

Bat Conservation Trust



BCT Quarterly Report July - September 2010

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:

Objective	Projects/Areas of activity	Page
DISCOVER		
1. To establish the capacity of the landscape to support viable populations of bats		
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Surveys, monitoring and research

NBMP

Annual Report 2009

In September the NBMP Annual Report for 2009 was completed and published on the BCT website, following a briefing to Defra on the key results as follows:

The data on distribution and abundance of 11 of the UK's 17 resident bat species are collected by a network of over 1,000 volunteers. Bats are counted whilst they are foraging (Field Survey and Waterways Survey), emerging from roost sites (Colony Counts) and while hibernating (Hibernation Survey). The NBMP is important, not only as provider of bat population trends and status, but also as it delivers information that enables the UK to meet its obligations under the Habitats Directive and that contributes to UK BAP reporting and implementation and to UK and country biodiversity strategies and indicators. The data are also used to support various research initiatives and partnerships to help us better understand bat populations in the wider landscape and to start to understand factors that may be affecting populations.

- The UK populations of the 11 species of bat surveyed appear to be either stable or increasing. However, these results reflect changes in bat populations only from 1997 onwards and should also be viewed in an historical context. It is likely that prior to the start of the NBMP, in the second half of the twentieth century, there were significant declines in bat populations.
- In 2009, seven species showed statistically significant increases in at least one survey.
- Lesser horseshoe bat (a UK BAP species) continues to show a significant positive trend at both summer roosts and hibernation sites. Greater horseshoe bat (a UK BAP species) is also showing an increase at summer roosts, although this result should be treated with some caution (due to historical inconsistencies in methods). Natterer's bat is showing a consistent increase at hibernation sites, and whiskered/Brandt's bat also showed a positive trend for the second year running from the Hibernation Survey. The trend for this species group should be treated with caution as it includes data from more than one species which may be affected by different factors and may not be a reliable reflection of actual changes in populations (this group may now also include the very recently discovered Alcaho bat).
- Common pipistrelle continues to show a significant increase from the Field Survey data, which appears to contradict a decrease seen in the Colony counts. The Field survey is considered to provide more reliable data however, due to the mobile nature of pipistrelle breeding colonies which may affect colony count trends. Finally, the noctule (a UK BAP species) has also shown a significant positive trend for the second year running, although the short period over which this increase has been seen means that this result needs to be treated with caution until it becomes clearer whether it is a sustained trend or a short term fluctuation.
- The remaining four species monitored by the core programme: Daubenton's bat, serotine, soprano pipistrelle (a UK BAP species) and brown long-eared bat (a UK BAP species) are currently considered to be stable, although further years of monitoring are required to better understand some of the fluctuations and discrepancies in the trends for these species.

Survey Organisation

The table below shows the number of sites from which we have received completed survey forms as of 30th September 2010. The total number of sites surveyed for 2009 is also shown for comparison. The aim is to at least equal the 2009 figures by the time work begins on analysing the data which is due to commence in November. It is encouraging that high numbers of survey forms have been received so soon after the end of the summer survey season. In October volunteers who have not yet returned their survey forms will be sent reminders. The process has begun of inputting the 2010 data onto the NBMP database. When all received survey data have been inputted, volunteers who returned data will be sent thank you

emails or letters with a link to online maps showing this year's survey coverage and where species were recorded.

Survey	2010	2009
Pipistrelle Colony Count	365	489
Serotine Colony Count	31	45
Brown long-eared Colony Count	49	90
Natterer's Colony Count	28	45
Lesser horseshoe Colony Count	44	64
Greater horseshoe Colony Count	6	23
Field Survey	149	264
Waterway Survey	205	403
Sunset/Sunrise Survey	66	99
Woodland Survey	16	20
Nathusius' pipistrelle Survey	13	82

Note: 2010 shows number of survey forms received for each survey as of 30th September, compared with total survey forms received to date from the 2009 summer survey season.

Woodland Survey

Additional work has been undertaken as part of the Woodland Survey (a broadband bat detector transect survey) between July and September 2010 to monitor for the presence of barbastelles at sites designated as Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) for this species. Additional volunteers were recruited to design and survey extra transects at SAC to gather more bat detector data from these sites. Frequency division bat detectors and digital recorders were purchased and loaned to volunteers to assist them in completing the extra survey work. The table below summarises the transects surveyed at SAC sites in 2010. The survey periods are as follows:

- Period 1 - 25th July to 8th August
- Period 2 - 9th to 23rd August
- Period 3 - 24th August to 7th September

County	Woodland	Site Name	Survey period
Isle of Wight	Briddlesford Copse	Briddlesford Copse	1
Isle of Wight	Briddlesford Copse	Briddlesford Copse	2
Isle of Wight	Briddlesford Copse	Briddlesford Copse	3
Isle of Wight	Briddlesford Copse	Briddlesford-Bridleway	1
Isle of Wight	Briddlesford Copse	Briddlesford-Bridleway	2
Isle of Wight	Briddlesford Copse	Briddlesford-Bridleway	3
West Sussex	Ebernoe Common	Ebernoe Common transect 1	2
West Sussex	Ebernoe Common	Ebernoe Common transect 1	3
West Sussex	Ebernoe Common	Ebernoe Common transect 2	2
West Sussex	Ebernoe Common	Ebernoe Common transect 2	3
Hampshire	Mottisfont	Mottisfont transect 1	1
Hampshire	Mottisfont	Mottisfont transect 1	2
Hampshire	Mottisfont	Mottisfont transect 1	3
Hampshire	Mottisfont	Mottisfont transect 2	1
Hampshire	Mottisfont	Mottisfont transect 3	3
Hampshire	Mottisfont	Mottisfont transect 4	3
Pembrokeshire	Pengelli	Pengelli transect 1	2
Pembrokeshire	Pengelli	Pengelli transect 2	1
Somerset	Quantocks	Hodder's Combe and Somerton Combe	1
Somerset	Quantocks	Hodder's Combe and Somerton Combe	2
Somerset	Quantocks	Hodder's Combe and Somerton Combe	3
Somerset	Quantocks	Holford Combe	1
Somerset	Quantocks	Holford Combe	2
Somerset	Quantocks	Holford Combe	3
West Sussex	The Mens	The Mens transect 1	3
West Sussex	The Mens	The Mens transect 2	3
Cambs	Wimpole & Eversden	Eversden	1
Cambs	Wimpole & Eversden	Wimpole	1
Cambs	Wimpole & Eversden	Eversden	2
Cambs	Wimpole & Eversden	Wimpole	2

Nathusius' pipistrelle survey

This survey was run again in September 2010 following a very successful pilot in 2009. The key aim of the survey is to improve our knowledge of the distribution of Nathusius' pipistrelle across the UK during its autumn migration. It is focused around lakes/lochs as this species appears to have a strong association with such habitats. In future we will also aim to gather sufficient data to look for evidence of changes in the levels of activity being recorded of this species across the UK. The survey uses broadband detectors which will also enable us to collect and examine data on other species at lakes/lochs.

In 2009 Nathusius' pipistrelle records were submitted from 24 of the 82 sites surveyed (29%). This figure includes unverified heterodyne records as well as broadband detector records that were able to be verified. Nathusius' pipistrelle presence was verified through sound analysis at 14 sites (17%). Equipment was available for loan to volunteers for the 2010 survey to enable verified records to be collected from a higher proportion of sites. In 2010, 28 volunteers opted to revisit the sites they surveyed in 2009 while 88 volunteers were allocated new sites which will improve the coverage of this survey.

Volunteer recruitment and support

91 new volunteers were recruited from July to September 2010. This brings the total number of active volunteers to 2145. A breakdown of recruitment sources is shown below. The online sign-up form on the BCT website continues to be one of the best sources of new volunteers but during this period it was equalled by promotion of the NBMP by local bat groups. The second year of the Nathusius' pipistrelle

survey brought in nine volunteers who were new to the NBMP and signed up to take part in this survey in September. Workshops are also proving quite successful in bringing in new volunteers and the figure given below is likely to be an underestimate given that workshop attendees often sign up via the BCT website after the event rather than completing a sign-up form actually during the event.

BCT website	23
Local bat group	23
Nathusius' pip survey	9
NBMP Workshop	7
Data in	6
Unknown	4
Bat Walk	3
Other NBMP volunteer (WoM)	3
BCT Member	2
Misc article	2
NBMP Sign-up form	2
Public event	2
Bat Group talk (Bat Group Officer)	1
BCT Leaflet (misc)	1
Count Bat	1
New Roost Owner	1

NBMP training workshops/talks

Development of new training resources continued in this period. KB updated the resources for the Waterways Survey Mini workshop which was delivered in York in July. KB also developed a new Introduction to NBMP survey mini workshop for Count Bat which was piloted by Philip Briggs in August and Diana Hagues in September.

Two workshops on sound analysis (an introductory and an advanced workshop) were also developed and delivered at the National BCT conference in Loughborough in September.

Development of a sound analysis workshop for the Woodland Survey (focusing on barbastelles) is underway and will be completed and trialled before the end of 2010 as part of the NE barbastelle monitoring contract.

Date	Location	Workshop delivered	Trainer
3 rd July	Edinburgh	Using Your Ears	Natalie Taylor
17 th July	York University	Waterways Mini workshop	Kate Barlow
27 th July	Dundreggan	Using Your Ears	Anne Youngman
6 th August	Mendips	Using Your Ears	Edward Wells
21 st August	Somerset	Using Your Ears	Edward Wells
22 nd August	Somerset	Using Your Ears	Edward Wells
25 th August	Hampstead Heath	Introduction to NBMP Surveys (NEW)	Philip Briggs
11 th Sept	Loughborough University	Introduction to Sound Analysis	Kate Barlow and Philip Briggs
12 th Sept	Loughborough University	Advanced Sound Analysis	Kate Barlow and Dean Waters
15 th Sept	Wakefield	Introduction to NBMP Surveys (NEW)	Diana Hagues
24 th Sept	Orkney	Using Your Ears	Anne Youngman

Meetings and events

29th July – PB attended an Anabat training course in Gloucestershire

In July KH and KB met with JNCC to discuss the workplan for the new NBMP contract period from April 2010 to April 2014. Key items discussed included:

- development of a new NBMP database. JNCC will assist in developing a plan for this based on their Indicia database system. An initial meeting has been arranged for October with JNCC to discuss the database requirements;
- improving reporting on the results of the NBMP;
- NBMP data are now included in the Government's Official Statistics under the Statistics and Registration Service Act 2007. This has implications for reporting (format and timing) and associated press releases, as a briefing must be provided to Defra in advance of publication of results from the NBMP each year.
- development of programme in relation to survey and species coverage including engaging with volunteers and filling gaps in survey coverage; and
- how to provide information required by stakeholders.

Preparations are underway for a meeting to be held with JNCC on 20th October to discuss strategy for re-development of the NBMP database. This meeting will include an IT specialist from JNCC who will then spend a week of time (set aside by JNCC for NBMP database re-development support work) to put together a proposal for the re-development strategy and plans for the new database using the Indicia system. We understand this will be completed by end of 2010. KB and PB have prepared a specification of requirements for the new database in preparation for the meeting.

KH met with Richard Harrington, Chris Shortall and Jason Chapman at Rothamsted Research on 4th August. The discussion focused on exchanging information about our respective surveys and data holdings and potential opportunities for future collaboration.

KH met with Dutch Mammal Society (Jasja Dekker, Herman Limpens) and Statistics Netherlands (Arco van Strien, Tom van der Meij) between 11th and 12th August. Meetings focused on how to take forward the development of a pan European index project and recent technical statistical developments that might shape such a project, work on EUROBATS guidance and BatLife Europe. The possibility of a joint staff training workshop for DMS/BCT monitoring teams was discussed for potential actioning in late 2011.

KH and KB attended the 15th International Bat Research Conference in Prague from 23-27th August. Contributions to the conference were as follows:

- Karen Haysom. Bat monitoring and the development of multi-species indicators (Talk).
- Karen Haysom *et al.* Conserving bats in partnership: the birth of BatLife Europe (Poster).
- Helen Miller, David Hill & Frank Greenaway. The Bechstein's bat survey project: mapping the UK distribution of this rare species (Poster).

KH, KB, PB and JR all attended the National Bat conference in Loughborough, 10th to 12th September. Results of the NBMP to 2009 were displayed at the conference based on the 2009 NBMP Annual Report.

KH attended a BICCO-Net partner meeting at the Centre for Ecology and Hydrology at Wallingford on 14th September. Preliminary results and a publication plan were discussed.

KH visited Petr Vorisek at the Czech Ornithological Society in Prague to discuss his experience coordinating pan-European bird monitoring on 20th September.

Indicators

England Biodiversity Indicator

BCT have been commissioned to develop a bat indicator for the England Biodiversity indicators suite. The new indicator will form part of the revised streamlined set of indicators, and will use the same methodology as the UK indicator on populations of widespread bats. The England Biodiversity indicators will be published in November 2010.

Bechstein's Bat Survey Project

Surveys

Teams from North Buckinghamshire, Gloucestershire, Somerset and Worcestershire Bat Groups surveyed their respective counties between May and mid September. These groups will complete their surveys in the early part of the 2011 season.

In addition, teams from Devon, Dorset and Kent were asked to complete the surveying of their counties (which began in 2009) in May and June. However, poor weather conditions affected survey effort in the early part of the season; as a result, these groups were given an extension, and continued surveying until late July instead.

Bechstein's records

In total the project has now caught 48 Bechstein's bats - 24 females and 24 males at 32 sites. This includes 31 bats caught between May and September this year - 20 females and 11 males (at 18 sites in total).

A break down of 2010's Bechstein's bat captures by county can be seen in the table below.

County	Female Mb	Male Mb	No. of sites	Total Mb
Buckinghamshire	6	3	3	9
Dorset	2	2	3	4
Gloucestershire	0	2	2	2
Kent	0	1	1	1
Somerset	7	1	5	8
Worcestershire	5	2	4	7

Prior to the project, no records of breeding Bechstein's bat roosts existed in either Buckinghamshire or Worcestershire. The female Bechstein's bats caught in these counties for the project are therefore highly significant in increasing our knowledge of the distribution range of this species.

Publicity

A poster describing the first two survey years of the project was displayed at the International Bat Research Conference in Prague in August and at the National Bat Conference at Loughborough University in September.

Bechstein's bat captures in Worcestershire and Gloucestershire were reported in local newspapers and online. Articles about the project have also appeared in The Woodland Trust's membership magazine Broadleaf and the Somerset Life Magazine.

Indicator Bats Program (iBats)

To date the data from 65 monitoring routes in Bulgaria, 63 in Hungary, 77 in Romania, 57 in Russia and 53 in Ukraine have been uploaded to the iBats website. Some data has still to be uploaded. Sonographic analysis of the recorded sound files has begun.

We have identified a spectrum analysis software package, Sonobat, to isolate bat calls from long recordings and automatically extract call parameters. Charlotte Waters (PhD, University of Kent & ZSL) is building a neural automatic identification network for European calls with Dr. Stuart Parsons (University of Auckland) using the 72 call parameters she has measured from 17, 639 echolocation calls from the 38 European species in EchoBank and will travel to the University of Auckland in October 2010 to spend time in Dr Parsons lab.

The development of an application for the iPhone in collaboration with Dr. George Roussos at Birkbeck (University of London) has been completed. The application allows an iPhone 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. In addition, in collaboration with Dr Roussos a similar application for Google's Android operating system has been developed by an MSc student, George Sin. Both applications have now been tested and will be formally released when the new web site has been completed in January 2011.

MSM have been contracted to carry out a major overhaul of the iBats web portal. Not only will this improve the data management aspect of the project but also 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. Full development specifications have now been agreed including a detailed outline of the system and work has now begun on implementation. The projected final delivery date is January 2010 (although the old version of web portal will continue to be operational until next year).

Dr Kate Jones attended the 6th Session of the Meeting of Parties (MoP6) to EUROBATs in Prague, Czech Republic in September as a scientific advisor for BCT and added information about the iBats project in the annual report for the UK. Kate chaired a monitoring symposium entitled “Global bat Monitoring and Bioindication” at the 15th International Bat Research Conference in Prague, 23-27 Aug 2010 and reported on the iBats programme in a talk entitled “Monitoring ultrasonic biodiversity: using bats as biodiversity indicators”.

JR ran two iBats workshops at the Bat Conservation Trust's National Bat Conference in Loughborough, UK in September 2010.

Charlotte Walters has been carried out iBats surveys in Bosnia, Serbia and Croatia to increase the data for PhD investigating the habitat and climate associations of Eastern European bats Charlotte collaborated with local batworkers and Eurobats representatives during her fieldwork and presented a poster on her work at the International Bat Conference in Prague.

An iBats workshop was held in Japan in August 2010 and with money raised from the raffle at The National Bat Conference in September a set of iBats equipment was purchased to carry out iBats monitoring in Turkey, under the leadership of Emrah Çoraman of Boğaziçi University, Istanbul.

In the UK the data from 42 transect routes has been uploaded to the iBats website with sixteen groups participating (Central Scotland, West Yorkshire, Clyde, Leicestershire & Rutland, Kent, South Lancashire, Warwickshire, Exe, Essex, Isle of Wight, Isle of Man, Sussex, York, Bedfordshire and Durham) with the Somerset Environmental Records Centre kindly offering to supply the iBatsUK project with data from their car surveys.

Annabelle Pagan completed her MSc thesis at ZSL under the supervision of Dr Kate Jones entitled “An analysis of iBats UK (Indicator Bats Program UK): How effective is iBats at generating an indicator of bat abundance in comparison to existing programs?”

Welsh Agri-Environment Scheme

The WAM Project has now finished its second field season. The 2010 Field Team comprised five field assistants (Emma Douglas, Mike Garratt, Naomi Stratton, Anthony Turner, Nik West), an intern on a 6-month placement (Claire Feniuk) and an MSc project student (Faye Midmore), both from Leeds University. A total of 23 volunteers (local and residential) have been involved in surveys throughout the season. The field assistants leave the project at the end of September, except ED and FM who will continue until November as research assistants analysing bat call sonograms recorded during this year's field season, and CF who continues her internship with us until November.

The study area this year comprised most of south Wales. Part of the team were based in Carmarthen (south-west) and surveyed the core farm pairs; these are ten pairs of Field Survey and Waterway Survey farms that were first surveyed in 2009, and will be repeated each year of the project. The rest of the team were based in Abergavenny (south-east) and surveyed new farm pairs for Field and Waterway Surveys. Horseshoe Bat Surveys (using Anabats), were carried out in the Usk Valley, Monmouthshire and south Glamorganshire.

This year, 138 farms were surveyed for habitat condition and management, and then surveyed twice for bat activity. Farms are surveyed in pairs, i.e. a selected Tir Gofal farm and its paired Control (non-TG) farm. In June and July, Field Surveys were carried out at 30 pairs of farms (10 core pairs plus 20 new pairs), which exceeds the target of 25 pairs. During August and early-September, Waterway Surveys were undertaken at 20 pairs of farms (10 core pairs plus 10 new pairs), meeting the target of 20 pairs. Horseshoe Bat Surveys were carried out at 19 new farm pairs, exceeding the target of 15 pairs. The total number of farm pairs surveyed in 2009 and 2010 is 40 pairs of Field Surveys, 28 pairs of Waterway Surveys, and 29 pairs of Horseshoe Bat Surveys.

A poster of the project's progress to date was displayed at the National Bat Conference held at Loughborough. FM also presented a poster at the conference, and gained a distinction for her MSc project titled 'The effect of agri-environment schemes on bat abundance and the implications of hedgerow management'.

Roofing membranes

The research into bats and their interactions with breathable roofing membranes has continued to make good progress over the past quarter. The paper that was compiled for the 1st TSBE Conference was received very well and won a prize for best presentation at the event. The research into how bats interact mechanically with BRMs is continuing, with cutting and tearing tests in progress and measurements for the mimetic claw continuing. At first glance there would appear to be some interesting results between different types of membrane.

Amy Walters who has been working on effect of membrane colour and reflectance, as part of the PTES internship, has completed her fieldwork at the Isle of Wight bat hospital. She has also measured the reflectance levels of all the membranes available in the UK. Preliminary data shows that bats show a strong preference for darker membranes. The aim is to relate this to light levels within roof voids and determine if this could be a genuine concern when installing BRMs in bat roosts.

A second project was carried out by Alice Lightowlers, an A-level student at Kendrick School, Reading, who was supported by a Nuffield Bursary to undertake six weeks research on the frictional interactions of bats with breathable roofing membranes.

The past three months has seen an increase in awareness of the project, this is through an article in Roofing Today and a letter sent out about the project, with recent Natural England correspondence. This has seen the number of people visiting the website on a daily basis increase from 3 to 15. This is updated regularly

with project progress and other information that may be useful. I have also been asked to talk at several local bat groups, to tell bat workers about the project and how they can help.

Finally, 20 of the data loggers supplied by BCT in the last quarter, have already been placed in situ. They are positioned in buildings on Englefield Estate and the University of Reading Whiteknights campus. Englefield Estate is also helping to secure more sites, where the effects of re-roofing on temperature and humidity can be monitored. This is a long-term project that will hopefully give important information on the microclimates preferred by different species of bats, and how different roofing materials may alter the conditions within a roost.

Research collaborations

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 is in the process of re-submitting a manuscript on linear features to Biological Conservation following positive comments from reviewers.

Stephen Gregory, Université Paris-Sud

Stephen has been examining evidence of Allee effects in various mammals including bats, for which he has used the NBMP colony count datasets. He is in the process of submitting a manuscript to Journal of Animal Ecology, and finalizing a second manuscript from his thesis for submission.

Both Katherine and Stephen gave presentations on their research at the National conference in Loughborough in September.

Biodiversity/ Conservation

Biodiversity

Natural Environment White Paper

Defra launched their environment white paper which outlines and invites consultation on how to ‘shape the future of our natural environment’. The document intends to change the way in which this country does nature conservation in the long-term and it is very important that we submit a response to help ensure that our organisational views are taken into account. There are many aspects of the white paper to take into consideration and the consultation has a public facing and organisational focus which will both need to be addressed. The ‘Big Society’ is a major focus of the document with a big push towards getting local action and ownership of conservation, as is cross government working on biodiversity.

We plan submit a response as part of Wildlife and Countryside Link and as an individual organisation. There will also be information circulated on this to mobilise action through the bat groups.

The messages we will be reiterating are that:

- ministers must make sure the current drive to cut budgets does not reduce their ability to realise the ambitions in this White Paper
- biodiversity and a diverse and healthy natural environment should be valued as much as features that provide functional benefits or economic gain.

For more detailed information look here <http://ww2.defra.gov.uk/our-responsibilities/nat-environment/> or speak to Lisa Hundt.

Making Space for Nature – The Lawton Review

An independent review of England’s wildlife sites and ecological network was launched in September 2009. The review has considered whether England’s collection of wildlife areas (both the legally protected areas and others) represents a coherent and robust ecological network that will be capable of responding to the challenges of climate change and other pressures.

The review has reported to the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs and Defra published the Review, called “Making Space for Nature”, on the 24 September 2010.

BCT submitted a full response to the review and paragraphs were lifted directly out of the text on two occasions. Of particular note is section 5.2.2 which references the *Batscapes Project* and the *Silent Summer* Chapter written by Karen Haysom et al.

The Government will respond to the Making Space for Nature Review in the Natural Environment White Paper which will be published in Spring 2011. We invite all comments and submissions from anyone with an interest in the [Natural Environment White Paper](#).

The whole document is 199 pages; <http://www.defra.gov.uk/environment/biodiversity/index.htm>

Review of BCT Survey Guidelines

Following the Phase 1 consultation it was apparent that there was an urgent need for a new chapter on surveying for onshore windfarms. It was therefore decided that this chapter would be written prior to the first editorial board meeting in November. All new chapters will be subject to consultation, but initial comments were collected at the BCT conference as part of a workshop.

The first editorial board meeting will be in November. This date was chosen to ensure that everyone can attend easily as it is outside of the busy survey season. A working timetable will be agreed at this meeting and circulated via the usual channels (e-bulletin, website, bat worker bulletin etc). The aim is to have completed the review ready for the publication of new guidelines at next years conference. This is subject to agreement of the editorial board and depends on the content required, but work has already begun to review other chapters. More details on the process will be released following the editorial board meeting in November

Churches

KH met with David Bullock (NT), Alan Cathersides (EH) and Nigel Cooper (Church of England Bats and Churches working group) at NT Headquarters in Swindon to plan a joint paper to be given at the Church of England conservation forum on bats in churches in November.

Following an enquiry by SITA, KH has collaborated with Gareth Jones to develop and submit an expression of interest for a PhD research studentship examining the use of churches by bats and practical options for managing their impact. If this eoi is viewed favourably we will be invited to make a full proposal for consideration in the new year.

Other meetings

- Wildlife and Countryside Link – Biodiversity Working Group
- England Woodland Biodiversity Group (Woodland BIG)
- Natural Environment White Paper Workshops
- Link “spending cuts” Task and Finish Group

Consultations

Natural England – Standing Advice for Protected Species

From mid-October 2010 Natural England will only be providing advice on those applications where adequate survey information is available and where significant impacts on protected species are likely as a result of development. The standing advice provides guidance on:

- When a survey for protected species should be requested;
- What level of survey effort is likely to be required and what does a survey for a specific species involve;
- Generic guidance on mitigation.

The standing advice is currently a consultation draft. LH submitted a response on behalf of BCT and the public consultation was circulated via the bat worker bulletin. Main points raised were that; concern that this stance is weakening protection for important sites and species. NE have a duty to meet the obligations of the Habitats Directive, this transferral of responsibilities onto Local Planning Authorities is not appropriate.

Many Local Authorities are under-resourced and ill equipped to make decisions of this sort. This is not an appropriate method of assessment for Local Authorities that do not have an Ecologist to consult.

The Standing Advice and further information on the consultation can be found at:

<http://www.naturalengland.org.uk/ourwork/planningtransportlocalgov/spatialplanning/standingadvice/protectedspp.aspx>.

Investigations

Operations

In July 15 incidents of bat crime were referred for investigation whilst a further 13 were referred in August and 9 in September. Whilst many of those incidents were of a comparatively minor nature often resolved by the provision of advice, there were a small number that are subject to full investigation by the Police. In each and every case, contact has been made with the investigating officer in order to express our interest and to offer any assistance deemed to be appropriate. A previously reported Scottish case that seemed to be heading for prosecution continues to be investigated with the need to locate and interview further suspects having been identified by the Procurator Fiscal.

Since appointment in March the investigating officer has had direct contact with at least 42 of the 53 police forces in the UK and there is a growing awareness within the Police of the willingness of BCT to contribute towards investigations. In the majority of cases investigations have been conducted both thoroughly and in good time but in 3 instances forces have been challenged with regard to their responses to bat related incidents. As a consequence one force has accepted that they need to learn lessons and future lines of contact have been established.

Training

In July Pete contributed to a bat crime workshop organised for Scottish wildlife crime officers and in the same month in conjunction with South Lancashire Bat Group organised a similar training event attended by wildlife crime officers from South Yorkshire, West Yorkshire, Derbyshire and Merseyside forces. A further training event was held for Suffolk Police and input was provided to the National Wildlife Crime Officers training course in Essex. Pete organised the 23rd National Wildlife Crime Enforcers Conference was held in Cheltenham. As organiser of that conference Pete was also able to represent BCT and was able to introduce a bat persecution workshop into the programme. That workshop was well attended with some very positive feedback having been received.

Wildlife Crime Priorities

The UK wildlife crime priorities are now to be reviewed at meetings commencing in November. As part of the argument for retaining bats as a priority it is our intention to produce an updated bat crime report for 2009. Work on taking the priority forward has progressed significantly in the last few months with BCT agreeing to become plan owner. One meeting of the bat priority action group has taken place attended by N.E. CCW SNH NWCUC and the Police. A number of actions to progress the initiative have been identified and are being taken forward.

Pete apologises for not having been able to attend this year's national conference due to annual leave booked prior to taking up post. The need to form a good working relationship with bat groups and bat workers across the UK is of paramount importance and is being taken forward in a number of ways including the submission of articles for area newsletters and where time and cost allows visits to bat group meetings.

Bats and the Built Environment

Integrated Habitat Design Competition (IHDC)

Based on a similar competition organised by the City of Portland in 2007, the IHDC was devised by Dusty Gedge, Gary Grant and RESET (and brought into life by KG in her post prior to BCT). The objective was to stimulate holistic designs for the built environment that give full consideration to biodiversity, integrating habitats and the water cycle and the wider environment, as well as human needs and comforts. BCT was asked to act as a judge for the competition. KH, LH and KG reviewed about 30 entries which LH then helped the judging panel whittle down to a winner and a few commendations. The winning entry by Liverpool student, Maria-Cristina Banceau, was for a refurbishment of a train depot into student accommodation which included ventilation chimneys with bat boxes at the top.

Building for Biodiversity (BfB) Initiative

The BfB Initiative is a BCT proposal still in the very early stages of development. The idea is to develop an organised, structured assessment system that takes an ecosystem services approach to the built environment with the main aim of driving biodiversity enhancement. The advantage of such a system would be that it provides organised structure and support for participants wishing to engage in biodiversity initiatives, an objective source of evaluation, and a means to be recognised. We envisage that successful participants would receive a plaque that could be affixed to the building in question which marks it as a Biodiverse Building. The hope is that the award will become a selling-point that the organisation can use for Corporate Responsibility and marketing purposes.

Currently we are discussing the idea with potential partners and trying to find sites from which to trial the BfB as a focus for funding applications. A technical steering group will be formed in the next couple months to develop the protocol.

Cavity Wall Insulation (CWI) and Bats guidance document

Carol Williams wrote a first version of this document that was never finalised due to a lack of consensus from certain industry organisations. KG is trying to reignite the process by redrafting the CWI document. The document was being discussed at the NIA quarterly forum meetings in September, from which we are still waiting for feedback.

Bats and Lighting – filming by BBC’s *Inside Out* for South East

BCT was contacted by the BBC’s *Inside Out* team to provide information and an expert for a programme they were filming on light pollution. KG met the BBC team at Dunorlan Park in Kent where they got footage of flying bats and KG discussed how bats are affected by light pollution. The piece is expected for broadcast on 15 November.

“The bat footage was great and we managed to get some fantastic shots.” Jon Greaves, BBC

Biodiversity Planning Toolkit

The [Biodiversity Planning Toolkit](#) was trialled in a pilot study during September. The results were discussed at a steering group meeting attended by KG. Almost all the feedback was positive although a lot of the content still needs to be developed. Unfortunately the project is almost out of money and is looking for contributions from partners to finish it. KG and LH have already assisted with content on the Barn Conversion sections and KG has offered to do the same for the Householder and some of the Green Infrastructure sections. Please feel free to browse on the site and provide feedback to KG and LH.

Exeter City Council – Residential Design Guide

Contributed to Appendix 2 of the [Residential Design Guide](#) on Provision for Biodiversity in New Development.

Consultations

Advised the following architects on ways to include bats in their designs:

Bere Architects

- New build, social housing – Ebbw Vale, Wales
- Retrofit, non-residential - Newington Green Community Centre (under construction)

Penoyre & Prasad LLP

- New and retrofit - Crouch Hill Community Centre

Talks, Events and Conferences

Technology for a Sustainable Built Environment (TSBE) Conference – University of Reading (July)

KG attended to support Stacey Waring on her presentation of her research to date on Bats and Breathable Roofing Membranes. Stacey won the prize for best student presentation.

Global Business of Biodiversity (GBOB) Symposium (July)

On 13th July, KG and LH attended the first Global Business of Biodiversity Symposium. This unique private-sector focused business and biodiversity conference, supported by the UK Government, saw the launch of the highly anticipated 'The Economics of Ecosystems and Biodiversity (TEEB) for Business' report from study leader Pavan Sukhdev.

An interesting find was another tool called **IBAT**. John Hutton of the UNEP WCMC presented the Integrated Biodiversity Assessment Tool (IBAT; www.ibatforbusiness.org) which provides site level conservation and spatial data.

UK Green Building Council –STEP launch (September)

KG attended the launch of the UKGBC's new Sustainability Training and Education Programme. The new online foundation course is designed for any professional working in the built environment sector and will help promote a common language on sustainability. BCT is hoping to have more input into the biodiversity sections for later editions.

How Green is My City? (September)

KG manned a BCT stand at this event held annually for the residents association of Kensington and Regents Park.

World Green Roof Congress (September)

CIRIA hosted this 2 day event which is held every two years for green roof installers and researchers from all over the world to share their experiences. KG attended the first day of the event and LH joined later for the awards of the IHDC.

100% Design (September)

100% Design is the premier design trade show that takes place during the London Design Festival. KG and Brian Murphy were invited to give presentations and workshops on Carol Williams's book *Biodiversity for Low and zero Carbon Buildings*.

Meetings

- Carol Williams in Cornwall for a handover (July).
- Roy Tindle of the London 21 Network regarding his work on biodiversity in churches (August).
- Ecologist, Gary Grant, about the BfB Initiative (Sept).
- James Honour of BRE about potential collaborations on work relating to refurbishment and the BfB (Sept).
- Clair McMullen of the Global Action Plan (GAP) about possible businesses to work with for the BfB (Sept).

International

EUROBATs Meeting of Parties (MoP) in Prague 20-23 September. JH and KH attended this meeting. All the proposed resolutions discussed in the spring quarterly report were passed (with minor amendments) or included in the EUROBATs forward workplan. For more information on these resolutions see http://www.eurobats.org/documents/meeting_reports.htm

Year of the Bat (2011 & 2012) was launched during the MOP, including a new website www.yearofthebat.org. BCT is a partner in Year of the Bat and we are planning events, and will be launching BatLife Europe in August 2011 during Year of the Bat.

BatLife Europe – BCT is working with NGO partners across Europe to form BatLife Europe as an international NGO.

This quarter we launched the charities website www.batlife-europe.org to communicate progress with partners. This went live in August, ahead of the International Bat Research Conference, and we also took a new poster to the IBRC and the EUROBATs MoP.

During the MoP, BCT held a meeting to inform NGOs and partners about plans and progress with launching BatLife Europe and discuss issues such as how NGOs can become partners, the role of trustees, subscription levels, funding and how to agree country partners in countries where there are more than one bat NGOs. At the meeting the initial founding trustees from BCT, VZZ (Netherlands) and NABU (Germany), were joined by SFEPM (the French Mammal Society), Stiftung Fledermaus (Germany) and the Romanian Bat Protection Association, who all expressed interest in helping to set up BatLife Europe. JH and KH also took the opportunity of the MoP to talk individually to each of the delegates from the approx 40 countries present about bat conservation NGO contacts within their countries, so we can engage with them and communicate progress with BatLife Europe formation.

JH developed a project plan for forming BatLife Europe. Over the next 12 months to August 2011, we will consult on how the charity works, register the charity, invite trustees and partner organisations and prepare for the launch and first Partners Meeting at the European Bat Research Conference in Lithuania in August 2011. Then the newly elected Board of 12 Trustees, elected at the August 2011 Partners Meeting, will develop a 3 year strategy, workplan and budget and take forward activities with partners such as pan European monitoring and capacity building of NGO partners.

Bat Group Partnerships & BCT's work across the UK

Bat Group Partnerships

UK Bat Worker Forum

The September Forum ran as planned on the evening of Friday 10th September at Loughborough University (the National Bat Conference).

30 delegates attended including a representative from Natural England (who attended on behalf of all of the UK SNCOs).

BCT provided updates on: the Partner/Network Agreements; bat survey guidelines; planning reform; the revised white-nose syndrome guidance and the Pete Guest Award.

Matters arising regionally/locally included: bats and churches

Bat Worker Bulletins

5 bat worker bulletin's circulated this quarter. Topics included:

New findings published on the presence of *G. destructans* in Europe; new white-nose syndrome guidance for bat workers; windfarms survey guidelines; new web-based Biodiversity Planning Toolkit; Natural England standing advice for protected species; Natural Environment White Paper consultation; Wales Bat Workers Day 2010; new BCT events page; National Bat Conference details; Bat Worker Forum details; Pete Guest Award updates; update on the transition from affiliation to the Partner/Network Agreements.

eBulletin

July issue 25 circulated to 6,920 subscribers

September issue 26 circulated to 7,042 subscribers.

Bat News: Spotlight on Bat Groups

News items from Cambridgeshire Bat Group, Beds Bat Group, Lee Valley Bats and Herts. & Middlesex Bat Group were published in the summer addition of Bat News.

Regional Meetings/Conferences in England

South East Conference (27th November, Woking College) programme finalised and booking system set up for opening on 1st Oct.

Dates for the North of England and South West Conferences set (26th March 2011 and 30th April 2011 respectively) and invitations circulated for abstracts, workshop leaders and volunteers to assist on the steering committees. A selection of venues for both conferences with cost/benefit analyses have been identified in preparation for the steering committees.

Partnership meetings in England

Met with Fiver Rivers Association on 7th June. Attendees were leaning towards the Partner Agreement, but members will have the opportunity to vote, and a decision will be made in Oct.

White-Nose Syndrome

On 27th July, Laura Dunne and Helen Miller held a teleconference with Jean Matthews (CCW), Katherine Walsh (NE), Rob Raynor (CCW), and Alex Barlow (VLA) to discuss the white-nose syndrome guidance for bat workers.

Outcomes: the guidelines were re-formatted to make it clearer who was being asked to do what. Section 1 became a Q&A; sections 2-5, step by step guides for licensed and unlicensed bat workers undertaking hibernation checks and swarming surveys. The decontamination processes were also revised, and products identified that are easily accessible from the UK.

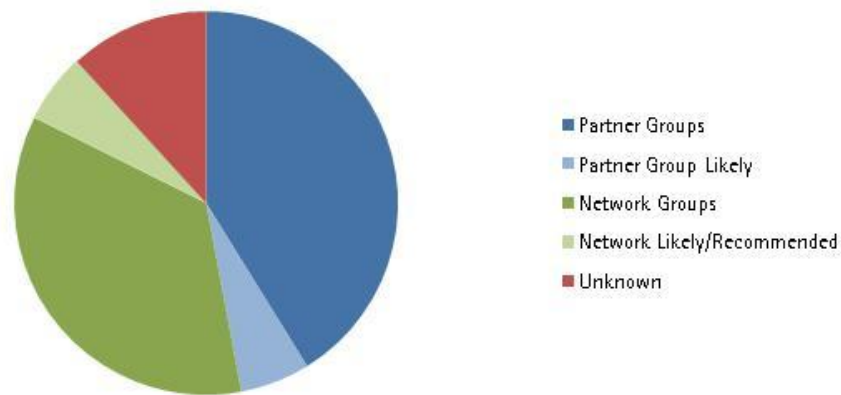
The guidance was circulated in the bat worker bulletin and is available on the website.

On 24th August, Laura Dunne and Helen Miller organised a meeting with the underground specialist group (including representatives from the National Caving Association, Caving Research Association, and Subterranea Britannica) to discuss how the white-nose syndrome guidance could be tailored to other underground users.

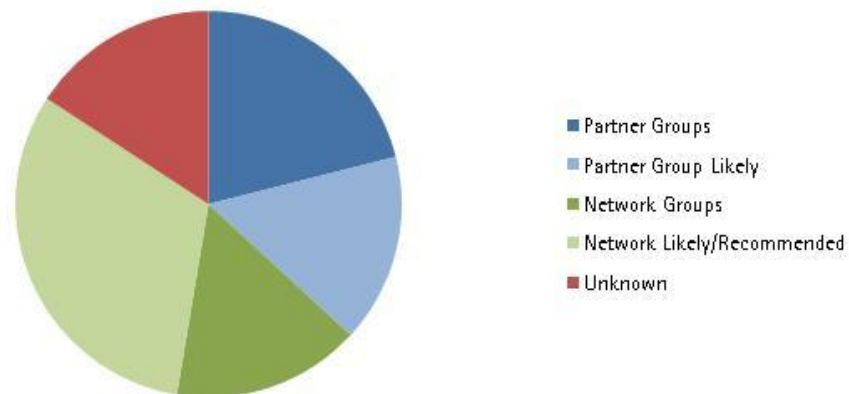
Outcomes: John Altringham wrote an article raising awareness of white-nose syndrome that is due to be published in caving magazine, “*Descent*”. A business card with a picture of a bat with *G. destructans* on one side, and the BCT telephone number with signs associated with white-nose symptom on the other, has been designed and will be circulated round underground groups. The National Caving Association has agreed to pay for all printing costs.

Overview of Partner and Network Agreements in the UK

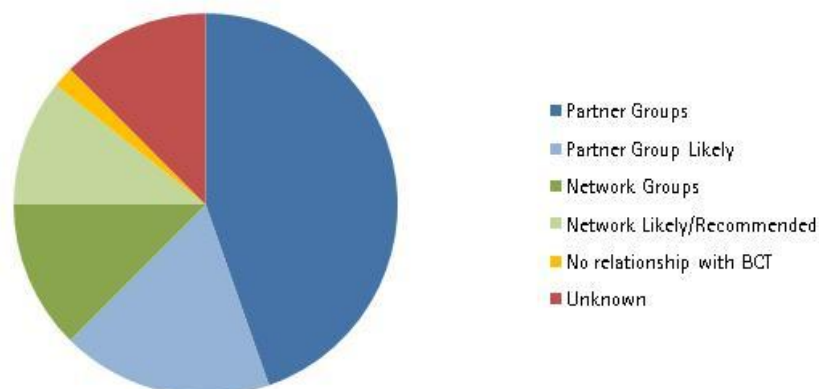
Wales (17 Bat Groups)



Scotland (19 Bat Groups/SNH Contacts)



Rest of UK (52 Bat Groups), Channel Islands (3 Bat Groups) & Isle of Man (1 Bat Group)



BCT in Wales

Engaging with wider environmental and political network

Wales Biodiversity Partnership

SL attended the Wales Biodiversity Partnership conference which was held in Bangor at which the Jane Davidson AM (Minister for Environment) launched a consultation document Natural Environment Framework – A Living Wales. It is not clear whether this proposes to abandon the current Biodiversity Action Plan process in favour of delivering biodiversity through an Ecosystem Goods & Services approach or whether the Ecosystem approach is in addition to BAP. The production of the final consultation paper comes following several consultations on early drafts on which we have provided comment.

Species Expert Group

The SEG met in September. The main area of discussion was the Glastir Agri-environment Scheme and how this will deliver for species. In summary, at the lower Entry Level Scheme biodiversity will be a broad-brush approach with no guidance for farmers as to what they could or should target. At the Higher Level Scheme there will be targeted delivery of actions against a suite of topics including soil management, carbon management, water management as well as key biodiversity species (4 bat species). We have been informed that because the old Tir Gofal scheme will continue to run for the first two years of Glastir, then the priority for delivery will not be biodiversity. There are limited Glastir officers who will have pressures placed on them to deliver Glastir speedily so we have also raised concerns with the Assembly Government as to a lack of resource.

Wales Mammal Biodiversity Action Plan Forum

This group will be meeting in October at which we will be presenting a draft biodiversity action plan for the suite of bats in Wales plus a number of updates to the actions and targets.

Welsh Assembly Government Axis II Review and Glastir Agri-environment Scheme

We have not received any further consultation work in this area. However we are seeking an urgent meeting with the WAG to discuss how they intend to prioritise action as both against different target areas (soil, carbon water etc) and when it comes to species, which species they might target.

Other consultations

Proposals for the introduction of Local Development Orders in Wales.

LDOs are an extension of permitted development rights, where for specific developments, planning permission is not required. The LDO could relate to all land in a local planning authority area or only to a part of that land including specific sites. This power is discretionary and intended to help speed up the planning system.

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. A number of face-to-face meetings have also taken place.

The National Assembly for Wales, Assembly's Sustainability Committee is conducting an inquiry into biodiversity in Wales and the failure to hit the 2101 targets to halt the loss of biodiversity. WEL will be submitting a response which BCT will be inputting.

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.

In partnership with Monmouthshire Bat Group, we attended the Monmouthshire Show. We also were present at the Gower Show and we have been able to support Gwent Bat Group to attend the Newport Wetlands Show and the Magor Show.

Consultation on merger of CCW, FCW and EAW

This is actively being considered by WAG and BCT has input into consultation shared objectives.

Partnership Agreements

In Wales there are 15 bat groups and two mammal groups.

Bat Group	Relationship	Ends	
Cardiff	Partner	31/03/2011	Confirmed
Clwyd	Partner	31/03/2011	Confirmed
Dyfed	Partner	31/03/2011	Confirmed
Glamorgan	Network	31/03/2011	Confirmed
Gwynedd	Partner	31/03/2011	Confirmed
Monmouthshire	Network	31/03/2011	Confirmed
Montgomery	Network	31/03/2011	
North Ceredigion	Partner	31/03/2011	Confirmed
Pembrokeshire	Network	31/03/2011	Confirmed
Snowdonia National Park	Partner	31/03/2011	Confirmed
Teifi	Network	31/03/2011	Confirmed
Vale of Glamorgan & Bridgend	Network	31/03/2011	Confirmed
Valleys	Partner	31/03/2011	Confirmed
Gwent	Network	31/03/2011	Confirmed
Brecknock	Network	31/3/2011	
Radnorshire			possibly network group Is already a Partner group from the pilot scheme
Carmarthenshire			

Wales Count Bat project

We are continuing to work with the new urban bat survey groups in south Wales to advance their skills and knowledge by providing support and encouragement for the project to move forward. We have also started a new urban bat survey project in Clwyd, north Wales.

We have also been able to lend out bat detectors to other groups for one-off events as well as lead bat walks and give talks on request and attend other events when practicable.

Other activities

SL is continuing to work closely with the Deputy CEO on funding applications and is also part of the team looking at effective project planning within BCT.

BCT in Scotland

Building volunteer network

Contact with bat groups is maintained electronically with the Bat Worker Bulletin emailed out to Scottish contacts every 2- 4 weeks and with face to face contact. This quarter there has been personal contact via training sessions and joint work with Bat groups from Inverness, Ayrshire and North Highland and with field groups on Skye and Orkney.

Preparation for the Scottish Bat workers conference (13 November at Battleby) is ongoing with booking available soon on the BCT website. The conference will include talks, workshops and a round up of bat news, around 100-120 people are expected.

Training

This quarter seems to have been dominated by delivering training to others, the courses are listed below:

- Inverness bat group, 3 nights (Bat Identification, NBMP surveys and roost visits including bat handling)
- Ayrshire Bat group + Culzean rangers– Bat identification
- 2 x Using your ears workshops delivered (Trees for Life and Orkney field group)
- Orkney field group – Bat Identification, NBMP, practical bat detecting (3 nights plus a day indoors)
- Training talk and car survey with Sleat Environmental group
- Police Wildlife Crime Enforcement Officers – Introduction to bats and the Law
- Roost Visitor Training (2 evenings and 2 days)

An exciting and very rewarding result was the recoding of *Nathusius pipistrelle* on Orkney during an evenings training session. There are very few records of this bat anywhere in Scotland. In Inverness a previously unknown Natterer's maternity roost was identified.

New Volunteer Recruitment

There have been 22 new members of BCT from Scotland and 8 new NBMP volunteers this quarter. NBMP surveys and the Big Bat Map have been promoted at training courses and talks to the public/special interest groups.

Public Education/Enabling involvement of the public

- An "Introduction to Bats" leaflet in Gaelic and in English has been printed and distributed to various SNH offices, Countryside rangers, schools and educators using the Gaelic medium.
- Two further leaflets /children's activity sheets are being produced in partnership with the Tayside Biodiversity project.
- Approx 1300 BCT leaflets sent out/ taken to events/bat group meetings
- BCT Displays/resources used at over 7 events (Including BCT events, Historic Scotland training and Bat group events).
- Bat detectors on loan to Sleat Environmental group.(Skye)
- 2 x Bat Talks and walks given/assisted with in Dunblane.
- Talk Given to Bo'ness Probus Club.
- Media –3 items for BCT facebook blog
- Students at Stirling University have been set a student project and supplied with equipment to compare different bat detectors.

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

Training given to Orkney field group to encourage further survey of the Islands and public awareness raising.

Legal

An evenings training was delivered to Police Wildlife Crime Enforcement Officers – Introduction to bats and the Law for 15 trainees. This included work indoors and a visit to a bat roost to look for external roost signs and to watch bats emerging.

Education & Engagement

Hon. Education Officer

Publications

Edited *Young Batworker* 78.

On Editorial Committee for *Bat News*

Feature on Bat-friendly gardening and Bat research update for *Bat News*

Talks

28/8/2010 Nature Live. Two talks at NHM for European Bat Weekend

20/9/2010 Talk and walk at HMP East Sutton Park. Now in discussion with XH on further involvement here.

30/9/2010 With XH at Oakley School, Tunbridge Wells. Gave presentation on *Bats in the Curriculum* to teachers from Eco-Schools

Courses/Conferences

13-16 August Malham. Co-tutored *Bat and bat surveys*

21 August Tutored *Introduction to Bats* for Valley of Vision Project.

10-12/9/2010 Attended BCT Conference, Loughborough

Meetings

6/9/2010 *God's Acre in Kent* planning meeting

24/8/2010 meeting and field visits with French partners in InterReg project

14/9/2010 BCT Conference feedback meeting

National Conference

The National Bat Conference took place at Loughborough University 10-12 Sept. Approximately 310 people attended, it was at a new venue and received mostly positive feedback. The abstracts are on the website. We had a wide range of talks from bats in urban landscapes, conservation of cave-dwelling bat species in Turkey, advances in understanding of bat lyssaviruses and bats underground-delving into the underworld in the name of research. Our workshops were very popular this year and several were fully booked by the summer, including; bats and wind turbines in the UK – should we be bothered, bats in churches – an objective assessment of a perceived problem, bringing new life to bat groups, starting bat care and rehabilitation and wildlife drawing. A big thanks to Simon Mickleburgh who has helped put the programme together for the last few years, he has stepped down next year and Gail Armstrong has offered to take on this role.

This year we took all bookings through the website. There were a few problems with system updates happening in the middle of the booking period, these will be looked into before next year.

BCT has confirmed the venue for the 2011 conference will be the University of Warwick 16-18 September.

Training

Professional training

Bats and Bat Surveys

One foundation course ran in this quarter at Malham Tarn FSC centre, 13-16 August. This was attended by 18 people, and was taught by Shirley Thompson and Roger Martindale.

Planning and Preparation of Surveys

No courses ran this quarter.

Surveying Buildings (including Bat Identification)

The course at Lackham College in Wiltshire ran 26-27 August and was taught by Sandie Sowler and Peter Shepherd. The course was attended by 12 people.

Bookings for the remaining 2010 course are as follows:

19-20 October	Clumber Park (Nottinghamshire)	15 booked
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Surveying Barns

Bookings to date are as follows:

7 October	St Ippolyt's Hall (Herts)	9 booked
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Surveying Bridges

The course at Fountain's Abbey on 9 August was cancelled due to low numbers.

Bookings to date are as follows:

1 November	Juniper Hall (Surrey)	8 booked
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Surveying Trees

Bookings to date are as follows:

10 November	Bewerley Park (N. Yorkshire)	Fully booked
13 December	Richmond Park (Surrey)	5 booked

Arboriculture and Bats

Two courses ran in this quarter. One was in Richmond Park on 23 August (taught by Mark Robinson and Adam Curtis) and the other at Bewerley Park on 28 September (taught by Louise Mapstone and Mark Robinson). Both courses were fully booked.

Fibrescope course for arborists

The new Fibrescope course ran on 3 September and was fully booked. The course went extremely well with some useful feedback offered by participants. Some amendments to the course structure are required but it is hoped that following this successful pilot further courses will be advertised in 2011.

Bats and Buildings: an awareness course

The training team is reviewing this course with help from the Bats and Built Environment Officer.

Bats and Bridges: an awareness course

This course was due to take place on 23 September but was cancelled due to low bookings. The course was advertised to bridge maintenance departments of local councils across the UK but although some positive responses were received, this did not translate into bookings. HM has however has discussions with local council contacts in the southwest who are interested in running an in-house version of this course.

Volunteer training: Introduction to Bats and How to Lead a Bat Walk Courses

An Introduction to Bats course was run by ST in Maidstone, Kent on 21 August. Count Bat ran a How to Lead a Bat Walk course in Battersea, London on 9 August with members of the Green City Bats.

Other projects

Training standards

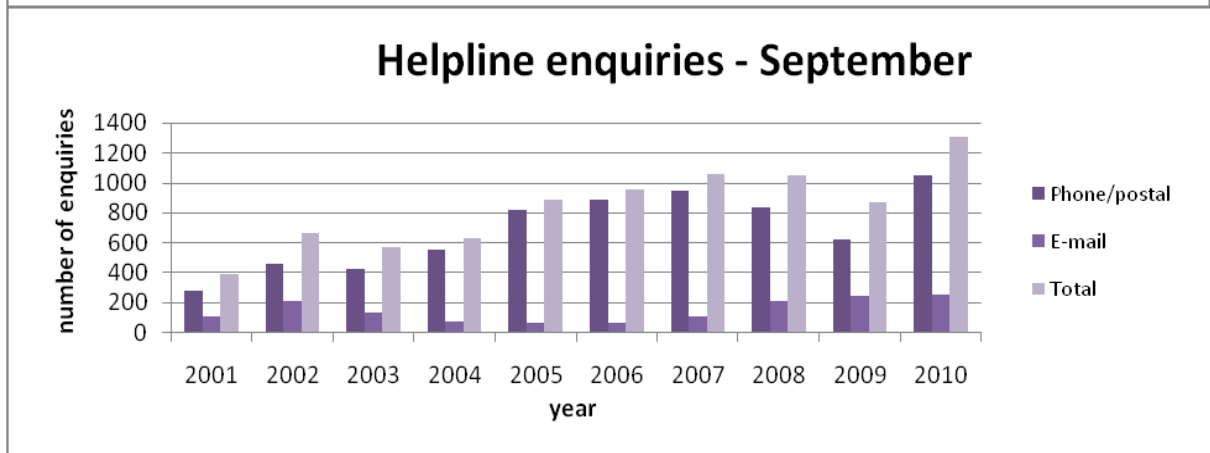
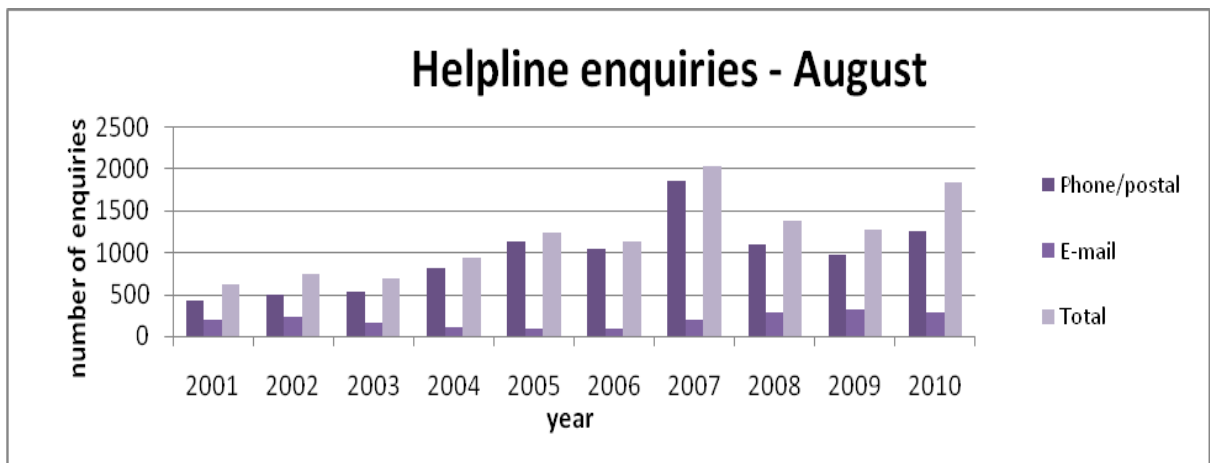
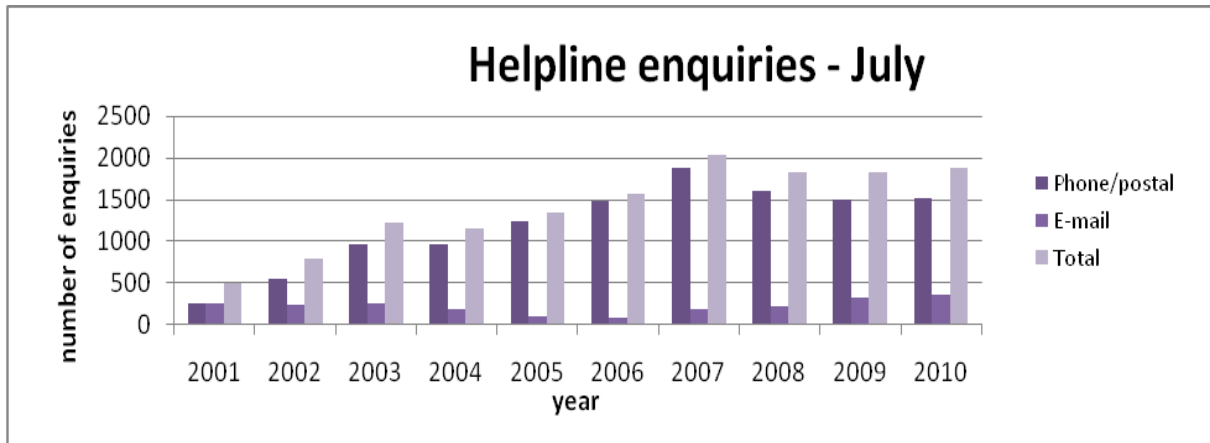
A meeting was held with the training standards panel on 2 August to discuss the outstanding units and the comments that had been supplied by members of the advisory board and BCT staff. Following on from this HM will make the agreed changes to all units discussed and circulate to the panel for comment.

Training brochure

DS has confirmed most dates with the FSC centres for 2011, and is now working on confirming other courses and preparing the training brochure for publication.

Helpline and Casework

Helpline Figures – Numbers of enquiries



The graphs illustrate the total number of phone call and e-mail enquiries taken in July, August and September of each year.

Overview

Between July and September is the busiest time for Helpline, with many phone calls and e-mails from members of the public who have recently discovered a bat roost in their house or have found a grounded,

injured or juvenile bat. Natural England casework also increases during this period due to the increase in roost visits. The Out of Hours service is run over the summer months to provide assistance to members of the public who find injured bats or need to report a bat crime in the evenings and weekends, and to deal with the associated rise in bat bite incidents.

The Helpline's contribution to bat conservation is ongoing 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. Helpline has shown both an increase in the number of enquiries handled in this quarter compared to the same quarter in 2009, and has also increased the efficiency in which telephone enquiries and Natural England casework are handled.

The Helpline continues to contribute towards establishing viable populations of bats by recording data on roosts via Natural England case work, directing 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, Helpline conserves and enhances bat populations.

The total number of enquiries for this quarter was 4542, a significant increase from 3971 from this quarter in 2009 and 4248 in 2008. The total number of enquiries has not reached the levels seen in this quarter in 2007 of 5122 when inclement weather resulted in large numbers of grounded and orphaned bats. The proportion of emails is slightly lower this quarter than last year, with 20% of enquiries through email compared to 22% in 2009, but is higher than in previous years, reflecting the change in communications.

July remains the Helpline's busiest month and recruitment timing of seasonal helpline staff continues to reflect this.

The Out of Hours Volunteer service

This year, the Out of Hours service ran for the peak bat activity season from 4 May until the 30 September. The service used 34 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 was assigned as back-up every night and weekend, 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 24 April, and one in Manchester on the 1 May. A further training day was held on the 24 July in the London office, this was to ease the amount of shifts undertaken by the volunteers and because we had several new volunteers interested.

Our dedicated volunteers have done a great job this year answering the calls. We have recorded over 1000 calls so far (still awaiting some data), with 59 calls recorded on the busiest weekend.

Bat care network and bat bites

The Bat Care Network continues to be run by Xenia Snowman.. The bat carer list is constantly expanding, reducing the burden on other bat carers and increasing the number of bats rescued. 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 from 35 for this quarter in 2009 to 55 in 2010, a 57% increase. 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

A new system for monitoring letters has seen the amount of letters sent out within the fifteen day deadline rise from 17.5% for this quarter in 2009 to 59% this year. These deadlines include the roost visits being arranged and the roost report form being received, with some cases requiring repeat surveys. Therefore, of the 41% not sent within this deadline, a large proportion of these cases were closed after the deadline by necessity i.e. awaiting an emergence survey or revisit by the bat worker.

A more accurate measure of Helpline's turnover of letters is the Helpline's internal aim of turning over urgent letters within two working days of receipt and non-urgent cases within five working days. Although figures were not kept on this due to time limitations, reports by all members of Helpline staff indicate that this has improved dramatically, with the late summer back log of letters not occurring this year.

The Helpline has organised a total of 729 roost visits in this period (July; 314, August, 227, September, 188) compared to 651 in the same quarter in 2009 (July; 312, August; 168, September; 171), an increase of 12% on the same quarter last year.

Due to Harriet Henley leaving the helpline, the East of England region will be passed to the new full time helpline officer when recruited. In the mean time, this role has been taken over by Rosalind Buckley.

Continuation of Natural England Bat Advice Service

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 Isle of Scilly and Yorkshire & Humberside.

The tender for this work has been renewed for a period of one year, until October 2011, and the contracts of helpline staff have been extended accordingly.

Count Bat

The project continues to run under budget and on target. A meeting was held with the Heritage Lottery Fund in April, which opened the possibility of the project being extended for a few months beyond the current January 2012 end date subject to there being remaining budgets. Match funding is still being sought to replace the loss of the foreseen 3rd year Natural England funding. New London and South East regional officer Xavier Hamon has settled in very well and has now organised and delivered numerous successful events. The Big Bat Map was redesigned at the end of this quarter and will be promoted in the forthcoming quarter.

Count Bat Year 3 targets

	Key target delivery Year 3, 28th Jan 2010–11 (attendees in brackets)	
	Target	Delivered to date
Training events	15(180)	12(178)
Education Events	30(1113)	29(7161)
Surveys	24(240)	22(434) + 300 on big bat map
Events delivered in partnership with target groups	15(134)	32(758)

Count Bat cumulative delivery to date (approaching 3/4 of way into project)

	Key full project target delivery (attendees in brackets)	
	Total 4 year Target	Delivered to date
Training events	63(675)	36(503)
Education Events	108(3633)	100(16622)
Surveys	90(900)	57(904) + 750 on big bat map
Events delivered in partnership with target groups	72(672)	87(4782)

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

The quarter began with paternity leave and ended with compassionate leave to care for the baby following unexpected but successful major surgery. As a result Dan's time was impacted and three training sessions had to be rearranged for a later date.

- A meeting was held with the HLF project monitor to discuss progress on acquiring outstanding match funding. The project has submitted two funding applications to the Wills Charitable Trust and Garfield Weston Foundation, which we will expect to hear if successful in December/January 2011.
- The Bristol Green City Bats packs were produced and promoted to 'friends of' groups in the city. The response has been very positive with around 20 groups registering with the project and 6 requests for training and or bat walks. Two training sessions and a bat walk have been rescheduled for next spring following agreement by the Bristol work funders to extend the end date to next year in light of Dan's compassionate leave.
- A bat walk was held for a group of 20 deaf adults in Bristol supported by volunteers from Avon Bat Group
- A training session on how to lead a bat walk was given to a group of 14 Walking for Health walk leaders in Bristol as part of the Active Bristol funded work. Bat detectors have subsequently been loaned to three of the attendees to scout out their local area for future bat walks and one further bat walk was run by an attendee.

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

This quarter has seen the delivery of a series of events for 2010 and good progress has been made on plans and partnerships for the autumn 2010 and spring 2011. Xavier has been on sick leave and working remotely from France for the whole of July, therefore most of the events below have been delivered in August and September.

HAFAD

Hammersmith and Fulham Action on Disability is working with young people with learning disabilities near Bishops Park, London. During August, 3 events took place with HAFAD to encourage the children to learn and do something for bats. 60 people took part, which included activities such as seeing live bats, building bat boxes, making bat music dance, gardening for bats and doing art and crafts. This was followed by an evening bat walk in Bishops Park on 24th August to see and listen to bats with bat detectors. All the events were very successful and the project has been supported by the local council. We plan to organise more events with HAFAD next year.

Green City Bats

This summer, we provided two training workshops for the Green City Bat (GCB) groups. A *How to lead a bat walk* workshop with 9 attendees took place on 9th August in Battersea. This was followed with an *Introduction to NBMP surveys* training at Hampstead Heath on the 15th August, which was attended by 7 people from Friends of groups in London. Two more workshops were cancelled due to poor uptake by the GCB groups. However, almost all the attendees felt they had the confidence to run their own bat walks in their local parks and some groups have since gone on to deliver two bat walks following the training.

To provide further support to the GCB groups, an online map was created to the GCB webpages of the BCT website. The idea was to create an interactive way for GCB groups to locate and be able to contact other GCB groups in their area so they could then share information and exchange ideas or promote bat events they might organise in their local park or green spaces. Development for the project will focus on recruiting more GCB group before January as well as planning a GCB Network event in the winter.

European Bat Weekend at the Natural History Museum 28.08 / 29.08

Over 2,000 visitors came along to the bat event during the bank holiday weekend in August. Events took place in the wildlife garden with talks and other demonstrations held around the NHM. 10 bat boxes were built by the public and 4 of them will be put up in the wildlife garden. The different activities scattered around the wildlife garden, included a bat trail, seeing live bats from the Sussex bat hospital, batty crafts and gardening for bats. It was a very successful weekend that could not have been achieved without the help and support of BCT staff, NHM staff and volunteers, OPAL, and the Kent bat group.

Other bat walks and talks in London (various dates)

In total 6 bat walks have been delivered mainly in greater London reaching out over 150 people, most of them were new to bats. New GCB were recruited and biodiversity actions are being planned for next spring. Having attended these events, some groups commented that they will purchase bat detectors and feel now able to run their own walks for next year.

Oakley School and Eco group 30.09

Following a series of educational events and creating a wildlife-friendly garden for bats in May, a special bat evening was organised in conjunction with Shirley Thompson of Kent bat group in order to raise awareness of bat conservation and to give other special needs school's teachers in the county ideas on how to include bat in their curriculum. This network of schools, called Eco school group, could be a potential target for the Count Bat project next year and some contact have been made already.

Future Plans Xavier plans to hold more indoor workshops and training courses in London in the coming winter, as well as continue to build new partnerships and look for further match funding for the Count Bat project.

Count Bat Region 3: North and East – Diana Hagues

This quarter has been focused on building the successes of the partnerships created in the spring and providing follow-up events and activities to encourage wider participation in the Count Bat project, in particular involving urban communities in Newcastle and Wakefield, and the disability group of Open Country in North Yorkshire.

Educational Events and Training

Cambridge Bioblitz at Coe Fen, Cambridge (2nd -3rd Jul) – Diana held a joint stall with Cambridgeshire Bat Group at this biodiversity outdoor event, which was being held to celebrate the nature on people's doorstep and encourage large numbers of people to survey and monitor their local wildlife. More than 100 people took part in the daytime activities and a further 90 people joined the night-time bat walks that was run by the BCT, bat group and the local Wildlife Trust. 4 species of bats were recorded that evening over Coe Fen, which was added to the list of species recorded for this site during the 24hr-event.

An Introduction to bats and bat walk, Otley (2nd Aug) – This workshop was led by Maggie Brown of West Yorkshire bat care hospital for the environmental group, Open Country, that involves people with different disabilities. Maggie gave a bat talk and introduced the members to a couple of her bats she had in care. The group also watched footage of a Brown long-eared emerging from a roof, before heading out on a bat walk by the Chevin. Maggie made use of the bat equipment and accessible resources available from Count Bat. The Project Officer from Open Country commented during the event that he thought bat walks are the best activity for people with visual problems, and pointed out that one member of the group even managed to see movement in the sky when a Pip was feeding above their heads!

Byker Fun Day, Newcastle (12th Aug) – ran a BCT stall and provided bat art and crafts activities. Our presence at this community event gave Diana the opportunity to engage new people in bats and promote the Count Bat project that was happening in the area, which is funded by the Newcastle City Council wards. Over 200 attended throughout the day with approximately 100 people visiting the bat stall.

Bird Fair, Rutland Water, Leicestershire (21st-23rd Aug) – BCT and bat groups from surrounding counties (Leicestershire, Lincolnshire and South Nottinghamshire) joined together to run a stall at this 3-day annual birdwatching fair. Over 2000 people visited the stall and a further 30 people attended the evening bat walk on the Friday. 14 new members joined BCT.

Bat Fun Day and an evening bat walk, Wakefield (28th Aug) – This event was organised in partnership with Wakefield City Council and was held at Anglers Country Park in Winterset. The event coincided with European Bat weekend, so there were lots of activities provided for families and young children including making bat kites and masks, thumbbats painting and doing a quiz trail in a 'bat cave'. The event was publicised, both before and after, in the local Wakefield Express newspaper. A total of 85 people took part in this event, including 25 who attended the bat walk in the evening.

Introduction to NBMP surveys, Wakefield (15th Sept) – Diana delivered a pilot workshop for Friends of groups and other biodiversity managers at Anglers Country Park. 9 people attended this workshop, 5 of whom were from Friends of groups and are local residents in Wakefield. All the attendees had indicated beforehand that they were interested in attending the workshop to learn about bats and surveying for bats, and following the workshop, all of them have said that they would now go on to do bat surveys at their local sites and a few said they want to take part in the NBMP.

Volunteer-led bat walks:

In addition to the programme of events listed above, the following bat walks took place that were supported by resources from Count Bat, but were led by volunteers who attended training through the project in the past. This included: **Needham Lakes bat walk, Suffolk (10th Sept)** - 25 participants; bat detectors and bat packs were provided for this event, **and Bat walk at Stanley Marshes, Wakefield (15th Sept)** – led by two of the attendees who attended the How to lead a bat walk training in April this year; loaned out bat detectors and 20 people attended from the Friends of group and local residents.

Marketing

Membership

This quarter has again seen overall member numbers increase slightly. Again we are seeing the retention as causing little net gain of members. The level of members at the end of September was 4786 up from 4685 in the previous quarter however again this is largely due to an increase in Young Batworker memberships (which cover up to 2 under 16s at the same address as members under one £9 membership) and family membership (which covers up to 2 adults and 2 children at the same address £33). Benefactor membership has decreased slightly for the last 2 quarters.

Life and Corporate memberships have had a good quarter after a decrease in corporate membership in Q2.

- Life Members saw an increase from 18 to 22.
- Corporate Members have increased from 19 to 22

Membership development

Following the AGM it has been decided to trial monthly memberships. Membership retention is an issue across all membership types and more needs to be invested in retaining members (e.g. with follow up calls to lapsed members rather than just letters) we also need to offer members more choice and payment options to help them choose a level of support appropriate to them.

Communications and Marketing

E-communications

Facebook 'fans' and twitter 'followers' continue to increase this quarter hitting reaching over 4000 facebook "likers" At 3rd October: 4341 facebook fans; 1768 twitter followers

Website

Visitor numbers are up on the same quarter in 2009, visitor numbers have remained fairly static but the number of visits has increased. Although many of the most viewed pages are similar this quarter there has been a strong incidence of people visiting the rabies pages probably due to the media coverage of bat related rabies cases in Peru.

Top website pages:

Events

European Bat Weekend at the Natural History Museum

See Count Bat section.

MPs event

This HLF funded event organised with BCT and Butterfly Conservation is due again to take place in Westminster in October, this year MPs, civil servants and volunteers for BCT to help showcase our work.

Events web portal

This quarter the BCT events portal has been launched allowing any one running a bat event. This should help increase traffic to the site, provide a 1 stop shop and also prove useful for local bat groups, green city bat groups and others to promote their events to a bat audience. This was particularly well used resource for European Bat Weekend with 30 events over the weekend. www.bats.org.uk/events

Fundraising

Summer Appeal

Over all this Summer Appeal income was down on last year however response rate was good and it did attract more new givers than in previous years.

Online fundraising

The Bat Helpline Appeal video featured on the Third Sector digital campaign of the week and is still one of the most popular fundraising videos on the See the Difference site however donations are still low.

BBC Wildlife Fund

This was a new BBC campaign which involved many partnerships with other organisations, including BCT. The campaign was successful for the BBC but very successful for BCT.

Legacy pages

BCT has started a new legacy campaign. It is difficult to monitor how successful legacy campaigns are, however, we can monitor people's awareness of the topic. We will be running a survey of some form later in the year.

Bat Roost signs

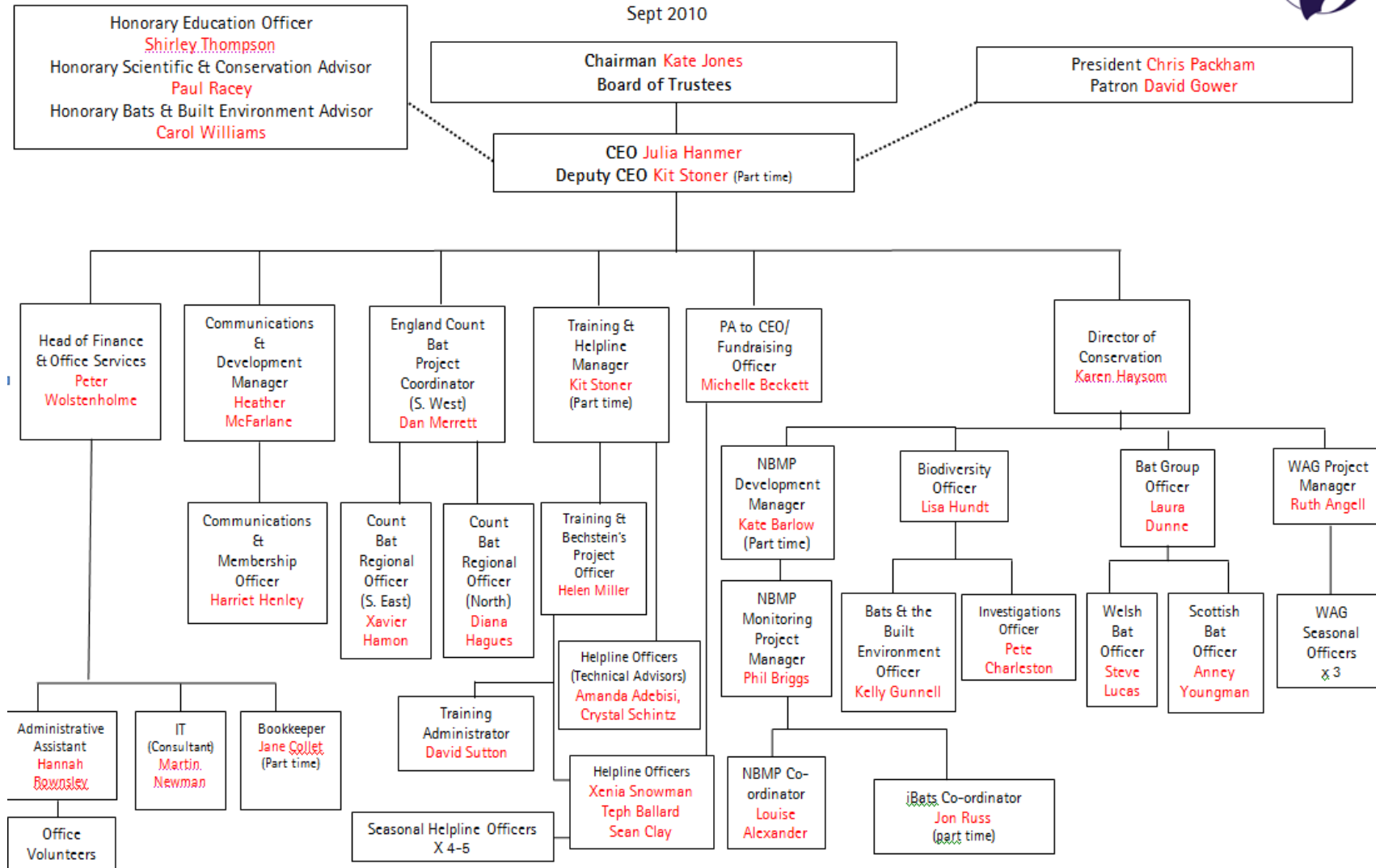
Parsons Brinkerhoff sponsored the re-print of the Bat Roost signs for England and Scotland, and Wales.

Appendices



Organisational Structure

Sept 2010



Staff List

Chief Executive	Julia Hanmer	JH
Deputy Chief Executive/ Helpline & Training Manager	Kit Stoner	KS
Director of Conservation	Karen Haysom	CC
Biodiversity Officer	Lisa Hundt	LH
Senior Research Scientist/ Project Manager	Ruth Angell	RA
Bats & the Built Environment Officer	Kelly Gunnell	KG
Seasonal Field Assistant	Naomi Stratton	NS
Seasonal Field Assistant	Anthony Turner	AT
Seasonal Field Assistant	Emma Douglas	EM
Seasonal Field Assistant	Nik West	NW
Seasonal Field Assistant	Michael Garrett	MG
Investigations Officer	Peter Charleston	PC
Bat Group Officer	Laura Dunne	LD
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	Louise Alexander	LA
Bats & Roadside Mammals Survey 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
Count Bat Regional Officer	Diana Hagues	DH
Count Bat Regional Officer	Xavier Hamon	XH
Communications & Development Manager	Heather McFarlane	HMcf
Communications & Membership Officer	Steven Lonergan (until 3 Sept 2010)	SL
Communications & Membership Officer	Harriet Henley (from 6 Sept 2010)	HH
Helpline Officer/ Technical Advisor	Amanda Adebisi	AA
Helpline Officer/ Technical Assistant	Crystal Schintz	CS
Helpline Officer	Xenia Snowman	XS
Helpline Officer	Sean Clay	SC
Helpline Officer	Harriet Henley (until 3 Sept 2010)	HH
Helpline Officer	Stephen Ballard	SB
Seasonal Helpline Officer	Rosalind Buckley	RB
Seasonal Helpline Officer	Felicity Bates	FB
Seasonal Helpline Officer	Sarah Houghton (until 13 Sept 2010)	SH
Seasonal Helpline Officer	Hannah Rawnsley (until 27 Sept 2010)	HR
Seasonal Helpline Officer	Charles Branson	CB
Seasonal Helpline Officer	Jackie Caine	JC
PA to CEO/Fundraising Officer	Michelle Beckett	MB
Book Keeper	Jane Collett	JC
Head of Finance and Office Services	Peter Wolstenholme	PW
Administrative Assistant	Jessica Adams (until 10 Sept)	JA
Administrative Assistant	Hannah Rawnsley (from 28 Sept 2010)	HR
Honorary Posts		
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

Acronym	Description
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