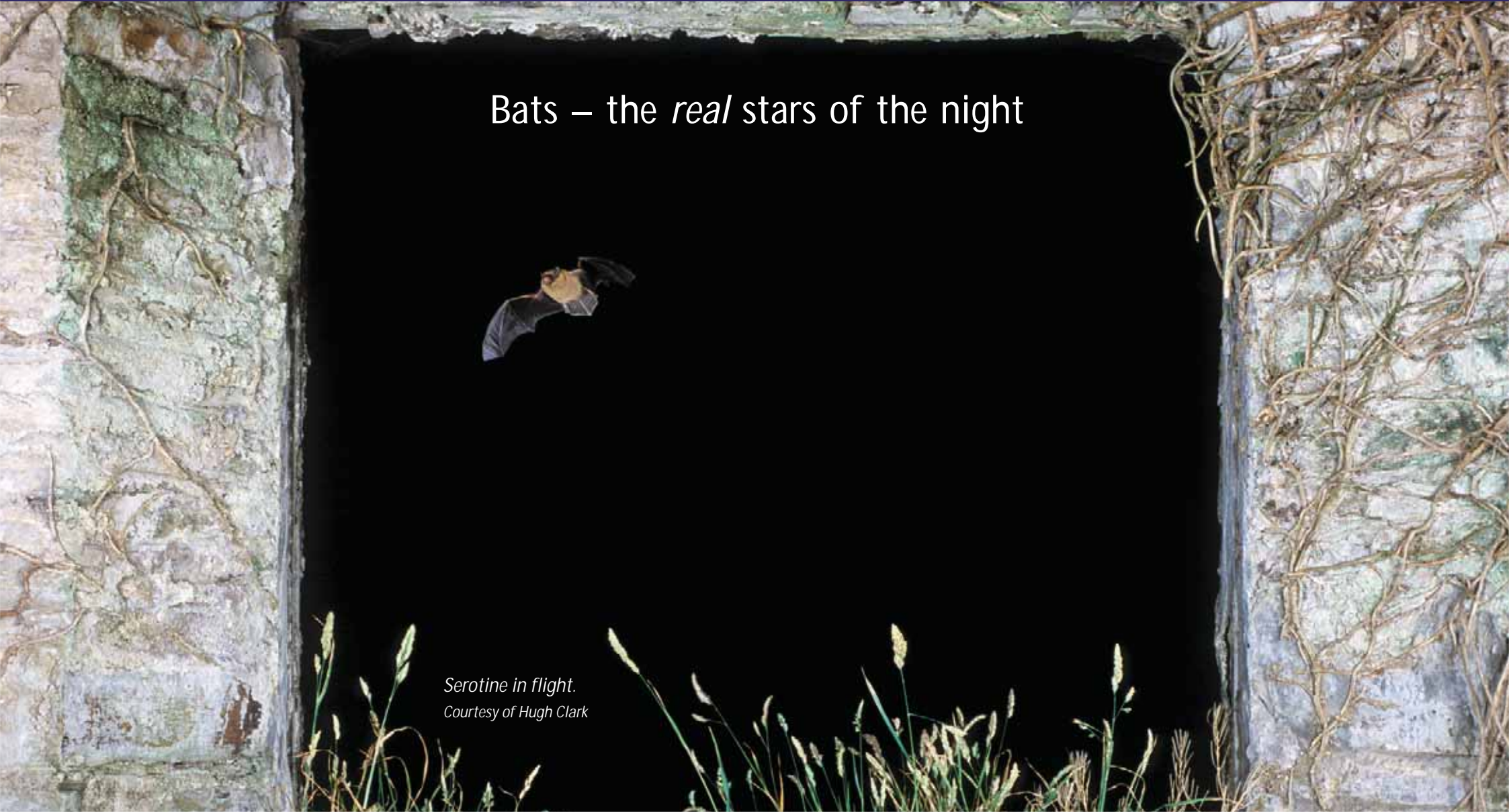
Annual Review

1 April 2009 to 31 March 2010



Bats – the *real* stars of the night

Serotine in flight.
Courtesy of Hugh Clark



Review by the Chairman and Chief Executive

What an amazing year it has been, a year of firsts with discoveries and new developments in bat monitoring, conservation action and in engaging volunteers and the public.

Our National Bat Monitoring Programme (NBMP) has shown positive trends for lesser horseshoe, Natterer's and common pipistrelle bats, whilst continuing to expand its species coverage. We must, however, take a cautious approach to these trends and view them in the long term, in the context of the historical declines that preceded them. In the Autumn we piloted a new survey of Nathusius' pipistrelle at lakes and lochs. We continue to use the NBMP data to measure progress against targets set for species conservation and contribute to UK biodiversity indicators. In its third year, the Bechstein's Bat Project has enormously increased our understanding of woodland bats, from the rare and elusive Bechstein's bat, to the barbastelle, Brandt's bat, Leisler's bat, serotine and many other bat species. Over half of the woodlands surveyed had no previous records for any bats so it's been a fantastic opportunity to improve local knowledge and make new local discoveries. The Indicator Bats Program; a collaborative global monitoring project with the Zoological Society of London (ZSL), held the first Indicator Bats Global Monitoring Workshop in Romania training new volunteers; giving them the skills to take part in this scientific study of the effects of global change on biodiversity.

BCT has spoken up for the needs of bats, based on the latest scientific studies, on a wide range of policy areas, from woodland management and designation of protected sites, to development of renewable energy and the threat of white nose syndrome. Dr Carol Williams, BCT's Bats and the Built Environment Officer, advocated that unless positive proactive steps are taken, new buildings will have no space for bat roosts and other wildlife such as swifts. Working with the Royal Institute of British Architects Carol published *Biodiversity for Low and Zero Carbon Buildings: a Technical Guide for New Build*, providing model designs and practical guidance on including space for biodiversity in new buildings. She also contributed to good practice on artificial lighting and how to use bats as biodiversity

indicators for eco-towns in the Town and Country Planning Association and Natural England's *Biodiversity positive: eco-towns biodiversity worksheet*. Our Scottish Bat Officer, Anne Youngman, embarked on a series of lunch time seminars with planners, development control officers, road engineers and landscape architects to increase awareness and understanding of bats and the potential implications for development.

Following the BCT review this year, we have seen exciting developments in the way BCT works and communicates with Bat Groups around the UK. Building stronger partnerships with Bat Groups allows us, together, to have a stronger influence on UK bat conservation. By March 2010, staff from across the BCT team had visited over 40 of the 100+ Bat Groups to discuss the new Partnership and Network Agreements, providing greater transparency, clearer communication and feedback mechanisms and clearly defined expectations on both sides. Bat Groups are continuing to sign up to or express an interest in signing Partnership or Network Agreements. We will be seeking a decision from all groups by the end of 2010. Another first for BCT were the regional conferences held in the West Midlands and East of England. Regional conferences are now a fixture in the calendar.

It is heart warming to see so many people getting involved in biodiversity conservation through bats. BCT's Count Bat project encouraged nearly 5,000 people in England to learn more about bats and get involved in their conservation. We have developed case studies for working with new audiences including how to run a bat walk for the deaf community. We launched our first online bat spotting survey the Big Bat Map and piloted the Green City Bats scheme for 'Friends of' groups in London to receive support with bat friendly park management and educational events. In Wales 228 volunteers took part in Urban Bat Surveys in Newport, Cardiff, Neath and Swansea and the Perth City Bat Project was hugely successful in training up volunteers to survey the entire city for bats.

We are pleased to report that BCT remains in a strong financial position at the end of this financial year, despite the

economic downturn. We have further benefited from Vincent Weir's generosity in continuing to grow our endowment funds, as well as from a legacy and continued generous support from funders, members and individual donors. We have managed to maintain the required level of reserves and to run our activities within our current resources. In the current tough economic climate with projected spending cuts, it is vital to ensure that bat conservation is not sidelined, but seen as being at the heart of sustainable development.

BCT has awarded its first lifetime achievement award to Professor Paul Racey in recognition of his outstanding and significant contribution over many years, which includes his role in establishing the bat conservation movement in the UK. In July, BCT also gave huge thanks and said its goodbyes to Amy Coyte, who in her nine years as Chief Executive, grew BCT from five to 35 staff and our income from £250,000 to £1.5 million and a position of much greater financial security.

It is only through the support of all our members, volunteers and funders that BCT is able to achieve so much for bats. On behalf of BCT staff and Trustees we wish to thank all our supporters.

Ian Dunbar
Chairman

Julia Hanmer
Chief Executive



History of the Bat Conservation Trust

The Bat Conservation Trust (BCT) was formed in 1991, by far-seeing individuals who recognised that the combination of challenges to the conservation of bats was unique. BCT is proud to be the leading non-governmental organisation devoted solely to the conservation of bats and their habitats. In a very short time, BCT has grown to become an organisation with nearly 5,000 members, with offices in England, Wales and Scotland and a team of more than 35 staff including scientists, specialists in training, outreach and education, volunteer engagement, database managers, fundraising, media and membership. BCT's core activities include; biodiversity delivery (an experienced lead partner for several bat species in the UK Biodiversity Strategy); the National Bat Monitoring Programme (coordinating more than 1,000 volunteer surveyors each year); delivering advice about bats (through the National Bat Helpline and through long-term partnerships with the statutory nature conservation organisations and with statutory investigators and prosecutors); training professionals and volunteers; and engaging and educating wider audiences.

Charitable objectives

BCT 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. To achieve this BCT has identified four key objectives:

- to establish the capacity of the landscape to support viable populations of bats
- to secure and enhance bat populations to the full capacity of the landscape
- to win the level of support required to achieve and maintain these bat populations
- to act as the authoritative voice on bat conservation

The Trustees have referred to the guidance contained in the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit when reviewing our aims and objectives and in planning our future activities. In particular the Trustees consider how planned activities will contribute to the aims and objectives they have set.

Any organisation or individual can join BCT as member on paying an annual fee, with concessionary membership available. Members are showing their support for bats and

BCT. The aims, objectives and activities of BCT deliver benefits to the wider public including but not exclusively to its members.

Summary of activities

To deliver our objectives and realise our vision of a world where bats and people thrive together in harmony our activities span monitoring and maintaining bat populations, running the National Bat Helpline, influencing policy and engaging people with bats and bat conservation. Our activities not only benefit the public now but also ensure bats will be around for people to enjoy for generations to come.

Informing, engaging and inspiring the public about bats

BCT provides the public with advice on bats via the Bat Helpline, a free service available to everyone in the UK giving anyone with concerns or queries about bats the information they need.

BCT shares the wonder of bats and inspires the public via the media and events, BCT recognises that some people, for example visually impaired people, may not have had the opportunity to engage with conservation before and through the Count Bat project we are reaching new audiences so everyone can experience the wonder of bats and benefit from engaging with biodiversity conservation.

Supporting people who directly work to conserve bats

BCT works with over 100 local bat groups in the UK, made up of volunteers who are passionate and active in bat conservation; to deliver monitoring such as the Bechstein's Bat Project and local engagement initiatives with Count Bat and provide these groups with networking via regional conferences and a voice at the national level.

The National Bat Monitoring Programme gives the public the opportunity to take part in conservation research of national importance, BCT provides volunteers training on bat identification and surveying techniques.

Through the Investigations Project BCT is able to support the police, batworkers and public to ensure suspected bat crimes are reported investigated and where appropriated go to trial. BCT provides advice and support throughout the process from training police officers, reporting incidents recorded by the public to giving expert evidence in court.

Supporting professionals whose work impacts bats

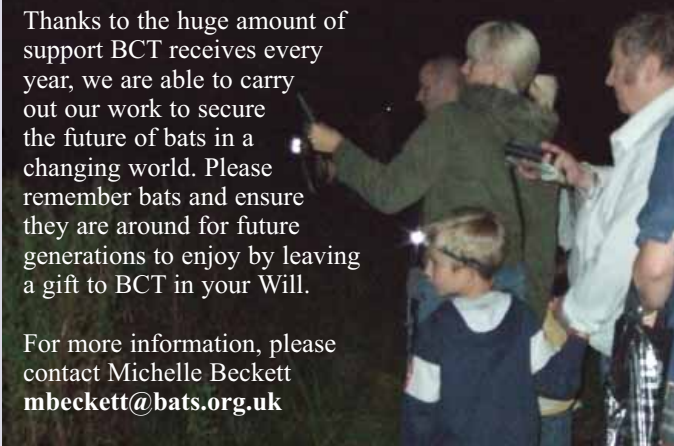
BCT's training courses target those professions and sectors whose work brings them into close contact with bats or bat conservation issues such as planners or arborists. Participants gain specialist knowledge about bats and good practice in working with bats. The course fees are set to meet the costs of running the courses while courses for volunteers are subsidised to ensure accessibility.

The Bats and the Built Environment Project plays a key role in ensuring the construction sector is aware of and accommodates bats. Through events, publications and guidance BCT is able to help architects, planners, builders and consumers understand the needs of bats and how they can be accommodated in the built environment.

BCT's work in advocacy and policy ensures bats are accounted for in decision making. It is critical that policy and conservation action is based on sound science, so that decisions made will bring benefits to bats and people.

Building knowledge to ensure bats and people can thrive together

BCT projects such as the National Bat Monitoring Programme (NBMP) and the Bechstein's Bat Project deliver important conservation information about our green spaces, woodlands and parks. This information is publically available and helps inform conservation policy. Through the NBMP and Bechstein's bat project the use of citizen science (trained local volunteers collecting scientific data) allows us to build a picture of how bats are faring and how they use the landscape. This knowledge and understanding informs conservation action and policy.



Thanks to the huge amount of support BCT receives every year, we are able to carry out our work to secure the future of bats in a changing world. Please remember bats and ensure they are around for future generations to enjoy by leaving a gift to BCT in your Will.

For more information, please contact Michelle Beckett mbeckett@bats.org.uk

National Bat Helpline

Giving the public information and advice on bats

BCT operates the National Bat Helpline (0845 1300 228) as a free service for anyone needing advice on issues relating to bats. During the past year, the team has dealt with almost 10,000 queries by phone, post and email, with demand peaking in mid-July with 121 calls in one day.

With the help of a dedicated team of trained BCT volunteers, the Out of Hours Service ran again from May to September 2009, taking 1,436 emergency calls, a record high for the service.

BCT is contracted by Natural England in some regions to co-ordinate bat advice on its behalf. The regions covered by BCT are Cheshire to Lancashire, Cornwall and Isles of Scilly, East of England, North East, South East, South West, West Midlands and Yorkshire and the Humber. During the year, BCT also organised more than 1,800 roost visits by local volunteers on behalf of Natural England, ensuring that thousands of bats and their roosts were conserved.

"If we were in the same room I would be hugging you. Thanks for getting this letter to me. It has reduced my headache over bats by 150%."

Helpline caller

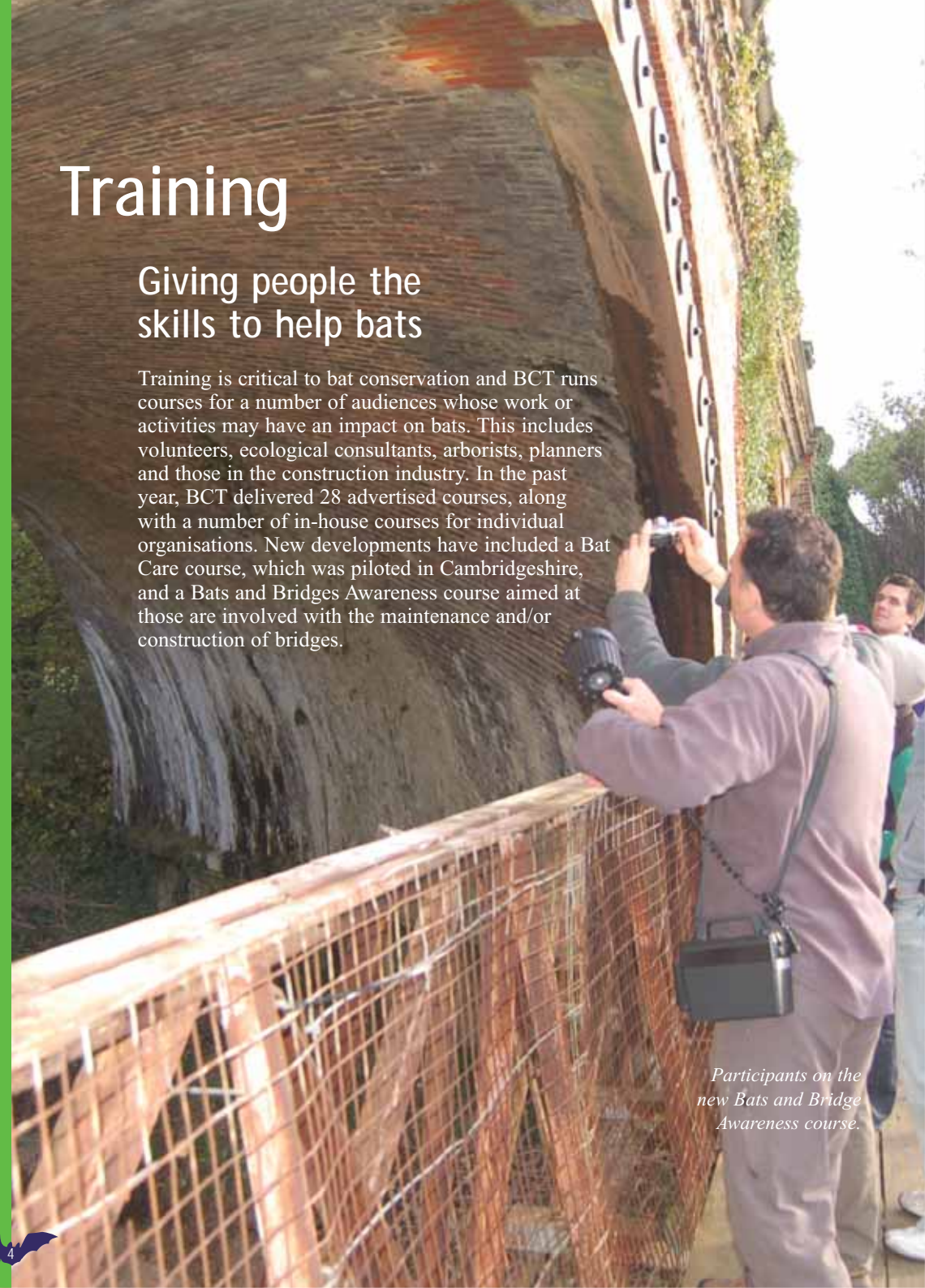
"I have today contacted yourselves and now have a Bat Worker coming out to see us. Many thanks for your help and prompt response. I never realised how much of a decline the bat species is in now in this day and age."

Helpline caller

Training

Giving people the skills to help bats

Training is critical to bat conservation and BCT runs courses for a number of audiences whose work or activities may have an impact on bats. This includes volunteers, ecological consultants, arborists, planners and those in the construction industry. In the past year, BCT delivered 28 advertised courses, along with a number of in-house courses for individual organisations. New developments have included a Bat Care course, which was piloted in Cambridgeshire, and a Bats and Bridges Awareness course aimed at those are involved with the maintenance and/or construction of bridges.



Participants on the new Bats and Bridge Awareness course.

Advocacy and Evidence

Ensuring policy makers are informed for balanced public policy

BCT works to ensure that the needs of bats are taken into account in policy decisions, management of large-scale projects and government initiatives through evidence-based advocacy with the devolved UK countries, at UK-scale and in Europe. Over the past twelve months, BCT submitted comments on proposed legislation and schemes involving a range of sectors and interests such as the management of woodland, designation of protected sites, prevention of wildlife crime and the development of renewable energy projects. This led to the publication of best practice guidance and technical notes for professionals and government bodies. As the authority on bat conservation BCT's positions are based on the latest scientific evidence. BCT partners and supports a number of scientific studies contributing to the conservation and maintenance of bat populations, and lobbies for new research where there is a need for evidence.

Grey long-eared bat

Conservation Research

Supporting the evidence base

Bats and roofing membranes

Several manufacturers are reporting breathable roofing membranes as 'bat friendly'. These claims have not been substantiated by any scientific research. In fact, there are an increasing number of reported cases where bats have died after becoming entangled in fibres that had been pulled loose and concerns have been raised following reports of roost abandonment. To address these concerns a four-year partnership study between BCT and the School of Construction Management and Engineering at the University of Reading was launched in 2009.

Gaining an understanding of the impacts of the use of breathable membranes on bat roosts in roofs will allow us to disseminate findings and recommendations as a guidance document for use by both the building industry and conservation organisations.

Conservation biology of the grey long-eared bat

Grey long-eared bats are extremely rare in Britain. The pre-breeding population might be as low as 1,000 individuals, and three colonies in Dorset and one in Devon have become extinct in the past 40 years. If grey long-eared bats are to survive in Britain in the long term, it is vital that effective conservation measures are based on sound scientific research. Our scientific partnership project with the University of Bristol will inform our conservation policies.

Bats and the landscape

A PhD research collaboration with the University of East Anglia has been analysing data from BCT's National Bat Monitoring Programme to provide an insight into the relationships between roost location, and field survey observations and landscape character. The research for this project was completed at the end of 2009 and current work is focused on submitting findings for publication in peer-reviewed journals.

Lighting

Few studies have attempted to quantify the impact of artificial lighting on the foraging and commuting behaviour of bats. The bats and lighting project at the University of Bristol is supported by BCT. Research has focused on the threatened lesser horseshoe bat as well as other more widely distributed species such as the common pipistrelle.

Winning support for bats

BCT continues to raise awareness and appreciation of bats amongst the public and key sectors. Through events, positive publicity and strategic partnerships BCT has encouraged thousands of people to experience the wonder of bats.

Bats grabbing the headlines

2009-2010 was BCT's most successful year for securing bat coverage in broadcasts and press. Bats were everywhere on the TV, from bats and development on *Coronation Street* to National Bat Monitoring Programme surveys on BBC's *Autumnwatch* and bat sounds on *Big Brother*. In print, BCT has featured in the national broadsheets and tabloids with news stories and features in *The Times*, *Metro* and *The Sun* as well as in the regional press.

Online, BCT's presence is growing with new audiences being attracted and engaged via social networking sites Facebook and Twitter through batty competitions, discussions and sharing stories.

BCT has also helped to put the perceived health risk associated with bats into perspective by working closely with journalists to help them understand more about bats, and by proactively engaging with the media when rabies-related stories arise.



Working in partnership

Inspiring people about bats

Bat Weekend at the Natural History Museum

Held for the first time in July, the Bat Weekend attracted thousands of children and adults alike with bat activities, talks and demonstrations held throughout the museum.

Westminster Bat and Moth Night

Held in conjunction with Butterfly Conservation, Heritage Lottery Fund and the office of Madeleine Moon MP, this event gives MPs and policy makers the chance to get up close to bats and moths at the Palace of Westminster.

Bat House Project

BCT has been working with partners in construction, conservation and the arts to deliver a purpose-built structure for bats. A competition was held to design the Bat House with entries from the public, architects and students. The winning entry was built at the London Wetlands Centre and unveiled in September 2009. It is hoped that bats will use the structure in the 2010 season.

Halloween

During October, BCT again partnered with New Covent Garden Food Company on a Halloween soup promotion. A new partnership was formed with Wholefoods Market to provide batty products and a batty day was held in store to raise money and to boost the profile of BCT.

Bats on the catwalk

A bat-inspired womenswear collection hit the catwalk during London Fashion Week 2010. Ethical fashion designer Ada Zanditon worked with BCT on the Echolocation collection, designed to highlight the plight of bats. A bat t-shirt was also designed as part of the collection to raise money for BCT.



Count Bat project

Engaging communities with bats, conservation and nature

The four-year England Count Bat project reached its half way point in 2009 with continued success in involving new audiences. The project aims to introduce a more diverse range of people to bat conservation through developing links between the existing bat community, voluntary organisations and local communities.

During the year, the three project staff and many volunteers oversaw 16 training sessions, 34 education sessions and 18 surveys, encouraging almost 5,000 people to learn more about bats and get involved in their conservation. In addition the online Big Bat Map was launched as a basic web-based monitoring tool attracting more than 450 records in the three months before the hibernation period started.

Meanwhile, in London, 35 'friends of' groups signed up to the Green City Bats scheme, receiving free bat packs and support with bat friendly park management and education event suggestions. A wide range of audiences were involved. Activities included a bat training session for prisoners and prison staff in Lancashire, bat box making with an adult learning difficulties group in London and a bat fun day for deaf children in Bristol.

These many events led to numerous lessons being learnt, from how to run a bat walk for deaf adults, to developing props for use in talks to visually impaired groups. These were written up as case studies. Feedback for the project was once again very positive.

The project is supported by the Heritage Lottery Fund, Natural England and the City Bridge Trust.

"This is great, we should have more of this sort of thing here."

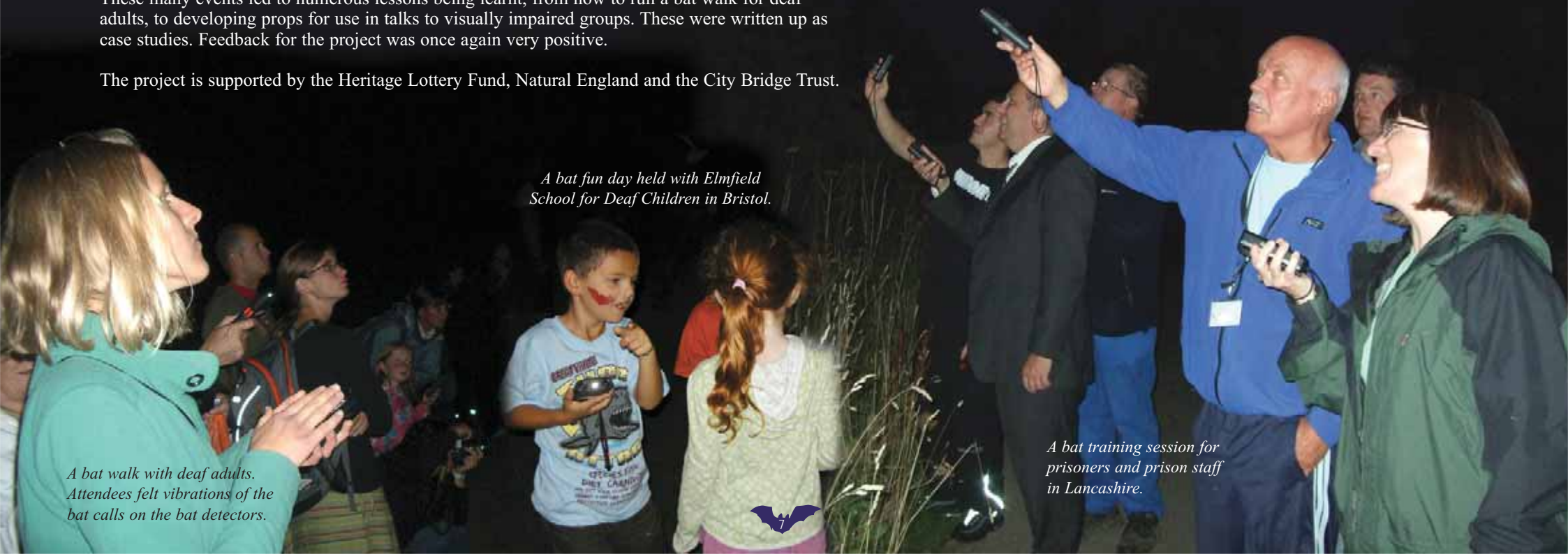
Local resident at fun day at Poplar Rd, Sparkhill, Birmingham

"The props were fantastic as even those with no sight were able to gain a lot from the afternoon and participate in a positive way."

Staff member, Forge Centre, Cinderford

"Both the staff and prisoners who attended the evening were still chatting about the bats the following day. I feel very strongly that the evening, and our connection with both the Bat Conservation Trust and the local Lancashire Bat Group, will serve as a great foundation on which to build our future plans"

HMP Kirkham staff member



A bat fun day held with Elmfield School for Deaf Children in Bristol.

A bat walk with deaf adults. Attendees felt vibrations of the bat calls on the bat detectors.

A bat training session for prisoners and prison staff in Lancashire.



Across the UK

Working with Bat Groups, supporting local conservation

2009-10 has seen exciting developments in the way that BCT works and communicates with Bat Groups around the UK.

At a meeting of UK bat group volunteers in September (the Autumn Bat Group Forum) attendees overwhelmingly agreed that BCT Affiliation should be superseded by new Partner and Network Agreements. These new agreements provide greater transparency in terms of expectations and provide clearly defined mechanisms for communication and feedback. Hence facilitating more effective working partnerships and building on the strong influence that BCT and bat groups have on UK bat conservation.

By March 2010, following meetings up and down the UK between bat groups and BCT staff, 33 groups had signed up to or expressed an interest in signing Partner Agreements; nine groups had signed up to or expressed an interest in signing Network Agreements; and one group had decided to opt out of any formal relationship. A decision will be sought from all groups by the end of 2010.

Building on the success of the annual Scottish Conference, BCT ran two conferences in the East of England and Midlands regions in 2010. In total, these one-day events were attended by just under 300 bat volunteers and enthusiasts. Both received an overwhelmingly positive response, with delegates greatly valuing these new opportunities to network and share knowledge at a regional level. Following their success, each designated region in England will have a conference every two years.



Lesser horseshoe



Monmouthshire Bat Group sharing their knowledge at the Monmouthshire Show.

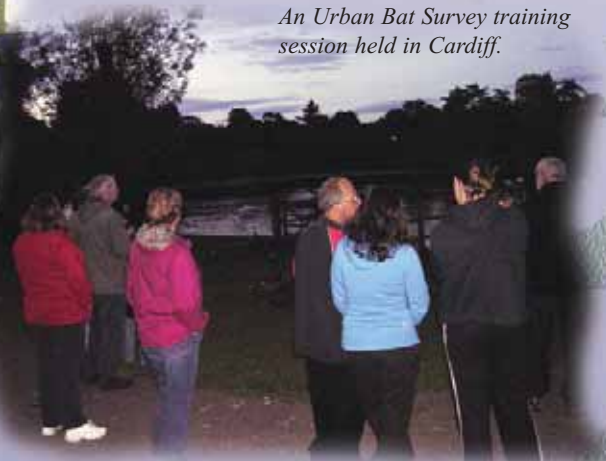
Welsh Bat Project

BCT's work in Wales goes from strength to strength. Last year a very successful Urban Bat Survey was run as part of the Count Bat project. Working with local bat groups and local biodiversity partnerships, the project attracted 228 volunteers from across Newport, Cardiff, Neath and Swansea, who surveyed 108 one kilometre squares and contributed 1,194 hours of time to the project.

The annual Wales Bat Workers' Day is now a significant event for bat workers and volunteers in the principality and we are increasingly getting more people who want to come to this than the venue can hold.

Over the last weekend in August, 36 volunteers met in Llandeilo for a heterodyne bat detector workshop at the National Trust's Dinefwr Park. They discovered the locations of several bat roosts that were previously unknown to the National Trust.

BCT took a stand to the Small Holders and Green Garden Show at Builth Wells – thanks goes to Brecknock, Radnorshire and Glamorgan Bat Groups for help in manning the stand – and to the Monmouthshire Show with the Monmouthshire Bat Group.



An Urban Bat Survey training session held in Cardiff.

Scottish Bat Project

The highlight of 2009-2010 was the Perth City Bat Project which involved around 40 volunteers in bat surveys, covered almost the entire city of Perth and generated around 600 hours of volunteer effort for bat conservation. Activities during the project ranged from making bat kites with children on European Bat Weekend to carrying out bat detector surveys throughout the city. The project resulted in a bat 'hotspots' map and recommendations for safeguarding and enhancing the bat habitat within the city.

Training for Wildlife Crime Enforcement Officers and Procurator Fiscals was provided by the Scottish Bat Officer (SBO) and BCT's Investigations Officer and provided a great opportunity for strengthening the link between BCT and the police.

Secondary school teachers on a training course to update and increase their science skills were treated to a bats and bat detectors training course developed by members of Fife Bat Group and the SBO. The training was so successful and enjoyable a repeat performance was requested at their next teacher training event.

The Scottish Bat Conference (held on Halloween) in Stirling brought together more than 120 bat workers from all over Scotland and even further afield. The conference provided opportunities for networking, updating knowledge and increasing practical skills. During

the day Dr Sue Swift was presented with the Pete Guest Award for her outstanding contribution to bat conservation. The day received great feedback with delegates enjoying talks and workshops and able to buy a special bat beer – *Dracula's Draught* – made by a local brewery.

One of the biggest threats to bats is people's lack of knowledge about them. The Scottish Bat Project embarked on a series of lunch time talks to local councils to combat bat misconceptions and lack of awareness. Audiences have included; planners, development control officers, road engineers and landscape architects. The talks aim to increase awareness and understanding of bats, the sorts of places they use and therefore the potential implications of a development (ultimately to get the audience thinking 'like a bat'). The talks have been very well received and will continue in 2010.



An education event at Glasgow Science Centre.



St Mary's Primary School pupils get stuck in... planting wildflower seeds, creating aromatic planters to attract insects to the school garden, and making bat boxes.



National Bat Monitoring Programme

Volunteering to provide sound science

Effective bat conservation requires a thorough knowledge of bat populations including population trends, species distribution and population dynamics. BCT has been running the National Bat Monitoring Programme (NBMP) since 1996 with partnership funding from the Joint Nature Conservation Committee (JNCC) since 2001. It is the longest running purpose-built multi-species monitoring programme for mammals in the UK and currently produces statistically robust population trends for 11 of the UK's 16 breeding bat species. Since the programme started, more than 2,200 volunteers have devoted many hours of their time to taking part in NBMP surveys.

Long-term trends

The latest results (based on data collected to 2008) show statistically significant positive trends for the lesser horseshoe bat (Hibernation Survey and Colony Count), Natterer's bat (Hibernation Survey) and common pipistrelle (Field Survey). A statistically

significant positive trend is also reported from the Colony Count for the greater horseshoe bat, and for the first time for whiskered / Brandt's bat (Hibernation Survey) and noctule (Field Survey). However, there is more uncertainty attached to these results and further years of monitoring will improve our understanding of these data. In 2007, the brown long-eared bat showed a significant increase for the first time (Colony Count) but this is no longer the case due to low counts in 2008. As in previous years, statistically significant negative trends were reported for both common and soprano pipistrelles from the Colony Count. Both of these results however should be treated with caution. Due to the mobility of pipistrelle colonies, the trends shown by the Field Survey are presently considered more robust. Surveys for other species showed no statistically significant changes.

How we use the NBMP results

A key use of NBMP trends is to help inform which bat species are included on the priority list of the UK Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) and to measure progress against targets set for species conservation. Seven bat species are currently identified as priorities in the UK BAP, which aims to maintain and increase these species' populations. In addition, since May 2008, NBMP data have enabled bats to be included in the UK Biodiversity Indicators which help to measure progress towards the Government's target of halting biodiversity loss by 2010. The majority of data from NBMP surveys sites is now available on the National Biodiversity Network (NBN) and records can be searched for and downloaded from its website. The aim of the NBN is to provide species and habitat data that will help individuals and organisations better understand and preserve the UK's biodiversity.



Volunteers carrying out the pilot NBMP Nathusius' pipistrelle survey.

New developments

New ways of delivering data on additional strategic species continue to be developed. For example, a new survey focusing on Nathusius' pipistrelle was piloted at lakes and lochs in the Autumn of 2009 and aims to improve our knowledge of the distribution of this species. The NBMP team is also working in several new partnerships analysing NBMP survey data to help identify the potential drivers of population changes. For example, BCT is part of the BICCO-Net project, a multi-taxa study that is investigating links between species populations and climate change.



Bechstein's Bat Project

The Bechstein's Bat Project is a four-year project that aims to map the UK distribution of the elusive Bechstein's bat. Selected woodlands in southern England and south Wales are being surveyed to gather more information about this species' known range, its habitat associations and to identify conservation hotspots.

In 2009, six local bat groups took part in the project; Cornwall, Devon, Dorset, Kent, Oxfordshire and Surrey. Between May and September, 93 target woodlands were surveyed in which 356 bats of 12 species were caught (and released). These included 13 Bechstein's bats (12 caught in Dorset and one in Kent) which add to the two individuals caught in Surrey during the 2008 survey. By combining the Bechstein's bat records for Dorset in 2009 with those previously held by the group an interesting distribution pattern is beginning to emerge which strongly suggests that Dorset is an important area for Bechstein's bats. According to bat group records the female recorded in Kent is the first confirmed summer record of a female in the county, giving it local importance.

The project methodology also offers an opportunity to collect data on other bat species present in the woodlands being surveyed. Species recorded include barbastelle, Brandt's bat, Leisler's bat and serotine. More than half of the woodlands targeted in this project had not previously been surveyed for bats. The project provides a great opportunity to increase our local bat knowledge and forge relationships between local landowners, bat groups and BCT.



Working it out....is it a whiskered or Brandt's?



A long-eared bat in a harp trap.



Welsh Agri-Environment Monitoring Project

In 2008, a consortium of wildlife NGOs was successful in winning a contract from the Welsh Assembly Government to investigate the impact of the Welsh higher level agri-environment scheme, Tir Gofal, on farmland biodiversity. The consortium comprises RSPB (project leaders), BCT, Butterfly Conservation, Plantlife and Wildlife Trusts Wales. The three-year project, funded by the Welsh Assembly Government, will monitor a range of target species on Welsh farms and address the question: does the Tir Gofal agri-environment scheme help maintain and enhance biodiversity?

BCT's selected study species are noctule, common and soprano pipistrelle, Daubenton's bat, and greater and lesser horseshoe bats. During the first field season in Summer 2009, surveys were carried out at 96 farms in south-west Wales and target species were detected on most farms. The project also aims to raise the overall number of NBMP Field and Waterway survey sites in Wales, to improve species distribution data in Wales, and to provide volunteering opportunities and skills development for people with an interest in bat conservation.



Monitoring bat populations

Global Monitoring: The iBats Program

The Indicator Bats Program (iBats), a partnership project between the Institute of Zoology and BCT, aims to develop national bat monitoring programmes globally in order to generate long-term data on biodiversity indicator species to assess the impact of national development and global change.

The 1st International Indicator Bats Global Monitoring Workshop was held in Romania in May 2009 and new volunteers were trained in the iBats monitoring method. During the following field season volunteers collected data from 192 driven transects throughout the region covering 20,740km and involving over 220 local people. In October 2009 Charlotte Walters started a PhD (Natural Environment Research Council funded) on habitat and climate associations of European bats using the data generated by the iBats survey. The development of an application for the iPhone to simplify the existing equipment began in late 2009 in collaboration with Dr. George Roussos at Birkbeck, University of London, funded by the Leverhulme Trust. BCT's 'Bats & Roadside Mammals Survey' (now iBatsUK), has now been fully integrated into the iBats Program. Fifteen bat groups were involved in the project in 2009 and 55 transects were surveyed. The habitat data for bat records generated by the iBatsUK/ Bats & Roadside Mammals Survey is now being extracted and analysed allowing the partnership to determine which roadside habitats are important for bats.

Bechstein's bat surveyors in Dorset.



Bats and the Built Environment

Ensuring bats and people can live together

A significant focus of BCT's Bats and the Built Environment Project in 2009 was to identify future developments where bats could be given full consideration from the outset, and ensure that these developments become flagships and set the standard for other developments to follow, with bats acting as indicators of biodiversity. It is intended that this project will help pave the way to a built environment where bats and people live in harmony.

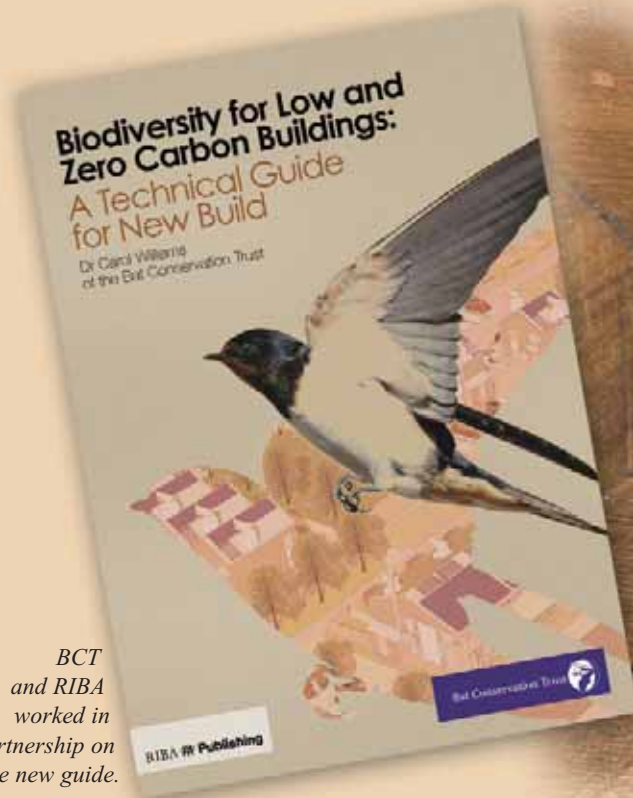
All low and zero-carbon build will have no capacity for bats (and other wildlife such as swifts) to enter roof spaces. In more traditional designs that use a breathable membrane, some potential for crevice

dwelling bat species will remain and with the fairly common use of weather boarding/wood cladding, again some crevice dwellers (particularly pipistrelle, Brandt's and whiskered bats) will find potential roosts. However, unless positive, proactive steps are taken, there is concern that future housing stock will hold no potential for bat roosts for several species.

Dr Carol Williams, Bats and the Built Environment Officer for BCT, worked in partnership with the Royal Institute of British Architects (RIBA) to publish *Biodiversity for Low and Zero Carbon Buildings: A Technical Guide for New Build* which brings together much-needed model designs and practical guidance for incorporating provision for biodiversity in new build as well as a useful summary of all the legislation and regulations relating to biodiversity and sustainable construction in the UK.

"We have a bat roost in our barge boards on the outside of the house and we are planning an extension. I thought that it was going to be really difficult but the help and advice we have received on plans and timings has been brilliant. And in all of this I feel I've started to understand and truly appreciate these wild creatures."

Anne W, Cheshire



BCT and RIBA worked in partnership on the new guide.

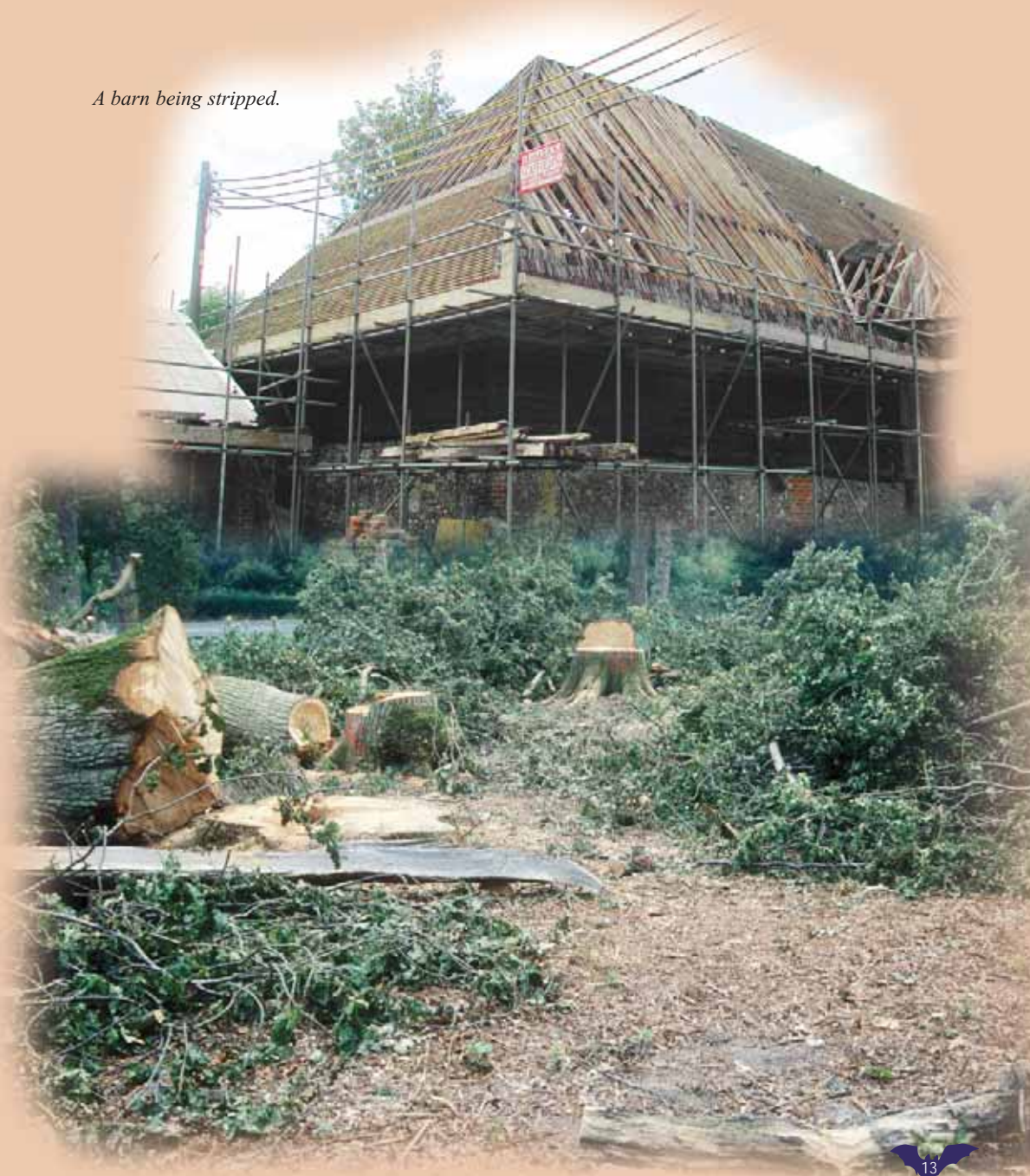


Buildings can provide much-needed homes for brown long eared bats.

Combating bat crime

Securing and enhancing bat populations

A barn being stripped.



Supporting the police and the public to prevent, report and convict

The Investigations Project aims to prevent and investigate bat-related crime, working closely with the police, the National Wildlife Crime Unit, the statutory nature conservation organisations, bat groups, bat workers and the public. In 2009-2010 BCT investigated 124 suspected bat crimes, four of which are currently in the process of going to court. Our Investigations Officer provided support, expert evidence and advice that led to the successful prosecution of three different cases.

In May 2009 Loughborough Magistrates Court ruled that developer John Maltby be fined £1,500 for the destruction of a roost of common pipistrelles. Maltby destroyed the roost, in a bungalow on land he wished to sell for development in Quorn, by removing boards between an initial bat survey on 5th Sept 2007, when the roost was identified, and 4th Sept 2008 when a further survey was undertaken.

September 2009 bore further positive results in the courts. The first case saw Mr Ayob Bhailok, a solicitor from Preston in Lancashire, found guilty in Prestatyn Magistrates Court, North Wales, of two charges of destruction of bat roosts. He was given a six month conditional discharge and ordered to pay £2,000 costs. The verdict was delivered at the end of the two-day trial

but was the culmination of a complex investigation carried out by North Wales Police, and in particular by wildlife crime officer Sgt Rob Taylor. Our Investigations Officer provided support to Sgt Taylor and acted as an expert witness to help explain to the court the impact these crimes had on bat populations.

The following week saw two companies prosecuted by Essex Police. Hills Construction and North East Demolition were found guilty at Colchester Magistrates Court of destruction of a bat roost and fined £2,000 and £1,500 respectively. A small barn was identified as having a brown long-eared bat roost in it during a bat survey of 2006, and the report from the survey recommended that a licence would be required. The surveyor then noticed in 2008 that the barn had been demolished, and after further checks, found that no licence had been obtained. He reported it to Essex Police who investigated and charged the two companies; the first company were developing the barn whilst the second carried out the actual demolition.

Like the majority of bat crimes these incidents took place at the roost. Similarly two thirds are the result of building development and maintenance. The fact that more bat crime cases are going to prosecution and fines are increasing shows that bat crime is starting to be taken seriously by the courts. However there is still a long way to go before the decisions being issued in court are an effective deterrent and further work is needed to ensure compliance and good practice is being followed.

Principal professional advisors

Bankers The Co-operative Bank plc
Kings Valley, Yew Street, Stockport SK4 2JU

Insurance brokers
Rickard Lazenby, Towergate House
Chaucer Business Park, Thanet Way
Whitstable, Kent CT5 3FE

Solicitors Aaron & Partners LLP, Grosvenor Court
Foregate Street, Chester CH1 1HG

Auditors Sayer Vincent, Chartered accountants and registered
auditors, 8 Angel Gate, City Road, London EC1V 2SJ

The organisation is a charitable company limited by guarantee, incorporated on 7 May 1992 and registered as a charity on 29 June 1992. The company was established under a memorandum of association which established the objects and powers of the charitable company and is governed under its articles of association. Sayer Vincent were re-appointed as the charitable company's auditors during the year and have expressed their willingness to continue in that capacity.

Registered charity England and Wales:1012361. Scotland:SC040116
Registered company number: 271 2823
Registered office: 15 Cloisters House,
8 Battersea Park Road, London, SW8 4BG

Trustees

The Trustees who served during the year and up to the date of this are shown below.

Ian Dunbar, *Chairman*
Dr. Kate Jones, *Vice Chair*
Michael Ford, *Secretary*
Gail Armstrong, *Treasurer*
Richard Crompton
Sarah Escott (from Sept 2009)
Annmarie Hanlon (from Sept 2009)
Professor Gareth Jones
Steve Parker (from Sept 2009)
Nick Tomlinson

The Chairman, Vice Chair, Secretary and Treasurer also act as directors for the purposes of company law.

The Trustees are elected at an Annual General Meeting (AGM) and serve for three years. Trustees are eligible for reselection at the end of their first and second term of three years. The Trustees may co-opt any Member eligible for election to fill a vacancy until the next AGM. The Trustees regularly audit their collective skills, competencies and experience against those required to fulfil their responsibilities and proactively recruit new Trustees to fill gaps. In seeking to recruit new Trustees an appeal is first sent to the BCT membership asking for nominations for Trustees, up to 4 Trustees can be nominated by the local bat groups. Wider appeals for Trustees targeting individuals who have expressed an interest in becoming Trustees of charities have also been used in recruitment. All proposed Trustees are put to the BCT membership prior to any

appointment. On appointment bespoke training is given according to the needs of the Trustee and both new and existing Trustees have the opportunity to take part in a staff and Trustee day.

The Trustees are members of the charity but this entitles them only to voting rights and any benefits received by the Trustees are incidental. As members of the charity they undertake to contribute an amount not exceeding £1 to the assets of the charity in the event of winding up. The total number of such undertakings at 31st March 2010 was 10 (2009:12).

Expenses reimbursed to Trustees relate to travel and subsistence costs relating to both attendance at Trustees' meetings and other operational work carried out in furtherance of the Trust's objectives. One Trustee (2009: two Trustees) received fees totalling £2,700 (2009: £2,696) during the year for lecturing at biodiversity courses and workshops.

President Chris Packham
Vice Presidents Professor Paul Racey, John Burton
and Dr. Robert Stebbings
Patron David Gower OBE

Treasurer's report

I am pleased to report that this year we have continued to expand the delivery of bat conservation. Our resources expended have increased by nearly 5% to £1,364,851; this includes an increase in research work delivered this year. Our annual revenue for 2009/10 is £1,804,891, and a substantial part of this is due to the generosity of Vincent Weir who donated £150,000 to an endowment this year, and in previous years donated to a fund which was transferred to us at a value of £215,121 by way of a uniting direction.

Investment policy

The trustees invest these endowments in a range of low and medium risk funds that are described as 'Ethical' or 'Green' and the aim is for them to provide additional income to support our core costs, a crucial and on-going requirement. This should provide a more secure long-term future and help to reduce the high risks associated with our heavy reliance on project funding.

Reserves policy

In addition, we have been able to build our reserves to a level which will provide start up funding for new strategic work. Funds at the end of the financial year stand at £1,269,099 of which £526,267 are endowment funds and £160,106 are restricted to projects we will deliver in the future. This leaves unrestricted funds of £582,726 of which £78,745 has been designated to maintain work in the next financial year (*see notes to the accounts for further details*), leaving £504,251 as unrestricted, unallocated funds.

We adopt a risk-based approach for our reserves policy in order to define the amount we need to enable us to sustain our operations. Based on the budget set for 2010/11 the total set by this approach is £460,000 to cover four to six months costs. At the year end we estimate that £100,300 in total would be covered by returns on the endowment, and from restricted and designated funds. This leaves a

further £144,551 of unrestricted, unallocated funds available as a further contingency and to fund new strategic work.

I would like to thank all bat groups, BCT staff, members and trustees for their support and continued hard work on behalf of bat conservation.



Gail Armstrong, Treasurer

Statement of responsibilities of the Trustees

The Trustees are required to prepare financial statements for each financial year, which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charitable company and of its incoming resources and application of resources, including the net income or expenditure, for the period. In preparing those financial statements the Trustees are required to:

1. select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
2. make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
3. state whether applicable accounting standards and statements of recommended practice have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements; and
4. prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in operation.

The Trustees are responsible for keeping adequate accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and which enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006. The Trustees are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

Each of the Trustees confirms that to the best of his/her knowledge there is no information relevant to the audit of which the auditors are unaware. The Trustees also confirm that they have taken all necessary steps to ensure that they themselves are aware of all relevant audit information and that this information has been communicated to the auditors.

Risk management

The Trustees have reviewed the major risks which the charity faces. They review these risks at least annually. The Trustees implement improvements to systems of internal control in order to mitigate other operational and business risks as and when identified. The Trustees cannot foresee detriment or harm being caused as a result of BCT's activities, however the Bat Helpline is a free service to the public set up to manage any concerns or views on bats, bat conservation and BCT.

Summarised financial statements & auditors report

Statement of Financial Activities *(incorporating an income and expenditure account)*

For the year ended 31 March 2010

	Endowment	Restricted	Unrestricted	2010 Total	2009 Total
	£	£	£	£	£
Incoming resources					
<i>Incoming resources from generated funds</i>					
Voluntary income	150,000	86,958	248,075	485,033	421,262
Funds transferred from the Vincent Wildlife Trust	215,121			215,121	-
Investment income	-	-	19,225	19,225	31,095
<i>Incoming resources from charitable activities:</i>					
Annual conference income	-	-	61,996	61,996	58,319
Training courses and meetings	-	-	112,285	112,285	147,015
Research contracts	-	-	149,581	149,581	43,579
Projects	-	470,021	100,000	570,021	676,947
Other activities	-	-	191,719	191,719	156,115
Total incoming resources	365,121	556,979	882,881	1,804,981	1,534,332
Resources expended					
<i>Costs of generating funds:</i>					
Membership support	-	-	55,143	55,143	48,990
Costs of generating voluntary income	-	-	28,479	28,479	30,043
	-	-	83,622	83,622	79,033
<i>Charitable activities</i>					
Grants payable	-	1,000	911	1,911	4,269
Annual conference	-	-	62,346	62,346	58,199
Biodiversity training courses	-	-	106,461	106,461	132,829
Research contract costs	-	-	132,424	132,424	34,533
Project costs	-	591,953	374,791	966,744	987,877
<i>Governance</i>	-	6,378	4,965	11,343	8,235
Total resources expended	-	599,331	765,520	1,364,851	1,304,975
Net incoming/(outgoing) resources before transfers between funds	365,121	(42,352)	117,361	440,130	229,357
Transfers between funds	-	55,506	(55,506)	-	-
Net income for the year	365,121	13,154	61,855	440,130	229,357
Unrealised gains on investments	11,146	-	-	11,146	-
Net movement in funds	376,267	13,154	61,855	451,276	229,357
Reconciliation of funds					
Funds at the start of the year	150,000	146,952	520,871	817,823	588,466
Funds at the end of the year	526,267	160,106	582,726	1,269,099	817,823

All of the above results are derived from continuing activities. There were no other recognised gains or losses other than those stated above.

Balance sheet – 31 March 2010

	2010	2009
£	£	£
Fixed assets		
Tangible fixed assets	33,856	16,182
Investments	383,975	-
	417,831	16,182
Current assets		
Debtors	360,679	261,207
Short term deposit	330,958	391,525
Cash at bank and in hand	<u>391,980</u>	<u>317,567</u>
	1,083,617	970,299
Creditors: amounts due within 1 year	(232,349)	(168,658)
Net current assets	851,268	801,641
Net assets	1,269,099	817,823
Reserves		
Endowment funds	526,267	150,000
Restricted funds	<u>160,106</u>	<u>146,952</u>
Unrestricted funds		
Designated funds	78,475	107,782
General funds	504,251	413,089
	582,726	520,871
Total funds	1,269,099	817,823

The summary financial statement contains information from the statement of financial activities and the balance sheet for the year ended 31 March 2010, but is not the full statutory report and accounts. The full financial statements were approved by the Trustees on 8 July 2010 and subsequently submitted to the Charity Commission and to Companies House.

The auditor has issued an unqualified report on the full financial statements and on the consistency of the Trustees' annual report with those financial statements.

Their report on the full annual financial statements contained no statement under sections 498 (2) (a), 498 (2) (b) or 498 (3) of the Companies Act 2006.

Copies of the full annual accounts including the Trustees' Annual Report may be obtained from the charity's head office.

Ian K. Dunbar

Signed on behalf of the Trustees
Ian Dunbar, Chairman 8 July 2010

Independent auditors' statement to the Trustees of the Bat Conservation Trust.

We have examined the summary financial statement for the year ended 31 March 2010, which comprises the statement of financial activities and the Balance Sheet.

Respective responsibilities of Trustees and auditors.

The Trustees are responsible for preparing the summary financial statement in accordance with applicable United Kingdom law and the recommendations of the charities SORP.

Our responsibility is to report to you our opinion on the consistency of the summary financial statement within the Annual Review and with the full annual financial statements and the Trustees' Annual Report, and its compliance with the relevant requirements of section 427 of the Companies Act 2006 and the regulations made thereunder.

We also read the other information contained in the Annual Review and consider the implications for our report if we become aware of any apparent misstatements or material inconsistencies with the summary financial statement. The other information comprises only illustrations and captions

Basis of opinion.

We conducted our work in accordance with Bulletin 2008/3 issued by the Auditing Practices Board. Our report on the charity's full annual financial statements describes the basis of our opinion on those financial statements and on the Trustees' Annual Report.

Opinion.

In our opinion the summary financial statement is consistent with the full annual financial statements and the Trustees' Annual Report of the Bat Conservation Trust for the year ended 31 March 2010 and complies with the applicable requirements of section 427 of the Companies Act 2006, and the regulations made thereunder.

Sayer Vincent

Chartered Accountants
and Registered Auditors
8 July 2010

Registered Charity number
England and Wales: 1012361
Scotland: SC040116

Thank you

We would like to take this opportunity to thank all those who have donated money during the past year. In particular we would like to mention the following:

Charitable Trusts, Statutory Bodies and Other Organisations

A S Butler Charitable Trust
Animal Defence Trust
Alana Ecology
The Barbara Whatmore Charitable Trust
Cecil Pilkington Trust
City Bridge Trust
Countryside Council for Wales
The David Webster Charitable Trust
Defra
Department of Health
Environment Agency
Environment Agency Wales
Environment Wales with funding from the Welsh Assembly Government
Esmée Fairburn Foundation
Ernest Kleinwort Charitable Trust
Forestry Commission UK
Forestry Commission England
Gerefa Charitable Trust
H B Allen Charitable Trust
Heritage Lottery Fund
The Jack Patston Charitable Trust
Joint Nature Conservation Committee
Leggett Charitable Trust
Natural England
Peoples Trust for Endangered Species
Pillar Charitable Trust
The Rufford Maurice Laing Foundation
The Roger & Sarah Bancroft Clark Charitable Trust
Scottish Natural Heritage
SITA Tayside Biodiversity Action Fund/Perth and Kinross Quality of Life Trust

Seven Pillars Of Wisdom Trust
The Tolkien Trust
Walker 597 Trust
Waste Recycling Environmental Ltd
Welsh Assembly Government
Veterinary Laboratory Association
Yorkshire Building Society
Charitable Trust
Zoological Society of London

Sponsorship and Donations (of £100 or more)

Mrs Mary Alder
Beachy Head Ramblers
Mrs Penelope Bennett
Mrs S Brandes
Ms Cheryl Brown
Mr Chris Bye
Mrs Carmen S Chaplin
Cheddar Caves and Gorge
Mr J Childs
Mr A Codling
Mr CPR Corney
Miss CH Cruft
Rev Michael Donaghy
Miss Carina Eriksson
Dr Clem Fisher
Ms Lucy Foster
Dr J Gerrard
Gothic Craft
Gravesham & District Scout Association
Handle With Care
Mrs Joan M Harvey
Ms Helen Hodgart
Ms Angela Humphery
INEOS, in particular Mr Chris Gould
Mr D Jackson
Dr Joan Lamb
Mr Steve Langton
Mr Jack Mann
Mrs JD Martyn
Ms Angela Mason
Mr Julian Milner
Mrs EF Nash

New Covent Garden Food Co
NHBS Ltd
Mr Martin J Noble
Mr Philip Perry
Ms Jo Robinson
Miss Elaine Rowley
Dr Stuart Smith
Dr John Speakman
St Peter and St Etheldreda Trust
ThermoEcology Ltd
Ms Hannah Thompson
Mrs Ruth Tuke
Mr William Tyrrell
Mr Jonathan Valters
Mrs Lynn Victor
Mrs Rosemary Warburg
Mr Colin Watkin
Mrs Mary Watson
Mr Vincent Weir
Mr David Wells
Mrs J Westgate
Whitby Gothic Weekend, with notable mentions to Thelma Dixon, Paul Stocks and Jo Hampshire.
Whole Foods Market, Kensington

Corporate Members

(as of 31st March 2010)

Absolute Ecology
Andrew McCarthy Associates
Baker Shepherd Gillespie
Betts Ecology
Cadw
Cheddar Caves and Gorge
Complete Ground Management Ltd
David Dodds Ecology
EMEC Ecology
Ecology Matters
ECOSA Ltd
English Heritage
Environmental Dimension Partnership
The Jungle Zoo
Marquis & Lord Ltd
MKA Ecology Ltd
National Insulation Association

NDR Environmental Services Ltd
OHES Environmental Consultancy
Tamworth Property Services
The Wildlife Survey Unit

Donations from Bat Groups (of £100 or more)

Ayrshire Bat Group
Berkshire & South Bucks Bat Group
Dorset Bat Group
Durham Bat Group
Essex Bat Group
Fife & Kinross Bat Group
Kent Bat Group
North Ceredigion
Perth Bat Group
South Lancashire Bat Group
Surrey Bat Group
Westmorland & Furness Bat Group

BCT would also like to thank its dedicated members, without whom none of this work would be possible. Just as valuable to us are the people and organisations who have donated their time or resources to BCT. As we do not have space to name them all individually, we would like to thank them all for their greatly valued support.

Photographers: BCT would also like to thank all the photographers who so kindly donated their photographs during the year. Photographs in this Annual Review are courtesy of: Hugh Clark, L Mapstone, Claire Wickham, Dorset Bat Group, Shirley Thompson, Nick Tomlinson and Janice Whittington.

Bat Helpline:
0845 1300228
www.bats.org.uk



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