



## BCT Quarterly Report October - December 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
<b>DISCOVER</b>		
<b>1. To establish the capacity of the landscape to support viable populations of bats</b>		
Surveys, monitoring and research	NBMP	2
	Bechstein's Survey	6
	iBats	6
	PEMBUS	7
	Welsh Agri-Environment Scheme	7
	Roofing membranes	8
	Research collaborations	5
<b>ACT</b>		
<b>2. To secure and enhance bat populations to the full capacity of the landscape</b>		
Biodiversity/Conservation	Biodiversity	9
	Investigations	12
	Bats and the Built Environment	12
	International	14
<b>INSPIRE</b>		
<b>3. To win the level of support required to achieve and maintain these bat populations</b>		
Bat Group Partnerships and BCT's work across the UK	Bat Group Partnerships	15
	BCT in Wales	17
	BCT in Scotland	18
Education & Engagement	Hon. Education Officer	21
	National Conference	21
	Training	21
	Helpline and Casework	24
	Count Bat	27
Marketing	Membership	30
	Communications and Marketing	30
<b>CAPACITY</b>		
<b>4. BCT Management, Strategy and Administration</b>		
Appendices	Organisational Structure	32
	Staff list	33
	Glossary	34

# Surveys, monitoring and research

## NBMP

We welcomed a new staff member in October: Dr Felicity Bates joined the NBMP team from the Helpline as NBMP Survey Co-ordinator.

### Surveys and Volunteers

The table below shows the number of 2010 survey sites from which we have received completed survey forms as of 15<sup>th</sup> December 2010. The total number of sites surveyed for 2009 is also shown for comparison. Entry of 2010 data into the NBMP database has been ongoing over this period and work has now begun on analysing the data from the summer 2010 surveys. The sample sizes are presently slightly lower than in 2009 but further data returns are likely to be prompted by the NBMP team providing preliminary results to volunteers in the form of online maps showing the survey and species coverage from the 2010 surveys.

Survey	2010	2009
Pipistrelle Colony Count	470	489
Serotine Colony Count	37	45
Brown long-eared Colony Count	75	90
Natterer's Colony Count	43	45
Lesser horseshoe Colony Count	170	167
Greater horseshoe Colony Count	20	24
Field Survey	223	264
Waterway Survey	331	373
Sunset/Sunrise Survey	105	99
Woodland Survey	29	20
Nathusius' pipistrelle Survey	58	82

Note: 2010 shows number of survey forms received for each survey as of 15<sup>th</sup> December, compared with total survey forms received to date from the 2009 summer survey season.

For the year to date, a total of 908 volunteers took part in NBMP surveys in 2010. 85% of those volunteers (769 volunteers) are repeat volunteers who have now taken part in more than one survey. The overall number of volunteers is currently lower than the total who took part in 2009, but survey returns are still being received for this year.

### Hibernation Survey

In 2010, 76 volunteers sent in hibernation forms, compared with 67 in 2009. 44 volunteers have yet to return their forms or indicate that they were unable to take part in the survey. Data have been received from a total of 351 sites, a decrease from 2009's total of 380 sites. Hibernation packs for January/February 2011 were sent to a total of 116 volunteers in December. The covering letter directed surveyors to the information and guidelines on White-nose syndrome on the BCT website, with the aim of informing volunteers, as well as minimising any potential spread of the disease into and around the UK. A printed copy of these guidelines is also available on request.

### Woodland Survey

This survey is funded by Natural England with the aim of monitoring barbastelle activity at sites designated as Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) for this species. In 2010, NE funded additional work which involved recruiting volunteers to design and survey extra transects at SACs to increase coverage of

these sites. Frequency division bat detectors and digital recorders were also purchased and loaned to volunteers to assist them in completing the extra survey work.

Preliminary sonogram analysis of recordings from the barbastelle surveys has been carried out in order to log whether barbastelle calls were recorded on each survey at SAC sites. More detailed analysis will follow in early 2011 and the results will be published as part of the NBMP Annual Reporting for 2010.

The table below summarises the findings: barbastelle presence was confirmed on each SAC site but not on all transects.

County	SAC site	Transect	No of surveys	Barbastelle recorded
Cambridgeshire	Wimpole and Eversden	Wimpole	3	Y
Cambridgeshire	Wimpole and Eversden	Eversden	3	Y
Hampshire	Mottisfont	Mottisfont transect 1	3	Y
Hampshire	Mottisfont	Mottisfont transect 2	1	Y
Hampshire	Mottisfont	Mason's Copse and Drove Copse	1	Y
Hampshire	Mottisfont	Holm Moor and Deborah Copse	1	N
Isle of Wight	Briddlesford Copse	Briddlesford-Bridleway	3	Y
Isle of Wight	Briddlesford Copse	Briddlesford Copse	3	N
Pembrokeshire	North Pembrokeshire Woodlands	Pengelli Forest	2	N
Pembrokeshire	North Pembrokeshire Woodlands	Ffynnon-ddu / Pencelly Woods	2	Y
Somerset	Quantocks	Hodder's Combe and Somerton Combe	3	Y
Somerset	Quantocks	Holford Combe	3	Unsure
West Sussex	Ebernoe Common	Ebernoe Common transect 1	2	Y
West Sussex	Ebernoe Common	Ebernoe Common transect 2	2	Y
West Sussex	The Mens	The Mens transect 1	1	Y
West Sussex	The Mens	The Mens transect 2	1	Y

Additional work is also being carried out to deliver training workshops for volunteers who have been involved in the Woodland Surveys at SAC sites to carry out sound analysis of the recordings collected on their surveys. Two workshops are to be run in 2011, the first in Bristol in January and the second in London in February.

### **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. 82 sites were surveyed in the 2009 pilot.

In 2010, data have been received from 58 sites to date, 30 of which were new sites. Data analysis and verification of species identification to confirm presence of Nathusius' pipistrelle will be carried out in early 2011 and the results published on the BCT website.

### Volunteer recruitment and support

A total of 66 new volunteers signed up to the NBMP between October and December 2010. This brings the total number of active volunteers in the programme to 2170. A breakdown of recruitment sources is shown for this period in the table below. The majority of new volunteers were recruited via returned Sunset/Sunrise Survey forms. This is the only NBMP survey form that is available for anyone to download from the BCT website without previously signing up as an NBMP volunteer, making it an effective method of recruiting new volunteers. Following this, the second largest numbers of volunteers were recruited via the BCT website, and new volunteers recruited via other sources also signed-up by completing the online sign-up form following public events and information from their local bat group.

Description	Total
Sunset/Sunrise Survey	21
BCT website	12
Local Bat Group	8
Other NBMP volunteer (WOM)	8
Unknown	5
Bat walk	4
Data in	3
Public event	2
BCT member	2
NBMP Sign-up Form	1

### NBMP training workshops/talks

This year a total of 30 workshops have been delivered (to end of November 2010) by NBMP and Count Bat staff and Regional Bat Detector Workshop Leaders. The workshops delivered in this period are shown in the table below.

Development of new training resources has continued in this period. The Introduction to Sound Analysis workshop has been refined following several trials and the workshop resources are now completed. Development is continuing on the Woodland Survey Sound Analysis workshop to provide specific training for analysis of Woodland Survey recordings and to identify barbastelles. This workshop will be run in January and February 2011.

Date	Location	Workshop delivered	Trainer/speaker
16 <sup>th</sup> October	Llandridodd Wells	Using Your Ears	Richard Dodd
13 <sup>th</sup> November	Battleby	Introduction To Sound Analysis	Kate Barlow
23 <sup>rd</sup> November	Woolwich	Intro to NBMP/Using Your Ears	Xavier Hamon
27 <sup>th</sup> November	Woking	Introduction To Sound Analysis	Philip Briggs

### Meetings and events

PB attended the NBN Conference in London on 13<sup>th</sup> October.

KB provided training for the WAM project team on sound analysis in October.

KB attended the Welsh Bat Workers' Day on 16<sup>th</sup> October and the Scottish conference on 13<sup>th</sup> November.

KH, KB and PB met with JNCC on 21<sup>st</sup> October to discuss a strategy for the re-development of the NBMP database.

KH, PB and FB attended BCT's South East Conference in Woking on 27<sup>th</sup> November. PB gave a talk on the NBMP in the South East and delivered the Introduction to Sound Analysis workshop.

KH, PB and FB attended a phone meeting with David Hughes of A Rocha (the international Christian conservation organisation) on 30<sup>th</sup> November to discuss ways of engaging churches and their congregations in bat monitoring and conservation.

KH gave a talk entitled 'Population trends and conservation issues: parallels between bats and birds' at the BTO Annual Conference at Swanwick, 3-5<sup>th</sup> December.

KH and KB attended a Steering Group meeting with JNCC on 7<sup>th</sup> December.

### **NBMP Reporting**

The 2010 NBMP report will be delivered online for the first time in 2011. KB is currently preparing draft pages as examples of how the species trends will be reported on the BCT website. This forms part of the new work-plan agreed with JNCC. In partnership with JNCC we will invite several external stakeholder organisations to comment on these drafts, and then a full plan for the structure of the report online and all pages will be developed over the winter and spring for reporting in 2011.

### **NBMP database**

A meeting was held with JNCC on 21<sup>st</sup> October to discuss the database re-development with Ian Mitchell and Andy Brewer (JNCC IT). An overview of the current database and requirements for re-development were sent to JNCC in advance of the meeting, AB is reviewing the current database and considering options for re-development and how to take the work forward to develop a specification for it. A further NBMP Steering Group meeting was held with JNCC on 7<sup>th</sup> December. AB is continuing with his review, separating the current NBMP requirements into recording and management activities, so that we can work towards full functional requirements and specifications for both aspects of the data needs.

## **Indicators**

### **England Biodiversity Indicator.**

BCT was 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. Data and text for the England indicator were sent to Defra in this period.

## **Research collaborations and publications**

### **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. Her paper on linear features has been provisionally accepted for publication in Biological Conservation subject to minor revisions and will be published in 2011.

### **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 developing finalizing manuscripts from his thesis for submission.

### **Orly Razgour, Bristol University**

Orly is studying the autecology of the grey long-eared bat. She has submitted her year 2 report.

## Bechstein's Bat Survey Project

All data from this summer's surveys have now been received and downloaded into the project database. Initial analysis of the data will begin in the New Year. Final surveys will take place in May and June 2011 with a final project report planned for September 2011.

Information about the surveys and the species caught, along with woodland guidance documents have been sent out to landowners of all sites surveyed. Additional information has also been sent to those sites where Bechstein's bats have been found.

This summer the project surveyed over 90 squares in seven counties (Devon, Dorset, Buckinghamshire, Gloucestershire, Kent, Somerset and Worcestershire) catching over 400 bats of 12 species.

## Indicator Bats Program (iBats)

The half-year progress report for the Darwin Initiative project "Monitoring biodiversity indicators through volunteer networks across Eurasia" was submitted to Darwin in October 2010.

During 2010, volunteers have collected data from 342 driven transects in Romania, Bulgaria, Ukraine, Russia and Hungary totalling 16,846km (Table 1). Each country exceeded the targets they set at the training workshops in May 2010. Sound analysis is ongoing.

Table 1. Project summaries downloaded from the iBats online data portal (10/12/10) for 2010.

Project	Events	Routes	Monitoring transects	Survey volunteers participating in 2010	KM driven
iBatsBulgaria	69	47	31	15	3171
iBatsRomania	85	58	31	28	4159
iBats Hungary	67	47	16	25	2659
iBatsRussia	70	38	22	46	3919
iBatsUkraine	51	40	22	30	2938

The development of an application for the iPhone in collaboration with Dr. George Roussos at Birkbeck (University of London) was completed in September but is in the process of being updated. 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, and is also in the process of being updated. Both applications have now been tested and will be formally released when the new web site has been completed in early 2011.



Screenshots from the iBats iPhone application

MSM have released a working version of the new iBats web portal for testing. The website not only improves the data management aspect of the project but also allows volunteers will be able to explore their data more easily – e.g. generate maps of data, download survey routes and geo-referenced bat call data, and produce reports. The new web portal will incorporate transect data gathered using the application for the iPhone and phones running the Android operating system.

BCT and ZSL are in the process of assisting host countries to apply for funding to continue and expand the project in 2011. To date applications have been submitted for a Rufford Small Grant, Whitley Award, BCI Grassroots Award, Conservation Leadership Program Grant and to the Lush Charity Pot. The project partners have also applied to the BBC Wildlife Fund for funding and our outline entry for the St Andrews Prize for the Environment has recently reached the second round.

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. Data is still being uploaded and analysed.

In October Annabelle Pagan completed her MSc thesis at ZSL and Imperial College 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?”. This has demonstrated that the iBatsUK UK trends for selected species over a short time period are in accordance with those produced by NBMP colony counts but are not with those of the field surveys for common pipistrelles and soprano pipistrelles.

## **PEMBUS – Pan European Monitoring of Underground Sites**

This project is currently on hold (decision summer 2010) until the funding climate is more favourable to a Life+ or other European funding bid.

## **Welsh Agri-Environment Scheme**

The main focus of work this quarter has been sound analysis of frequency division (from Field and Waterways Surveys) and Anabat (from Horseshoe Bat Surveys) recordings of echolocation calls from the 2010 field season. Other work included entry of farm, survey, habitat and sonogram analysis data, compiling and sending reports to farmers, and project administration.

The contracts for four seasonal field assistants (Michael Garratt, Naomi Stratton, Anthony Turner and Nik West) finished at the end of September. Two Research Assistants were recruited to assist with sound analysis and data entry, these were Emma Douglas (previously on the team as a Field Assistant and whose contract was extended until mid-November), and Faye Midmore (previously on the team as an MSc project student and who was then employed from October to mid-December). Claire Feniuk’s internship continued until mid-November.

Sound analyses of all 120 Field Surveys (30 pairs of farms surveyed twice) and 76 Horseshoe Surveys (19 pairs of farms surveyed twice) were completed. To date, 64 of the 80 Waterways Surveys (20 pairs of farms surveyed twice) have been analysed, and it is expected that the remaining surveys will be completed in January 2011. Most of the data entry has also been completed and again it is expected that this will be finished in January 2011.

Sound recordings made during Field and Waterways Surveys show bat echolocation calls made by species other than the target species, for example greater and lesser horseshoe bats and serotines. It is hoped the incidence of these calls will contribute to species distribution data for south Wales which is particularly important since such information is currently limited for several species.

Ruth Angell gave a talk about the project at the Welsh Bat Workers’ Day held at Llandrindod Wells in October. Karen Haysom and Ruth Angell attended the project Partners’ Meeting in Cardiff in December.

## Roofing membranes

The project into bats and their interactions with breathable roofing membranes is continuing to make good progress. Over the past quarter the research into how bats interact mechanically with BRMs is continuing, with cutting tests completed and investigations into suitable tearing tests underway, measurements for the mimetic claw have also been completed. This was done by gaining access to the NHM bat collections and gathering data from the specimens. I have also visited several sites with the potential of putting data loggers in them, to measure temperature and humidity. One of these sites looks very promising and is home to at least 3 species of bat.

Amy Walters who has been working on effect of membrane colour and reflectance, as part of the PTES internship, has completed her project and has handed in the final paper. She is also writing a report for the PTES and will conduct a presentation of her work early in 2011. This project has provided some interesting data and will be followed up later in the year with a continuation project.

Work carried out by Alice Lightowlers is to be looked at, to determine if we can produce a paper-worthy article. This work is also to be continued and investigated in greater detail.

Awareness of the project is steadily increasing. This has been helped by talks I have given for local bat groups. These talks were very well received and encouraged people to spread news about the project to colleagues. I also hosted a six-monthly steering group meeting in December. This is a collection of 14 people from various backgrounds who all have an interest/expertise in the project area. The meeting raised some very interesting issues that have given me ideas for future research.

Finally I have been working hard on my literature review, which is still in progress but I hope will be completed shortly.

# Biodiversity/ Conservation

## Biodiversity

### **Review of BCT Survey Guidelines**

The first editorial board meeting was held in November. A working timetable has been agreed with an aim is to have completed the review ready for the consultation of new guidelines at the end of next year.

Work has already begun on the drafting of the newest chapter; surveying for onshore wind farms. There will be an opportunity to comment on the chapter prior to publication as part of an official consultation at the beginning of next year.

### **Localism Bill**

The government has launched its new Localism Bill. This will see neighbourhood groups allowed to create new ‘Neighbourhood Development Orders’ to define specific developments, or types of development, which will have automatic planning permission without the need for any application to the local authority. Neighbourhood Plans will undergo a light touch examination by an independent assessor to ensure that they comply with legal requirements and national policy.

These are challenging developments that, if implemented badly, have the potential to impact bat conservation greatly. BCT is working closely with the Association for Local Government Ecologists (ALGE) and relevant NGOs to keep the protection of bats on the agenda. BCT is also lobbying the Royal Town Planning Institute (RTPI) and the relevant SNCOs to ensure that the protection of bats is not watered down as a result of these changes.

Specific actions include: delivering training on planning for protected species; launching online resources for planners; and working with enforcement agencies to maintain compliance that keeps the legal obligations well known.

For more information about the Bill, go to

[www.communities.gov.uk/publications/localgovernment/decentralisationguide](http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/localgovernment/decentralisationguide).

### **Bentley Barn**

Lisa Hundt represented BCT at a meeting between the Ingleton Group (owners of the barn), Babergh Council, Natural England, English Heritage on 4<sup>th</sup> November. Preferred use of the building was discussed. It was agreed that the Ingleton Group must submit a structural condition survey to the local planning authority for assessment, supported by proposals for the repair or alteration of the barn. The aim: to establish a scheme of works that is the minimum required to stabilise and conserve the barn and one which is agreed to by all stakeholders.

The Ingleton Group expressed an interest in meeting with the Bentley Barn Preservation Trust to discuss options for future management of the site.

Laura Dunne has organised and attended two meetings with the Board since: a conference call on 9<sup>th</sup> November (the aim of which was update the Board on the outcomes of the meeting described above) and a meeting at the Natural England Bury St Edmunds Office on 10<sup>th</sup> December. During these meetings, the current structure of the Board and methods of communication were reviewed. Will Oakes, a solicitor who lives locally to the barn, was also introduced and formally voted onto the Board.

In 2011, Lisa Hundt will formally lead on this project on behalf of BCT.

## Consultations

### 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.

BCT submitted a response as part of Wildlife and Countryside Link and as an individual organisation. Information was also circulated on this to mobilise action through the bat groups; 6 bat groups submitted responses.

### Tree preservation orders: proposals for streamlining

This consultation paper seeks comments on the proposals to consolidate the legal provisions currently contained in regulations and tree preservation orders (TPOs) in England into one set of new regulations.

Some of the proposed changes could result in more works being classed as permissible without the need for an application of consent, for example limb removal from veteran and dying trees. This has obvious implications for bats and may result in a weakening of protection. BCT will be submitting a response to this consultation emphasising the need for the new regulations to remain in line with legislation protecting bats such as S40 of the NERC Act. It will also be requested that works that may affect bats are still subject to a bat survey and consent.

More details of the consultation are available on the CLG website:

<http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/planningandbuilding/treestreamliningconsult>

## Meetings

### Conservation Forum 2010: The conservation issues caused by the presence of bats in churches. Lambeth Palace, 16 November 2010.

This meeting was organised by The Church of England Church Building Council’s working group on bats in churches. The forum was chaired by the chair of the working group Anne Sloman (ex BBC chief political advisor) who has been driving the work of the committee since its establishment roughly a year ago. KH, LH and approximately 80 delegates in total attended. Delegates comprised a broad spectrum of parish and diocese representatives, ecclesiastical architects, Defra, Natural England, English Heritage, professional conservators and a small number of trusts, with church representatives predominant.

Speakers included Stephen Rudd, Wildlife Management Adviser at Natural England, Charles George QC, Dean of the Arches (currently involved with Habitats Directive case in Supreme Court), experts on brasses, monuments and wall-paintings, James Hales (currently undertaking PhD on quantifying damage to historic furnishings/works of art and identifying mitigation strategies), Philip Parker (environmental consultant who has been leading work on the Norfolk bat project), David Bullock (National Trust who generously also represented BCT and English Heritage) and Nigel Cooper (CBC bat working group). Day was focused primarily on churches that have specific bat problems (as opposed to information needs /concerns over restoration work and whether presence of bats will affect the schedule or type of work undertaken). Charles George sent a strong message that seeking a change to the law was not an option, as EU Habitats Directive very tightly worded. KH and LH were able to network with a range of church and conservation sector representatives.

**Beyond 2010: Strategies for understanding and responding to long-term changes in UK biodiversity, Natural History Museum 16-17<sup>th</sup> November 2010.**

A scientific conference organised by ECN, the Natural History Museum and the NERC Centre for Ecology and Hydrology as a contribution to the International Year of Biodiversity. The aim was to highlight the central role long-term studies play in addressing key biodiversity-related issues, and to explore future directions for this area of research. JH and KH attended on separate days to network with a comprehensive selection of government agencies, researchers, NGOs and wider bodies concerning biodiversity monitoring in the UK. We raised the profile of NBMP and the Bechstein's bat survey by displaying the Bechstein's project poster. NBMP data was mentioned in talks given by David Roy (CEH) about the BICCO-net collaboration and Lawrence Way (JNCC). Lawrence Way's talk focused on getting more from monitoring systems for less money by becoming a crucial part of assessments, reporting and answering key questions/challenges faced by biodiversity and concluded that investing in analysis for better use of the data we have is the way forward. Key themes were:

- Making the connection to ecosystem services – need to address the research for this – to understand relevance and impact for our lives
- Cross sector integration challenge – bringing in data from other sectors and integrating biodiversity into the development and implementation of other policies
- Innovative new technologies
- Big Society – citizen science

NBMP will be following up on new contacts with a group previously involved with social science studies on volunteer motivations, as their experience is likely to be relevant to work we will be undertaking as part of the new work-plan to increase the number of volunteer surveyors and the retention of current participants.

**UK Biodiversity Partnership Conference *New Targets, New Challenges*, Stirling Business Centre, 23-24 November**

KH attended this meeting which focused on lessons from Nagoya and how to integrate ecosystem services into implementation of CBD. KH had been invited to lead a workshop on indicators of ecosystem health in partnership with Abisha Mapendembe from World Conservation Monitoring Centre. The event was well attended by government and NGOs. Andy Stott from Defra outlined the new targets and development of the EU Biodiversity Strategy which will fall out from Nagoya and several work-shops addressed the practical implications of how to incorporate ecosystem services into the EU and UK biodiversity strategies, given constraints in our understanding of how ecosystems work at this scale.

**Scale-related issues with the monitoring of biodiversity in the EU, 18 November**

KH and PB met with Andrew McConville and Tiffany Key of IEEP to assist them in research for an EU funded commission called SCALES which is investigating Scale-related issues with the monitoring of biodiversity in the EU. KH provided an over-view of the NBMP and based on work undertaken for EEA in 2008, after bat monitoring work in the EU. The meeting provided an opportunity to feedback current barriers to participating in EU collaborations and challenges to funding long-term monitoring programmes, despite the acknowledged need for the data they provide. This may prove a useful link to environmental contacts in Europe.

**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
- Natural England BAPAudit meeting

## Investigations

### Operations

Too date the past quarter has seen 9 incidents of bat crime being investigated by the Police some of which have only come to the attention of BCT by contact initiated by investigating officers. 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 dating from 2009 that appeared to be heading for prosecution has now been discontinued by the Procurator Fiscal, for reasons relating to the public interest. Although the reasoning behind the decision can be understood there is concern that incorrect legislation had been considered.

Since appointment in March the investigating officer has now had direct contact with 46 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 one particular instance a force simply declined to deal with a report in an acceptable manner. The situation was only resolved with the involvement of the Officer in Charge of the National Wildlife Crime Unit who made it known that BCT would have to consider making a formal complaint if the matter was not investigated to a satisfactory standard. The quarter has also seen the resolution of the last remaining investigation from 2009. The offender who for the past 12 months had been residing abroad returned to the UK and surrendered himself to the Police for interview. He was subsequently formally cautioned for an offence of damaging a bat roost.

### Training

Bat Crime 2009 a review of incidents referred to the Police for investigation in 2009 has been produced and can be found on BCT's website. Operation Bat standard operating procedures detail the anticipated response of the Police to allegations of criminal behaviour have been reviewed and distributed to all Police forces in England, Scotland and Wales. The investigations officer attended the Scottish Bat conference and continues to make contact with bat groups throughout the UK. Training on how to deal with calls relating to bat crime has recently been provided to our recently appointed helpline staff.

### Wildlife Crime Priorities

In November JNCC considered the UK wildlife crime conservation priorities for 2011-2013. Bat crime is one of the conservation priorities that JNCC will put forward to the National Wildlife Crime Unit. Early next year the unit will identify the wildlife crime priorities for the next 2 years that will take into account not only the conservation priorities but also issues of volume crime.

Significant progress has been made on taking forward the bat crime wildlife crime priority. The priority delivery group chaired by BCT now includes representatives of the Police as well as NE, SNH and CCW. The group is able to meet regularly through use of video and telephone conferencing facilities provided by the SNCO's.

The Welsh Biodiversity Partnership has recently formed a wildlife crime enforcement group which will seek to reduce wildlife crime in Wales. BCT on represented on the group by the investigations officer.

## Bats and the Built Environment

### Bats and Buildings leaflet

BCT's technical guidance documents are in need of refurbishment. The Biodiversity team decided to develop a new Bats and Built Environment leaflet series. The series will consist of new leaflets on Bats and Buildings, Lighting, Landscaping, Insulation, Roads, Pest control and Timber treatment and Wind Turbines.

### **Mitigation website**

The lack of good information and case studies on bat mitigation has prompted the idea for BCT to develop a website which will allow consultants and roost owners to upload their own examples of bat roost mitigation. The aim will be for the website to become a reference site for best practice and possibly for research.

### **Steering group workshops**

#### **Lighting – Emma Stone, University of Bristol (November)**

The purpose of this steering group workshop was to outline a comprehensive ‘lighting for bats’ guidance document. Emma, with help from the steering group, will write up the document early in 2011.

#### **Breathable roofing membranes – Stacey Waring, University of Reading (December)**

This workshop was to update the steering group on Stacey’s research thus far. It included feedback on two internships that looked at the effect of BRM colour and light levels (Amy Walters) and the effect of friction on BRM’s (Alice Lightowlers).

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

#### **UK Passivhaus Conference (October) - stand**

The term Passive house (Passivhaus in German) refers to the rigorous, voluntary, Passivhaus standard for energy efficiency in a building, reducing its ecological footprint. It results in ultra-low energy buildings that require little energy for space heating or cooling. This one day conference included top UK and international speakers on the topic of passivhaus design, as well as field trips to passivhaus examples in London. BCT had a small stand at the event where we promoted Carol Williams’ book, *Biodiversity for Low and Zero Carbon Buildings*.

#### **BEST Show – Birmingham (October) stand and panel talk**

Built Environment Solutions and Technologies (BEST) is a three day buildings expo. Kelly Gunnell (KG) worked with the BEST organisers to arrange some biodiversity speakers and for a few conservation organisations, including BCT, to have free stand space. KG chaired a panel discussion on ‘Creating effective habitats for wildlife to ensure biodiversity’. Our stand received much interest averaging 30-50 interactions per day. Thanks to Hannah Rawsley, Ros Buckley, Sean Clay and Chris Smith for their help on the stand.

Ros said of her experience, “Having a BCT stall at the BEST festival was definitely a positive move, we got a good deal of traffic running throughout biodiversity corridor and there was a lot of interest for both ‘building and bats’ and also with regards to home owners own interest. It was great to network with RSPB, Brian Murphy and Wild Ecology and it was also great to see our bat workers there in different guises.”

Hannah said, “The best show provided a great opportunity to not only promote the use of bat bricks and bat access products to developers, but to give general information and reassurance to those who had roosts within their properties. The stall was extremely popular and I spoke to roughly 40 people throughout the day. I was surprised at the number of people working within the building industry that were totally unaware of BCT and the free roost visit service our volunteers offer. I therefore believe that attending future BEST Show’s would be extremely worthwhile to promote this service further.”

#### **Scottish Bat Workers Day, Battleby (November) – talk, workshop**

KG presented a short talk about the Bats and Built Environment project and hosted a workshop on Building for Bats and Biodiversity. The workshop was well-attended and received positive feedback.

### **Training**

#### **Bat finding – Scotland (November)**

KG spent a day with Anne Youngman and John Haddow looking for hibernating bats in Doune Castle and Aberfoyle Tunnel. We were lucky to find about 6-8 pipistrelle bats, 2 Natterer’s bats and 1 brown-long

earedbat. More about the bat adventure can be found in this blog:

<http://batconservationtrust.blogspot.com/2010/12/winter-slumberland.html>

### **Passivhaus course (December)**

The training charity, RESET, hosted a 1 day CPD course on Passivhaus design. KG attended to learn more about sustainable construction in new build.

### **Meetings**

- RHS meeting (October) and visit to Hyde Hall (November) to discuss ways for the RHS to promote bats in their gardens.
- Jon Sadler and James Hale - Birmingham (October) to discuss Building for Biodiversity
- Ecobuild meetings – Natural England (October and November)
- GreenBuild Expo – meeting to discuss biodiversity at 2011 event (October)
- Capgemini, Rotherham (December) to discuss Building for Biodiversity

## **International**

### **BatLife Europe**

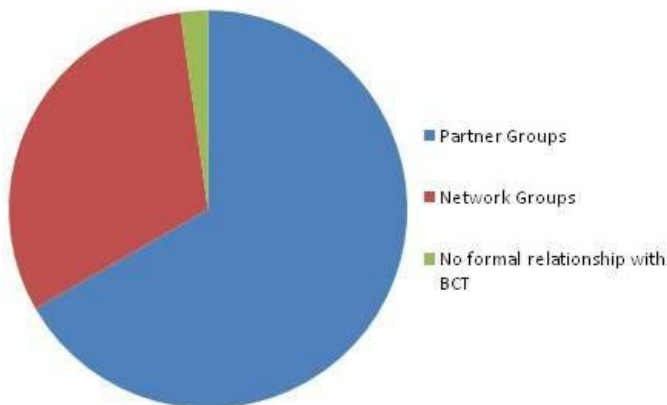
BCT is working with NGO partners across Europe to form BatLife Europe as an international NGO. This quarter we developed a contacts list for bat NGOs and experts throughout Europe and planned electronic trustees meetings with the new BatLife Europe trustees. Hannah Rawnsley, started work one day per week as BCT's BatLife Europe administrator, reporting to JH.

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

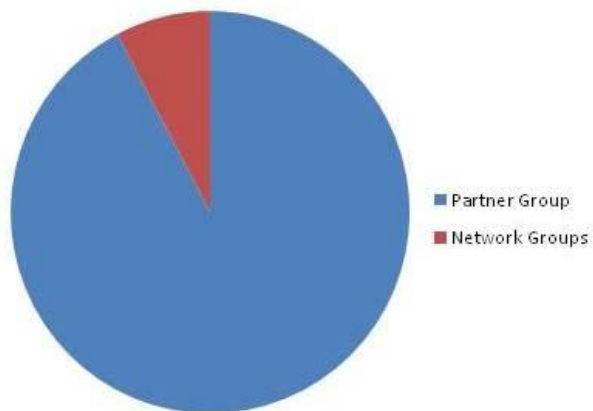
## BCT-Bat Group Relationships: UK overview

At the start of 2010, BCT agreed to formally move away from BCT-bat group affiliation towards new Partner and Network Agreements. At the end of 2010, 60 bat groups were registered as Partner Groups and 28 as Network Groups. Two groups have opted to have no formal relationship with BCT. A further eight groups formally included on our contacts databases have been registered as inactive until further notice.

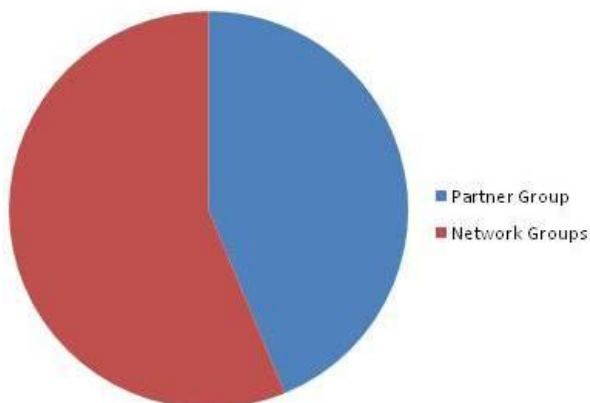
### UK – ‘BCT-Bat Group relations in the UK’



### Scotland – ‘BCT-Bat Group Relations in Scotland’



### Wales – BCT-Bat Group Relations in Wales’



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

A meeting with the three Channel Island bat groups was held on 2<sup>nd</sup> October. Jersey and Guernsey BG have since opted to become Partner Groups. Alderney BG has opted to become a Network Group, on the grounds that it is currently very small and inactive. We have agreed to review this status next year, following new foreseen recruitments at the Alderney Wildlife Trust.

Other BCT-Bat Group Meetings this quarter:

- Isle of Man BG, 19<sup>th</sup> October. The BG has since opted to become a Partner Group.
- Norwich BG, 20<sup>th</sup> October. The BG has since opted to become a Partner Group.
- Surrey BG, 21<sup>st</sup> October. The BG has since opted to become a Partner Group.
- Herts & Middlxs BG on 28<sup>th</sup> October. At the time of writing, a decision is still awaited.
- Avon BG, 24<sup>th</sup> November. The BG has since opted to become a Partner Group.
- Sussex Bat Group, 9<sup>th</sup> December. The BG has since opted to become a Partner Group.

Meeting with London Bat group on 1<sup>st</sup> December was cancelled at the last minute due to weather/riots in London. This meeting has not yet been rescheduled.

A new calendar notifying Partner Groups of potential/available meeting dates in 2011 has been included within the password protected Partner Group area of the website.

### **English Regional Conferences**

The South East Conference took place on 27<sup>th</sup> November at Woking College. 150 delegates booked on; 142 attended on the day. (Quite a few people notified us at the last minute that they would not be attending due to illness.) Overall, from 52 feedback forms received: 33 rated the day as ‘good’ overall, and 19 rated the day as excellent. In the ‘priorities’ discussion session at the end of the days, the main topics of interest related to: planning and licensing, and professional training.

The North of England conference will take place on 26<sup>th</sup> March at the University of Central Lancashire, Preston. The South West Conference will take place on 2<sup>nd</sup> April at the University of Plymouth. (This event was originally due to take place on 30<sup>th</sup> April, but was rescheduled following the announcement of the royal wedding and associated bank holiday on 29<sup>th</sup> April).

Programmes for both conferences are currently being compiled. Bookings will open at the end of January/early February next year.

### **Bat Worker Bulletins**

2 bat worker bulletins were circulated this quarter. Notifications included: funding opportunities (Lush and Opal grants); forthcoming consultations (proposal for streamlining TPOs); new localism bill; September’s bat worker forum minutes; revisions to the WNS guidance for bat workers; information about the HPA serology study; and launch of Year of the Bat.

### **eBulletin**

November issue 27 circulated to 7,149 subscribers. (Up from 7,042 subscribers in September).

### **Bat News: Spotlight on Bat Groups**

News items from Lothians, East Yorkshire, Derbyshire and Bedfordshire Bat Groups included.

### **White-nose syndrome**

2 suspect cases submitted to the VLA this quarter: one in Gloucestershire one in Avon. In the Gloucestershire case, *G. destructans* was not isolated from the tape sample; the carcass was too autolysed for morphological examination. Results from the Avon case are still awaited.

In response to discussions held at the bat worker forum, amendments were made to the WNS Guidance for bat workers to clarify that licensed bat workers undertaking hibernation checks must not handle suspect live bats when taking samples of fungal spores. Revisions to this affect have been made on pages 2 (1.4) and 5 (2.2). Bat workers were notified of this change via the bat worker bulletin.

### **Rabies**

Helen Miller and Laura Dunne organised/attended a meeting with the VLA on 2<sup>nd</sup> November. Priorities for 2011 were agreed, including: facilitating data sharing between the VLA and bat groups; and continuing BCT's promotion of the VLA's passive surveillance programme.

## **BCT in Wales**

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

#### **Species Expert Group**

The SEG met in November. Concerns still remain on the ability of Glastir to deliver biodiversity despite it being the central pillar for WAG for ecosystem delivery. We are working and supporting other NGOs in this arena. We note that WAG have announced a pot of funding - Biodiversity Grant Fund. This is a substantial amount of money and it is being administered by Environment Wales. SEG are identifying a range of high priority projects for submission in January.

#### **Wales Mammal Biodiversity Action Plan Forum**

Meeting was held in October. Draft biodiversity action plans for the suite of bats for which BCT are lead partner have been produced and are with CCW for graphics (maps). The Forum is identifying a range of priority projects to go to the Species Expert Group (possibly a Rare Woodland Bats project) to pick up on bechsteins and barabastelle distribution in Wales.

#### **Welsh Assembly Government - Glastir Agri-environment Scheme**

We have not received any further consultation work in this area. As mentioned, concerns are still being raised about delivery of Glastir and we are continuing to support other NGOs through Wales Environment Link to try to resolve these concerns.

### **Consultations**

A Living Wales – a new framework for our environment, our countryside and our seas

This consultation paper introduces the Natural Environment Framework (NEF) which seeks to 'have a stronger focus on sustainable land and marine management' through an Ecosystem Goods & Services (EG&S) approach thereby halting the loss of biodiversity, and protecting the environment. We were involved in the early drafts before the final publication in September and we have submitted our response..

#### **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.

#### **Maintaining and enhancing the existing volunteer support**

Formal meetings with bat groups continue as time and other commitments permit. Regular contact is maintained through electronic bulletins and other ad hoc emails whenever the opportunity arises.

## Partnership Agreements

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

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	Confirmed
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	Confirmed
Radnorshire	Network	31/3/2011	Confirmed
Carmarthenshire	Inactive		Pilot project

## Wales Count Bat project

I am delighted to announce that following submission of the Urban Bat Survey project to Neath Port Talbot Environment Forum for an award under the category Action For Wildlife, that BCT and the volunteers who took and continue to take part in the survey, won that award. The award was presented at a ceremony by Iolo Williams.

Continue to lead walks where requested.

## Volunteer support and training

### Wales Bat Workers Day

This took place on 17 October and once again the event was oversubscribed.

### Advanced bat detector skills

We ran a level I Anabat training skills course for volunteers working on the Urban Bat Survey project in the Neath area.

### Basic Bat Care

We have run the first of three basic bat care courses for Wales. The aim is to recruit new bat carers onto the Help Line network especially in those areas where there is a lack of bat carers. 16 volunteers attended the first course that was held in Carmarthen.

## 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. Attended the Irish Bat Conference in Kilkenny.

## BCT in Scotland BCT in Scotland

### Building volunteer network- Scottish Bat workers Conference (SBWC)

The Scottish Bat workers conference was held at Battleby on Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> November. Just fewer than 100 people attended. The day consisted of a morning of talks, followed by an afternoon of practical workshops and discussion groups and finally a “bat news roundup”. 35 feedback forms were received. Of

those who gave feedback most got their first choice of workshop and rated the quality of talks and workshops as high. Thanks are due to Scottish Natural Heritage who do not charge for use of the venue, this is a considerable help in keeping the costs as low as possible.

Next year's conference will be on Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> November at Stirling University.

### Partnership/ Network groups

The table below summarises the relationships of bat groups and BCT in Scotland

Group	Relationship	Notes
Ayrshire	Partner	
Central Scotland	Partner	
Clyde	Partner	
Cowal	Network	
Dumfries and Galloway	Partner	
Fife and Kinross	Partner	
Inverness	Partner	
Lothian's	Partner	
Loch Lomond	Partner	
North East Scotland	Partner	
North Highland bat Network	Partner	
Tayside	Partner – TBC	A new group may be formed by merging the old Perth, Dundee and Angus groups

### Training

The SBWC provided an opportunity for practical training. The following workshops were offered;

- Tree survey and mitigation,
- Introduction to Sound analysis (Frequency division)
- Introduction to Anabat
- Surveying farm buildings
- Building for bats and biodiversity

### Talks to Council staff - Bats and Development

This quarter one talk on Bats and development was given to 12 staff of Perth Council. The aim of the talk is to encourage bat conservation by raising awareness of bats of threats to bat conservation and conversely actions to help improve bat habitat. Talks have been offered to all councils in Scotland.

### Public Education/Enabling involvement of the public

- A leaflet "Bats in Scotland" will be produced early in 2011 and is currently in draft form.
- The "Introduction to Bats" leaflet in Gaelic and English was send out to a further 18 Gaelic medium nurseries, primary and secondary schools along with information on the BCT teachers page and International Year of the Bat.
- A bat talk was delivered at Deanston primary school following an incident where a brown longeared bat appeared in a classroom.
- A bat talk was delivered to primary school pupils at Perth Museum as part of the Charles McIntosh memorial and prize giving event.
- The SBO attended a multi-cultural event with the aim of encouraging wider audiences into bat conservation.
- THE SBO attended the Bat care training course in Wales with the aim of delivering a similar course (or courses) in Scotland.

**Meetings**

A six monthly review meeting was attended by the Steering group of the Scottish Bat project. The SBO also attended various team meetings and staff meetings at the BCT offices in London during December.

# Education & Engagement

## Hon. Education Officer

### Publications

Edited *Young Batworker* 79.

On Editorial Committee for *Bat News*

### Courses/Conferences

16/10/10 Attended Kent Wildlife Conference *Kent's Biodiversity - 2010 and Beyond*. Presented a BCT/KBG display on bat diversity

17/11/10 Attended Wildlife Gardening Forum. *Garden Wildlife in the International Year of Biodiversity*

23/11/10 Co-tutored *Introduction to Bats* for Count Bats at Woolwich.

26/11/10 Attended Mammal Society Autumn Symposium on *New techniques in Mammal Research*

27/11/10 BCT Southeast Conference. Gave presentation on *Kent God's Acre project*.

### Meetings

15/10/10 Meeting with Education Officer at *Howlette Wildlife Park*, Kent, regarding promotion of bat conservation

13/10/10 At BCT. Editorial meeting

Count Bat meeting

22/11/10 With HM and LH at *Hyde Hall, Essex* (RHS) regarding promotion of gardening for bats.

30/11/10 Conference call meeting between BCT and A Rocha

7/12/10 At BCT. *Bat News* Editorial Meeting

With HM planning update of *Training for Trainers Course*.

16/12/10 At BCT. Led training session for new Helpline Staff

## National Conference

BCT has confirmed the venue for the 2011 conference will be the University of Warwick 16-18 September. The programme has changed slightly for 2011. We will be having themed sessions and inviting people to submit abstracts for talks they want to give. We have promoted this through our social network sites, e-bulletins, IEEM, contacted suggested people to give talks, individual staff contacts.

We will also not be offering a £5 discount for members but will be letting members know they can book onto the conference as early bird bookings, before booking is advertised elsewhere. The delegate costs will be confirmed in the new year. Bookings will be taken entirely on line for a second year running. Gail Armstrong is helping Michelle Beckett arrange the programme this year.

## Training

### Professional training

#### Bats and Bat Surveys

The 2011 dates and venues are as follows:

18-20 April	Juniper Hall FSC Centre (Surrey)
1-3 June	Nettlecombe FSC Centre (Somerset)
25-27 July	Orielton FSC Centre (Pembrokeshire)
12-15 August	Malham Tarn FSC Centre (Yorkshire)

#### Planning and Preparation of Surveys

Dates and venues for 2011 are as follows:

11 May	Juniper Hall FSC Centre (Surrey)
24 August	Lackham Countryside Centre (Wiltshire)

### **Surveying Buildings (including Bat Identification)**

The last course of the year ran at Clumber Park on 19-20 October, and was taught by Peter Shepherd and John Haddow. The course was fully booked with 20 people attending.

Dates and venues for 2011 are as follows:

12-13 May	Juniper Hall FSC Centre (Surrey)
25-26 August	Lackham Countryside Centre (Wiltshire)
17-18 October	Clumber Park (Nottinghamshire)

### **Surveying Barns**

One course ran in this quarter at St Ippolyts Village Hall, Hertfordshire, 7 October. This was attended by 12 people, and was taught by Patty Briggs.

Dates for 2011 are as follows:

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

The course at Juniper Hall FSC Centre in Surrey (1 November) ran with 13 people attending. This was tutored by John Drewett.

Dates for 2011 are as follows:

31 October	Juniper Hall FSC Centre (Surrey)
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### **Surveying Trees**

Two courses were successfully run in this quarter, the first on 10 November at Bewerley Park, North Yorkshire, and the second in Richmond Park, Surrey on 13 December. Both courses were fully booked and tutored by Sandie Sowler.

Dates for 2011 dates are as follows:

14 March	Hinchingbrooke County Park (Cambs)
7 November	Bewerley Park (North Yorkshire)
5 December	Richmond Park (Surrey)

### **Arboriculture and Bats**

Two courses ran in this quarter. One was at Hinchingbrooke Country Park on 22 November (taught by Mark Robinson and Adam Curtis and attended by 11 people) and the other was at Juniper Hall on 24 November (taught by Louise Mapstone and Mark Robinson and attended by 13 people).

Dates and venues for 2011 are as follows:

7 March	Malham Tarn FSC Centre (N. Yorkshire)
28 March	Ickworth House (Suffolk)
7 April	Juniper Hall FSC Centre (Surrey)
11 April	Plas Tan-y-Bwlch (Gwynedd)
20 June	Nettlecombe FSC Centre (Somerset)
4 July	Hinchingbrooke Country Park (Cambs)
1 August	Margam Park FSC Centre (Glamorgan)
22 August	Richmond Park (Surrey)
27 September	Bewerley Park (N. Yorkshire)
10 October	Harcourt Arboretum (Oxfordshire)

**Fibrescope course for arborists**

DS and HM met with tutors Louise Mapstone and Mark Robinson on 23 November to discuss any improvements needed to the course following the pilot. It is hoped that we will run at least three fibrescope courses in 2011.

**Bats and Bridges: an awareness course**

Dates for 2011 dates are as follows:

30 September                      Juniper Hall FSC Centre (Surrey)

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

Count Bat and Training ran a course an Intro to Bats and Using your Ears course on 23 November 2010.

**Bat Care**

HM worked with SL to run a bat care course in South Wales. The course was attended by 16 individuals from local bat groups in the area and tutored by Maggie Brown.

**Other projects**

**Training standards**

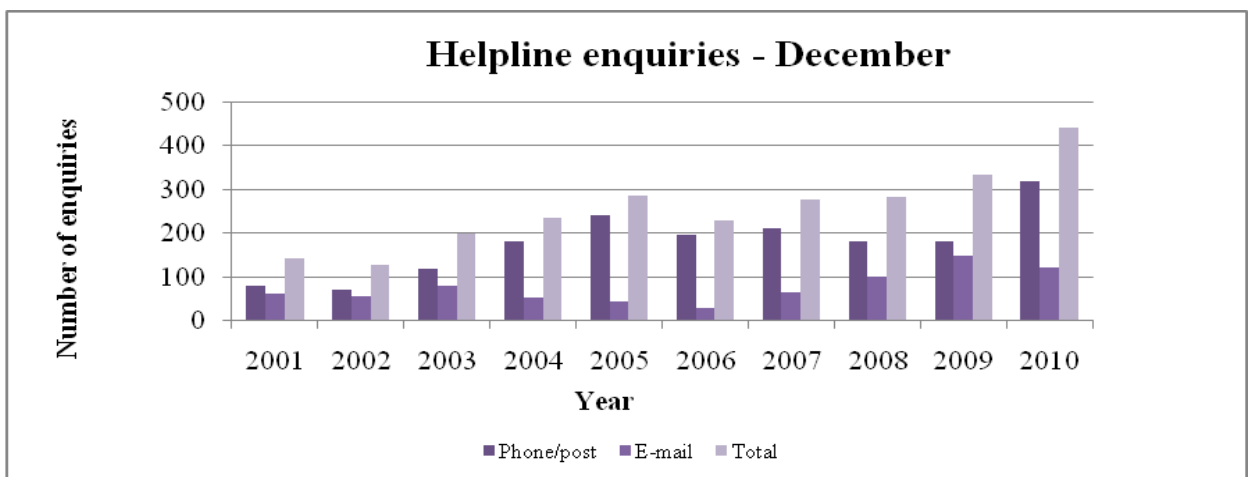
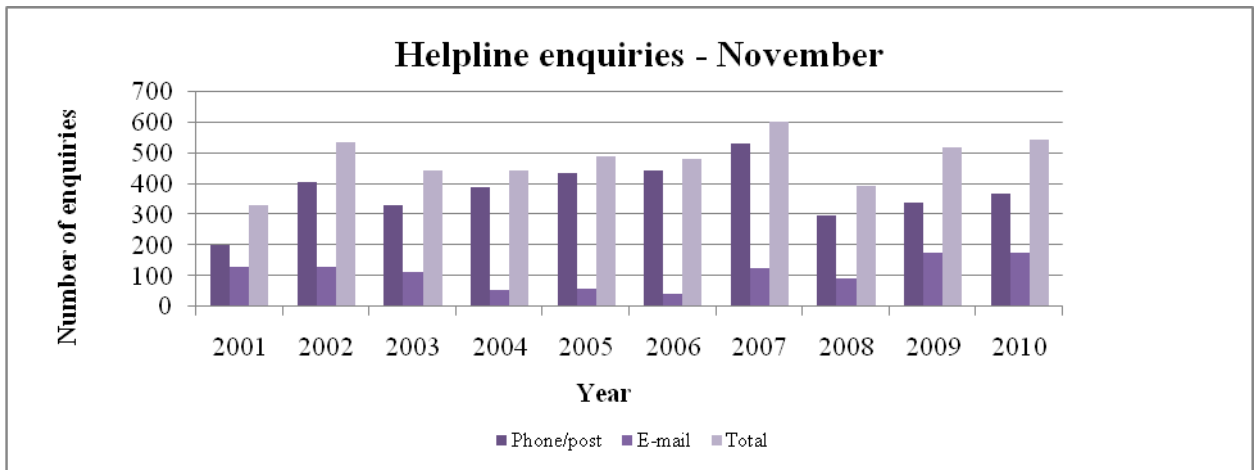
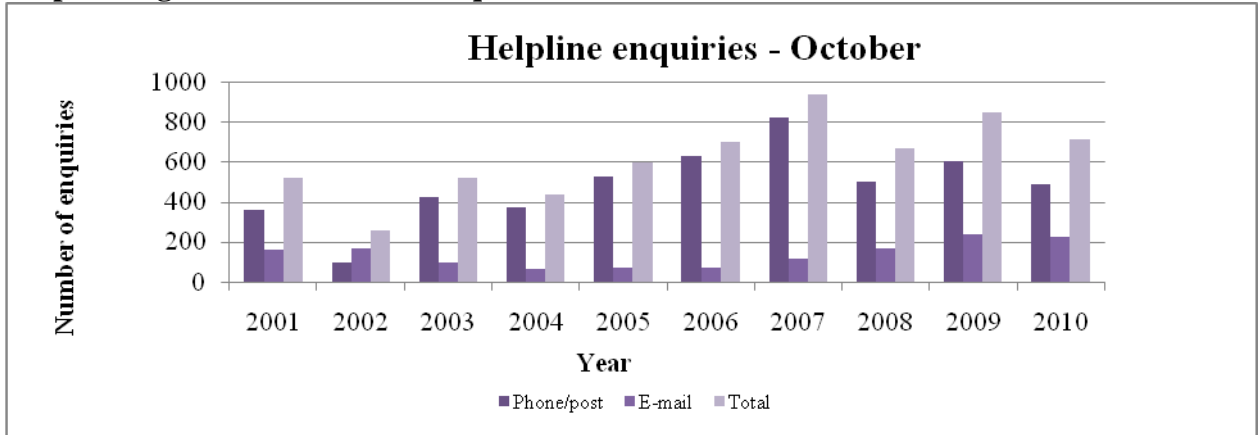
KS and HM met with IEEM to discuss a skills competency project that they (IEEM) are working on. It was agreed that BCT will input into the bat section of this project, using the training standards document as the basis of this work.

**Training brochure**

The new look 2011 training brochure has been completed and has been sent out to all BCT members and those on the training mailing list. The courses have also been added to the website.

## Helpline and Casework

### Helpline Figures – Numbers of enquiries



The graphs illustrate the total number of phone call and e-mail enquiries taken in October, November and December from 2001 to 2010.

## Overview

Enquiries usually come in less frequently in the autumn period between October and December. The total number of enquiries in October fell from 842 in 2009 to 712 in 2010 (a 15% decrease). However this number of enquiries is still higher than the number received in October 2008. The total number of enquiries significantly increased in November from 519 in 2009 to 546 in 2010 (a 5% increase) and in December from 338 in 2009 to 436 in 2010 (a 29% increase). This record number of enquiries received in December may be due to the adverse weather conditions experienced so early this winter.

In this period we get many phone calls and e-mails from members of the public who have recently discovered a roost in their house that they were previously not aware of. A lot of calls during this period, particularly during the colder months, relate to building works or repairs, such as insulation installation or timber treatment, when bats or evidence of bats may be discovered for the first time by the insulation company, builder or pest control company. Other calls at the end of this period are from concerned people that have found bats that may have got into difficulties in some way and are not in hibernation for one reason or another. These bats need to be treated slightly differently, and will need to be in good health and have enough stored energy in the form of fat deposits before they are released, to ensure they survive the winter period until more insects are available as a food source.

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. The total number of enquiries handled by the helpline in this quarter remained at a similar level to that in the same quarter in 2009; however, the helpline has increased the efficiency in which telephone enquiries (including Natural England casework) are handled. The total number of enquiries for this quarter was 1695, a small decrease from 1699 from 2009 but a large increase from 977 in 2008. The proportion of emails is slightly lower this quarter than last year, with 31% of enquiries through email compared to 33% in 2009, but is higher than in previous years, reflecting the change in communications.

## 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 – data for this was not available in time for the last quarterly report. 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 could be immediately passed to BCT.

In 2010, there were a total of 1157 calls recorded from the Out of Hours Helpline. Although this is 281 calls less than in 2009 (1438), it is over 300 calls more than we received in 2008 (849). The busiest weekend this year was the 24 and 25 July where a total of 55 calls were logged. A big thank you to all those volunteers who took part in the project.

In 2011, The Out of Hours service will be managed by Zoe Tubbs. Anyone interested in volunteering should contact Zoe ([ztubbs@bats.org.uk](mailto:ztubbs@bats.org.uk)) by March 2011.

## Bat care network and bat bites

The bat carer list is constantly expanding, reducing the burden on other bat carers and increasing the number of bats rescued. In this quarter, a recruitment drive in Wales began due to the lack of carers in this area. A bat care training course ran in south Wales on 27 November, and further training courses are planned for 2011.

Bat care calls represent a large percentage of the overall enquiries and acts as a valuable educational and recruitment tool. Many bat bite cases are discovered from the routine questions asked during such calls. The number of bat bite cases dealt with by Helpline increased from 0 in this quarter in 2009 to 9 in 2010.

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

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

1st October 2010 marked two years since we began the new Natural England contract which includes 8 of the 10 NE Lots (North East, North West, West Midlands, East Anglia, South East, South West, Cornwall & the Isle of Scilly and Yorkshire & the Humber). Over the past year, emphasis has been put on the importance of filling out the most recent NE roost report form for *all* visits, even if no bats are found, which aids in standardising our bat roost records. In December, the Helpline staff started to convert all roost report forms on paper into electronic form. 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.

The Helpline organised a total of 328 roost visits in this period (October; 157, November, 101, December, 70) compared to 365 in the same quarter in 2009 (October; 174, November, 119, December, 72). However this is still much higher than the 302 for 2007 and 168 in 2006. (The increase in 2008 was mainly due to additional regions taken on under the new Natural England Contract.)

The three new full time helpline officers will be taking on the roles of lot co-ordinators for three NE regions: Charlotte Wevill (East of England), Bea Ayling (Southwest, Cornwall & Isles of Scilly) and Zoe Tubbs (Cheshire and Lancashire).

### **Staff Changes**

There have been many staff changes this quarter. The October to December 2010 Helpline team comprised Kit Stoner (Helpline Manager), Amanda Adebisi (Helpline Technical Advisor), Crystal Schintz (Assistant Helpline Technical Advisor); full time Helpline officers Xenia Snowman, Teph Ballard, Sean Clay and Roz Buckley; and part-time Helpline officers Jackie Caine and Jennifer Pope. However, Roz and Sean left BCT in November and December respectively and Teph is has taken on a new role of Communications and Membership Officer. Three new full time Helpline officers have replaced them: Zoe Tubbs, Charlotte Wevill and Bea Ayling; and a new intern, Demian Lyle, has also started.

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

## Count Bat

The project continues to run under budget and on target. With the project due to end in January 2012 the team's thoughts have turned to creating resources to help sustain and build on the work done. Accordingly a number of 'winter projects' were initiated this quarter and will remain a focus of the coming quarters work. They include;

- Producing a suite of videos on running different events with different target audiences, and producing simple 'how to' videos on building bat boxes, using a bat detector and looking for bats in urban environments
- Overhauling the Big Bat Map to make it more user-friendly and to include events and accessible places to see bats around the country
- Creating a web-based urban bat trail showing bat-friendly features
- Promoting a garden bat watch for the spring
- Investigating the possibility of having a bat game on the education pages of website

A successful steering group meeting was held in October, with the group still fully committed to the project.

### Count Bat Year 3 targets

	<b>Key target delivery Year 3, 28<sup>th</sup> Jan 2010–11 (attendees in brackets)</b>	
	<b>Target</b>	<b>Delivered to date</b>
Training events	15(180)	13(199)
Education Events	30(1113)	31(1161 + further 6024 at large events)
Surveys	24(240)	22(434) plus further 300 on big bat map
Events delivered in partnership with target groups	15(134)	25(758)

### Count Bat cumulative delivery to date (11/16ths of way into project)

	<b>Key full project target delivery (attendees in brackets)</b>	
	<b>Total 4 year Target</b>	<b>Delivered to date</b>
Training events	63(675)	37(524)
Education Events	108(3633)	102(10,622 + 10,024 at large events))
Surveys	90(900)	57(904) + 750 on big bat map
Events delivered in partnership with target groups	72(672)	87(3093)

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

There was little in the way of events in the region this quarter. Dan visited a brain injury trust based at a farm in Somerset and a walk will now be held there in 2011. A European Protected Species licence derogation workshop was attended in October in Bath. Work was begun on a revised audience development plan to update the one used for the English and Welsh Count Bat project funding applications. A meeting was held in December with the Heritage Lottery Fund and the possibility of extending the project if it was underspent was again discussed.

### Bristol Green City Bats

The Green City bats scheme continues to grow with over 20 groups registered and interest growing for spring training events. A further bat walk was run in the city by a volunteer supported by the scheme and with the loan of detectors. 24 people attended. A talk on the scheme was given to Bristol Naturalists Society, and a meeting was held with a ‘friends of’ group interested in joining, who have subsequently joined are now arranging a walk for summer 2011.

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

This quarter has seen the delivery of the last events for 2010 and good progress has been made on plans and partnerships for the spring and summer 2011.

### Bat box workshops

- Youth Forest Project, Croydon / 29.10

The Croydon Youth Forest project works with youth centres and through referrals, i.e. youth getting into trouble or with learning or other difficulties. We provided an afternoon dedicated to bats with Jenny Clark from the Sussex Bat Hospital taking through and showing live bats. 8 young people attended this event along with their educator and other volunteers (16 people). The event was very successful with 2 bat boxes built... from scratch! A full bat day and night will be organised in partnership with this project next summer to take advantage of the lake and the woods around the venue, to organise a bat walk and more activities.

- Community Greenhouse, Brockwell Park, London / 02.11

Following a series of event in Brockwell Park this summer, the Community Greenhouses was interested in co-organising with the CB project, a bat box building workshop. 12 people attended, and 6 bat boxes were built and will be put up in the park. A diverse audience attended that event and went away enthused by bats! The Community Greenhouse will hopefully run its own event next year.

### Training workshop for Green City Bats, Greenwich / 23.11

To support the Green City Bats group of Greenwich in London, a training workshop was organised locally. With the help of Shirley Thompson (Education Officer and Kent Bat Group), 21 persons attended this event where a mix of *Introduction to Bat*, *Using your Ears* and *Introduction to NBMP surveys* workshops, was delivered. Overall, a very positive feedback from the attendees on this formula. This session will be followed up by NBMP workshops in spring time.

### Green City Bats scheme

This autumn, another E-bulletin was sent to all the GCB groups in October, showcasing the work of some groups during the summer and calling for help to promote the scheme as well as ‘going batty’ for Halloween, and build bat boxes. In order to increase the number of GCB groups in the capital, a recruiting campaign has been launched in November, targeting all London borough’s council (Parks and Open spaces as well as Press services) and a number of ‘Friends Of’ groups (with the precious help of Haydn West, office volunteer). From 38 registered groups at the beginning of 2010, we are now counting over 60 GCB groups in the capital, and growing steadily during these past 2 months.

Development for the project will focus on structuring the network of GCB groups by planning a GCB social gathering event in March, to develop a mentoring scheme and prepare the bat season. Further training will be planned in spring 2011 to train more new volunteers of GCB groups to undertake NBMP surveys in their own parks or green spaces next summer.

**Future Plans** include building new partnerships with South East bat groups to extend the work of Count Bat in the region, and working on the winter projects (including Count Bat videos and Bat trail).

### **Count Bat Region 3: North and East – Diana Hagues**

As well as the winter projects as highlighted in DM's report above, this quarter Diana has been working on planning ahead and forging partnerships with new groups for the Count Bat events programme in Spring/Summer 2011. This includes a launch campaign of the Green City Bats project in Wakefield and the same proposals being planned to work with the Pocket Parks groups in Northampton.

No officer-led events took place during this quarter. Bat detectors were loaned out to Wakefield Council for a bat walk at Frickley Country Park on 6<sup>th</sup> October. This was led by rangers and a member of the Friends group who had attended the *How to lead a bat walk training* with Diana in April this year. Two bat box building events have so far been planned with the Wild Lodge School (an eco school for children with disabilities) in Rutland, Leicestershire and also with Open Country in Ripon, North Yorkshire. These will be delivered in the next quarter with more events expected during the coming months, particularly as the GCB projects get underway and also with the ongoing Count Bat project in Byker and Ouseburn wards of Newcastle.

Diana attended a First Aid requalification course on 11-12<sup>th</sup> October, and undertook 3-day diversity training with the Black Environment Network during October and November. Diana also met with the Westmorland and Furness bat group to discuss the BCT relationship approach on 28<sup>th</sup> October, which has been reported by LD.

# Marketing

## Membership

Membership has decreased this quarter due to a high number of lapses in November (partly due to the heavy marketing of Halloween last year with many buying membership as one off and not renewing after a year).

- Life Members saw an increased from 22 to 24
- Corporate Members have decreased to just 16 from 22.

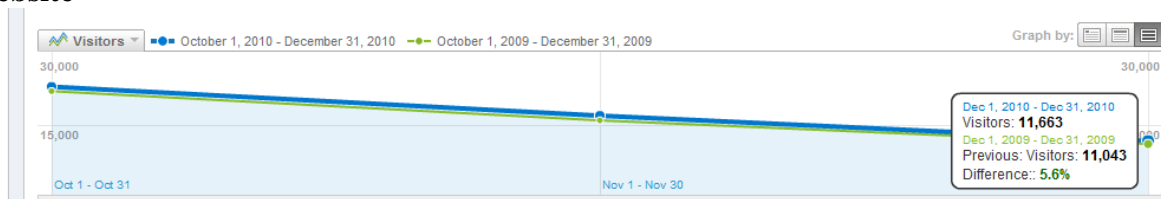
## Communications and Marketing

### E-communications

Facebook ‘fans’ and twitter ‘followers’ continue to increase this quarter hitting reaching over 5000 facebook “likers” At 3<sup>rd</sup> January: 5,510 facebook fans; 2,141 twitter followers.

The BCT Christmas ecards were very well received and did bring in some donations.

### Website



Visitor numbers are up on slightly on the same quarter in 2009. Not surprisingly visitors numbers drop towards Christmas. It is worth bearing this mind for webs based marketing and comms campaigns, for example it may have been better to launch the ecards in November.

*Top website pages:*

Pageviews		Unique Pageviews		Avg. Time on Page		Bounce Rate		% Exit		\$ Index	
<b>226,109</b>		<b>173,245</b>		<b>00:01:18</b>		<b>47.74%</b>		<b>30.02%</b>		<b>\$0.00</b>	
% of Site Total: 100.00%		% of Site Total: 100.00%		Site Avg: 00:01:18 (0.00%)		Site Avg: 47.74% (0.00%)		Site Avg: 30.02% (0.00%)		Site Avg: \$0.00 (0.00%)	

Page	Pageview: ↓	Pageviews	Page contribution to total: Pageview: ↓
1. <a href="#">/</a>	29,834	13.19%	
2. <a href="/pages/uk_bats.html">/pages/uk_bats.html</a>	8,268	3.66%	
3. <a href="/pages/uk_bat_species.html">/pages/uk_bat_species.html</a>	6,609	2.92%	
4. <a href="/pages/bats_and_the_jaw.html">/pages/bats_and_the_jaw.html</a>	6,348	2.81%	
5. <a href="/pages/help.html">/pages/help.html</a>	5,198	2.30%	
6. <a href="/pages/all_about_bats.html">/pages/all_about_bats.html</a>	3,952	1.75%	
7. <a href="/pages/bats_and_buildings.htm">/pages/bats_and_buildings.htm</a>	3,109	1.38%	
8. <a href="/pages/batsforkids.html">/pages/batsforkids.html</a>	3,013	1.33%	
9. <a href="/pages/bat_detectors.html">/pages/bat_detectors.html</a>	2,820	1.25%	
10. <a href="/pages/living_with_bats.html">/pages/living_with_bats.html</a>	2,807	1.24%	

**Events**

**MPs event**

The Westminster Bat and Moth Night organised by BCT, Butterfly Conservation, and Heritage Lottery Fund was held again in October. For the first time volunteers were in attendance BCT volunteers from the NBMP, Helpline, Bat care network and Count bat attended. Volunteers were encouraged to let their MP know they were coming and this proved a successful tactic for attracting and engaging MPs – several MPs turned up specifically to talk to their local constituents and we were able to alert several MPs to local work being carried out by Bat Groups in their constituencies. Numbers of MPs were low, less than 20 (due to a last minute clash with the first Labour party meeting under Ed Milliband’s new leadership) however numbers are inline with similar receptions held by Wildlife Link and the RSPB this summer and overall all the organisers found it a very useful and successful event and plan to hold it again in 2011.

**Media**

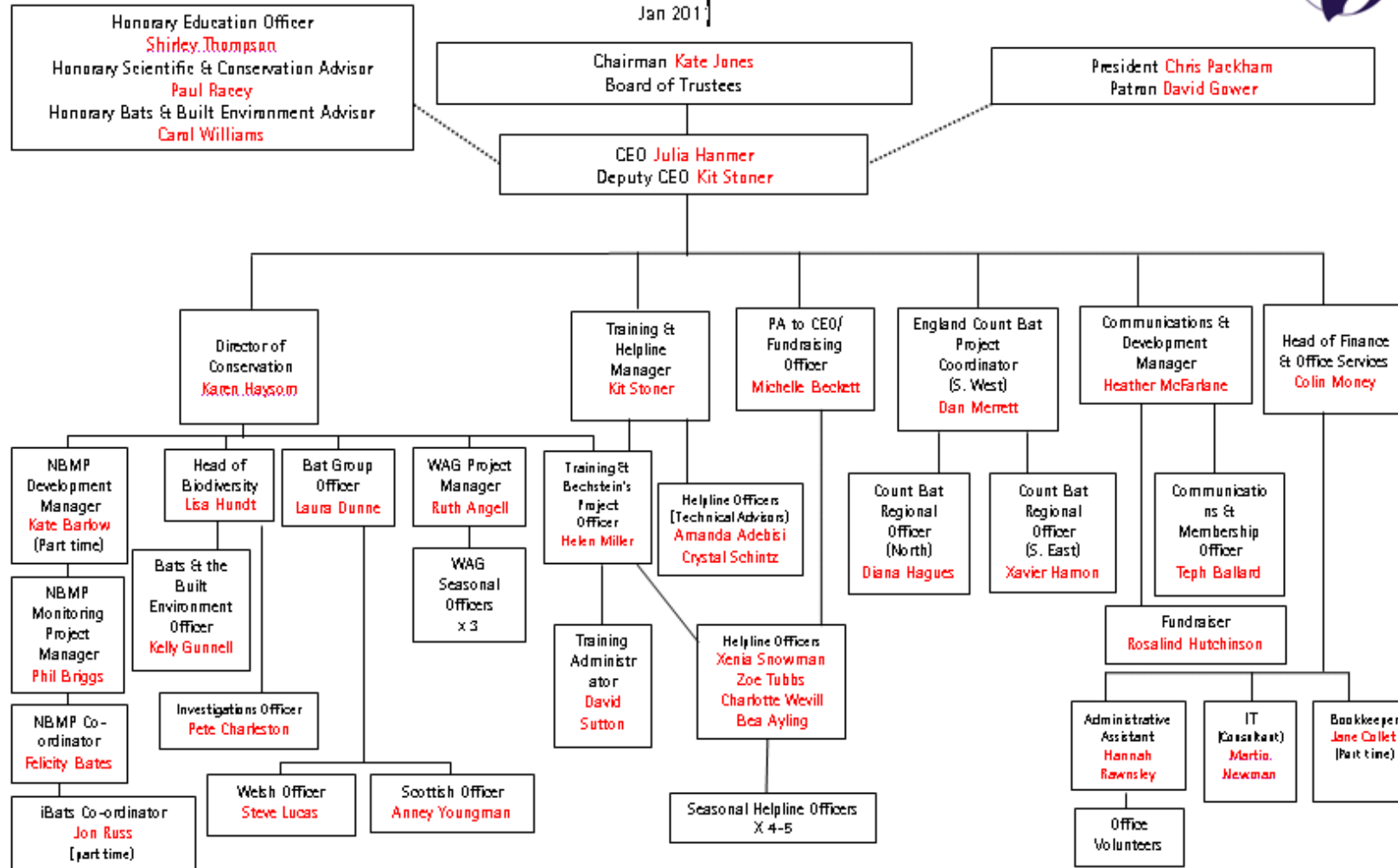
This quarter bats took over BBC Inside Out with slots on bats and light pollution and Kent Bat Group. However mentions of BCT were limited! BCT also featured in BBC wildlife magazine and regional press. There was also coverage of the Bat and Churches issue including broadsheet articles and an interview with Karen Haysom on Radio 4.

# Appendices



## Organisational Structure

Jan 2011



## 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 (until Oct 10)	NS
Seasonal Field Assistant	Anthony Turner (until Oct 10)	AT
Seasonal Field Assistant	Emma Douglas (until Nov 10)	EM
Seasonal Field Assistant	Nik West (until Oct 10)	NW
Seasonal Field Assistant	Michael Garrett (until Oct 10)	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 (until Oct 10)	LA
NBMP Survey Co-ordinator	Felicity Bates (from Oct 2010)	FB
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	Harriet Henley (until 17 Dec 2010)	HH
Communications & Membership Officer	Stephen Ballard (from 13 Dec 2010)	SB
Helpline Officer/ Technical Advisor	Amanda Adebisi	AA
Helpline Officer/ Technical Assistant	Crystal Schintz	CS
Helpline Officer	Xenia Snowman	XS
Helpline Officer	Sean Clay (until Dec 2010)	SC
Helpline Officer	Stephen Ballard (until 12 Dec 2010)	SB
Seasonal Helpline Officer	Rosalind Buckley (until Oct 2010)	RB
Seasonal Helpline Officer	Felicity Bates (until Oct 2010)	FB
Seasonal Helpline Officer	Jackie Caine	JC
Seasonal Helpline Officer	Charles Branson (until Oct 2010)	CB
Helpline Officer	Zoe Tubbs (from Nov 2010)	ZT
Helpline Officer	Charlotte Wevill (from Dec 2010)	CW
Helpline Officer	Bea Ayling (from Dec 2010)	BA
PA to CEO/Fundraising Officer	Michelle Beckett	MB
Head of Finance and Office Services	Peter Wolstenholme (until Nov 2010)	PW
Head of Finance and Office Services	Colin Money (from Nov 2010)	CM
Administrative Assistant	Hannah Rawnsley	HR
Book Keeper	Jane Collett	JC
<b>Honorary Posts</b>		
Hon. Education Officer	Shirley Thompson	ST
Hon. Conservation and Scientific Adviser	Paul Racey	PAR
Hon. Bats and Built Environment Advisor	Dr Carol Williams	CW

# Glossary

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

<b>Acronym</b>	<b>Description</b>
BAP	Biodiversity Action Plan
BARS	Biodiversity Action Recording System
BCT	The Bat Conservation Trust
BRE	Bat Related Enquiries
BRIG	Biological Recording and Information Group
CCW	Countryside Council for Wales
CSL	Central Science Laboratories
DEFRA	Department for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs
EAF	Environmental Action Fund (Defra)
EBLV	European Bat Lyssavirus
GPG	Good Practice Guidelines
HAP	Habitat Action Plan
HCT	Herpetological Conservation Trust
HLF	Heritage Lottery Fund
HPA	Health Protection Agency
KBG	Kent Bat Group
LWT	London Wildlife Trust
MTUK	Mammals Trust UK
NBMP	National Bat Monitoring Programme
NE	Natural England
NDGB	Non Departmental Government Body
NSP	Noctule, Serotine & Pipistrelle
NTS	National Trust (Scotland)
PAWS	Partnership Against Wildlife Crime
PPG9	Planning Policy Guidance
PPS9	Planning Policy Statement
RDS	Rural Development Service
RSPB	Royal Society for the Protection of Birds
SAP	Species Action Plan
SNH	Scottish Natural Heritage
SSPCA	Scottish Society for the Protection of Animals
VLA	Veterinary Laboratories Agency
WCO	Wildlife Crime Officer
WOM	Word of Mouth
WWF	World Wildlife Fund