

## What the bat group does

### Regular Surveys

Table 1 - Regular surveys -

Where	When	1st survey	Restrictions/Notes
Harrold Odell Country Park	3 dates in May June and August	2008	none
Hibernaculum surveys	17 sites are checked in January February and December	1989	Members only, must be over 16
Luton Hoo surveys	various dates	2010	Members only
Pipistrelle survey	alternate Thursdays from April to September	1999	members only
Priory Country Park	5 bat walks from May to September NBMP waterway survey NBMP roost count survey	2009	none, but you need to book a place
Sandy survey	3 dates in May June and September	2007	none, but you need to book a place
Stockgrove Park	alternate Mondays from April to September	1988	None but you need to tell us you are coming as in 2011 the Park introduced severe parkig restrictions
Wardown Park Survey	3 dates in May July and August	2011	none
Canoe Survey	3 dates in May July and August	2011	Members only in conjunction with the Viking Kayak CLub

## Woodland surveys

In addition to the regular surveys we organise other events on a more irregular basis. The final details are decided *ad hoc* depending on what we find and additional dates may be added at short notice (for example if we radiotag a bat). Members are invited to join a newsgroup.

For insurance reasons we restrict attendance to bat group members.

It is probably best to build some experience on the more regular surveys before taking part in these more specialised activities.

Table 2 Other surveys

What		When
Woodland surveys	bat detector surveys	dates may be decided in advance but we are very flexible
Radiotagging		depends of when we capture a suitable bat 2011 we had serotines and barbastelles in our sights
Roost monitoring		John Adams has been monitoring his pipistrelle roost since 1988
Bat box monitoring		in addition to the monitoring of existing boxes we are involved in a programme of installing new ones
Roost visits		visiting bat roosts to give roost owner more information/advice about their tenants
Car Surveys		Begun in 2008 in an attempt to fill missing tetrads. Tried an ibat survey in 2010. More planned for 2011
Missing tetrads		There are still some tetrads for which we have no records <a href="#">Click here</a> for the map of missing tetrads
Canoe surveys		Working with the Viking Kayak club, we are surveying the River Ouse
Bat Box surveys		Following box building projects in Bedford and Luton we monitor nearly 200 boxes in green spaces. We also monitor 50 boxes bought with a grant from the Costain Carilion Joint Venture in a Bedfordshire Woodland

## Records

A major part of the bat group's work is the collation of data which is produced from surveys and from reports from the general public. This is published in the Annual Report issued to members and also the BNHS Journal. Records are also passed to



the Bat Conservation Trust's monitoring programme and to The Bedfordshire Biological Records Office.

Table 3 records

Collection and collation of bat records	from our surveys and from members of the public
Analysis of records	We are actively examining the data we have collected over the past twenty years, so we can identify priority areas to survey. Results are given in the annual report and in the Bedfordshire Natural History Society Journal
Provision of records to consultants	We make a charge for searching the bat group database which was begun in 1988 . The income from this is a major source of funding for projects and equipment
Monitoring of planning applications	Bat group members monitor planning applications to check that appropriate consideration is given to the legislation protecting bats

## Public events

The bat group is also involved in raising public awareness of bats. This is an area where we are currently very stretched and would welcome additional volunteers as we are having to turn down bookings. We will provide any training and resources you may feel you need.

Table 4

Bat walks	Most of these are organised by third parties . We provide walk leaders and leaflets
Talks about bats	We work in schools, with other youth organisations and do talks for adults
Bat box building	We have been building bat boxes with a range of organisations
Providing stalls at public events	
Other educational projects	In 2011 we are working with the Bedford Borough Park Rangers on a bat box building project with four Bedford Primary schools funded by Bedford Borough Council

	We are continuing with a similar scheme in Luton funded by the National Lottery
Website	Relaunched in March 2005 and updated quarterly
Training	The bat group runs training on the use of bat detectors and sonogram analysis
Bats and Boats	spot bats from a canoe. Book through Priory Rangers

If you would like us to be involved in an event you are planning, get in touch as far ahead as you can, as we get booked up very quickly

## Membership events

Table 5

Newsletter	20 page newsletter produced quarterly
Annual Report	contains records and review of years activities
AGM	a chance to get together in the daylight
Members only surveys	e.g. lakeside survey
"jollies"	e.g. .visit to Regents Park
Indoor meetings	Usually held during the Winter
Bat group newsgroup	allows members to keep up to date with the latest events
Training	

## Bat Care

The bat group has members who can respond to requests for grounded and injured bats. Referrals come through this website or increasingly via the Bat Conservation Trust National bat helpline. Funding for this work relies entirely on donations . Our aim is to release bats *in situ* wherever possible and to take bats into care for the shortest possible period of time

Members of the bat care team all have practical experience of bats in the wild and have undergone appropriate training