THE BAT CONSERVATION TRUST

England & Wales · Charity number 1012361

Details

Other names	BAT CONSERVATION TRUST
Status	Registered
Legal form	Charitable company
Company number	02712823
Registered	1992-06-29
Register	View on the Charity Commission register

Contact

Address	Studio 15 Cloisters House Cloisters Business Centre 8 Battersea Park Road London SW8 4BG
Phone	02078207171
Email	enquiries@bats.org.uk
Website	www.bats.org.uk

Activities

Objects: FOR THE BENEFIT OF THE PUBLIC, TO PROMOTE THE CONSERVATION AND STUDY OF BATS IN THE BRITISH ISLES AND ELSEWHERE IN THE WORLD, AND TO DISSEMINATE INFORMATION RELEVANT TO THESE OBJECTS.

Activities: The Bat Conservation Trust's mission is to secure the future of bats in a changing world. Our work spans discovering more about bats and their landscapes, taking action to secure bat populations and protect key habitats, and engaging people with bat conservation. We work locally, nationally and internationally to achieve our vision of a world where bats and people thrive together in harmony.

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Classification

- **How:** Provides Advocacy/advice/information, Sponsors Or Undertakes Research, Acts As An Umbrella Or Resource Body
- **What:** Education/training, Animals, Environment/conservation/heritage
- **Who:** Other Charities Or Voluntary Bodies, The General Public/mankind

Geography

- **Area of benefit:** BRITISH ISLES AND ELSEWHERE
- Northern Ireland
- Scotland
- Throughout England And Wales

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2025-03-31	£2,984,804	£3,068,552	£3,396,462	60
2024-03-31	£2,665,328	£2,281,864	£3,492,617	49
2023-03-31	£1,689,685	£1,773,272	£2,961,295	43
2022-03-31	£1,632,007	£1,595,153	£3,298,653	38
2021-03-31	£1,568,217	£1,412,574	£3,318,985	36

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Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
Ani Binet		2017-11-18
Benjamin Collins KC		2025-09-06
Colette Teresa Marshall		2022-09-24
Dr Cerys Bradley		2021-10-09
Dr Orly Nechama Razgour		2021-10-09
Dr Ruth Waters		2019-09-07
Gayathri Sudhakaran		2025-09-06
Helen Louise Slinger		2021-10-09
JEAN MATTHEWS		2018-09-08
Matthew Browne		2024-09-14
Matthew William Terry		2021-10-09
Nicola Jane Granger		2025-09-06
Steven Roe		2018-09-08

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THE BAT CONSERVATION TRUST

England & Wales - Charity number 1012361

Accounts

Bat Conservation Trust

Annual Report and Financial Statements

1 April 2024 to 31 March 2025



Welsh school children taken into the Celtic rainforest to connect with their cultural and natural heritage as part of Gobaith Coetir (Woodland Hope).

© Anita Daimond

The Bat Conservation Trust (Company number 1012361)

Message from the President



© Jo Charlesworth

They've been called a nuisance and blamed for delays, costs, and red tape by people who should know better. This year, bats were dragged into a political argument about planning and progress and absurdly turned into scapegoats. But of course, they're not a problem. They're part of a desperately needed solution.

Bats are builders. Of biodiversity. Of balance. Of beauty. They navigate our fractured landscapes with astonishing skill, survive against all the odds we keep stacking against them, and still find ways to thrive… if only we give them the chance.

This annual report tells a story of hearty resistance, not just against mad damaging laws, but against crazy damaging narratives. And it tells another story too: of how, quietly and persistently, people across the UK have stood up for bats — not solely out of sentiment, but out of real science, resolute solidarity, and a deep sense of care.

In Devon, a remarkable project brought farmers, young people, and those from under-represented backgrounds together to restore habitats and reconnect fragmented landscapes. Helping bats became a way to help people — building new skills, strengthening communities, and showing that farming and wildlife can thrive side by side.

In London, our NightWatch programme took flight and continues to bring diverse new voices into conservation: 40% of participants identified as from minority ethnic backgrounds, and 29% as disabled. These are not just statistics, they are signs of a movement becoming essentially broader, braver, and more inclusive.

And across the country, we looked after the people who look after bats. Volunteer carers (including those who answer distress calls and drive 'bat ambulances') shared how we could support their incredible work even better. One result: a smarter call-routing system that uses real-world travel times, not just straight-line distance, to get help where it's needed faster. It's simple. It's effective. And it could save lives.

Through all this, one thing is clear: bats don't block progress. They show us how to make it.

It's been an annoying year. But I'm very pleased to stand with Bat Conservation Trust (BCT) — and with every person who's lent their voice, their time, or their resources to protect these beautiful, fascinating and extraordinary animals. Thank you for being a positive part of their brilliant story.



Chris Packham CBE, President, Bat Conservation Trust

Chair and Chief Executive's Review

Facing threats, finding strength: how strategy and community power our mission

Conservation doesn't just happen in wild places. It happens in Whitehall, in planning policy, and in public conversation — all of which made this one of the most difficult years in recent memory for bats and for biodiversity more broadly.

The government's proposed Planning and Infrastructure Bill threatens to undo hard-won legal protections for bats and their habitats. This moment has tested us and proved the value of our new strategy. Its five objectives are not just words on a page; they are how we rise to challenges like this, and how we work for a better future.

Influence has been at the heart of our response. We've challenged damaging narratives, briefed ministers and civil servants, and made the case for smarter, evidence-led planning that works for both nature and people.

But we can't influence without action. Our ability to **act** (to train planners, ecologists and land managers) ensures that conservation knowledge translates into real-world decisions, every day.

At the same time, we continue to **discover**. From AI-powered acoustic identification to genetics, BCT science provides the evidence base that underpins our advocacy, strengthens our case, and helps us focus where the need is greatest.

This year also showed the power of connection. When decision-makers didn't listen, our supporters raised their voices — with an incredible 573 MPs contacted about the Bill by BCT supporters. This is **connect** in action — building a growing movement that speaks up for bats and the ecosystems we all depend on.

And through it all, we've worked to **strengthen** BCT itself: developing inclusive ways of working, securing new partnerships, and investing in the resilience needed to navigate an uncertain political landscape.

Thank you for standing with us.



Jean Matthews, Chair, Board of Trustees



Kit Stoner, Chief Executive





INTRODUCTION

Why bats? Why now?

Bats are a chance for us to do better

Bats account for more than a quarter of mammal species in the UK and around 20% of all mammal species worldwide, but most people rarely see them — let alone realise how important they are.

From woodland canopies to city rooftops, bats are quietly playing a vital role in keeping our ecosystems in balance. They feed on vast numbers of insects, helping reduce the need for pesticides. And because they are extremely sensitive to changes in the environment, their presence — or absence — tells us a lot about the wider health of our natural heritage.

But right now, bats are in trouble. All of our 18 species are yet to recover from historical declines and four are highly endangered. Bat species are struggling because of habitat loss, climate change and development. Proposed planning reforms, which reduce environmental protections, could cause them to disappear from some places.

Conservation that works for wildlife and people

Bats benefit from strong legal protection, and targeted conservation has helped some species in some areas begin to recover. This shows us that when we act on evidence, we can turn things around — not just for bats, but for entire ecosystems.

And by saving bats, we also protect the places people love: our woodlands, green spaces, and night skies. We also know that helping wildlife helps people too. From wellbeing benefits to citizen science, from urban greening to education, bat conservation connects communities and nature in powerful ways.

A plan for the future

In 2024, BCT launched a bold new strategy for the decade ahead. Rooted in science, shaped by experience, and focused on impact, our strategy sets out five clear goals: grow the evidence, strengthen policy, protect habitats, engage the public, and build a stronger BCT. This report shares how we're bringing that strategy to life — one place, one project, and one partnership at a time.



© Daniel Hargreaves

Pipistrelle species in hand, left to right: Nathusius's, soprano and common.

1. ACT

Turning knowledge into action

Protecting bats means protecting the places we all depend on. Whether it's championing better building practices, tackling wildlife crime, or driving innovation, we're turning expertise into impact.

By offering training, guidance, and on-the-ground conservation, we help others make informed choices that protect bats today and for the long term. Over the past year, we've worked alongside ecologists, landowners, developers, farmers, and policymakers to ensure bat conservation is part of everyday decisions.



© BCT

Community open day at the farm with our regenerative farming project, **Connecting people and landscapes in a changing climate.**

Connecting people and landscapes in a changing climate

Helping wildlife and farming thrive together in Devon

Connecting people and landscapes in a changing climate (CPL) is an ambitious and evolving partnership project uniting a diverse and dynamic range of organisations. Partners include BCT, University of Exeter, People's Trust for Endangered Species, Devon Wildlife Trust, South Devon and East Devon National Landscapes, and Devon Communities Together.

Set in the farmed landscapes of Devon but with relevance for farming and bats UK-wide, this work aims to create a countryside where nature and people can thrive together in the face of climate change.

> ***Lovely family, informative day and great to spend time outside! Thank you.***
> Community open day attendee at a CPL farm.

Putting nature back into farmland

Devon's countryside is home to rare and threatened nocturnal species including greater horseshoe bats, hedgehogs and dormice but agricultural intensification has pushed these species to the edge. By supporting regenerative farming, we're helping farmers become more sustainable and produce food in ways that restore biodiversity, build soil health, and create more resilient landscapes.

To date, the project has worked with 97 farmers and improved over 600 hectares of farmland for nature. That includes planting native trees, creating species-rich grasslands, and restoring traditional orchards — 18 regenerative farming initiatives in total.

Connecting people and landscapes in a changing climate *grows people as well as habitats. In just one quarter, we worked with more than 240 people providing training, open days, support for farmers and practical conservation.*



© BCT

Reaching the people who can make change happen

Farmland covers around 70% of the UK, so helping farmers steward the land has a significant positive impact on nature. We've provided over 80 one-to-one advice sessions and continue to support farmers as they navigate shifting agricultural policy, practice and funding. These trusted relationships are helping bring about meaningful, long-term changes on the ground.

We're also piloting volunteer days on farms to understand what's most engaging for communities and where we can offer long-term opportunities to get involved in nature-friendly land management.

Training and learning at every level

> ***A highlight has been seeing the abundance of wildlife on the farms such as barn owls, deer, and foxes. Another has been meeting lots of new people from varied backgrounds and finding out about their roles. This has been a great opportunity to learn about an industry I knew little about.***
> One of CPL's Junior Landscape Surveyors shares their experience.

From new farmers to future conservationists, this project is growing people as well as habitats. In just one quarter, we ran nine training events and 79 wider engagement activities, working with more than 240 people. These ranged from co-created youth sessions to farm bioblitzes and wildlife surveys.

We're also offering paid traineeships to support young people, career-changers and those from underrepresented backgrounds, building the skills and confidence to take up roles in conservation and land stewardship.

Building a future where bats and people thrive together

Although still in its initial stages, *Connecting people and landscapes in a changing climate* is already showing the power of joined-up thinking.

By creating space for wildlife on farms, strengthening relationships between farmers and their communities, and helping people reconnect with nature, the project directly contributes to BCT's wider vision: a world where bats and people thrive together.

The Roost Partnership builds safer homes for bats

Bats need safe places to roost, even in towns and cities. But as older buildings are lost or renovated, their natural shelters are disappearing. The Roost Partnership — a collaboration between BCT and manufacturers of bat roosting products — is making sure the built environment works for bats too.

Now featuring six innovative products from four industry partners, the scheme includes specially designed bat boxes, tiles and tubes that are both bat-friendly and practical for use in buildings. These designs are informed by the latest research and best practice guidance.

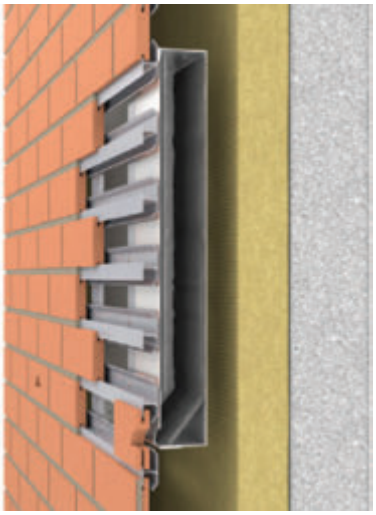
Instead of endorsing individual products, the Roost Partnership fosters collaboration between conservation and construction. It also serves as a knowledge-sharing hub, capturing insights from those on the ground to keep pushing best practice forward.

Smart solutions: Manthorpe Ridge Roost and Cladmate Bat Roost Box

Designed to counteract the loss of wildlife-friendly features in modern construction, both of these innovative, easy-to-install ridge-end roost solutions developed and tested through the Roost Partnership provide essential shelter for crevice-dwelling bat species; the Manthorpe Ridge Roost at the gable end of the roof and the Cladmate Bat Roost Box in the skin of a cladded building.

Through collaboration, research, and real-world solutions, the Roost Partnership is helping to integrate bat conservation into the future of building design.





© BCT

Developed and tested through the Roost Partnership, both the Manthorpe Ridge Roost (left) and the Cladmate Bat Roost Box (right) are easy to install.

Conservation in housing: getting the balance right

Bats often shelter in buildings, but large-scale housing repairs can disrupt or destroy these roosts. Our new guidance is helping people protect bats without halting essential work. Published in December 2024, *Bats and Large-Scale Housing Maintenance Projects Guidance for England* offers practical advice for property owners, architects and ecologists.

Developed with Natural England and sector experts, the guidance bridges the gap between conservation and routine housing maintenance — a challenge not always addressed by traditional approaches.

In February 2025, we ran a well-received online seminar to support its rollout.

By supporting evidence-led, pragmatic solutions, we're helping conservation thrive even in challenging times.

Pushing boundaries at the Bat Tracking Methodologies Conference

To protect bats, we need to understand where they go and what they need. Thanks to innovative tracking technology, we're gaining clearer insights than ever — and bringing the right people together to shape the future.

In 2024, the Bat Tracking Methodologies Conference at the University of Warwick brought together leading minds to share knowledge, refine techniques, and explore the next generation of tracking tools.

Discussions covered GPS, radio tracking, Motus, and new innovations, with deep dives into data handling and visualisation. The in-person event will be followed by a virtual conference and published proceedings in 2025.

We also welcomed Professor Fiona Matthews (University of Sussex), whose keynote set the tone for thoughtful discussions — including a lively ethics panel chaired by our Director of Conservation.

By fostering collaboration we're guiding best practice to ensure that tracking benefits bat species.

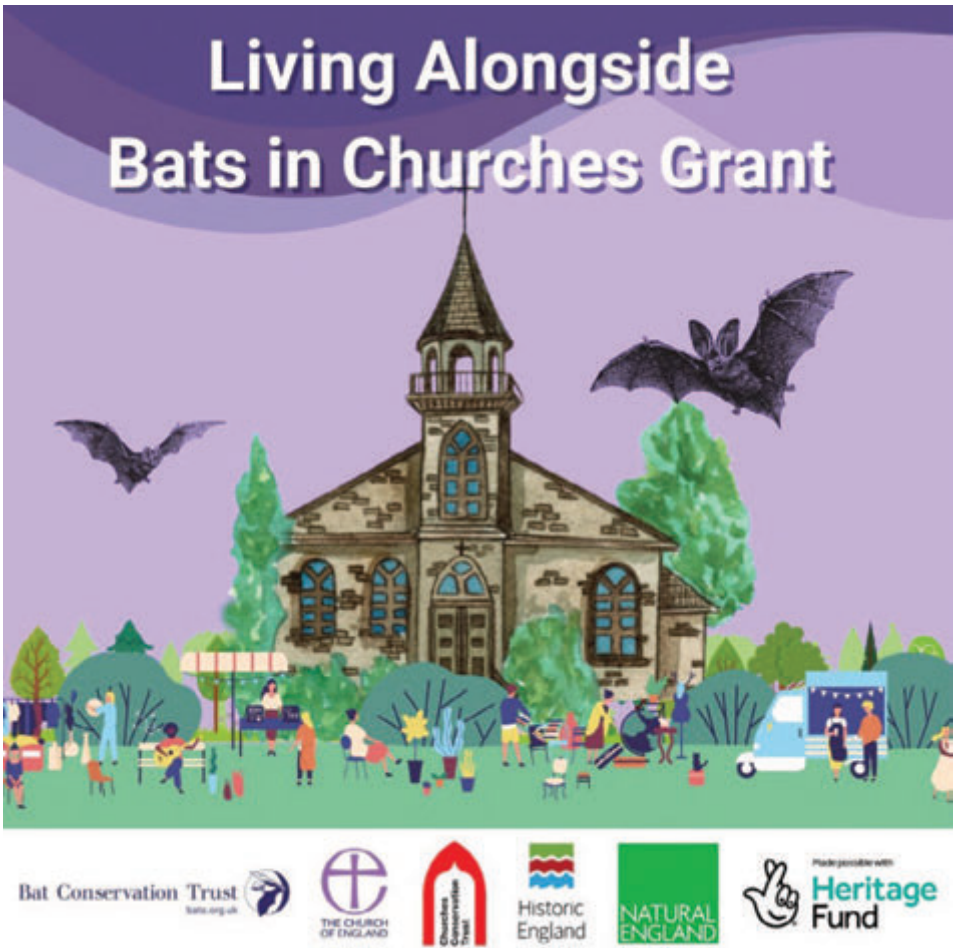
Bats and churches: supporting harmony

Churches have long provided shelter for bats but living alongside them can present challenges. That's why we've launched a new grant fund to offer practical support.

As a legacy of the Bats in Churches project, our new *Living Alongside Bats in Churches Grant* helps places of worship across England manage roost-related challenges sustainably.

From seasonal cleaning and pew covers to small-scale repairs, the fund helps churches find practical ways to live alongside bats. It also supports nature-based activities that deepen the connection between communities, wildlife, and place.

Together, we're supporting both bats and the historic spaces they call home.



Our new Living Alongside Bats in Churches Grant is a legacy of the Bats in Churches project, that helps places of worship across England manage roost-related challenges sustainably.

Cracking down on crime with a win for bat protection

Bat roosts are protected by law — but laws only work when enforced. Thanks to advocacy from our Wildlife Crime Officer, bat crime has once again been recognised as a UK wildlife crime priority.

Agreed at the Wildlife Crime Conservation Advisory Group, this decision means bat crime will receive increased attention from enforcement agencies over the next three years. It's a major step toward protecting bats from harm and holding offenders to account.

New bat group boosts conservation in East Lancashire

For years, East Lancashire's bats had no dedicated group to look out for them. But now, thanks to local passion and help from BCT, that's changing.

Despite Lancashire already having three bat groups, a gap remained in East Lancashire, leaving local bat populations under-studied. The newly formed East Lancashire Bat Group (ELBG) is set to change that by launching surveys and increasing awareness in the region.

BCT's role in supporting ELBG

Establishing a new group isn't easy and earlier attempts had stalled. BCT's Bat Groups Officer played a key role in advising and supporting ELBG. With this support, ELBG is now ready to contribute valuable data and help more people connect with bat conservation in their area.

Putting knowledge into action 2024-25

Beyond our headline projects, we've continued to give expert advice, practical tools, and hands-on support across the UK. Here are just a few ways we've made an impact over the last year:

- **Learn.Bats** now offers 10 courses with over 1,000 users — bringing expert training to anyone, anywhere through a suite of bite-sized modules, including *Bat Awareness for the Built Environment and Introduction to Bats and Artificial Lighting*.
- Our Agriculture Officer mapped environmental land management schemes to bat species' needs and created practical **leaflets to support farm-based conservation**.
- A **bilingual Bats & Woodlands leaflet** (Welsh and English) will soon be available as a digital flipbook to support woodland managers long-term.
- The **Volunteer Bat Care Helpline** answered 5,492 enquiries offering expert advice and linking the public with local bat carers.
- The **National Bat Helpline** handled 11,509 enquiries — a growing demand for bat conservation support.
- We arranged **700 roost visits** on behalf of Natural England to protect bats and their habitats.
- In partnership with the National Wildlife Crime Unit, we launched a new course to **strengthen police responses** to bat crime.
- **Natur am Byth: Stars of the Night** pilot study began on lesser horseshoe bats around Swansea and the Gower.
- A delivery group was set up for Stars of the Night, with **diverse membership** including the University of South Wales and local councils.
- **Species on the Edge's** Youth Panel helped form a new bat group for Outer Hebrides.







© Steve Roe

Lesser horseshoe bats are the focus of our Stars of the Night project for Natur am Byth in Wales.

Together, let's keep building a better future for bats — one action at a time

Become a corporate partner to make a difference.

By working with us, your organisation will help to create a healthier environment for wildlife and people alike. A partnership with us can also support your Corporate Social Responsibility goals and bring valuable benefits to your business.

To find out more, please contact our Director of Communications and Fundraising, Dr Joe Nunez-Mino, **jnunez-mino@bats.org.uk**

2. CONNECT

Changing minds, connecting communities

Bats face a PR problem. Misconceptions and fear, especially around health and their protected status, often lead to decisions that harm bat populations. And as we explore in other sections, bats are repeatedly used as a scapegoat in political rhetoric. That's why public engagement is central to our mission.

By building understanding, inspiring action, and challenging myths, we aim to reduce harm and create a culture where bats and people can thrive together.



Gobaith Coetir (Woodland Hope) connects children in Wales to their cultural and natural heritage through music, trees, and bats.

© Elliot Bastos

Creative connections through events that inspire

This year we delivered a diverse range of engagement events across the UK — from special interest sessions for bat carers and citizen scientists, to bold, inclusive public experiences that welcomed new audiences.

🎹 Our Celtic rainforest project Gobaith Coetir (Woodland Hope) worked with Welsh musicians to create a song about bats. Written in Welsh to foster connection with children in Wales, Can yr Ystlum (The Bat Song) celebrates the deep bond between bats and the rainforest. Our team have worked with schools, taking classes to rainforest sites and teaching them the song.

So far, more than 200 children have had a chance to learn about their cultural and natural heritage through these unique engagement sessions.

> ***We would like to thank everyone involved in this week's workshops with the pupils of Bro Idris — the feedback from the children was very positive, everyone enjoyed it and had a great time.***
> Teacher whose class took part in our The Bat Song workshops.

🦉 **NightWatch** led more than a dozen events across London, co-hosting inclusive bat walks with groups like Sustainably Muslim, Touch Grass, and dementia care homes. The project also piloted a Local Coordinator scheme, training 20+ community members to run bat walks and surveys in their own neighbourhoods.

😂 **Bats and Belly Laughs** combined comedy, creativity, and conservation. Co-created with Wanderers of Colour, the evening featured stand-up, storytelling, and the premiere of *Stories Under Starlight*.

One attendee summed it up beautifully:

> ***I had a lovely time. I'm really into bats now, so if that was the event's intention, it worked on me.'***



With 58 participants (aged 7 to 60+), over 30% from underrepresented backgrounds, and 10 amazing volunteers, the event buzzed with energy — and pipistrelles!

Bats and Belly Laughs, co-created with Wanderers of Colour, blended comedy, storytelling, and conservation.

Changing the story on bats and health

Our communications work helps ensure bats are spoken about in ways that are accurate, science-based, and empowering. Thanks to funding from the Rufford Foundation, we developed *Let's talk about bats and health* — a free communications toolkit to support conservationists and researchers in shaping messages that reduce stigma and increase support across the world.

Available in English and Spanish, with more translations to come, the toolkit is a practical step toward making bats part of everyday conservation conversations.

A more inclusive movement

Behind the scenes, we're supporting the wider bat community to engage more people in more meaningful ways.

- Our *Inclusion Challenges and Opportunities* session brought together around 20 bat group members to share Equity, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI) **experiences and ambitions**.
- A new internal report assessed our citizen science programmes and highlighted ways to support **diverse volunteer pathways**.
- Through the *Happier Outdoors Network*, we provided free training to **green prescribing** organisations, enabling more people to connect with bats through supported bat walks.
- **Bat groups** are better supported, with IT improvements and better organisation of support materials.

Growing a community for bats

More people than ever are choosing to stand up for bats. Our membership grew by 3% this year, with nearly 5,300 individuals now part of the BCT community — including four new life members whose long-term commitment strengthens everything we do.

One of our most heartening moments came in December 2024, when we saw our highest-ever number of *Adopt a Bat* subscriptions in a single month. Thirty-four people chose to give the gift of bat conservation over the festive season, showing that bats can inspire care and generosity.





The cuddly Daubenton's bat keyring was a popular gift for Christmas 2024.

© BCT

Telling bat stories in new places and to more people

Our digital platforms are vital tools for sharing insight, building empathy, and encouraging action. This year, we've expanded our reach by embracing new platforms and refreshing how we tell bat stories.

Our blog is now on Substack

In 2024, we revamped our blog and created an account on Substack, an increasingly popular online subscription platform. Substack allows readers to subscribe easily and get new posts straight to their inbox, helping us stay connected with our community.

These changes make our blog more accessible and engaging. Whether we're sharing personal perspectives from bat carers or exploring complex issues like planning reform, the blog gives us space to go deeper and bring more people along on the journey.

Hello Bluesky: BCT joins the growing online platform

We also joined BlueSky in 2024, expanding our digital presence and making space for more thoughtful conversations about bat conservation. So far, we have 3K followers and hundreds of new people join us each month.

BlueSky is helping us build visibility in a space where quality conversations still thrive — something that's increasingly important for sharing evidence-based messages about bats and biodiversity.

Our podcast reaches 100K downloads

BatChat podcast, hosted by ecologist and BCT trustee Steve Roe, reached 100K early in 2025. This award-winning podcast takes you behind the scenes with experts, conservationists, and passionate bat lovers across the UK and beyond. Each episode is recorded on location, bringing listeners closer to bats and the people protecting them.

Record numbers visit our website

Our website saw fantastic growth over the past year. In 2024-25, we had 1,128,958 visitors — up from 1,000,201 the year before, which is a 12.9% increase. Page views also went up, from 2,140,661 to 2,279,420, a 6.5% rise. It's clear more people are finding and using the site, and we're excited to keep building on that momentum.



Follow the flight

From challenging misinformation to sharing the wonder of bat life, we're building a community of people who care — and want to make a difference.

Join the conversation, stay informed, and help us shift the narrative about bats and biodiversity.

BlueSky: https://bsky.app/profile/batconservation.bsky.social

LinkedIn: https://www.instagram.com/batconservationtrust/

Substack: batconservation.substack.com

Instagram: https://www.instagram.com/batconservationtrust/

Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/BatConservationTrust/

www.bats.org.uk



The Bechstein's bat is one of the UK's rarest bats. Found almost exclusively in woodland habitat, the destruction of ancient mature forests and intensive woodland management practices has led to a decline in its numbers.

© Hugh Clark

3. DISCOVER

Advancing science to protect bats



An audio detector on-site for one of our conservation projects.

To help bat populations recover and thrive across the UK, we start with something simple: understanding them better. Every bat call recorded, every survey completed, and every new discovery helps us conserve and protect bat species and their habitats.

That's why we're focusing our research on where bats live now, how they're adapting to change, and what they need to survive and flourish. From city streets to ancient woodlands, we're building a picture of how bats are doing and how we can help.

© BCT

Transforming bat research with acoustic and genetic innovation

Because bats use echolocation to navigate and feed, we can 'listen in' on their world to learn more. Sound is a powerful tool for studying bats, and our research is expanding how we use **ecoacoustics** (large-scale environmental sound recordings) to assess environmental health.



In partnership with Forest Research, University College London and the University of Edinburgh, we are testing whether bats, birds and anthropogenic (human) disturbance can all be recorded by autonomous devices that send real-time monitoring information.



Our Sound Classification System now processes hundreds of terabytes of bat call data each year, helping to track bat activity at an unprecedented scale.



Through a new partnership with xeno-canto, we are helping to build up the largest global repository of bat sounds, increasing access to valuable acoustic data.



In collaboration with University College London, we are working on EchoHub, a platform where conservationists and the public will be able to label wildlife sounds, training AI-based sound classification tools.

At the same time, we are breaking new ground in **genetics and population monitoring:**



As part of the NatureAir project (UK Innovate-funded), we are pioneering airborne DNA sampling to detect bats in different environments.



With funding from JNCC, we have begun adapting our Sound Classification System for local scale monitoring, via the Local Change Monitoring Programme.

Understanding bats across different landscapes

Britain's bats don't just need dark skies and quiet roosts; they rely on healthy landscapes. From temperate rainforests to working farms, our research explores what bats need to thrive in these changing environments. Our research ensures conservation efforts are informed by the best available evidence.

Woodlands and agricultural land

Some of the UK's 18 resident bat species are woodland specialists, and these species are generally rare, threatened and hard to monitor. To learn more about these species we've teamed up with the Vincent Wildlife Trust to develop the National Barbastelle and Bechstein's Bat Survey. So far, we have:

- Conducted acoustic surveys for barbastelle bats in key woodland sites.
- Collected reference calls for Bechstein's bats, improving species identification via our Sound Classification System.
- Tested different bat detectors to assess their effectiveness in wooded environments.

- We're exploring the potential of British Bat Survey's methodology to track the impact of regenerative farming. In North Wales, Gobaith Coetir (Woodland Hope) is developing an acoustic index of temperate rainforest health, helping to define what a thriving ecosystem looks like.

In our towns and cities

Cities can be challenging places for bats but also full of unexpected opportunities. Our work in urban areas helps ensure planning decisions support nature, not harm it.

Through JNCC's Local Change Monitoring Programme, we are working with local authorities to integrate bat data into strategic planning and development control to support nature recovery.

We are co-designing nature-based solutions with local authorities to tackle key environmental challenges.



© Sally-Ann Hurry

The UK has 18 species of bat, including Daubenton's bat, which hunts over or near water, using its large feet to catch prey.

A mixed picture for UK bats: signs of hope amid emerging concerns

5-year trends — a first for the National Bat Monitoring Programme

The latest annual report from the National Bat Monitoring Programme (NBMP) offers encouraging news: of the 11 UK bat species which NMBP monitors over the long-term, none show overall declines. Even more promising, five species show early signs of recovery from historic losses, a testament to the power of legal protection and targeted conservation.

However, new short-term trend analyses reveal cause for concern. For the first time, NBMP data were assessed over a five-year window — revealing that two iconic species may now be in decline:

- Brown long-eared bats decreased by 11.2% across Great Britain.
- In England, lesser horseshoe bats dropped by 12.3%, although this species continues to increase in Wales.

These findings highlight the need to better understand recent pressures and how they may differ by region.

Looking back to look forward

The long-term findings of the NBMP underscore the importance of consistent monitoring. But they must be viewed in the context of severe historic declines. Genetic research conducted in partnership with the University of Exeter in 2023 revealed that the endangered barbastelle bat has declined by an estimated 99% over the last several hundred years — a sobering reminder of what's at stake.

Still, there is hope. As recognised in the *State of Nature* report 2023, some UK bat species are among the few native wildlife groups showing positive recovery trends. This progress is only possible thanks to legal protections and dedicated conservation work — protections that must be maintained.

NightWatch: Opening up urban conservation for all

NightWatch is one of BCT's most exciting and inclusive projects — designed to open wildlife monitoring to people who are historically under-represented in conservation. This project brings bat conservation into the heart of our towns and cities, connecting communities with the wildlife around them in accessible and meaningful ways.

> ***I can't tell you how much it's made a difference to me as a deeply and invisibly disabled person of colour... to have had this wild opportunity to meet EXACTLY the kind of people I've been looking for & basically just have joy & discovery & happiness.***
>
> A NightWatch participant.

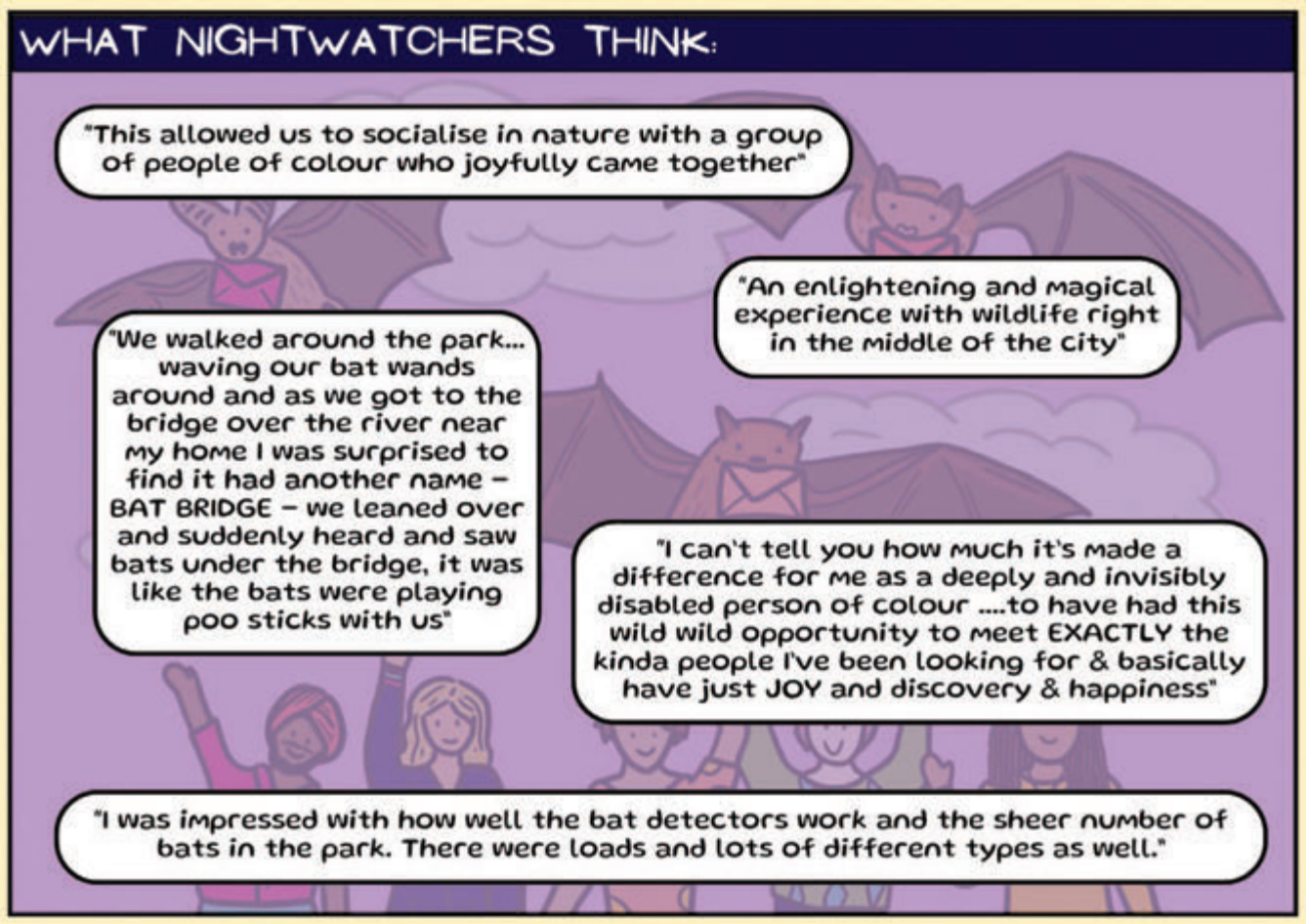
That sense of wonder is what NightWatch is all about: connecting people with each other and the nature around them in ways that are easy, joyful, and meaningful.

A successful season in London

Limited funding meant we couldn't run NightWatch across Great Britain in 2024-25, but thanks to support from the Greater London Authority, the project came to life in London. The results were inspiring:

- 40% of participants identified as being from **minority ethnic backgrounds.**
- 29% identified as **having a disability.**

These figures meet or exceed the demographic makeup of the city, demonstrating NightWatch's power to engage new audiences in conservation.



A compilation of quotes from NightWatchers about their experiences of this ground-breaking project.

Bats in sacred spaces

A new pilot survey for places of worship

Churches are some of the most important historic buildings in the UK and some of the wildest too. Early in 2024, our pilot survey helped 15 churches discover more about their resident bats. For many, it was their first real glimpse into this hidden world and the start of a new relationship between the sacred and the wild.

One church's feedback reflects how this pilot scheme is working:

> ***We know now what we need to think about if getting repairs done. It also really adds to our building to know we have lovely bats live here too.***
> St Cuthbert's, Elsdon.

Bringing bat conservation into the heart of communities

This new survey builds on the legacy of the Bats in Churches (BiC) project. Our goal? To continue offering free, informative surveys to places of worship across England, helping them better understand and live alongside their bat residents.

Led by BCT's newly appointed Bats in Churches Advisor, the pilot focused on 15 presence/absence surveys. These were carried out over the summer of 2024 by trained Natural England Volunteer Bat Roost Visitors (VBRVs).

Connecting churches with their wildest residents

This pilot was about more than just data; it was about relationships. Each survey helped build confidence and skills among our volunteers and their trainees, and deepened connections with local church communities.

For many volunteers, this was their first time surveying places of worship. For the churches, it opened a whole new understanding of the wildlife sharing their sacred spaces.

Survey success: better knowledge, stronger partnerships

The pilot made a real difference:

- **11 churches** now understand more about their bat populations and what having a roost means for their building.
- Each one now knows how and when to contact the National Bat Helpline — crucial for any future **repair or maintenance works**.
- Volunteers gained valuable hands-on experience and **developed long-term relationships with the churches** they supported.
- Every church that gave **feedback** said they were 'extremely satisfied' with the survey.

Looking ahead

With such a positive response, this pilot has laid the foundations for expanding surveys like this across more communities — bridging the gap between built heritage and biodiversity.

Bats In Churches project was created to work with churches, bat workers and heritage communities to provide advice for any church with resident bats. Whilst BiC finished in 2023, it has led to more projects such as this pilot.



© Bats In Churches

Tracking bats, advancing conservation

The National Ringed Bat Database

Every tiny ring tells a story. Until recently, those stories were scattered. Now, with the launch of the National Ringed Bat Database, we're bringing them together.

Bat ringing is an important research tool, identifying individual bats over time to provide insights into their lifespan, migration, and habitat use. Until recently, the UK had no national system for storing this data, limiting its long-term scientific value.

With the launch of the National Ringed Bat Database, we ensure that every ringed bat contributes to a bigger picture of bat conservation, whilst allowing ringers to retain control of their data. This database enables researchers to:

- Upload and manage ringing and recapture records, both current and historic.
- View ringed bat records on a map.
- Order bat rings.

By centralising this data, we can improve conservation efforts and ensure that every bat ringed helps protect the species for the future.



A close-up photo of bat rings. With the launch of the National Ringed Bat Database, we ensure that every ringed bat contributes to a bigger picture of bat conservation.

© Daniel Hargreaves

A year of scientific progress

From pioneering new acoustic and genetic research techniques to expanding habitat-based studies and offering data-driven guidance for conservation planning, our scientific research is shaping the future of bat conservation. These achievements are only possible thanks to our funders and collaborators, whose support allows us to push the boundaries of bat research — delivering lasting benefits for bats, people, and the wider environment.

Help us in advance bat conservation science

What's good for bats is good for people: clean air and water, healthier woodlands, greener cities, stronger communities.

If you believe in a world where nature and people thrive side by side, consider donating to BCT today.

Visit our website to donate: **https://www.bats.org.uk/donate/pledge**



© Claudia Gebhardt

Bat worker in Scotland carrying out fieldwork including trapping.

4. INFLUENCE

Championing policies and decisions that protect bats



BCT staff and volunteers at the Restore Nature Now rally.

We champion laws and policies that reflect the real needs of bats — across landscapes, habitats, and species. Drawing on science and expertise, we work with partners and all levels of government to protect and restore bat populations.

Our policy team tracks legislation, assesses its impact, and acts where needed. We're developing a new plan to engage and empower species and nature champions — amplifying our voice in national debates. At the same time, we're strengthening our role in key advisory groups and decision-making spaces to keep bats on the agenda.

© BCT

Launching the Bat Conservation Manifesto: a vision for policy change

This year, BCT launched its first-ever Bat Conservation Manifesto, ensuring that decision-makers have access to clear, evidence-based policies that support bat species recovery. Developed by our experts, this manifesto outlines the urgent actions needed to protect bats and their habitats in the face of mounting challenges, from climate change to habitat loss and underfunded environmental services.

Bringing bats into the political conversation

Bats are still at risk, with some species in decline or even facing extinction in parts of the UK. While legal protections have played a crucial role in conservation success stories, stronger policies are needed to secure a future where bats and people can thrive together. That's why we've set out five key actions that every political party should commit to.

- Keep and **strengthen legal protections** for bats.
- Ensure all new **developments support wildlife**.
- Implement **climate solutions** that work for nature.
- Support **nature-friendly farming** through sustainable policies.
- Strengthen enforcement against **wildlife crime**.

By presenting these clear policy solutions, we are making it easier for politicians to champion bat conservation. With our manifesto in hand, we are actively engaging with decision-makers to push for a future where bats — and the ecosystems they support — are protected and valued.

Responding to planning reform threats

As the UK government has driven forward planning reforms, BCT has been at the forefront of evidence-based resistance. Proposed reforms directly threaten the legal safeguards in place for bats, other vulnerable species and precious habitats, and do not tackle the real causes of problems with planning and development.

Challenging harmful proposals: site-based surveys

One concerning aspect of the proposed planning reforms is the potential removal of site-based surveys. Site-based surveys are essential for finding bat roosts on sites and therefore being able to both mitigate harm and check impacts over time.

Championing better planning based on evidence

BCT has consistently advocated for smarter planning that benefits nature, people and developers. And we have a long history of working with planning policy decision-makers to get the best outcomes for all.

As such we're disappointed to see policy changes being proposed which do not reflect what the evidence shows will and will not work, for nature or for planning.



© Andreia Correia da Costa
(c) Hugh Clark

Our Manifesto for Bats had five asks for all political parties.

Legal reviews and advocacy

BCT's policy team has been reviewing the government's planning reform proposals in detail, assessing their potential impact on existing wildlife protections.

Where consultations were opened, we submitted to them, highlighting risks posed to bats and broader biodiversity. For example, we responded to the consultation for *Planning Reform: Development and Nature Recovery Working Paper.*

When there weren't consultations, we gave evidence in whatever way we could. We've sent briefings directly to government ministers, such as the Secretary of State for Housing and the Environment. We have responded to over 30 government consultations and over 570 MPs (at the time of writing) were contacted by BCT supporters about concerns related to planning reforms.

Our message is consistent: evidence shows that it is the implementation of wildlife laws rather than the protections for wildlife themselves which can cause problems. Conversely, weakening these protections will lead to long-term ecological damage — which would ultimately be counterproductive for both nature and developers.

Meeting with decision-makers

Beyond written submissions, BCT has actively engaged with decision-makers to ensure that our voices are heard. For example, in response to the Planning and Infrastructure Bill, BCT met with officials to explain the importance of site-based surveys and to emphasise that proper planning, with wildlife protection in mind, benefits both development and the environment. We hope to continue to engage positively where possible and will always be open to having these conversations with decision makers.

We launched a campaign in November 2024 to mobilise our supporters and help us protect bats and other wildlife from the Planning and Infrastructure Bill.



© Claire Moran

Mobilising our supporters

Early in 2025, we mobilised our supporters to let their MPs know they're worried about planning reform. In one of our most successful campaigns, our supporters contacted 80 MPs within a few weeks of our launch — and the number climbed to 573 (and still rising) at the time of writing this report.

We will continue to work with other conservation organisations to ask for essential amendments to the Planning and Infrastructure Bill that will help mitigate the worst of the harm it will cause to wildlife.

Challenging the rhetoric scapegoating bats

2024-25 saw an increase in the scapegoating of bats — and other wildlife — to justify changes to wildlife protections. Repeatedly we saw the government unfairly blame bats and other wildlife for delaying house building and development projects. We've been working hard to expose these misleading narratives.

Debunking the myth of the bat tunnel

In the run up to the Planning and Infrastructure Bill, the so-called HS2 bat tunnel was repeatedly referenced by government and in the media. A false narrative was developed which painted bats as a costly hindrance to development.

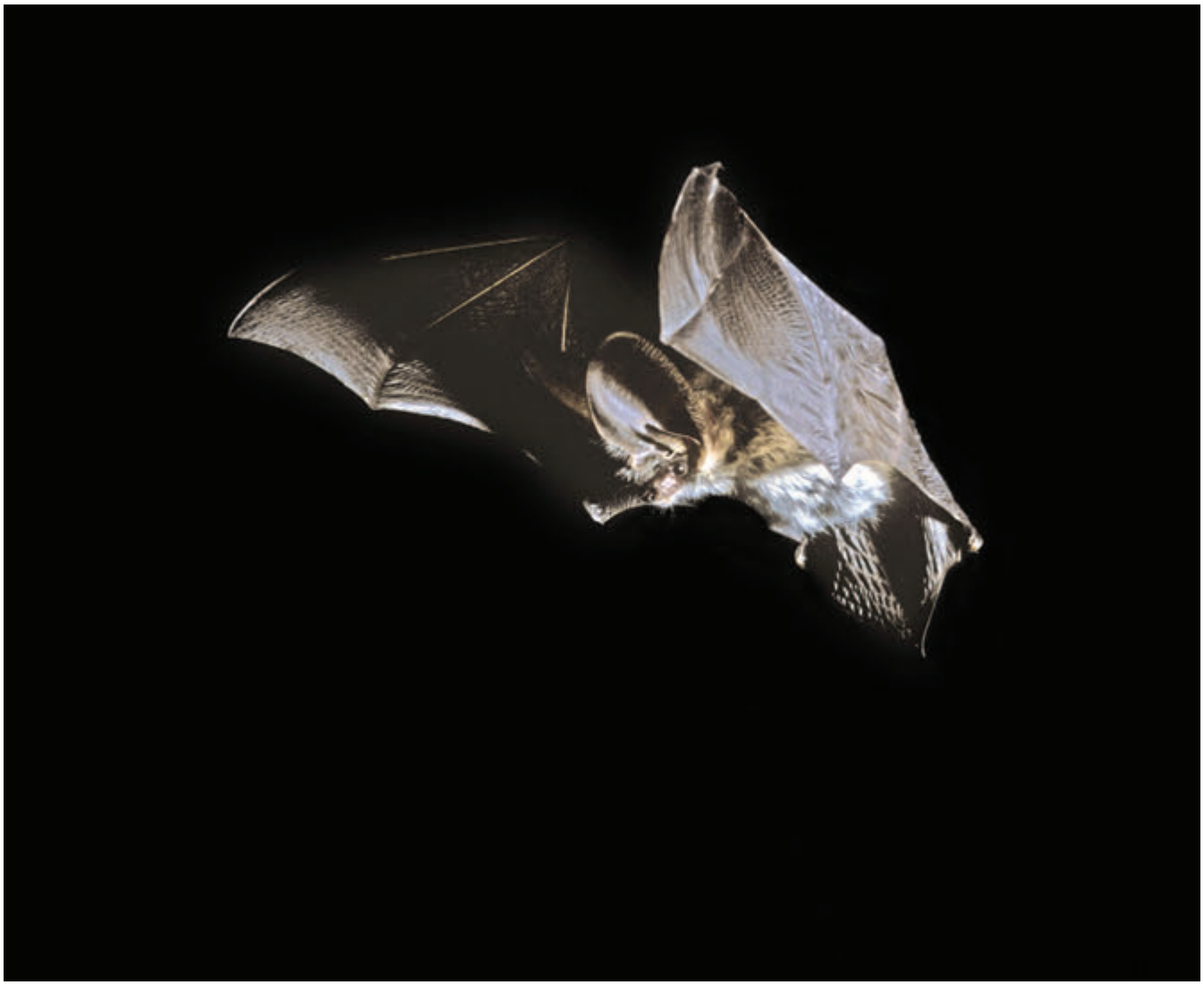
In response we created an evidence-based communications campaign to show that the real problem wasn't bats, but poor management and lack of strategic environmental assessments at an early stage. We used this campaign to further mobilise our supporters to get these the facts in front of as many decision-makers as possible.

> ***I'm annoyed that you're having to field all these questions about the tunnel when BCT had nothing to do with it in the first place. BUT the article has some amazing detective work and sets the record properly straight. I'll be asking my MP to oppose the Planning and Infrastructure Bill.'***
> A response to our *Throwing bats under the train: HS2's bat tunnel and the dangerous spin behind deregulation* news article.

Changing the narrative

BCT has always worked to shift the conversation around bats and development more widely. Instead of accepting the false narrative that they block growth, we've shown that bats are key to a healthy environment and economy.

- Thanks to our efforts, bats were — for the first time — mentioned in the updated National Planning Policy Framework in 2024, marking a major step forward in recognising their value in planning.
- We were quoted in a news piece in Byline Times: *The Government's Housing Bill Branded a 'Licence to Kill' Protected Species for Property Developers*.
- Helen Hayes MP (our common pipistrelle Species Champion) wrote to the Minister for Housing and Planning on BCT's behalf to raise concerns on changes to planning legislation.



© Hugh Clark

Grey long-eared bats are very rare medium sized bats found only in a few places in southern England. They are one of two long-eared bat species in the UK.

Backing the evidence, shaping the future

BCT continues to challenge harmful rhetoric, advocating for a balanced approach where nature and development thrive together.

With your support, we'll keep pushing for a future where bats are protected and evidence informs decisions.

Sign up to our campaigns email list and make our voice louder:
www.bats.org.uk/bat-campaigns-list

5. STRENGTHEN

Securing a sustainable future for bats, BCT, and our community



BCT staff at a team away day.

© Joe Nunez-Mino.

To protect bats and inspire change, BCT must be strong from the inside out. Our strategy puts just as much focus on how we work as what we do — from equity and inclusion to fundraising, IT and environmental policies.

By supporting our staff, volunteers and partners with the tools, systems and culture they need, we're building a more resilient, impactful organisation for the future.

A clear path for bat conservation

BCT launches new strategy to guide the next decade

As set out in the introduction, BCT launched a new three-year strategy (2024—2027), underpinned by our 10-year Theory of Change (2024—2034).

This long-term vision helps us stay focused on our goal: that all UK bat species will be in recovery. To achieve this goal, we've set five strategic outcomes:

- Ensure that scientific research drives effective bat conservation.
- Influence decision-makers to support the recovery of bat species.
- Act — through collaboration and guidance — so that bat-friendly land and building management is mainstreamed.
- Inspire more people to protect bats.
- And — the objective covered in this section — making BCT itself strong and resilient.

Powering progress: the people and systems behind our mission

To protect the future of bats, we also need to future-proof ourselves. Charities like BCT face a constant balancing act: investing in the tools, technology, and people we need — while ensuring every pound is spent wisely.

That's why we're upgrading our systems to be more efficient, secure, and resilient for the long term. Smart tech choices today mean more time and resources for conservation tomorrow.

But it's not just about systems — it's about people. Our volunteers are at the heart of what we do, and we're committed to giving them the support, training, and tools they need to thrive. We're also investing in our staff, because a strong, supported team is essential to delivering lasting impact.

Investing in people, systems, and support

From better technology to stronger teams, we've made meaningful progress this year to build a more resilient and responsive organisation — ensuring our work for bats is grounded in solid foundations.



Smarter systems for greater impact:

- **New National Bat Helpline database launched**
  Our updated database is now live and in use — making it easier for staff to track, respond to, and analyse calls efficiently and effectively. The new platform guides call handlers with intuitive forms, captures rich data for reporting, and has simplified volunteer training. With over 300,000 people, 209,000 tickets, and 200,000 locations carefully migrated, this project shows how thoughtful digital solutions can help protect our vital UK wildlife through better data and more personal support.

- **New IT support in place**
  We welcomed new IT contractors, KCS and we've already seen improvements to system backups and overall support.

☎️ Enhancing volunteer support and helpline services:

- **Optimising bat care call handling**
  We surveyed members of the Bat Care Network for feedback on how calls are handled. Our findings are helping us to refine our procedures. For example, we've now moved to a new mapping system which goes beyond simple radius calculations. Instead of assuming a volunteer can travel '10 miles in any direction' (which might mean a quick 10-minute drive in the Cotswolds but a 45-minute journey in London traffic), the system now uses precise geographical boundaries to connect callers with the nearest available bat carers. This means injured or vulnerable bats receive attention more quickly, potentially saving more of these protected creatures.

- **Volunteer power: over 100 trained and retained**
  More than 100 volunteers were trained and welcomed into the Volunteer Bat Care Helpline Project and crucially, we've retained them. That continuity helps ensure high-quality support for the public and bat carers alike.

> ***I am genuinely excited to be a volunteer. I've particularly appreciated being able to use my role as a reference to get a charity-related job role. Above anything else, it's been great to talk to so many different people about bats, helping them get to safety and donate my time to a fantastic organisation.***
>
> A volunteer on the Volunteer Bat Care Helpline.

🌲 Growing our staff team to grow our reach

- **New financial support for projects and teams:** We welcomed a new staff member into a new role, Finance and Operations Officer. They will provide support to project teams as well as helping to develop and check budgets for funding applications.

- **Supporting bat groups in Wales:** We were delighted to bring on a Wales Bat Groups Officer. This role provides tailored support for 15 volunteer-led bat groups across Wales through regional conferences, training, resources, and funding that strengthens local conservation efforts.

- **New Membership Officer:** In 2025-26 we will create another new role for BCT, so that we can give our growing membership base the care and attention it deserves.

Fundraising: securing the future for bats

Hope through innovation. Strength through support.

We are not just responding to change — we're preparing for it. The world around us is shifting fast, and so are we. That's why we're diversifying our fundraising: building a broader, more innovative funding base that keeps us agile, sustainable, and always focused on protecting bats and their habitats.

Unlike some conservation charities, we don't own land or property — our work depends on people. On partnerships, public support, and funders. Every step forward for bats starts with people who share our belief that together, we can create a world where bats and people thrive.



This year for the first time, NBMP data were assessed over a five-year window - revealing that two species may now be in decline: brown long-eared bats and lesser horseshoe bats (pictured).

© Gareth Jones

Given the opportunity, bats live long lives. Conserving them takes long-term vision and commitment. We're investing in exactly that — securing regular donations, building new partnerships, unlocking grant funding, and expanding our community fundraising. We've also launched a legacy giving strategy, offering a free will-writing service for anyone who wants to leave a gift that echoes into the future.

2024-25's funding highlights:

🌱 **Big Give, big impact**
We raised £24,000 for BCT's Science programme through the Big Give Green Match Fund — and an additional £20,000 for the National Bat Helpline during their Christmas Challenge. These results take more than just luck. They take dedication, teamwork, and the kind of support that lifts campaigns beyond their targets.

🐓 **Leaving a legacy**
Our new legacy fundraising approach is already opening doors for future conservation. More people than ever are choosing to leave a lasting impact and thanks to our free will-writing service, it's never been easier to do.

💚 **Rona Gordon**, is a seven-year-old BCT member who is raising funds for BCT and the Back Up Trust through a 5-day, 100km cycle challenge in the Netherlands. As we went to press, she'd already raised £1,000. Well done, Rona.

🥇 Another athletic fundraiser, **Anne Youngman** — our Scottish Officer for 15 years — will do a 105 km ultra-marathon as a fundraiser for BCT. Participants have 19.5 hours to reach the Northumbrian Coast, starting at the Scottish Borders. They will climb 8,000 feet, go through peat bogs, and do a stretch of a Roman road.



Seven-year-old Rona Gordon, our youngest ever fundraiser.

© David Gordon

A louder voice for bats

BCT is building its first ever communications strategy

For the first time, BCT is creating a dedicated communications strategy — to help us speak up for bats more clearly, more widely, and more powerfully.

Why does this matter? Because how we talk about bats shapes how people value and protect them. With so many environmental messages competing for attention, we need to make every word count. A communications strategy will help us do just that, making sure everything we say supports BCT's goals, reaches the right audiences, and inspires meaningful action.

Communication that drives conservation

From frontline conservation to policy influence, effective communication is essential. This strategy will help us raise awareness, change perceptions, build stronger partnerships, and ultimately drive real-world impact for bats, other wildlife, and people too.

Follow and share our journey

Find BCT online:

batconservationtrust.org

@BatConservation (BlueSky, Instagram, Facebook, LinkedIn)

YouTube: Bat Conservation Trust

We're building something lasting — and we need your help to grow it

If you believe in protecting wildlife, if you believe in hope through innovation, then please join us. Whether it's a donation today, a legacy for tomorrow, or a new connection we can build together — your support powers everything we do.

Let's make the future brighter for bats. Together.

Join BCT for just £3.25/month: **www.bats.org.uk/membership/scheme**

CONCLUSION

Securing the future for bats — together

As we have seen throughout this report, bat conservation is not just about protecting a group of species — it is about safeguarding the health of our shared environment.

Bats play a vital role in ecosystems across the UK, from controlling insect populations to acting as indicators of wider biodiversity. Yet they face increasing pressures from habitat loss, climate change, and shifting policy landscapes.

Over the past year, we have made significant strides in addressing these challenges. From working with farmers to launching our first manifesto, our work is making a real difference. But there is still much to do.

Your role in securing lasting impact

None of this progress would be possible without the generosity and commitment of our funders, members, volunteers and supporters. Your contributions enable us to:

- Continue essential research to strengthen the scientific evidence base for bat conservation.
- Advocate for policies that protect bats and their habitats in an increasingly complex and challenging political landscape.
- Restore and safeguard roosting and foraging sites to ensure healthy bat populations.
- Engage communities — particularly in hard-to-reach areas — in conservation action that benefits both bats and people.

THANK YOU

We are immensely grateful to all those who make our work possible — our funders, partners, volunteers, members, and the passionate individuals who champion bat conservation in their communities. Your support and dedication are the foundation of everything we do.

Together, we can build a future where bats and people thrive side by side. Thank you for being part of this journey.

Administrative information

Status
The organisation is a charitable company limited by guarantee, incorporated on 7 May 1992 and registered as a charity on 29 June 1992.

Governing document
The company was established under a memorandum of association which established the objects and powers of the charitable company and is governed under its articles of association.

Company number 2712823

Charity number England and Wales 1012361

Charity number Scotland SC040116

Registered office and operational address
Studio 15 Cloisters House, Cloisters Business Centre, 8 Battersea Park Rd, London SW8 4BG

Trustees

Officers:
Jean Matthews (Chair)
Steven Roe (Vice Chair)
Helen Slinger (Treasurer)
Annika Binet (Hon Secretary)
Dr. Cerys Bradley
Stuart Brittenden
Matt Browne — Trustee from 14 September 2024 AGM
Colette Marshall
Dr. Orly Razgour
Matthew Terry
Dr Ruth Waters
Stepped down as trustees at AGM on 14 September 2024:
Dr. Abigail Entwistle
Lord John Randall

President
Chris Packham CBE

Vice Presidents
Professor Paul Racey
Dr. Robert Stebbings

Patron
David Gower OBE

Ambassadors
Kate Rusby
Aruhan Galieva

Honorary roles
Hon Education Officer: Shirley Thompson MBE
Hon Science & Conservation Advisor: Professor Paul Racey
Hon Science Advisors: Professor Gareth Jones, Professor Kate Jones
Hon Legal Advisor: Michael Ford QC

Senior Management Team
Chief Executive: Kit Stoner
Director of Conservation: Lisa Worledge
Director of Communications & Fundraising: Dr. Joe Nunez-Mino

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

Health and Safety
JEM Safety Management Ltd
190 Moor Lane, Upminster
Essex RM14 1HG

Insurance brokers
First Insurance Solutions Ltd
First Insurance Solutions House
Centre 3000, St. Leonards Road
Maidstone, Kent ME16 0LS

Financial advisors
Coloma Wealth Management LLP
3rd Floor, Warwick House
65/66 Queen Street
London EC4R 1EB

Employment advisors
WorkNest (previously known as Ellis Whittam)
Woodhouse, Church Lane
Aldford, Chester CH3 6JD

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

Auditor
Sayer Vincent LLP
110 Golden Lane
London EC1Y 0TG

Introduction

The Trustees present their report and the audited financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2025.

Administrative information set out on page 38 forms part of this report. The financial statements comply with current statutory requirements, the Memorandum and Articles of Association and the Statement of Recommended Practice — Accounting and Reporting by Charities: SORP applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with FRS 102.

Structure, Governance & Management

History of the Bat Conservation Trust
The Bat Conservation Trust (BCT) was formed in 1991, by far-seeing individuals who recognised that the combination of challenges to the conservation of bats was unique. BCT is proud to be the leading non-governmental organisation devoted solely to the conservation of bats and their habitats. In a very short time, BCT has grown to become an organisation with over 5,400 members, with offices in England and Scotland and a team of around 60 staff including scientists, specialists in training, outreach and biodiversity, volunteer engagement, fundraising, media and membership. BCT's core activities include; biodiversity delivery (taking effective practical conservation actions and influencing policy to secure bat populations); the National Bat Monitoring Programme; delivering advice about bats through the National Bat Helpline and through long-term partnerships with the statutory nature conservation organisations (SNCOs) and with statutory investigators and prosecutors; training professionals and volunteers; and engaging and educating wider audiences.

An overview of who we are
BCT has championed bats for over 30 years and the places they need to survive.

Our vital stats:

We spend just 8.6p on fundraising per £1 raised (in 2023/24: 10p per £1)
Around 217,000 online supporters across different platforms (same as 2023/24)
Over 3,000 volunteers (same as 2023/24)

Our purpose:

Vision: A world rich in wildlife where bats and people thrive together.
Mission: We work collaboratively and with a diversity of people to achieve resilient populations of bats and improve their habitats in an ever-changing world.

Values:

Evidence based: We seek out and commission leading science and research to build the best possible evidence base to focus our work and shape the advice we give.
Collaborative: We actively seek out the best partners, conversations and opportunities to make our expertise and resources work hard to deliver the best outcomes for bats.
Inclusive: We are working to remove barriers to participation in bat conservation, as we believe including and welcoming a wide range of people will bring new ideas and benefit both people and bats.

We work to:

DISCOVER: scientific evidence in place to support bat conservation

INFLUENCE: decision makers make right choices for bats

ACT: effective management of landscapes and built environment

CONNECT: inspire an appreciation of bats and nature

STRENGTHEN: invest in a sustainable future for Bat Conservation Trust, its staff and volunteers

Fundraising Statement
At BCT, we respect the wishes of our members, supporters and donors who ask for no further contact from us, and we adhere to Data Protection law. We employ reputable companies to assist with distributing membership material. We do not employ fundraising or marketing agencies to target people by telephone, or in the street, to persuade them to set up regular donations to BCT. BCT is registered with the Fundraising Regulator and agrees to abide by its rules and regulations. Those who register with the regulator agree to ensure their fundraising is legal, open, honest and respectful. There were no complaints related to fundraising during the period covered by this report.

In order to achieve our objective of financial stability, everyone at BCT contributes towards our fundraising efforts along with a small, dedicated fundraising team. We also support others who choose to make donations or take part in fundraising activities in whatever way they can.

Safeguarding
BCT is committed to upholding the principle that children and vulnerable adults are entitled to protection from physical, sexual and emotional harm and have the right to a safe, positive and enjoyable environment when involved with BCT. We are committed to maintaining a safeguarding policy, which can be viewed here: **https://www.bats.org.uk/the-trust/policies/safeguarding** and providing regular staff training.

The Trustees
The Trustees who served during the year and up to the date of this report are shown on page 38. All Trustees also act as directors for the purposes of company law.

The Trustees are elected at an Annual General Meeting (AGM) and serve for three years. Trustees are eligible for reselection at the end of their first and second term of three years, but following election for a third term, are not be eligible for reselection until one year has elapsed from them ceasing to be a member of the Board of Trustees. The Trustees may co-opt any Member eligible for election to fill a vacancy until the next AGM.

The Trustees regularly audit their collective skills, competencies and experience against those required to fulfil their responsibilities and proactively recruit new Trustees to fill gaps. All proposed Trustees are put to the BCT membership prior to any appointment. On appointment, training is given according to the needs of the Trustee and new Trustees have an induction with key members of staff.

The Trustees are members of the charity but this entitles them only to voting rights and any benefits received by the Trustees are incidental. As members of the charity they undertake to contribute an amount not exceeding £1 to the assets of the charity in the event of winding up. The total number of such undertakings at 31 March 2025 was 11 (2024: 12).

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

Risk Management
The Trustees and Senior Management Team have reviewed the major risks which the charity faces. They review these risks at least annually. The Trustees implement improvements to systems of internal control in order to mitigate other operational and business risks as and when identified.

Some of the major risk areas are:
- Pressure for change in government policy or legislation that impacts on bat conservation. BCT undertakes advocacy and mobilises our supporters to speak up for the importance of the legislation and policy protecting bats.
- Controversial issue which results in negative publicity for bats and their conservation. BCT proactively communicates with stakeholders and the media and is developing a communications strategy to further address this risk.
- Reduced funding for key projects and services. BCT regularly reviews our financial position including income, ethical investments, fundraising pipeline and potential impacts from government policy.
- Funding paid late or in arrears leading to cashflow problems. BCT has a weekly cashflow monitoring system with careful management of cash reserves.
- Reduced support, profile and funding in a competitive market. BCT has a hard-earned position as an authoritative voice in the conservation space and is proactive in engaging with a wide range of sectors and research.
- Loss of capacity and key knowledge due to loss of staff. BCT undertakes work to understand and mitigate stressors and strives to provide adequate capacity for growing areas of work, while reducing reliance on sole contractors where work is outsourced.

Remuneration Policy
Remuneration of all staff is considered on an annual basis by the Board of Trustees. The Senior Management Team make recommendations to the Trustees for a) the cost of living based on inflation rates, the London Living Wage and a salary survey we take part in with other environmental NGOs, and b) for any staff increments based on job bands, performance and any extra responsibilities taken on. The Trustees make the final decision in the context of BCT's budget. The salary of the Chief Executive is set by the Chair in consultation with the Trustees.

Statement of Responsibilities of the Trustees
The Trustees (who are also directors of The Bat Conservation Trust) are responsible for preparing the Trustees' annual report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

Company law required the Trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charitable company and the incoming resources and application of resources, including the income and expenditure, of the charitable company for that period.

In preparing those financial statements the Trustees are required to:

- Select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- Observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP
- Make judgements and accounting estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- State whether applicable UK Accounting Standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements;
- Prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in operation.

The Trustees are responsible for keeping adequate accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006, the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005 and the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006 (as amended). They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charitable company and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

Disclosure of information to auditor

In so far as each of the Trustees is aware:

- There is no relevant audit information of which the charitable company's auditor is unaware;

And

- Each of the trustees has taken all steps that they ought to have taken to make themselves aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the auditor is aware of that information.

Treasurer's report

BCT has further grown its vital work, despite the continued economic uncertainty. Staff numbers have risen to support the increased project work this year with an associated increase in staff costs alongside significant changes to national insurance and meeting our commitment to a living wage.

For the year ended 31 March 2025, income was £2,984,804 (2024: £2,665,328) and expenditure was £3,068,552 (2024: £2,281,864), leading to net deficit for the year of £83,748 (2024: surplus £383,464).

Taking into account losses on investments of £12,407 (2024: gains of £147,858), the net movement in funds for the year was a decrease of £96,155 (2024: an increase of £531,322).

While the accounts show a small in-year deficit, this is in line with the trustees' expectations and represents a better position than budgeted, reflecting careful cost control in a challenging environment. The difference from the prior year's surplus reflects the investment of some of our reserves in strategic projects. We are investing in fundraising capacity to increase unrestricted funds and this year spent just 8.6p on fundraising per £1 raised.

Underperforming investments led to a review of our investment policy, portfolio and fund managers, which concluded during the financial year. This has culminated in the transfer of our funds to a multi-asset sustainable stewardship fund under a newly selected asset manager post year end.

Investment policy

Investments total £2,427,145 (2024: £2,288,298) at 31 March 2025. The aim of these funds is to provide stability to reserves and a steady annual income stream to support our work, helping to reduce the risks associated with our reliance on project funding.

Our revised investment policy features key sustainability criteria to promote biodiversity and mitigate climate change. Investments are expected to meet our sustainability criteria with returns reported on via a benchmark. Target returns for our investments are CPI +3% over the long term.

Reserves policy

We adopt a risk-based approach for our reserves policy in order to define the amount we need to enable us to sustain our operations and protect us from unforeseen events. We have also been investing some of our reserves in strategic projects to secure BCT's long-term financial viability.

At the end of the 2024/25 financial year our total reserves stand at £3,396,462 (2024: £3,492,617). Of this, £2,228,800 (2024: £2,252,701) are endowment funds and £308,540 (2024: £242,602) are restricted funds for projects. This leaves unrestricted funds of £859,122 (2024: £997,314) of which £450,772 (2024: £523,447) have been designated to key programmes of work in the next financial year (see note 18 in financial statements for details). This leaves us with £408,350 (2024: £473,867) as unrestricted, unallocated funds. Of this, £233,751 (2024: £312,456) represents free reserves after deducting the net book value of fixed assets.

The trustees' policy is to work towards holding six months operating costs, approximately £885,000, in unrestricted reserves. We will continue to review our reserves policy and our progress towards achieving it each year. On behalf of BCT, I would like to thank all our members, donors and partners for their fantastic support and our volunteers and staff for their endless hard work on behalf of bat conservation.

Helen Slinger, Treasurer

Thank you

Partner bat groups

Avon Bat Group
Ayrshire and Arran Bat Group
Bedfordshire Bat Group
Berkshire & South Bucks Bat Group
Birmingham & Black Country Bat Group
Borders Bat Group
Cairngorms Bat Group
Cambridgeshire Bat Group
Cardiff Bat Group
Central Scotland Bat Group
Cheshire Bat Group
Cleveland Bat Group
Clwyd Bat Group
Clyde Bat Group
Cornwall Bat Group
Derbyshire Bat Conservation Group
Devon Bat Group
Dorset Bat Group
Dumfries & Galloway Bat Group
Durham Bat Group
East Lancashire Bat Group
East Yorkshire Bat Group
Essex Bat Group
Fife & Kinross Bat Group
Glamorgan Bat Group
Gloucestershire Bat Group
Guernsey Bat Group
Gwynedd Bat Group
Hampshire Bat Group
Herefordshire Bat Research Group
Herts & Middlesex Bat Group
Inverness Bat Group
Isle Of Wight Bat Group
Isles Of Scilly Bat Group
Jersey Bat Group
Kent Bat Group
Leicestershire & Rutland Bat Group
Lincolnshire Bat Group
Loch Lomond Bat Group
London Bat Group
Lothians Bat Group
Manx Bat Group
Merseyside & West Lancs Bat Group
Montgomeryshire Bat Group
Nene Valley Bats
Norfolk & Norwich Bat Group
North Bucks Bat Group
North Ceredigion Bat Group
North East Scotland Bat Group
North Lancashire Bat Group
North Wales Mammal Group
Northern Ireland Bat Group
Northumberland Bat Group
Nottinghamshire Bat Group
Oxfordshire Bat Group
Pembrokeshire Bat Group
Shropshire Bat Group
Skye and Lochalsh Bat Group
Somerset Bat Group
South Cumbria Bat Group
South Lancashire Bat Group
South Yorkshire Bat Group
Staffordshire Bat Group
Surrey Bat Group
Sussex Bat Group
Tayside Bat Group
Vale Of Glamorgan & Bridgend Bat Group
Valleys Bat Group
Warwickshire Bat Group
West Yorkshire Bat Group
Worcestershire Bat Group
Herefordshire Mammal Group

Charitable trusts, statutory bodies and other organisations

Alice Noakes Memorial Charitable Trust
Animal and Plant Health Agency
Animal Friends
ARC
Barry Green Memorial Fund
Benefact Group
Cecil Pilkington Charitable Trust
Chapman Charitable Trust
Church of England
David Webster Charitable Trust
Esmée Fairbairn Foundation
Forest Research
Garfield Weston Foundation
Goldcrest CT CMA-Client Fund Trust
Greater London Authority
Groundwork UK
Innovate UK
John Ellerman Foundation
Joint Nature Conservation Council
National Heritage NNF (Nature Networks Fund)
National Lottery Heritage Fund
Natural England
Natural Resources Wales
NatureScot
The Royal Parks Limited
Shirley and James Dutton Charitable Trust
UK Centre for Ecology & Hydrology
Vistry Group
William Dean Countryside and Education Trust
William Haddon Charitable Trust
Xeno-canto

Sponsorships (of £100 or more in year to 31 March 2025)

Amey
Cura Terrae
Ecolybrium
Gateshead Council
NHBS
I&G Ecological Consultancy Ltd
Pettersson
Southampton Council
Thermal Vision Ecology
WildCare
Wildlife Acoustics

Donations from bat groups (of £100 or more in the year to 31 March 2025)

Berkshire & S Bucks Bat Group
Cornwall Bat Group
East Yorkshire Bat Group
Hampshire Bat Group
Kent Bat Group
North Ceredigion Bat Group
Oxfordshire Bat Group
Surrey Bat Group
Warwickshire Bat Group
West Yorkshire Bat Group
Wiltshire Bat Group

Corporate members (as of 31 March 2025)

Arbtech Consulting Ltd
ASW Ecology Ltd
BatAbility Courses & Tuition
BatBox Ltd.
CJ Wildlife
Cleankill Environmental Services
Co-ecology
D J H Ravcon Ltd
Echoes Ecology Ltd.
Ecological Survey And Assessment Limited
English Heritage
Ground Control Ltd.
Historic England
Holidaycottages.Co.Uk
Homegrown Timber (Rail Ltd.)
I&G Ecological Consultancy Ltd
Integrated Utility Services Ltd.
MelBek Technology Ltd
NHBS
Nurture Holdings Ltd.
Stowe Family Law LLP
Tamworth Property Services
The Nestbox Company Ltd.
Titley Scientific
Treework Ltd
United Environmental Services Ltd
Wilby Tree Surgeons
Wild Surveys Ltd.
WildCare
Wildlife Acoustics
Wold Ecology Ltd.
Zoological Society of Hertfordshire

Auditor

Sayer Vincent LLP were reappointed to act as the charitable company's auditor during the year.

The report of the Trustees has been prepared in accordance with the special provisions applicable to companies subject to the small companies' regime.

Approved by the Trustees on: 18 August 2025

and signed on their behalf by

Jean Matthews
Chair

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of The Bat Conservation Trust (the 'charitable company') for the year ended 31 March 2025 which comprise the statement of financial activities, balance sheet, statement of cash flows and notes to the financial statements, including significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including FRS 102 The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

In our opinion, the financial statements:

- Give a true and fair view of the state of the charitable company's affairs as at 31 March 2025 and of its incoming resources and application of resources, including its income and expenditure, for the year then ended
- Have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice
- Have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006, the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005 and regulation 8 of the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006 (as amended)

Basis for opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAs (UK)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of our report. We are independent of the charitable company in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in the UK, including the FRC's Ethical Standard and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Conclusions relating to going concern

In auditing the financial statements, we have concluded that the trustees' use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is appropriate.

Based on the work we have performed, we have not identified any material uncertainties relating to events or conditions that, individually or collectively, may cast significant doubt on The Bat Conservation Trust's ability to continue as a going concern for a period of at least twelve months from when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

Our responsibilities and the responsibilities of the trustees with respect to going concern are described in the relevant sections of this report.

Other information

The other information comprises the information included in the trustees' annual report other than the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. The trustees are responsible for the other information contained within the annual report. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and, except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated in our report, we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon. Our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the course of the audit, or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether this gives rise to a material misstatement in the financial statements themselves. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact.

We have nothing to report in this regard.

Opinions on other matters prescribed by the Companies Act 2006

In our opinion, based on the work undertaken in the course of the audit:

- The information given in the trustees' annual report for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements; and
- The trustees' annual report has been prepared in accordance with applicable legal requirements

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

In the light of the knowledge and understanding of the charitable company and its environment obtained in the course of the audit, we have not identified material misstatements in the trustees' annual report.

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters in relation to which the Companies Act 2006 and the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006 (as amended) require us to report to you if, in our opinion:

- Adequate accounting records have not been kept, or returns adequate for our audit have not been received from branches not visited by us; or
- The financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records and returns; or
- Certain disclosures of trustees' remuneration specified by law are not made; or
- We have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit; or
- The directors were not entitled to prepare the financial statements in accordance with the small companies regime and take advantage of the small companies' exemptions in preparing the trustees' annual report and from the requirement to prepare a strategic report.

Responsibilities of Trustees

As explained more fully in the statement of trustees' responsibilities set out in the trustees' annual report, the trustees (who are also the directors of the charitable company for the purposes of company law) are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the trustees determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, the trustees are responsible for assessing the charitable company's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the trustees either intend to liquidate the charitable company or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

We have been appointed as auditor under section 44(1)(c) of the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005 and under the Companies Act 2006 and report in accordance with regulations made under those Acts.

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (UK) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

Irregularities, including fraud, are instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations. We design procedures in line with our responsibilities, outlined above, to detect material misstatements in respect of irregularities, including fraud. The extent to which our procedures are capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud are set out below.

Capability of the audit in detecting irregularities
In identifying and assessing risks of material misstatement in respect of irregularities, including fraud and non-compliance with laws and regulations, our procedures included the following:

- We enquired of management which included obtaining and reviewing supporting documentation, concerning the charity's policies and procedures relating to:
  - Identifying, evaluating, and complying with laws and regulations and whether they were aware of any instances of non-compliance;
  - Detecting and responding to the risks of fraud and whether they have knowledge of any actual, suspected, or alleged fraud;
  - The internal controls established to mitigate risks related to fraud or non-compliance with laws and regulations.
- We inspected the minutes of meetings of those charged with governance.
- We obtained an understanding of the legal and regulatory framework that the charity operates in, focusing on those laws and regulations that had a material effect on the financial statements or that had a fundamental effect on the operations of the charity from our professional and sector experience.
- We communicated applicable laws and regulations throughout the audit team and remained alert to any indications of non-compliance throughout the audit.
- We reviewed any reports made to regulators.
- We reviewed the financial statement disclosures and tested these to supporting documentation to assess compliance with applicable laws and regulations.
- We performed analytical procedures to identify any unusual or unexpected relationships that may indicate risks of material misstatement due to fraud.
- In addressing the risk of fraud through management override of controls, we tested the appropriateness of journal entries and other adjustments, assessed whether the judgements made in making accounting estimates are indicative of a potential bias and tested significant transactions that are unusual or those outside the normal course of business.

Because of the inherent limitations of an audit, there is a risk that we will not detect all irregularities, including those leading to a material misstatement in the financial statements or non-compliance with regulation. This risk increases the more that compliance with a law or regulation is removed from the events and transactions reflected in the financial statements, as we will be less likely to become aware of instances of non-compliance. The risk is also greater regarding irregularities occurring due to fraud rather than error, as fraud involves intentional concealment, forgery, collusion, omission or misrepresentation.

A further description of our responsibilities is available on the Financial Reporting Council's website at: **www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities**. This description forms part of our auditor's report.

Use of our report
This report is made solely to the charitable company's members as a body, in accordance with Chapter 3 of Part 16 of the Companies Act 2006 and section 44(1)(c) of the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the charitable company's members those matters we are required to state to them in an auditor's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the charitable company and the charitable company's members as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

Noelia Serrano (Senior statutory auditor)

Date: 18 August 2025

for and on behalf of Sayer Vincent LLP,
Statutory Auditor
110 Golden Lane London EC1Y 0TG

Sayer Vincent LLP is eligible to act as auditor in terms of section 1212 of the Companies Act 2006

The Bat Conservation Trust

Statement of financial activities *(incorporating an income and expenditure account)*

For the year ended 31 March 2025

	Note	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	Endowment £	2025 Total £	2024 Total £
Income						
Donations and legacies	2	472,156	46,324	-	**518,480**	856,737
Investment income		68,103	-	-	**68,103**	59,185
Income from charitable activities						
Conferences		88,437	-	-	**88,437**	69,983
Training courses and meetings		105,590	-	-	**105,590**	84,537
Projects and research	3	991,160	1,141,862	-	**2,133,022**	1,539,734
Other activities		71,172	-	-	**71,172**	55,152
Total income		**1,796,618**	**1,188,186**	**-**	**2,984,804**	2,665,328
Expenditure						
Expenditure on raising funds						
Membership support	4	102,788	-	-	**102,788**	73,017
Costs of raising funds	4	141,784	-	11,110	**152,894**	176,866
Expenditure on charitable activities						
Conferences	4	54,697	-	-	**54,697**	75,001
Training courses and meetings	4	136,147	-	-	**136,147**	119,924
Project and research costs	5	1,529,803	1,092,223	-	**2,622,026**	1,837,056
Total expenditure	4	**1,965,219**	**1,092,223**	**11,110**	**3,068,552**	2,281,864
Net (expenditure) / income before net (losses) / gains on investments		**(168,601)**	**95,963**	**(11,110)**	**(83,748)**	383,464
Net (losses) / gains on investments	12	384	-	(12,791)	**(12,407)**	147,858
Net (expenditure) / income for the year		**(168,217)**	**95,963**	**(23,901)**	**(96,155)**	531,322
Transfers between funds	18	**30,025**	**(30,025)**	-	-	-
Net movement in funds		**(138,192)**	**65,938**	**(23,901)**	**(96,155)**	531,322
Reconciliation of funds						
Total funds brought forward		997,314	242,602	2,252,701	3,492,617	2,961,295
Total funds carried forward	18	**859,122**	**308,540**	**2,228,800**	**3,396,462**	3,492,617

All of the above results are derived from continuing activities. There were no other recognised gains or losses other than those stated above. Movements in funds are disclosed in note 18 to the financial statements. Comparatives for the statement of financial activities are given in note 20.

For Companies Act purposes, excluding Endowed funds, income for the year ended 31 March 2025 was £2,984,804 (2024: £2,665,328) and expenditure £3,057,442 (2024: £2,270,630) and gains on investments of £384 (2024: £616). Net expenditure was £72,254 (2024: net income £395,314).

The Bat Conservation Trust (Company number 1012361)

Balance Sheet

As at 31 March 2025

	Note	2025 £	£	2024 £	£
Fixed assets					
Tangible assets	10		**902**		1,826
Intangible assets	11		**173,697**		159,585
Investments	12		**2,427,145**		2,288,298
Non-current assets			**2,601,744**		2,449,709
Current assets					
Debtors	13	**638,039**		1,192,317	
Short term deposit		**91,369**		302	
Cash at bank and in hand		**345,741**		147,568	
		1,075,149		1,340,187	
Creditors: amounts due within one year	14	**(280,431)**		(297,279)	
Net current assets			**794,718**		1,042,908
Net assets	16		**3,396,462**		3,492,617
Reserves					
Endowment funds	18		**2,228,800**		2,252,701
Restricted funds	18		**308,540**		242,602
Unrestricted funds					
General funds	18	408,350		473,867	
Designated funds	18	450,772		523,447	
			859,122		997,314
Total funds	18		**3,396,462**		3,492,617

Approved by the trustees on: 18 August 2025

Signed on their behalf by:

Jean Matthews (Chair)

The Bat Conservation Trust

Statement of Cash Flows

For the year ended 31 March 2025

	2025		2024	
	£	**£**	£	£
Cash flows from operating activities:				
Net (expenditure) / income for the year	**(96,155)**		531,322	
Adjustments for:				
Depreciation and amortisation charges	**69,979**		39,572	
Dividends and interest	**(68,103)**		(59,185)	
Losses / (gains) on investments	**12,407**		(147,858)	
Decrease / (increase) in debtors	**554,278**		(896,482)	
(Decrease) / increase in creditors	**(16,848)**		151,539	
Investment charges taken directly from cash held as part of the investment portfolio	**10,776**		11,945	
Net cash provided by / (used in) operating activities		**466,334**		(369,147)
Cash flows from investing activities:				
Bank interest received	**1,073**		539	
Cash withdrawals from investments	**25,000**		276,000	
Cash additions to investments	**(120,000)**		-	
Purchase of intangible assets	**(83,167)**		(117,965)	
Net cash (used in) / provided by investing activities		**(177,094)**		158,574
Change in cash and cash equivalents in the year		**289,240**		(210,573)
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the year		**147,870**		358,443
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the year		**437,110**		147,870

Analysis of cash and cash equivalents	At 1 April 2024	Cash flows	**At 31 March 2025**
	£	£	£
Cash at bank and in hand	147,568	198,173	**345,741**
Short term deposit	302	91,067	**91,369**
	147,870	289,240	**437,110**

Analysis of change in net debt

The charity had no net debt during the year.

1. Accounting policies

Status

The organisation is a charitable company limited by guarantee, incorporated on 7 May 1992 and registered as a charity on 29 June 1992.

The registered office is Studio 15, Cloisters House, Cloisters Business Centre, 8 Battersea Park Road, London, England, SW8 4BG.

a) Basis of preparation

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with FRS102 "The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland" ("FRS102"), the Companies Act 2006, the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005, the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006 (as amended) and “Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102)” (effective 1 January 2019). The charity is a Public Benefit Entity as defined by FRS 102.

Assets and liabilities are initially recognised at historical cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policy note(s).

The functional currency of the financial statements is Sterling.

b) Going concern

The trustees have assessed whether the use of the going concern assumption is appropriate in preparing these accounts. The trustees have made this assessment in respect to a period of one year from the date of approval of these accounts.

The trustees of the charity have concluded that there are no material uncertainties related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the ability of the charity to continue as a going concern. The trustees are of the opinion that the charity will have sufficient resources to meet its liabilities as they fall due. With regard to the next accounting period, the year ending 31 March 2026, the most significant areas that affect the carrying value of the assets held by the charity are the delivery of grant funded activities and securing future funding for these activities (see the risk management section of the trustees’ report for more information).

c) Income

Income from generated funds received by way of donations and member subscriptions are included in full in the statement of financial activities when probable.

Gifts in kind comprise meeting rooms and catering provided free of charge for trustee and other meetings and gifted IT services where material. Gifts in kind are included in income and expenditure at a reasonable estimate of their value to the charity, which is the price that would have had to be paid if hiring a room and paying for catering or contracting for IT services at a commercial rate on the open market. Volunteer time is not included in the financial statements.

Legacy income is accounted for on a receivable basis. A legacy is considered receivable when the charity is legally entitled to the income and the amount can be quantified with reasonable accuracy. Entitlement is the earlier of the charity being notified of an impending distribution or the legacy being received.

Investment income represents bank interest and dividend income, included in full in the statement of financial activities when receivable.

Revenue grants are credited to the Statement of Financial Activities when received or receivable whichever is earlier.

Where unconditional entitlement to grants receivable is dependent upon fulfilment of conditions within the charity's control, the incoming resources are recognised when there is sufficient evidence that conditions will be met. Where there is uncertainty as to whether the charity can meet such conditions, the incoming resource is deferred.

Grants for the purchase of fixed assets are credited to restricted income when probable.

Depreciation of fixed assets purchased with such grants is charged against the restricted fund. Where a fixed asset is donated to the charity for its own use, it is treated in a similar way to a restricted grant.

Fees for training courses and the annual conference are recognised in the financial statements during the year in which the conference or training course to which they relate occurred. Research contracts are recognised in the financial statements as entitlement is earned through completion of the contract.

d) Fund analysis

The expendable endowment funds are funds whereby the capital sum is invested, and income earned is used to contribute to core costs. The capital element may also be spent should sufficient need arise.

The permanent endowment funds are funds whereby the capital sum is invested, and income earned is used to contribute to core costs. The capital element is to be retained to generate future income for the work of BCT.

Restricted funds are to be used for specific purposes as laid down by the donor. Expenditure which meets these criteria is charged to the fund together with a fair allocation of management and support costs.

Unrestricted funds are donations and other income receivable or generated for the objects of the charity.

Designated funds are unrestricted funds earmarked by the trustees for particular purposes.

Transfers are made to and from designated funds at the discretion of the trustees. Transfers are made between restricted funds or from restricted funds to general funds only if agreement has been obtained from the donor.

e) Expenditure

Expenditure is recognised in the period in which it is incurred. Expenditure includes attributable VAT which cannot be recovered.

Expenditure is allocated to the particular activity where the cost relates directly to that activity. However, the cost of overall direction and administration of each activity, comprising the salary and overhead costs of the central function, is apportioned on the following basis which is an estimate, based on staff time, of the amount attributable to each activity: Raising funds, Conferences, Biodiversity training courses and Project costs.

The costs of generating funds relate to the costs incurred by the charitable company in raising funds for the charitable work. Fundraising costs associated with raising funds for a specific charitable activity are allocated to that activity.

Rentals payable under operating leases, where substantially all the risks and rewards of ownership remain with the lessor, are charged to the Statement of Financial Activities in the year in which they fall due.

f) Tangible and intangible assets

Depreciation is provided at rates calculated to write down the cost of each asset to its estimated residual value over its expected useful life. The depreciation rates in use are as follows:

Computer equipment - 33% per annum on a straight-line basis.
Field equipment - 25% per annum on a straight-line basis.
Furniture and fittings - 20% per annum on a straight-line basis.

Items of equipment are capitalised where the purchase price exceeds £5,000 (2024: £1,000). Depreciation costs are allocated to activities on the basis of the use of the related assets in those activities. Assets are reviewed for impairment if circumstances indicate their carrying value may exceed their net realisable value and value in use.

Intangible assets are recognised at cost and amortised over the assets' expected useful life. The amortisation rate in use is as follows:
Database - 20% per annum on a straight-line basis.

Amortisation costs are allocated to activities on the basis of the use of the related assets in those activities.

g) Pensions

The charity operates a defined contribution pension scheme. The assets of the scheme are held separately from those of the charity in an independently administered fund. The pension cost charge represents contributions payable under the scheme by the charity to the fund. The charity has no liability under the scheme other than for the payment of those contributions.

h) Foreign exchange rates

Transactions denominated in foreign currencies are translated into Sterling at the exchange rate ruling at the date of the transaction. Assets and liabilities in foreign currencies are translated into Sterling at the rates of exchange ruling at the end of the financial year. All exchange differences are written off to the Statement of Financial Activities.

i) Investments

Investments are stated at mid-market value at the balance sheet date. The gain or loss for the period is taken to the Statement of Financial Activities. All movements in value arising from investment changes or revaluations are shown in the Statement of Financial Activities.

j) Financial instruments

BCT has elected to apply the provisions of Section 11 ‘Basic Financial Instruments’ and Section 12 ‘Other Financial Instruments Issues’ of FRS 102 to

all of its financial instruments. Financial instruments are recognised in the balance sheet when the company becomes party to the contractual provisions of the instrument. Financial assets and liabilities are offset, with the net amounts presented in the financial statements, when there is a legally enforceable right to set off the recognised amounts and there is an intention to settle on a net basis or to realise the asset and settle the liability simultaneously.

2. Donations and legacies

Current Year	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	**2025 Total £**
Membership subscriptions	194,423	-	**194,423**
Members' & other donations	114,251	46,324	**160,575**
Legacies	163,482	-	**163,482**
	472,156	**46,324**	**518,480**

Prior Year	*Unrestricted £*	*Restricted £*	2024 *Total £*
Membership subscriptions	*173,176*	*-*	*173,176*
Members' & other donations	*137,142*	*22,232*	*159,374*
Legacies	*524,187*	*-*	*524,187*
	834,505	*22,232*	*856,737*

3. Projects and research income

Current Year	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	**2025 Total £**
Government grants & contracts	946,697	303,079	**1,249,776**
Grants & contracts from other charitable bodies	44,463	838,783	**883,246**
	991,160	1,141,862	**2,133,022**

Projects and research income: grants, contracts and donations

Project income was received in the year from the following organisations and donors:

	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	**2025 Total £**
Alice Noakes Memorial Charitable Trust	-	2,000	**2,000**
Animal and Plant Health Agency	13,000	-	**13,000**
Animal Friends	-	10,000	**10,000**
ARC	1,200	-	**1,200**
Cecil Pilkington Charitable Trust	4,000	-	**4,000**
Chapman Trust	-	2,000	**2,000**
Church of England	-	18,584	**18,584**
David Webster Charitable Trust	-	2,000	**2,000**
Esmee Fairbairn Charitable Trust	-	46,000	**46,000**
Forest Research	142,597	-	**142,597**
Garfield Weston	-	40,000	**40,000**
Goldcrest CT CMA-Client Funds Trust	2,000	-	**2,000**
Greater London Authority	-	99,590	**99,590**
Groundwork UK	-	3,594	**3,594**
Innovate UK	-	7,000	**7,000**
John Ellerman Foundation	-	30,000	30,000
Joint Nature Conservation Council	333,006	-	**333,006**
National Heritage NNF (Nature Networks Fund)	-	122,550	**122,550**
National Lottery Heritage Fund	-	680,013	**680,013**
Natural England	453,477	49,064	**502,541**
Natural Resources Wales	4,617	-	**4,617**
NatureScot	-	23,975	**23,975**
The Royal Parks Limited	3,314	-	**3,314**
UK Centre for Ecology & Hydrology	5,000	-	**5,000**
Vistry Group	17,500	-	**17,500**
Xeno-canto	6,899	-	**6,899**
Other grants and contracts	4,550	5,492	**10,042**
	991,160	1,141,862	**2,133,022**

3. Projects and research income (continued)

Prior Year	*Unrestricted*	*Restricted*	*2024 Total*
	£	*£*	*£*
Government grants & contracts	*665,183*	*662,832*	*1,328,015*
Grants from other charitable bodies	*51,869*	*159,850*	*211,719*
	717,052	*822,682*	*1,539,734*

Projects and research income - grants, contracts and donations

Project income was received in the year from the following organisations and donors:

	Unrestricted	*Restricted*	*2024 Total*
	£	*£*	*£*
Animal and Plant Health Agency	*13,000*	*-*	*13,000*
Animal Friends	*3,500*	*2,000*	*5,500*
AWS Imagine	*-*	*33,104*	*33,104*
Church of England	*24,592*	*-*	*24,592*
David Webster Charitable Trust	*-*	*2,000*	*2,000*
Forestry England	*-*	*14,379*	*14,379*
Forest Research	*-*	*136,323*	*136,323*
Goldcrest	*2,000*	*-*	*2,000*
Garfield Weston	*-*	*40,000*	*40,000*
Groundwork	*-*	*17,745*	*17,745*
HDH Wills 1965 Charitable Trust	*-*	*20,000*	*20,000*
John Ellerman Foundation	*-*	*45,000*	*45,000*
Joint Nature Conservation Council	*276,147*	*-*	*276,147*
Ministry of Justice	*-*	*40,132*	*40,132*
National Lottery Heritage Fund	*-*	*300,485*	*300,485*
Natural England	*376,329*	*147,514*	*523,843*
NatureScot	*-*	*24,000*	*24,000*
Vistry Group	*12,500*	*-*	*12,500*
Other grants and contracts	*8,984*	*-*	*8,984*
	717,052	*822,682*	*1,539,734*

4. Total expenditure

	Costs of raising funds	Membership support	Conferences	Training courses and meetings	Projects and research (note 5)	Governance (note 6)	Other support costs (note 6)	**2025 Total**
Current Year	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	**£**
Salaries & temporary staff (note 8)	102,270	37,368	10,953	45,014	1,410,723	10,678	240,489	**1,857,495**
Travel & training	907	94	692	1,986	53,503	1,239	33,811	**92,232**
Advice & other project costs	8,277	31,003	-	28,226	542,843	-	27,718	**638,067**
Publications & events	905	7,775	34,337	44,256	18,261	-	773	**106,307**
Premises	-	-	-	-	307	-	60,304	**60,611**
Other costs	13,302	15,478	4,730	1,554	67,963	12,460	198,353	**313,840**
	125,661	91,718	50,712	121,036	2,093,600	24,377	561,448	**3,068,552**
Support costs allocated to activities	26,100	10,609	3,820	14,482	506,437	-	(561,448)	-
Governance costs allocated to activities	1,133	461	165	629	21,989	(24,377)	-	-
Total	**152,894**	**102,788**	**54,697**	**136,147**	**2,622,026**	**-**	**-**	**3,068,552**

	Costs of raising funds	*Membership support*	*Conferences*	*Biodiversity training courses*	*Projects and research (note 5)*	*Governance (note 6)*	*Other support costs (note 6)*	***2024 Total***
Prior Year	*£*	*£*	*£*	*£*	*£*	*£*	*£*	*£*
Salaries & temporary staff (note 8)	*99,098*	*35,476*	*8,429*	*42,795*	*1,127,710*	*6,422*	*203,238*	*1,523,168*
Travel & training	*9,425*	*272*	*2,849*	*1,012*	*38,715*	*1,818*	*27,230*	*81,321*
Advice & other project costs	*17,982*	*8,896*	*-*	*34,901*	*182,180*	*-*	*17,067*	*261,026*
Publications & events	*1,037*	*7,809*	*51,586*	*23,366*	*21,913*	*-*	*360*	*106,071*
Premises	*-*	*-*	*-*	*-*	*1,940*	*-*	*47,119*	*49,059*
Other costs	*13,195*	*6,993*	*7,536*	*1,797*	*52,215*	*12,200*	*167,283*	*261,219*
	140,737	*59,446*	*70,400*	*103,871*	*1,424,673*	*20,440*	*462,297*	*2,281,864*
Support costs allocated to activities	*34,599*	*12,996*	*4,406*	*15,373*	*394,923*	*-*	*(462,297)*	*-*
Governance costs allocated to activities	*1,530*	*575*	*195*	*680*	*17,460*	*(20,440)*	*-*	*-*
Total	*176,866*	*73,017*	*75,001*	*119,924*	*1,837,056*	*-*	*-*	*2,281,864*

5. Projects and research costs

Current Year	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	**2025 Total £**
Bat Groups' Support & Public Education	24,360	125,461	**149,821**
Biodiversity Projects	792,450	820,290	**1,612,740**
National Bat Monitoring Programme	249,866	120,462	**370,328**
Research projects	463,127	26,010	**489,137**
	1,529,803	1,092,223	**2,622,026**

Prior Year	*Unrestricted £*	*Restricted £*	*2024 Total £*
Bat Groups' Support & Public Education	*78,775*	*78,099*	*156,874*
Biodiversity Projects	*642,833*	*406,842*	*1,049,675*
National Bat Monitoring Programme	*233,531*	*129,602*	*363,133*
Research projects — Bat conservation	*58,025*	*209,349*	*267,374*
	1,013,164	*823,892*	*1,837,056*

6. Governance and other support costs

	2025 £	*2024 £*
Analysis of governance costs:		
Governance staff costs	**10,678**	*6,422*
Audit Fee	**12,460**	*12,200*
Trustee expenses and meeting costs	**1,239**	*1,818*
	24,377	*20,440*
Analysis of other support costs:		
Salaries	**240,489**	*203,238*
Non-salary staff costs	**45,086**	*39,018*
Conference costs	**773**	*360*
Membership costs	**10,678**	*1,028*
Property	**60,304**	*47,119*
IT costs	**18,359**	*20,722*
Office running costs	**23,530**	*30,771*
Insurance	**24,636**	*22,213*
Legal fees	**34**	*350*
Depreciation and amortisation	**69,979**	*39,572*
Outsourced finance & payroll	**45,039**	*40,602*
Irrecoverable VAT	**16,219**	*11,688*
Bank charges	**6,322**	*5,616*
	561,448	*462,297*

7. Net (expenditure) / income for the year

	2025	2024
	£	£
This is stated after charging:		
Depreciation and amortisation	**69,979**	39,572
Operating lease costs	**38,712**	27,059
Trustees' expenses (2025:4 trustees (2024:4 trustees)	**1,239**	1,817
Trustee indemnity insurance	**1,850**	1,724
Auditors' remuneration — audit services	**12,460**	12,200

Expenses reimbursed to trustees relate to travel and subsistence costs relating to both attendance at trustees' meetings and other operational work carried out in furtherance of the Trust's objects. No trustees were reimbursed for their services as trustees during the year (2024: no trustees reimbursed).

8. Staff numbers and costs

The aggregate payroll cost of these persons was as follows:

	2025	2024
	£	£
Wages and salaries	**1,652,069**	*1,357,984*
Social security costs	**143,441**	*113,312*
Employer's pension contributions	**61,985**	*48,473*
Redundancy payments	**-**	*3,399*
	1,857,495	*1,523,168*

No employees earned in excess of £60,000 in this year or the prior year.

The key management personnel of the Charity comprise the trustees and the Senior Management Team. The total employee benefits of the key management personnel of the Charity were £184,031. (2024: £146,006).

The average number of employees (head count based on number of staff employed and excluding trustees who are all non-executive) during the year were as follows:

	Number of employees	
	2025	2024
	No.	No.
Support and governance	**4**	*3*
Direct charitable activities	**56**	*46*
	60	*49*

9. Taxation

The charitable company is exempt from corporation tax as all its income is charitable and is applied for charitable purposes.

10. Fixed assets

	Furniture and fittings	Computers	Field equipment	**Total**
Cost	£	£	£	£
At the start of the year	3,174	11,835	16,428	31,437
At the end of the year	**3,174**	**11,835**	**16,428**	**31,437**
Depreciation				
At the start of the year	2,099	11,783	15,729	29,611
Charge for the year	415	52	457	924
At the end of the year	**2,514**	**11,835**	**16,186**	**30,535**
Net book value at the end of the year	**660**	**-**	**242**	**902**
Net book value at the start of the year	1,075	52	699	1,826

Prior Year

	Furniture and fittings	*Computers*	*Field equipment*	*Total*
Cost	*£*	*£*	*£*	*£*
At the start of the year	*3,174*	*11,835*	*16,428*	*31,437*
At the end of the year	*3,174*	*11,835*	*16,428*	*31,437*
Depreciation				
At the start of the year	*1,682*	*10,512*	*15,272*	*27,466*
Charge for the year	*417*	*1,271*	*457*	*2,145*
At the end of the year	*2,099*	*11,783*	*15,729*	*29,611*
Net book value at the end of the year	*1,075*	*52*	*699*	*1,826*
Net book value at the start of the year	*1,492*	*1,323*	*1,156*	*3,971*

11. Intangible assets

	CRM database	App development	**Total**
Cost	£	£	**£**
At the start of the year	207,302	76,906	284,208
Additions during the year	64,767	18,400	83,167
At the end of the year	**272,069**	**95,306**	**367,375**
Amortisation			
At the start of the year	99,452	25,171	124,623
Charge for the year	50,928	18,127	69,055
At the end of the year	**150,380**	**43,298**	**193,678**
Net book value at the end of the year	**121,689**	**52,008**	**173,697**
Net book value at the start of the year	107,850	51,735	159,585

Prior Year

	CRM database	*App development*	*Total*
Cost	*£*	*£*	*£*
At the start of the year	*121,122*	*45,121*	*166,243*
Additions during the year	*86,180*	*31,785*	*117,965*
Cost at the end of the year	*207,302*	*76,906*	*284,208*
Amortisation			
At the start of the year	*72,673*	*14,523*	*87,196*
Charge for the year	*26,779*	*10,648*	*37,427*
At the end of the year	*99,452*	*25,171*	*124,623*
Net book value at the end of the year	*107,850*	*51,735*	*159,585*
Net book value at the start of the year	*48,449*	*30,598*	*79,047*

12. Investments

	Listed investments	Cash in portfolio	**Total**
	£	£	**£**
At the start of the year	2,233,130	55,168	**2,288,298**
Additions at cost	344,626	(224,626)	**120,000**
Less disposals at carrying value	(2,565,349)	2,540,349	**(25,000)**
Dividend income	-	67,030	**67,030**
Portfolio costs	-	(10,776)	**(10,776)**
Net loss on revaluation	(12,407)	-	**(12,407)**
At the end of the year	**-**	**2,427,145**	**2,427,145**

Prior year	*Listed investments*	*Cash in portfolio*	***Total***
	£	*£*	*£*
At the start of the year	*2,307,671*	*62,068*	*2,369,739*
Additions at cost	*679,043*	*(679,043)*	*-*
Less disposals at carrying value	*(901,442)*	*625,442*	*(276,000)*
Dividend income	*-*	*58,646*	*58,646*
Portfolio costs	*-*	*(11,945)*	*(11,945)*
Net loss on revaluation	*147,858*	*-*	*147,858*
At the end of the year	*2,233,130*	*55,168*	*2,288,298*

Listed Investments comprise:	***2025***	*2024*
	£	*£*
UK Corporate Bonds	*-*	*882,628*
UK Equity Growth	*-*	*239,879*
UK Equity Income	*-*	*550,439*
International Equity	*-*	*338,754*
Emerging Markets Equity	*-*	*221,430*
	-	*2,233,130*

The investments listed on a recognised stock exchange comprise the amounts held at fair value through profit or loss.

13. Debtors: amounts falling due within one year

	2025	2024
	£	£
Trade debtors	**271,945**	366,150
Other debtors	**17,034**	18,570
Accrued income	**329,890**	760,487
Prepayments	**19,170**	47,110
	638,039	1,192,317

14. Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2025	2024
	£	£
Trade creditors	**122,614**	59,402
Other taxes and social security	**59,746**	89,308
Accruals	**47,184**	85,327
Deferred income	**13,641**	27,206
Other creditors	**37,246**	36,036
	280,431	297,279

Deferred income comprises course and event income paid in advance.

	2025	2024
	£	£
Balance at the beginning of the year	**27,206**	10,000
Amount released to income in the year	**(27,206)**	(10,000)
Amount deferred in the year	**13,641**	27,206
	13,641	27,206

15. Operating lease commitments

The charity had commitments at the year end under operating leases as set out below:

	2025	2024
Land & buildings	**£**	£
- Not later than one year	**8,067**	24,200
- Later than one year and not later than five years	-	8,067
Other		
- Not later than one year	**1,380**	1,162
- Later than one year and not later than five years	**2,530**	-

16. Analysis of net assets between funds

Current Year	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Endowment funds	**2025 Total funds**
	£	£	£	**£**
Tangible fixed assets	902	-	-	**902**
Intangible fixed assets	173,697	-	-	**173,697**
Investments	198,345	-	2,228,800	**2,427,145**
Net current assets	486,178	308,540	-	**794,718**
Net assets at the end of the year	**859,122**	**308,540**	**2,228,800**	**3,396,462**

Prior Year	*Unrestricted funds*	*Restricted funds*	*Endowment funds*	*2024 Total funds*
	£	£	£	£
Tangible fixed assets	*1,826*	-	-	*1,826*
Intangible fixed assets	*159,585*	-	-	*159,585*
Investments	*35,597*	-	*2,252,701*	*2,288,298*
Net current assets	*800,306*	*242,602*	-	*1,042,908*
Net assets at the end of the year	*997,314*	*242,602*	*2,252,701*	*3,492,617*

17. Contingent assets

At the end of the year, we have been notified that we are entitled to funds from a total of one (2024: one) residual legacies. However, as at 31 March 2025, we had not been notified as to the value of our entitlement or when this would be received. As such we are not able to recognise these funds in the financial statements for the year.

18. Movements in funds

Current Year	At 1 April 2024	Income	Expenditure	(Losses) / Gains on investments	Transfers between funds	**At 31 March 2025**
	£	£	£	£	£	**£**
Vincent Weir endowment funds:						
Expendable endowment fund	1,936,627	-	(9,544)	(10,996)	-	**1,916,087**
Permanent endowment fund	316,074	-	(1,566)	(1,795)	-	**312,713**
Total endowment funds	2,252,701	-	(11,110)	(12,791)	-	**2,228,800**
Restricted funds:						
Alice Noakes Memorial Charitable Trust — Bat Care	-	2,000	-	-	-	**2,000**
Animal Friends — CPL	-	6,843	(6,843)	-	-	-
Animal Friends — Natur am Byth	-	657	(657)	-	-	-
Animal Friends — Species on the Edge	-	2,500	-	-	-	**2,500**
AWS Imagine — SCS development	30,779	-	(3,044)	-	(16,394)	**11,341**
Bad Wolf — Woodland Hope project	10,000	-	(10,000)	-	-	-
Bat Group appeals — Wildlife Crime	-	3,326	(3,326)	-	-	-
Bat Ringing Project	14,418	-	(13,418)	-	-	**1,000**
Chapman Charitable Trust	-	2,000	-	-	-	**2,000**
Church of England — Bats in Churches Advisor	-	18,584	(14)	-	(18,570)	-
David Webster Charitable Trust	2,000	2,000	(2,000)	-	-	**2,000**
Ernest Kleinwort — Nightwatch	2,092	-	-	-	1,073	**3,165**
Esmée Fairbairn Foundation — Nightwatch	27,462	46,000	(9,721)	-	(24,129)	**39,612**
Forestry England — Monitoring	8,485	-	(8,168)	-	-	**317**
Garfield Weston — Bat Group support	30,000	40,000	(35,000)	-	-	**35,000**
Greater London Authority — Nightwatch	-	99,590	(96,809)	-	-	**2,781**
Groundwork — New to Nature	-	3,594	(3,594)	-	-	-
HDH Wills 1965 Charitable Trust — Bat groups	16,667	-	(14,572)	-	-	**2,095**
Innovate UK — NatureAir	-	7,000	(3,923)	-	-	**3,077**
John Ellerman Foundation — Policy	26,250	30,000	(38,750)	-	-	**17,500**
John Swire 1989 Charitable Trust — CPL	25,000	-	(25,000)	-	-	-
Kate Barlow Research Award	13,957	12,135	(2,727)	-	-	**23,365**
National Heritage NNF (Nature Networks Fund) — Wales WoodlandWonders	-	122,550	-	-	-	**122,550**
National Lottery Heritage Fund — Bats in Churches	1,728	(10,663)	-	-	8,935	-
National Lottery Heritage Fund — CPL	-	465,491	(477,105)	-	11,614	-
National Lottery Heritage Fund — Natur am Byth	-	36,601	(36,601)	-	-	-
National Lottery Heritage Fund — Species on the Edge	-	52,220	(52,220)	-	-	-
National Lottery Heritage Fund — Woodland Hope	-	136,364	(136,364)	-	-	-

18. Movements in funds (continued)

Current Year	At 1 April 2024	Income	Expenditure	(Losses) / Gains on investments	Transfers between funds	**At 31 March 2025**
	£	£	£	£	£	**£**
Natural England — Bats in Churches	-	4,670	(4,670)	-	-	-
Natural England — Biodiversity	-	30,342	(30,342)	-	-	-
Natural England — Connecting People & Landscapes	10,000	-	(10,000)	-	-	-
Natural England — Earned Recognition	-	(3,586)	-	-	3,586	-
Natural England — Partnerships	-	15,000	(15,000)	-	-	-
Natural England — Science & Monitoring	16,826	18,184	(14,161)	-	(11,686)	**9,163**
Natural England — Seedcorn	-	(15,546)	-	-	15,546	-
NatureScot — Scottish Bat Project	-	23,975	(23,975)	-	-	-
Other restricted project income	-	4,742	(3,982)	-	-	**760**
Other restricted project income — Bat Groups	-	12,924	(3,049)	-	-	**9,875**
Other trusts and donations — Bat Helpline	-	17,443	(250)	-	-	**17,193**
Other trusts and donations — Bats in Churches	-	550	-	-	-	**550**
Other trusts and donations — Nightwatch	-	696	-	-	-	**696**
Rufford Foundation — Bats and Health	6,938	-	(6,938)	-	-	-
Total restricted funds	242,602	1,188,186	(1,092,223)	-	(30,025)	**308,540**

	At 1 April 2024	Income	Expenditure	(Losses) / Gains on investments	Transfers between funds	**At 31 March 2025**
	£	£	£	£	£	**£**
Unrestricted funds:						
Designated funds:						
Bats in Churches Advisor	329	-	(329)	-	-	-
BCT Roost Partnership	5,200	-	-	-	-	**5,200**
Designated project funds	-	73,477	-	-	-	**73,477**
Night Vision Aid Guidance	1,725	-	-	-	-	**1,725**
Organisational development fund	415,414	163,482	(208,526)	-	-	**370,370**
Technology investment	100,000	-	(100,000)	-	-	-
Woodland	779	-	(779)	-	-	-
	523,447	236,959	(309,634)	-	-	**450,772**
General funds	473,867	1,559,659	(1,655,585)	384	30,025	**408,350**
Total unrestricted funds	997,314	1,796,618	(1,965,219)	384	30,025	**859,122**
Total funds	**3,492,617**	**2,984,804**	**(3,068,552)**	**(12,407)**	**-**	**3,396,462**

18. Movements in funds (continued)

Prior Year	At 1 April 2023	Income	Expenditure	Gains on investments	Transfers between funds	**At 31 March 2024**
	£	£	£	£	£	**£**
Vincent Weir endowment funds:						
Expendable endowment fund	*1,819,696*	*-*	*(9,650)*	*126,581*	*-*	***1,936,627***
Permanent endowment fund	*296,997*	*-*	*(1,584)*	*20,661*	*-*	***316,074***
Total endowment funds	*2,116,693*	*-*	*(11,234)*	*147,242*	*-*	***2,252,701***
Restricted funds:						
Animal Friends — Bat Helpline	*-*	*2,000*	*(2,000)*	*-*	*-*	*-*
AWS Imagine — SCS development	*-*	*33,104*	*(2,325)*	*-*	*-*	***30,779***
Bad Wolf — Woodland Hope project	*10,000*	*-*	*-*	*-*	*-*	***10,000***
Bat Group appeals — Wildlife Crime	*-*	*12,191*	*(12,191)*	*-*	*-*	*-*
Bat Ringing Project	*32,173*	*5,588*	*(23,343)*	*-*	*-*	***14,418***
Chapman Charitable Trust	*1,000*	*-*	*(1,000)*	*-*	*-*	*-*
David Webster Charitable Trust	*2,000*	*2,000*	*(2,000)*	*-*	*-*	***2,000***
Druid	*1,417*	*-*	*(1,417)*	*-*	*-*	*-*
Ernest Kleinwort — NightWatch	*5,094*	*-*	*(3,402)*	*-*	*400*	***2,092***
Esmée Fairbairn Foundation — NightWatch	*80,841*	*-*	*(49,563)*	*-*	*(3,816)*	***27,462***
Esmée Fairbairn Foundation — Planning	*900*	*-*	*(900)*	*-*	*-*	*-*
Forest Research — NFI Bat survey	*-*	*136,323*	*(136,323)*	*-*	*-*	*-*
Forestry England — Monitoring	*-*	*14,379*	*(9,310)*	*-*	*3,416*	***8,485***
Garfield Weston — Bat Group support	*-*	*40,000*	*(10,000)*	*-*	*-*	***30,000***
Groundwork - New to Nature	*-*	*17,745*	*(17,745)*	*-*	*-*	*-*
HDH Wills 1965 Charitable Trust — Bat groups	*-*	*20,000*	*(3,333)*	*-*	*-*	***16,667***
JNCC — Monitoring	*20,805*	*-*	*(20,805)*	*-*	*-*	*-*
John Ellerman Foundation — Policy	*-*	*45,000*	*(18,750)*	*-*	*-*	***26,250***
John Swire 1989 Charitable Trust — CPL	*25,000*	*-*	*-*	*-*	*-*	***25,000***
Kate Barlow Research Award	*15,192*	*1,169*	*(2,404)*	*-*	*-*	***13,957***
Ministry of Justice — Wildlife Assessment	*-*	*40,132*	*(40,132)*	*-*	*-*	*-*
National Lottery Heritage Fund — Bats in Churches	*-*	*66,573*	*(64,845)*	*-*	*-*	***1,728***
National Lottery Heritage Fund — CPL	*-*	*99,684*	*(99,684)*	*-*	*-*	*-*
National Lottery Heritage Fund — Natur am Byth	*-*	*18,576*	*(18,576)*	*-*	*-*	*-*
National Lottery Heritage Fund — Species on the Edge	*-*	*51,230*	*(51,230)*	*-*	*-*	*-*
National Lottery Heritage Fund — Woodland Hope	*-*	*64,422*	*(64,422)*	*-*	*-*	*-*
Natural England — Airborne DNA	*-*	*14,000*	*(14,000)*	*-*	*-*	*-*
Natural England — Biodiversity	*-*	*14,418*	*(14,418)*	*-*	*-*	*-*
Natural England — CPL	*10,000*	*-*	*-*	*-*	*-*	***10,000***
Natural England — Offshore project	*-*	*16,286*	*(16,286)*	*-*	*-*	*-*
Natural England — Partnerships	*-*	*15,000*	*(15,000)*	*-*	*-*	*-*
Natural England — Science & Monitoring	*10,248*	*53,922*	*(47,344)*	*-*	*-*	***16,826***
Natural England — Seedcorn	*-*	*33,130*	*(33,130)*	*-*	*-*	*-*

18. Movements in funds (continued)

Prior Year	At 1 April 2023	Income	Expenditure	Gains on investments	Transfers between funds	**At 31 March 2024**
	£	£	£	£	£	**£**
Restricted funds:						
Natural England — Threatened Species Recovery Action	-	*758*	*(758)*	-	-	-
NatureScot — Scottish Bat Project	-	*24,000*	*(24,000)*	-	-	-
Other restricted project income	-	*560*	*(560)*	-	-	-
Other trusts and donations — Bat Helpline	-	*4,274*	*(4,274)*	-	-	-
Rufford Foundation — Bats and Health	*11,476*	-	*(4,538)*	-	-	***6,938***
Total restricted funds	*226,146*	*846,464*	*(830,008)*	-	-	***242,602***
Unrestricted funds:						
Designated funds:						
Bats in Churches Advisor	-	*329*	-	-	-	***329***
BCT Roost Partnership	*6,804*	*2,629*	*(4,233)*	-	-	***5,200***
Database Project	*62,735*	-	*(62,735)*	-	-	
Digital fundraising and fundraising capacity	*15,000*	-	*(15,000)*	-	-	-
Equity, Diversity, and inclusion	*730*	-	*(730)*	-	-	-
Fundraising Consultant	*2,000*	-	*(2,000)*	-	-	-
Helpline Database Money	*11,564*	-	*(11,564)*	-	-	-
JNCC — NBMP	*24,834*	-	*(24,834)*	-	-	-
Natural England — Helpline	-	*16,282*	*(16,282)*	-	-	-
NBMP	*1,045*	*7,845*	*(8.890)*	-	-	-
Night Vision Aid Guidance	-	*1,725*	-	-	-	***1,725***
Organisational development fund	*130,000*	*415,414*	*(130,000)*	-	-	***415,414***
Principal Ecologist at Ministry of Justice	*1,400*	-	*(1,400)*	-	-	-
Technology investment	-	*100,000*	-	-	-	***100,000***
Woodland	*3,874*	*94*	*(3,189)*	-	-	***779***
	259,986	*544,318*	*(280,857)*	-	-	***523,447***
General funds	*358,470*	*1,274,546*	*(1,159,765)*	*616*	-	***473,867***
Total unrestricted funds	*618,456*	*1,818,864*	*(1,440,622)*	*616*	-	***997,314***
Total funds	***2,961,295***	***2,665,328***	***(2,281,864)***	***147,858***	**-**	***3,492,617***

Purposes of expendable endowment funds
The funds were donated by Vincent Weir to be invested to generate income for use to support core costs.

Purposes of permanent endowment funds
The Bat Conservation Trust Fund was established by trust deed dated 31 October 2006, so that the income only may be used to advance the charitable purposes of BCT.
Under a charity commission scheme dated 31 March 2010 the funds are treated as forming part of BCT for the purposes of registration and accounting.

18. Movements in funds (continued)

Purposes of restricted funds

Alice Noakes Memorial Charitable Trust — Bat Care.	Funding to support the update of the bat care guidelines
Animal Friends — Bat helpline	To support the bat care work of the BCT helpline.
Animal Friends — CPL	Funding to support CPL.
Animal Friends — Natur am Byth	Funding to support Wales' flagship Species Recovery project.
Animal Friends — Species on the Edge	Contribution toward the Species on the Edge project “protecting Scotland’s Island Wonders”.
AWS Imagine — SCS development	To further develop Sound Classification System.
Bad Wolf - Woodland Hope project	Funding to study the health of woodland habitats in Wales.
Bat Group appeals — Wildlife Crime	To support the work of the Wildlife Crime Project.
Bat Ringing Project	Funding for the Ring the Changes Project.
Chapman Charitable Trust	Funding for the NightWatch project.
David Webster Charitable Trust	Contributes towards the development of best practice lighting guidance for industry.
Druid	To advise a NERC funded project to understand and predict the cross-ecosystem impacts of insect decline on ecosystem services and natural capital.
Ernest Kleinwort — NightWatch	Funding towards the NightWatch project.
Esmée Fairbairn Foundation — NightWatch	To develop an inclusive, engagement-focused community science bat survey.
Esmée Fairbairn Foundation — Planning	Raising the profile of biodiversity in the planning system — a multi-species partnership project.
Forest Research — NFI Bat survey	To deliver the NFI Bat Survey and support related work including development and improvement of a woodland soundscape classification algorithm.
Forestry England — Monitoring	Collection of baseline data via passive acoustic monitoring from Forestry England sites undergoing forest wilding and sharing of data with NBN Atlas.
Garfield Weston — Bat Group support	Towards bat group support and training in England, Wales and Scotland.
Groundwork — New to Nature	Funding for a paid work placement focusing on engaging under-represented audiences in the NBMP.
HDH Wills 1965 Charitable Trust — Bat groups	Towards bat group support and training in England, Wales and Scotland.
Innovate UK — NatureAir	Funding toward development of potential new method for biodiversity monitoring.
JNCC — Monitoring (British Bat Survey, NBMP and Genetics combined)	Funding for development and delivery of the British Bat Survey. Funding for a citizen science programme for monitoring bats in the UK. Contribution towards understanding historic declines in bat populations.
John Ellerman Foundation — Policy	Funding towards the core costs of policy and advocacy work.
John Swire 1989 Charitable Trust — CPL	Funding towards the Connecting People and Landscapes project.
Kate Barlow Research Award	Award granted to a postgraduate student to conduct a substantive bat research project and to honour the late Dr Kate Barlow's contribution to bat conservation.
Ministry of Justice — Wildlife Assessment	Funding to support update of Wildlife Assessment Check.

Purposes of restricted funds (continued)

National Heritage NNF (Nature Networks Fund) — Wales Woodland Wonders	Funding a project to help some of Britain's rarest bats and precious woodlands in North Wales.
National Lottery Heritage Fund — Bats in Churches	Partnership project put in place to provide solutions to issues with bats in churches in England.
National Lottery Heritage Fund — CPL	Funding towards the Connecting People and Landscapes project.
National Lottery Heritage Fund — Natur am Byth	Funding for the development phase of Wales' flagship Species Recovery project.
National Lottery Heritage Fund — Species on the Edge	Funding for the Species on the Edge programme; a partnership project to help vulnerable species on Scotland's coast and islands.
National Lottery Heritage Fund — Woodland Hope	Funding to study the health of woodland habitats in Wales.
Natural England — Airborne DNA	Funding to identify a set of functional primer assays for use with British bat species, and establish the sample duration needed to detect an airborne DNA signal at increasing distances from a bat roost in a woodland context.
Natural England — Bats in Churches	Funding to continue supporting churches with small grants and training through the bat advice service.
Natural England — Biodiversity	Work to deliver objectives including implementation of actions for priority species, provision of engagement, training and guidance and raising the profile of bat conservation.
Natural England — CPL	Funding for the development phase of the project Connecting People and Landscapes in a Changing Climate, aiming to bring together farmers and communities to improve outcomes for bats and other wildlife.
Natural England — Earned Recognition	Work on a pilot for a new approach to licensing mitigation work in England that impacts on bats.
Natural England — Offshore project	Investigating bat migration and the impact of offshore wind through a literature and evidence review, workshop organisation, engagement with stakeholders and production of a report.
Natural England — Partnerships	Work to deliver objectives including implementation of actions for priority species, provision of engagement, training and guidance and raising the profile of bat conservation.
Natural England — Science and Monitoring	To contribute towards the NBMP and other monitoring and research work.
Natural England — Seedcorn	Purchase equipment, test monitoring options and pilot a passive acoustic monitoring survey on farmland.
Natural England — Threatened Species Recovery Action	Funding for production of Threatened Species Recovery Action plans for 12 bat species for Natural England.
NatureScot — Scottish Bat Project	Funding to engage more people in bat recording and conservation to: increase the knowledge of bats status and distribution; increase geographical coverage of bat recording in priority areas; tackle conservation threats.
Other restricted project income	Amalgamated small donations restricted to particular projects.
Other restricted project income — Bat groups	Funds to support the bat group work.
Other trusts and donations — Bats in churches	Funding towards providing support to churches with bats.
Other trusts and donations — BCT Helpline	Donations to contribute towards the running of BCT's Helpline.
Other trusts and donations — Nightwatch	Funding towards Nightwatch to enhance an inclusive community science bat survey.
Rufford Foundation — Bats and Health	Funding for "Don't Blame Bats - Setting the Story Straight" campaign to provide accurate science-based communications.

Purposes of designated funds	
Bats in Churches Advisor	To administer support for churches and training for volunteers.
BCT Roost partnership	To contribute towards bat box monitoring projects.
Database Project	A fund set aside for the amortisation of the investment in our current website and customer relationship management (CRM) system. The website will be updated to make it more effective and accessible, and the new CRM system will make our fundraising more efficient and improve the way we engage with members, donors, and supporters.
Designated project funds	Funds received in the year earmarked for specific projects during 25-26.
Digital fundraising and fundraising capacity	Investment into digital marketing to generate more income and increase our fundraising capacity more broadly.
EDI - Equity, Diversity and Inclusion	To support the equity, diversity and inclusion work at BCT.
Fundraising Consultant	To address the lack of fundraising capacity, we worked with a fundraising consultancy.
Helpline Database Money	To contribute to the development of a new Helpline database.
JNCC - NBMP	For work on the National Bat Monitoring Programme.
Natural England — Helpline	Contribution towards Natural England Bat Advice Service.
NBMP	For work on the National Bat Monitoring Programme.
Night Vision Aid Guidance	Staff time to work on Night Vision Aid Guidance document.
Organisational development fund	Fund to be used strategically for specific projects, capacity or other organisational requirements.
Principal Ecologist at Ministry of Justice	To fund ecological support work.
Technology Investment	To contribute towards development of a new Helpline database.
Woodland	Contributions towards woodland bats work.

19. Related party transactions

During the year ended 31 March 2024 it was agreed that Annika Binet, a trustee of the Bat Conservation Trust, would engage to provide bat surveying services to BCT and that payment would be made to her in respect of these services, not in respect of her work as a trustee. The board of trustees (excluding Annika Binet) were satisfied that Annika was best placed in terms of both location and expertise to provide this service and that the amount charged represented value for money and was at or below commercial rate. Amounts paid to Annika Binet in respect of the above in the year ended 31 March 2025 were £nil (2024: £525). At year end £nil (2024: £525) was outstanding.

During the year aggregate donations from related parties totalled £466 (2024: £526).

There were no other related party transactions outside the normal course of business in the current or preceding year.

20. Prior year statement of financial activities

Statement of financial activities *(incorporating an income and expenditure account)*

For the year ended 31 March 2024

	Unrestricted	Restricted	Endowment	Total
	£	£	£	£
Income				
Income from generated funds				
Donations and legacies	834,505	22,232	-	**856,737**
Investment income	59,185	-	-	**59,185**
Income from charitable activities				
Conferences	69,339	644	-	**69,983**
Training courses and meetings	84,537	-	-	**84,537**
Projects and research	717,052	822,682	-	**1,539,734**
Other activities	54,246	906	-	**55,152**
Total income	**1,818,864**	**846,464**	**-**	**2,665,328**
Expenditure				
Expenditure on raising funds				
Membership support	73,017	-	-	**73,017**
Costs of raising funds	159,516	6,116	11,234	**176,866**
Expenditure on charitable activities				
Conferences	75,001	-	-	**75,001**
Training courses & meetings	119,924	-	-	**119,924**
Project and research costs	1,013,164	823,892	-	**1,837,056**
Total expenditure	**1,440,622**	**830,008**	**11,234**	**2,281,864**
Net income / (expenditure) / income before net losses on investments	**378,242**	**16,456**	**(11,234)**	**383,464**
Net gains on investments	616	-	147,242	147,858
Net income for the year	**378,858**	**16,456**	**136,008**	**531,322**
Net movement in funds	**378,858**	**16,456**	**136,008**	**531,322**
Reconciliation of funds				
Total funds brought forward	618,456	226,146	2,116,693	**2,961,295**
Total funds carried forward	**997,314**	**242,602**	**2,252,701**	**3,492,617**

Bat Conservation Trust

www.bats.org.uk

https://bsky.app/profile/batconservation.bsky.social

www.facebook.com/BatConservationTrust

www.linkedin.com/company/the-bat-conservation-trust/

www.instagram.com/batconservationtrust/

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Company Limited by Guarantee. Registered in England No: 2712823.
Registered office: Studio 15 Cloisters House, Cloisters Business Centre, 8 Battersea Park Road, London SW8 4BG.
Vat Reg No: 877158773.

THE BAT CONSERVATION TRUST

England & Wales - Charity number 1012361

Accounts

Bat Conservation Trust

Annual Report and Financial Statements

1 April 2023 to 31 March 2024



An overview of who we are

BCT has championed bats for 30 years and the places they need to survive.

Our vital stats: ***We spend just 10p on fundraising per £1 raised (in 2022/23: 13p per £1)***

Around 217,000 online supporters across different platforms (in 2022/23: 215,000)

Over 3,000 volunteers

Our purpose

Vision: A world rich in wildlife where bats and people thrive together.

Mission: To conserve bats for present and future generations. Through education, collaborative action and scientific research, we inspire individuals and organisations to value and speak out for bats.

Values: Inspiration, collaboration, evidence-based.

The charity's main activities and the people and wildlife we strive to help are described below. All our charitable activities focus on conserving bats for present and future generations and are undertaken to further Bat Conservation Trust's charitable purposes for the public benefit.

We work to

Discover: To ensure scientific evidence is in place to support bat conservation.

- Provide, either directly, through collaboration or by signposting to external organisations, the scientific evidence we need to understand and address threats to bat populations
- Deliver a world-leading, cost-effective citizen science programme supported by motivated volunteers, providing high quality data able to inform evidence needs, policy-relevant questions and metrics of bat population status, change and distribution

Act: To secure and enhance bat populations and their resilience in a changing world.

- Be the authoritative voice influencing positive outcomes (government, planning process, enforcement)
- Improved awareness, knowledge and action for bat conservation in key sectors (built environment, forestry, agriculture) and audiences (professional ecologists, volunteers, those that use places of worship)
- Advice provided is based on the most robust evidence available

Inspire: To win the levels of support required to secure and enhance bat populations.

- Increased engagement with and understanding of bats by the public and media
- Increased recruitment, retention and engagement of BCT members

Strengthen: To enable BCT to achieve financial stability and sustainable staff workloads; to ensure staff and volunteers are motivated and well led.

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A barbastelle bat. In the Science, research and advances in woodland monitoring section you'll read about our groundbreaking genetic research which provides evidence for the historic decline of barbastelle bat populations.

© Daniel Hargreaves

Message from the President



Welcome to 2023-24's annual report for the Bat Conservation Trust (BCT), where we update you on what we've achieved with your support over the last year. Because the chances are, if you're reading this you've given BCT your money or your time, or both. Maybe you're a volunteer, a BCT member, part of a bat group, a funder or a project partner. Whatever it is, you've joined an increasing number of people who 'do their bit'. You might call it activism, or you might call it commonsense – it doesn't much matter. We're glad you're here and I look forward to meeting some of you at the National Bat Conference in 2024.

In last year's annual report, we announced a new role at BCT to help us navigate the ever-changing policy landscape in the UK. Giving bats a 'voice' in politics isn't win-lose for people though – time and time again we've seen that policy that helps bats thrive, helps other wildlife and people too. It's time our natural heritage is a priority for politicians because our economy, health and wellbeing all depend on it. And that's why I invited BCT and many other organisations to join me for Restore Nature Now in September 2023. This was a peaceful rally, made up of more than 40 different organisations and their members, united with a clear message to all politician parties to act on behalf of nature.

It was evidence like that in the State of Nature Report 2023 (SON) – which shows there's been no let-up in the decline of our wildlife – which makes that message so urgent. SON also highlighted that the way we manage our land for agriculture has a huge impact on our wildlife. Recognising agriculture's importance, BCT created a second new role in 2023. Working with our policy team, our Agriculture Officer will inform our policy work. But they're also part of our agricultural conservation projects, such as farmland bat surveying and our work with Scottish crofters. And they'll be involved in an ambitious new project which will work with farmers and their local communities to make a food landscape fit for bats.

Of course, as we expand our reach into policy and agriculture, BCT remains committed to conservation policy, practice and guidance based on robust scientific evidence base. In 2023, groundbreaking research we conducted with the University of Exeter, showed that barbastelle populations have dropped by 99% over several hundred years. Using a pioneering genetic study, this research showed what we've long had anecdotal evidence for: the massive historic decline of UK bat populations. Fascinating for the history buffs, these declines began during the UK's colonial era, when huge tracts of forest were felled for boatmaking. These results are important on their own, but this technique is a game changer for bat conservation.

Scientific and technological advances are also helping us remove barriers for people to get involved in bat conservation. New affordable bat detectors now make it possible to collect large volumes of data across much wider areas, including priority habitats like woodlands. And the data can be analysed by AI algorithms incredibly quickly – data that would take 150 years to analyse by a single human can be processed in a week. This groundbreaking combination of speed and low cost allows a wider range of people to get involved in monitoring bats. BCT surveys like NightWatch make great use of this new technology, and I'm delighted it has funding for another year. More people involved in conservation is surely a good thing, not least because access to nature is so good for people. But it also brings a diversity of thought, skills and experience to conservation, another win-win.

So, whatever your role is in supporting BCT, I hope this letter gives you a flavour of the amazing work BCT has done over the last year. It really is time to pat yourself on the back: you're part of one of the only consistently successful conservation stories in the UK.



Chris Packham CBE, President, Bat Conservation Trust

Review by the Chair and Chief Executive

Our vision is a world where bats and people thrive together – and the importance of people is a theme that runs through this annual report, as we look back on highlights from 2023/24 and forward to priorities for the coming years. This annual report covers the last year of our current strategy and in 2024/25 we'll introduce our new 10-year strategy. Whilst the new strategy will strengthen our work in key areas, it's vision remains the same.

Policy and advocacy have continued to be crucial in the past year, and because of two new roles (Species Advocacy and Policy Officer and Agriculture Officer) we have significantly increased our work in this area, including consultations, letters, campaigns and engagement activities.

Unfortunately, last year saw the Retained EU Law Bill became an Act of Parliament – despite campaigning by many NGOs and their supporters (BCT supporters alone contacted more than 100 MPs). Thanks to everyone's efforts the Act is not as immediately detrimental as the original Bill; however, it has made it easier for governments to weaken or remove legal protection of species, habitats and the environment, with limited consultation and without appropriate parliamentary scrutiny. We continue to work with other organisations to monitor any changes caused by this new legislation.

Retained protection for bats is one of the five key asks in A Bat Conservation Manifesto which we have developed over the last few months. Other asks include the requirement to make all new developments species-friendly and ensure that climate change mitigation is deployed in harmony with nature. We have sent our manifesto to all political parties and will be asking our members and supporters to encourage politicians to commit to these important policies.

Another ask in the manifesto is for governments to support long-term nature-friendly farming through agricultural schemes. In 2023/24 we were able to further develop our work with the agricultural sector with an exciting new project called Connecting People and Landscapes in a Changing Climate. This project aims to bring together farmers and communities to improve outcomes for bats and other wildlife. It will support farmers in the transition to regenerative farming, as well as introducing young people to careers in agriculture and conservation.

Our Bats in Churches project was officially completed in November 2023 but it is not over! The project has been a huge success, resulting in a close partnership which will continue working for the benefit of our built and natural heritage. Resources developed as part of the project will continue to support church communities into the future (https://batsinchurches.org.uk/). We also have a new Bats in Churches Advisor at BCT (supported by the Church of England) who will administer a small grants scheme for churches and provide enhanced training for Natural England volunteers through the Bat Advice Service.

We want to ensure everyone feels welcome, able to connect with the natural world and participate in its protection. And we continue to recognise the importance of having diverse voices involved in bat conservation, bringing new perspectives and ideas. As mentioned in last year's annual report we have increased our investment in EDI (equity, diversity and inclusion). In 2023/24 we developed our EDI statement of values, and members approved an additional clause in BCT's governing documents to reflect our commitment to EDI. We also rolled out EDI training to staff and made events more inclusive. Critically, we have continued to improve our recruitment processes and are committed to reporting on our progress through initiatives like the RACE Report.

We would like to say thank you to everyone who supports our work – our staff, volunteers, partners, donors, supporters, members and many others all help create a world where bats and people thrive together.

Jean Matthews, Chair, Board of Trustees

Kit Stoner, Chief Executive





https://batsinchurches.org.uk/

Science, research and advances in woodland monitoring



BCT is committed to ensuring scientific evidence is in place to support bat conservation. For us this means identifying priority research areas where further evidence is needed and creating or supporting projects in those areas. Our science team is made up of experts with specialisms in a range of areas from public health to bioacoustics. And they work with researchers and experts from many different fields all over the world.

Last year we told you about work unlocking the mysteries of woodland bats, and this continues with many advancements in woodland monitoring. We're also working on pioneering new survey technologies, expanding our surveys and removing barriers to volunteering.

Elliot Bastos (Assistant Project Officer, Woodland Hope) in Meirionnydd Oakwoods in Wales habitat for a range bat species, including the rare lesser horseshoe bat.

© Nicky Fish

Using AI to upscale bat surveys

Our Sound Classification System's (SCS) development has continued through 2023-24. It is a fully automated audio-identification system which answers an urgent need to upscale bat surveys. Currently, most conventional surveys are time and labour intensive. But now we can rapidly scale up the data volumes flowing through the SCS, using AI and cloud technologies.

As a result, we will have bigger, better data and so improved understanding how bat populations and the ecosystems they rely on are faring. And unlike traditional surveys, SCS users don't need to watch bats in real time, which makes taking part more accessible (see NightWatch section for more on this).



© Lia Gilmour

Lia Gilmour is BCT's Research Manager and oversees the development of BCT's SCS.

eDNA: The sky is not the limit

Living organisms shed DNA into their surrounding environments as they interact with them. We call this environmental DNA (eDNA) and it can be used it to identify species. The non-invasive nature of collecting eDNA is useful for surveying vulnerable species as well as those in hard-to-reach environments.

To explore how airborne eDNA could be used to survey bat species in the UK, BCT is working with Dr Joanne Littlefair at University College London. Last year, our science team conducted a pilot study at a lesser horseshoe bat roost, collecting airborne DNA using innovative methods.

With the pilot complete, this work opens doors for more projects in this rapidly developing area.



© Alfie Gleeson

BCT's Madeline Davis surveying a lesser horseshoe bat roost using passive acoustic and airborne eDNA sampling methods.

New way to measure past bat population declines

Research by the University of Exeter and BCT has found that barbastelle bat populations dropped by 99% over several hundred years.

Animals' DNA can be analysed to discover a 'signature' of the past, including periods when populations declined, which leads to less genetic diversity. Until now, we have only been able to look at recent changes in populations, though anecdotal evidence suggests UK bat populations are at historic lows.

Now we have evidence for the historic decline of barbastelle, and it has made an immediate impact. But we urgently need similar evidence for other bat species – and this study provides a way to get it.

Bats and health 2023-24

Our work in this area continues to involve collaboration with national and international partners. We maintain up to date information about bats and health on our website and through our networks. We also promote measures to reduce the transmission of disease between humans and bats.

Whilst disease research is important, misleading representations of scientific findings can undermine bat conservation efforts – and cause unnecessary alarm. New findings, such as the expanding presence of EBLV-1 in one UK bat species, and new non-invasive research methods, mean we can continue working to mitigate risks. We are looking to secure resources to expand this area of work.

We collaborated with scientists who discovered undescribed coronaviruses in two British bat species. By engaging in this research, we ensured findings were not presented in a misleading way. This work provides a model for researchers and conservationists to work together for the wider good.

National Bat Monitoring Programme

In partnership with Joint Nature Conservation Committee we run the National Bat Monitoring Programme (NBMP) which collects population data for 11 of the UK's 18 bat species. Established in 1996, the NBMP is one of the longest running and most successful citizen science programmes in the world. It gives us, researchers and government, the information needed to help inform bat conservation.



© Michelle Parsons

Volunteers collecting data for the NBMP Sunset Survey in Roath Park, Cardiff.

Who gathers NBMP data?

NBMP exists because of all the volunteer citizen scientists who have collected data over two decades. As well as being of great value to bat conservation, the surveys are fun and rewarding to carry out. And we're delighted that more volunteers signed up in 2023-24, bringing our total to 793 volunteers and 438 new people trained to use bat detectors.

Since 2021, NBMP has been working to engage younger and more diverse volunteers. We're pleased to see positive results, with continued recruitment of new volunteers from under-represented communities. Compared to 2022-23, we saw a 23% increase in engagement of people from ethnic minorities and a 48% increase in young adults.

Find out more about our equity, diversity and inclusion work in our Inspiring People section.

Removing barriers to nature: NBMP Volunteer Engagement Officer

New to Nature aims to provide experiences for people who might not normally have access to a career in the environmental sector. Trainees are paid a competitive wage for 12 months while gaining hands-on experience.

Stephanie Fernandes joined BCT in 2023 as part of the New to Nature scheme, after finishing her degree in Zoology in 2022. As our Volunteer Engagement Officer, Stephanie has worked to bring more diversity to BCT as well as supporting all the amazing volunteers who make BCT what it is.

Unfortunately, New to Nature isn't continuing, but Stephanie is remaining in the same role with BCT into 2024.



© Joe Nunez-Mino

Our Volunteer Engagement Officer, Stephanie Fernandes, has worked to bring more diversity to BCT as well as supporting all the amazing volunteers who make BCT what it is.

Bhangra, bats and starlit stories

Stephanie organised and supported a variety of engagement activities, like an event with Royal Parks. Attendees took part in a Bhangra dance tutorial and a bat walk which incorporated the NMBP Sunset Survey.

Stephanie was also instrumental in organising a collaboration between BCT's NightWatch, Butterfly Conservation Trust and Wanderers of Colour. Stories Under Starlight participants were given training in capturing video of the wildlife around them using their smartphones and the footage they collected included in a film – you can watch this film on YouTube by scanning the QR code below or using this link: https://youtu.be/STvw8Iop3lw?si=n5hjpbXwWv9BH4-r



© Ele Johnstone

Stories Under Starlight workshops led by NightWatch in collaboration with NBMP, Butterfly Conservation Trust and Wanderers of Colour.

NBMP annual survey results

While several bat species remain at risk of extinction, there is good news for some species which are showing improved population trends. Importantly, results suggest protective laws and conservation actions are paying off.

Among the best news is a continued rise in two of Britain's rarest bats: the greater horseshoe and lesser horseshoe bat. And there is also a rise for Natterer's bat, common pipistrelle and soprano pipistrelle. We found that Daubenton's bat, noctule, brown long-eared bat, serotine and whiskered/Brandt's bats are stable, when compared with the baseline year of 1999.

Whilst BCT is happy with the positive results, it is important to note that there is regional variation, and most species still have a long way to go before they recover from significant historical declines. Worryingly, in our current political climate, protections for bats are vulnerable.

You can read the NBMP reports on our website, scan the QR code on this page or visit www.bats.org.uk/our-work/national-bat-monitoring-programme/reports/nbmp-annual-report

Advances in woodland monitoring

All 17 UK breeding bat species use forests for foraging, roosting or commuting. Several of our rarer and more endangered bat species depend on woodland for their survival. Also, their association with forest habitats makes bats valuable indicators of forest ecosystem health.

However, woodland bat activity is difficult to monitor because traditional surveying techniques aren't well suited to woodland. Last year we reported on exciting work going on across the UK's woodlands and forests. 2023-24 saw that work continue with a focus on advances in woodland monitoring.

https://youtu.be/STvw8Iop3lw?si=n5hjpbXwWv9BH4-r

National Forest Inventory Bat Survey

The National Forest Inventory programme monitors woodland and trees within Great Britain. It includes the most in depth survey carried out on Britain's woodland and trees to date.

We've been working with Forest Research on the National Forest Inventory Bat Survey (NFIBS) since 2021, collecting large amounts of valuable data. In 2023 our NFIBS data totalled 66.6 TB. Using BCT's SCS this was processed in less than 10 days. For context, it would take a bat call expert roughly 150 years to manually classify the same number of recordings.

Work with NFIBS will help us to develop and improve:

- Passive acoustic bat population monitoring survey of NFI plots.
- An autonomous acoustic sensor prototype.
- Automated classification of woodland bat species.
- A woodland soundscape classification algorithm.

www.bats.org.uk/our-work/national-bat-monitoring-programme/reports/nbmp-annual-report

Forest Wilding

Forestry England (FE) is using innovative 'forest wilding' approaches to restore some of their sites. Plans include the re-introduction of keystone species and restoration of mosaic habitats. BCT and FE worked together to record baseline data in the areas being restored, and we will continue to monitor progress.

Special Areas of Conservation barbastelle project

We continue to work with partners, including large numbers of dedicated volunteers, to survey for rare species such as the barbastelle in Special Areas of Conservation (SAC). This work is ongoing and will provide vital knowledge that will aid the conservation of this threatened species.

Looking for barbastelles in The Mens

The Mens is a large ancient woodland in the Low Weald. During 2023, with support from the London Bat Group and key bat workers, we surveyed this SAC with advanced survey techniques.

We were looking for core roost areas of barbastelles. Results confirmed and mapped maternity roost trees, and emergence counts of identified roosts gave an indication of colony size.

The capture (and release) of five female barbastelles and six maternity roost trees in three roost areas shows that minimum intervention and non-management is working to support maternity roosts within the reserve.

Tagging trees to protect bat roosts

Tree tags make bat roosts in trees easily identifiable. Without them it can be time consuming and costly to keep track of roosts for those who manage woodlands. That's why we launched the Bat Roost Tree Tag Scheme (BRTTS) in 2021. So far 401 tags have been placed, with 80 in 2023-24, more than double than the year before.

By now, the tags are well recognised by woodland workers who know that they need to seek appropriate advice before proceeding with any work. Data from the scheme supports work studying bat species' use of trees, for example, by feeding into the Bat Tree Habitat Key.

Bat Tree Habitat Key and Bat Rock Habitat websites

In 2023, Henry Andrews gave the Bat Tree Habitat Key (BTHK) and the Bat Rock Habitat Key (BRHK) projects to BCT. Both projects aim to document features exploited by tree-roosting and rock-roosting UK bat species.

Valuable information from both will feed into our survey guidelines, biodiversity and woodland initiatives and future research projects.

Next year will see us promote BTHK and BRHK in Northern Ireland, Wales, and Scotland, so that we capture more data from these countries. And we plan to apply for funding to develop an app for BTHK so that data is always up to date and can be entered in the field.

Most of our funding for Bat Tree Habitat Key and Bat Rock Habitat Key projects comes from the sale of Henry Andrew's two books pictured here.

Follow the QR code below to buy these books.

Bat Tree Habitat Key
https://pelagicpublishing.com/products/bat-roosts-in-trees-bat-tree-habitat-key

Bat Rock Habitat Key
https://pelagicpublishing.com/collections/bat-rock-habitat-key/products/bat-roosts-in-rock



© Sonia Reveley

Projects and partnerships: Bringing people together

Projects and partnerships are the heart of conservation action. Currently we have 40 active partners across the UK and in all nations, and they range from landscape scale to habitat specific.

Inspiring local people to act through engagement and education is central to many of our projects. And improved access to nature is just one of the rewards participants benefit from.

2023-24 saw the end of some long-term projects and work on their legacy. It also saw the start of major new projects.



Bats in Churches end of project event Flying to the Future was a celebration of the incredible success and legacy of this £4.6 million partnership.

© Alex Morss

Bats in Churches' amazing legacy

Bats in Churches (BiC) was a £4.6 million partnership which ran from 2019 until 2023. BiC tackled potential human/wildlife issues that can occur when large numbers of bats roost inside church buildings, particularly historic ones.

Project impact

BiC was hugely successful, resulting in a close partnership which will continue to benefit our built and natural heritage.

As part of the project, 753 churches were surveyed, finding 12 of the country's 18 species. At least two churches have been saved from closure, and dozens of roosts protected, including some for the endangered grey long-eared bat.

BiC also successfully piloted a Bats in Churches Class Licence which allows a flexible approach to bat mitigation.







What next for bats in churches?

Our celebration event of BiC's successful end was written up in the Guardian but it's not quite the end of this unique project. We have a new role at BCT, the Bats in Churches Advisor who will administer a small grants scheme for churches and training through the Bat Advice Service. And we are working on the follow up project: 'Beyond Bats in Churches'.



© BCT

A bat survey underway in Brampton. Churches are also important for bats and some have provided safe roosting sites for many generations.

Natur am Byth! Celebrating Welsh culture and nature

Natur am Byth! (which means 'nature forever' in Welsh) is the country's largest natural heritage and outreach programme and we're pleased to be part of it. With a focus on cultural as well as natural heritage, Natur am Byth! is timely – Wales is one of the most nature depleted countries in the world.

Natur am Byth! seeks to support 67 species facing extinction, including the lesser horseshoe bat, shrill carder bumblebee, and pink sea fan. People are central to this project, which will create a new wave of nature ambassadors as it celebrates Cynefin – the distinct natural heritage that underpins communities across Wales.

Swansea Bay: Stars of the Night

Wales holds 61% of the UK's population of the lesser horseshoe bat, and our Natur am Byth! project focuses on them. Swansea Bay: Stars of the Night will encourage local people to take part in citizen science.

BCT's Project Officer Bethan Withey grew up in Wales, speaks Welsh and is passionate about engaging local communities in appreciation of native wildlife. She will focus on the Stars of the Night volunteer offer and engagement work.

Hope for the future in Welsh rainforests

All 15 bat species found in Wales use woodland for roosting, foraging, or commuting. A new project for 2023, Woodland Hope (Gobaith Coetir) will help some of Britain's rarest bats and most precious woodlands in North Wales by focusing on the Celtic rainforests.

This project is funded by the Nature Networks Fund from the National Lottery Heritage Fund through Natural Resources Wales.

A great start to the project

Woodland Hope got off to a flying start at its first community event with over 100 lesser horseshoe bats emerging from a stable in Snowdonia.

Community engagement is core to this project which will upskill the local community in citizen science, work with local partners and make it possible to monitor woodland bats in innovative and collaborative ways.



© Elliot Bastos

Nicky Fish (Wales Officer Woodland Hope). Woodland Hope works closely with local partners, communities and organisations, to connect people with their woodland heritage.

New project connects farmers, communities and landscapes

Another exciting new project is Connecting People and Landscape in a Changing Climate. This ambitious project will bring wildlife, farmers and communities together to create better outcomes for all.

Farmers will be given specialised support to transition to regenerative farming, whilst connecting them to their local communities and bat species. To understand the impact of climate change, wildlife rehabilitation data will be studied. Ecological training will be offered to younger people, who will be introduced to possible careers in agriculture and conservation.

A woodland strand of this project will improve our understanding about where Bechstein's bats are found. This will allow the project to give advice to woodland owners and managers, schemes, initiatives, and policy makers and inform the national drive to increase woodland habitats.

We were delighted to get funding from the National Lottery Heritage Fund for an 18-month development phase and hope to win funding for the delivery phase to last a further four years.



© Hannah Worthington

Volunteers on site for our new project which connects farmers, communities and landscapes.

BCT in Scotland

With NatureScot's support, BCT runs the Scottish Bat Project which works with 12 bat groups, including one newly set up group, as well as NBMP volunteers, to build knowledge about Scottish bats.

Last year the team:

- Delivered Bat Habitat Management training to RSPB, Scottish Wildlife Trust, and landowners.
- Provided training for the Scottish Nathusius' Pipistrelle Project in person and online.
- Created a knowledge-exchange 'Spring into Action' day with the University of Stirling for Scottish bat workers.
- Responded to government consultations such as the Scottish Biodiversity Strategy and related five-year plan.
- Worked in close cooperation with Species on the Edge.

Next year, work will continue with Scottish bat groups to strengthen connections between them and landowners and managers. And more bat survey skills sessions will be offered, covering everyone from beginners to advanced. Plus, they will focus on regional questions, such as occurrence of Brandt's bats, swarming sites and the search for Nathusius' pipistrelle bats.

In March 2025, there will be a Scottish Bat Conference for all Scottish bat workers and bat enthusiasts.

New Scottish project: Species on the Edge

Working with local communities in some of Scotland's most remote areas, Species on the Edge (SotE) will provide a vital lifeline for vulnerable coastal and island wildlife. SotE is the first partnership of its kind in Scotland, bringing together Rethink Nature and NatureScot to stop biodiversity loss.

Getting to know Scottish bats

Little is known about bats in the highlands and islands and to ensure their future, we need to know more about them. In some cases, the most recent records are from the 1990s. As such, surveys are badly needed. In the first year, SotE completed 59 surveys, covering four project areas. In total seven bat species were recorded.

Bats, crofts and midges

Our SotE Project Officer Cathryn Baillie has been working with local communities on bats walks, citizen science, bat box building and other survey work. And she's set up a bat detector loan scheme in Portree so people can see if they have bats on their land.

Cathryn has also been working with crofters. Crofting is often beneficial for bats, because it is small-scale, low intensity, and creates a mosaic of different habitats. Bats are good for crofters too, as they eat midges, an insect which bites humans. The soprano pipistrelle – weighing about the same as a 20p coin – can eat thousands of midges in one night, and are estimated to eat billions annually in Scotland.



© Cathryn Baillie

A bat walk in Portree. Species on the Edge Project works with the help of community science to learn more about bats in incredible Scottish landscapes.

NightWatch brings a new approach to surveys

NightWatch is a community science project that helps people discover the hidden world of nighttime wildlife living in their neighbourhood.

Technology helps us remove barriers to surveys

New technologies used in NightWatch mean more people can take part in bat surveys because they don't have to be physically present to count bats.

Instead, NightWatchers can leave sensors to collect data on a balcony, in a garden or local green space. And no previous surveying experience is needed. So NightWatch is perfect for those new to bat surveys and living in towns or cities.

Community influencers join NightWatch

In 2023, we recruited a new type of volunteer for NightWatch, community influencers, who will help spread the word in their neighbourhood.

Next year we will launch our NightWatch influencer packs, which will support people as they bring NightWatch to their networks.



© Lucy Houliston

A group of NightWatchers.



© BCT

NightWatch is a community science project helping people discover the hidden world of night time nature living in their neighbourhood.

New industry lighting guidance

August 2023 saw the launch of an important tool for industry on how to avoid or reduce harm to bats from artificial lighting. BCT chaired the panel of experts who produced a new Institution of Lighting Professionals guidance note. Anyone involved in projects with artificial lighting – such as local authorities, developers and ecologists – will find this guide useful.

Since the last guidance in 2018, we now know more about how lighting impacts different bat species. Whilst all bats require dark roosting areas, corridors and feeding habitats, light's impacts are not the same across species. For instance, some bats are impacted by significantly lower lighting levels than others. Additionally, there's also been an increase in knowledge on how lighting impact can be reduced.

The new guide stresses the need for communication between specialists on projects, as well the need to bring ecologists and lighting engineers in at the start. Alongside information about how projects can best work; bat roosting, foraging and commuting needs are outlined in greater planning context. And a range of case studies demonstrate principles, with avoidance as a key tool to mitigate impacts.

Overall, the guide shows the benefits of its approach for bats and other wildlife. But importantly, people also benefit from the overall quality of our environment.

First eLearning module launched

To share the new guidance as widely as possible, we launched our first planning eLearning module. 'Introduction to Bats and Artificial Lighting' covers bat ecology, the impacts of artificial lighting and the latest mitigation techniques.

Roost Partnership scheme: Making roofs fit for bats

All 17 bat species that breed in the UK have been recorded using buildings. Some species increasingly depend on roof roosts as natural roost become scarcer.
And so BCT has started the Roost Partnership, a scheme which develops evidence-based roosting products with manufacturers. Products are designed with expertise from best practice guidance and research, as well as feedback from ecologists and built environment professionals.

We have three partners:

- Just Lead which produce two types of bat access products in the form of Bat Tile
- Wildcare who sell the integrated BatBlock
- Manthorpe Building Products who are developing a new Roost Partnership product release. These will be a Kent-style bat box from Just Lead and a new roof tile from Manthorpe Building Products. Vistry have agreed to trial the roof tiles for us.



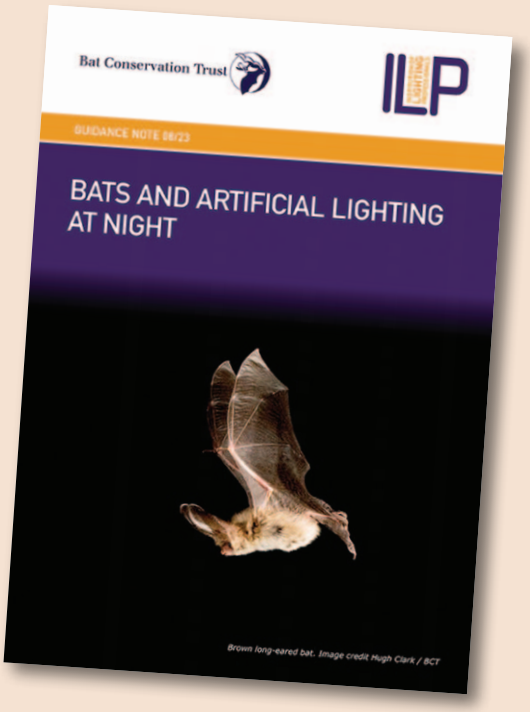
© BCT

Jo Ferguson is BCT's Built Environment Manager and oversees the Roost Partnership scheme and the production of industry guidance.

Vistry Group Partnership

BCT is pleased to continue our work with the Vistry Group, with our partnership being renewed for another three years. Vistry Group is one of the UK's leading provider of housing.

Our partnership demonstrates how organisations can work proactively towards common environmental goals. In the past BCT has trained Vistry staff, worked with them on Biodiversity Net Gain and good practice on new housing developments.



© Jo Ferguson.

Cover of Bats and Artificial Lighting at Night. Anyone involved in projects with artificial lighting – such as local authorities, developers and ecologists – will find this guide useful.



Natterers' bat in a bat brick.



© BCT

The Manthorpe Ridge Roost™. BCT has partnered with Vistry and Manthorpe Building Products to launch this innovative new product that will provide accommodation for bats.

Inspiring people



To create a sustainable and equitable future for bat conservation, we want to educate, engage, and inspire diverse audiences.

Equity, diversity and inclusion

Last year we told you about our plans for equity, diversity and inclusion (EDI) at BCT. Work continued on this important area through 2023-24. Some EDI updates are in relevant sections of this report, but EDI highlights from 2023-24 included:

- Publication of our EDI statement of values.
- 'EDI' added to BCT's constitution.
- Work on a new strategy with emphasis on EDI.
- Participation in the Race Report for the second year – a report which monitors racial diversity within the sector and enables organisations to chart progress.
- Creation of People & Culture Manager role to foster working culture where colleagues feel valued, engaged, and respected.
- New Education and Engagement Officer role to support EDI across BCT and the sector.
- Support at conferences for neurodivergent delegates, including bat-shaped fidget toys.
- Participation in the government's New To Nature scheme.
- Five work experience placements at BCT HQ.



© Naomi Webster

A 'taboo' word cloud from Naomi Webster's talk at the Autumn CIEEM conference on hidden barriers and breaking taboos in conservation. Each word is a taboo or hidden barrier that people shared. Naomi is BCT's Education and Engagement Officer.

National Bat Helpline

The National Bat Helpline (NBH) continues to be on the frontline of bat conservation. Every year the NBH helps save thousands of individual bats, as well as dispelling misconceptions that people have about bats.

NBH staff receive around 10,000 enquiries a year by phone and email, with a further 225,000 visits to their website pages.

Bat care calls

Thousands of enquiries come from people who have found grounded or injured bats. We work with a network of bat rehabilitators and wildlife hospitals who help these bats back into the wild.

All bat care calls are handled by a team of over 100 volunteers who receive training and support from NBH officers. It is hard work, but we get positive feedback from volunteers about their experiences.

Bat Advice Service and Bat Roost Visitors

NBH runs the Bat Advice Service on behalf of Natural England. This is a free service which provides advice to householders.

Additionally, NBH co-ordinates visits from Natural England's Volunteer Bat Roost Visitors (VBRV). Through this scheme, thousands of households receive bespoke advice on how to carry out work on their homes without needing a visit from a VBRV. Last year, over 600 VBRV visits took place.



Around 10,000 enquiries in a year



225,000 visits to the website

Membership and engagement

As a membership organisation, the ongoing support of our members is vital because membership raises much needed funds for our work.

But members also do incredible work across the UK raising awareness of bats and their vital part in our natural environment. And members make our voice more powerful, especially around campaigning and other policy work.

2023-24 membership updates

Our membership income increased significantly, with more people joining and more members renewing their support. Additionally, our members donated thousands of pounds to a range of BCT projects, contributing even further to bat conservation and our work.

Our membership magazines, Bat News and the Young Batworker, are published three times a year with articles covering national and international conservation work and research as well as celebrating those involved in bat conservation.

Social media, media and communications

In 2023 we invested in the comms team through the creation of a new post. Now in place, the new Comms Officer increases our capacity to produce digital content, implement best practice around SEO and will lead on creating a BCT wide communications strategy.

2023-2024 in numbers

We have a big audience of supporters and followers on social media and the BCT website. Here are some of the key figures from last year.

1 million visitors to BCT website

121K Facebook followers

30K Instagram followers

56K X/Twitter followers

10K LinkedIn members

77,180 downloads of BatChat podcast

Policy and advocacy

Last year's annual report celebrated two new roles created to strengthen bat conservation through BCT's influence in the policy sphere. These new staff members mean we can now be more proactive in the policy arena, which has undergone radical changes recently with risks to legislation that protects bats and other wildlife.



© Joe Nunez-Mino

Lil McDermaid (centre, holding the 'Manifesto for Bats' poster), BCT staff and supporters at Restore Nature Now. Lil is our Species Advocacy and Policy Officer, one of two new roles created to strengthen bat conservation through BCT's influence in the policy sphere.

Retained EU Law Bill

The Retained EU Law (REUL) Bill threatened legal protections for bats. We weren't alone in our concern that legal protections we believe are vital to the population recovery of many of our bat species would be removed. We asked our supporters to write to their MPs expressing their concern – and at least 116 MPs were contacted.

Unfortunately, REUL did become an Act of Parliament. Going forward, we will continue to monitor legislative changes and hold governments accountable for their promises that they will not use the Bill to weaken environmental protections.

Manifesto campaign

Early in 2024 work began on our first manifesto campaign. Bat conservation faces many threats, including inappropriate or unambitious environmental policies, chronic underfunding of environmental services and the climate crisis. Though current protections have enabled some positive signs of recovery, there are still UK bat species at risk of extinction and declines in some species and areas.

Right now, the UK's political parties have the opportunity and obligation to make real progress for the environment and commit to what nature needs, which in turn provides many benefits to people and communities.

In 2024 we created five manifesto pledges we believe every UK political party should commit to and mobilised our members to ask their political representatives to consider them.

Wind turbine mitigation to protect wildlife

Renewable energy and improving energy efficiency is an essential part of mitigating climate change and providing a reliable, sustainable energy system. If not planned carefully, however, renewable energy developments or energy efficiency schemes can have very detrimental impacts on bats and other species.

Therefore, future projects need to carefully consider how to minimise their impacts on bats, as well as birds and other wildlife. Ecological impact assessments should be carried out by suitably qualified ecologists for renewable energy projects, who will then help to design suitable mitigation measures to avoid or reduce any impacts on protected wildlife.



Ecological impact assessments should be carried out for renewable energy projects and suitable mitigation measures put in place to avoid or reduce any impacts on protected wildlife.

Making policy expertise a priority

Consultations, briefing, letters and statements are how expertise is fed into the UK's policy making system. In 2023-24, we took part in nine briefings and statements, 26 consultations and seven campaigns – a five-fold increase from the year before. On top of this, we took part in 50 other policy engagement activities.

Consultation topics ranged from hedgerows to planning regulations. Policy briefings covered areas like the built environment's impact on younger people, river pollution and biodiversity net gain. We signed an open letter about HS2 biodiversity recalculation and another one to Minister Rebecca Pow about regulation of protected landscapes. And we united with other conservation organisations for campaigns and rallies like Nature Can't Wait, Restore Nature Now and Nature for Everyone.

Overall, 2023-24's policy work shows how diverse the policies are which impact bat species. It also demonstrates the connections between issues which impact on people and those which impact bat species and other wildlife.

Award-winning Wildlife Crime Project

Mark Goulding, BCT's Wildlife Crime Officer, won WWF Partner of the Year in 2023. Partner of the Year is given to an individual or organisation who has made the greatest contribution to the objectives of the Partnership for Action against Wildlife Crime in the preceding year.

Earned recognition

In partnership with Natural England and Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management (CIEEM), BCT helped to develop a transformative approach to licensing.

Now, some ecological consultants – with enough knowledge and experience – won't need to obtain a separate mitigation licence to provide advice to developers in some specific situations.



© D. Kingham

Left to right: Deputy Chief Constable and National Police Chiefs Council lead on Rural Wildlife Crime Debbie Ford, BCT's Mark Goulding, National Wildlife Crime Unit's Kevin Kelly and WWF's Paul DeOrnellas.

Good news for 'night owl' ecologists

2023 saw the release of the 4th edition of *Bat Surveys for Professional Ecologists: Good Practice Guidelines*. The guidance was fully updated with new sections on biosecurity, tree surveys, bat sound analysis auto-identification, data science and more.

Bat groups

Bat groups are the mainstay of bat conservation, undertaking vital front-line conservation work. We have more than 80 bat groups in the UK, made up of dedicated volunteers. Some are just a single individual, while others have hundreds of members. Whilst BCT has agreements in place with most bat groups, bat groups operate independently from BCT.

As always, BCT extends a huge thank you to all the bat groups for the work they do supporting BCT and the UK's bats.

Funding bat groups doing vital surveys

Every year partner bat groups can apply to the Partner Group Support Fund for money to support projects. During 2023-24, BCT was able to support four bat group projects with a total of £1,709 (in 2022/23 we supported three bat groups with a total of £1,200).

Merseyside & West Lancs Bat Group will use their grant to buy sound analysis software to survey local sites and collect much needed data on bats in their area. 2023 saw the start of the National Nathusius' Pipistrelle Project (NNPP) in Scotland, and we awarded the Tayside Bat Group a grant for AudioMoth detectors. Norfolk & Norwich Bat Group have been involved with the NNPP since 2017, and their grant is for long battery life laptops.

Awards given and received 2023-24

CIEEM NGO Impact Award

In 2023, BatChat won the NGO Impact Award from the Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management (CIEEM).

Launched in 2019, BatChat was the first active podcast that focuses on bat conservation. Each episode, host Steve Roe (BCT trustee and Chair of the Derbyshire Bat Conservation Group) interviews people on location about their work in bat conservation.

BatChat has grown impressively over the last few years, with a 50% increase in downloads since 2022 and listeners in 105 countries. Thanks to BatChat sponsors Wildlife Acoustics and Wildcare.

CIEEM is the leading professional membership body for ecologists and environmental managers in the UK, Ireland and abroad. Since 2006, CIEEM Awards have celebrated the outstanding work of ecologists and environmental managers.



© BCT

The Pete Guest Award winner in 2023 was Steve Roe. From left to right, Kit Stoner (BCT's CEO), Steve Roe and Ruth Waters (BCT Trustee).

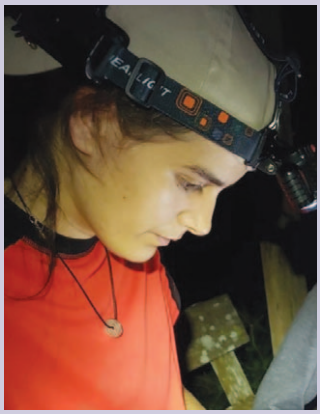
Pete Guest Award

During 2023's National Bat Conference, Steve Roe was awarded the Pete Guest Award. Given in memory of Pete Guest – an inspirational figure in bat conservation – this award is recognition of an outstanding practical contribution to bat conservation.

Vincent Weir Scientific Award

The Vincent Weir Scientific Award was established in 2010 to recognise remarkable new researchers and their contributions to bat conservation.

Natalie Yoh won 2023's award for their work on how bats respond to changes in land cover in Borneo. The acoustic methods Natalie developed will have applicability across Southeast Asia.



Natalie Yoh, Vincent Weir Scientific Award Winner for 2023.

Kate Barlow Award

The Kate Barlow Award celebrates postgraduate students whose research has practical value to bat conservation. It was set up in honour of the late Dr Kate Barlow.

2023's winner was Oliver Aylen for his project on arid zone bats and conservation reserves. Oliver's project investigates whether fenced reserves reduce bat predation, provide increased food resources or roost sites.

Batty Laureate Awards

BCT celebrates creative writing about bats with the Batty Laureate Award. 2023-24's Young Batty Laureate was Sophie Harrison for a short story about a girl who is bullied at school but finds comfort from a bat roost. And in the adult category, Sarah Mills won for her poem which explores what bats symbolise.

Roost Awards

The Roost Awards promote best practice bat roost mitigation and enhancement and take place every two years. Vincent Wildlife Trust's High Marks Barn SSSI won 2023's award. High Barn has a breeding colony of greater horseshoe bats and smaller number of overwintering bats.

Thank you

We would like to thank all our members and friends who have made donations during the past year. We do not have the space to name everyone; however, we would like to thank everyone for their greatly valued support without which none of our work would be possible.

Partner bat groups

Avon Bat Group
Ayrshire and Arran Bat Group
Bedfordshire Bat Group
Berkshire & South Bucks Bat Group
Birmingham & Black Country Bat Group
Cambridgeshire Bat Group
Cardiff Bat Group
Central Scotland Bat Group
Cheshire Bat Group
Cleveland Bat Group
Clwyd Bat Group
Clyde Bat group
Cornwall Bat Group
Derbyshire Bat Conservation Group
Devon Bat Group
Dorset Bat Group
Dumfries and Galloway Bat Group
Durham Bat Group
East Yorkshire Bat Group
Essex Bat Group
Fife and Kinross Bat Group
Glamorgan Bat Group
Gloucestershire Bat Group
Gwynedd Bat Group
Hampshire Bat Group
Herefordshire Bat Research Group
Herefordshire Mammal Group
Herts & Middlesex Bat Group
Inverness Bat Group
Isle Of Wight Bat Group
Isles Of Scilly Bat Group
Jersey Bat Group
Kent Bat Group
La Société Guernesiaise – Guernsey Bat Group
Leicestershire & Rutland Bat Group
Lincolnshire Bat Group
Loch Lomond Bat Group
London Bat Group
Lothians Bat Group
Manx Bat Group
Merseyside & West Lancs Bat Group
Montgomeryshire Bat Group
Nene Valley Bats
Norfolk & Norwich Bat Group
North Bucks Bat Group
North Ceredigion Bat Group
North East Scotland Bat Group
North Lancashire Bat Group
North Wales Mammal Group
Northern Ireland Bat Group
Northumberland Bat Group
Nottinghamshire Bat Group
Oxfordshire Bat Group
Pembrokeshire Bat Group
Shropshire Bat Group
Somerset Bat Group
South Cumbria Bat Group
South Lancashire Bat Group
South Yorkshire Bat Group
Staffordshire Bat Group
Skye and Lochalsh Bat Group
Skye and Lochalsh Bat Group
Surrey Bat Group
Sussex Bat Group
Tayside Bat Group
Vale Of Glamorgan & Bridgend Bat Group
Valleys Bat Group
Warwickshire Bat Group
West Yorkshire Bat Group
Worcestershire Bat Group

Charitable trusts, statutory bodies and other organisations

Animal Friends
Animal and Plant Health Agency
Amazon Web Services
Wolf Studios Wales
Benefact Group
Chapman Charitable Trust
Church of England
The David Webster Charitable Trust
Ernest Kleinwort Charitable Trust
Esmée Fairbairn Foundation
Forest Research
Forestry England
Garfield Weston Foundation
Greater London Authority
Groundwork
HDH Wills 1965 Charitable Trust
Jack Patston Charitable Trust
Joint Nature Conservation Committee
John Ellerman Foundation
Ministry of Justice
Natural England
NatureScot
The National Lottery Heritage Fund
Natural Resources Wales
Pettersson
John Swire 1989 Charitable Trust
The Barry Green Charitable Trust
The Goldcrest Charitable Trust
The Great Golden Orange Foundation
The Panton Trust
Thomas Jacks
Vistry
W&M Morris Charitable Trust

Sponsorships (of £100 or more)

ASW Ecology
Batability
Ecus Ltd
I&G Ecological Consulting Ltd
O'Donnell Environmental
Pettersson
Titley- Scientific Ltd
WildCare
Wildlife Acoustics

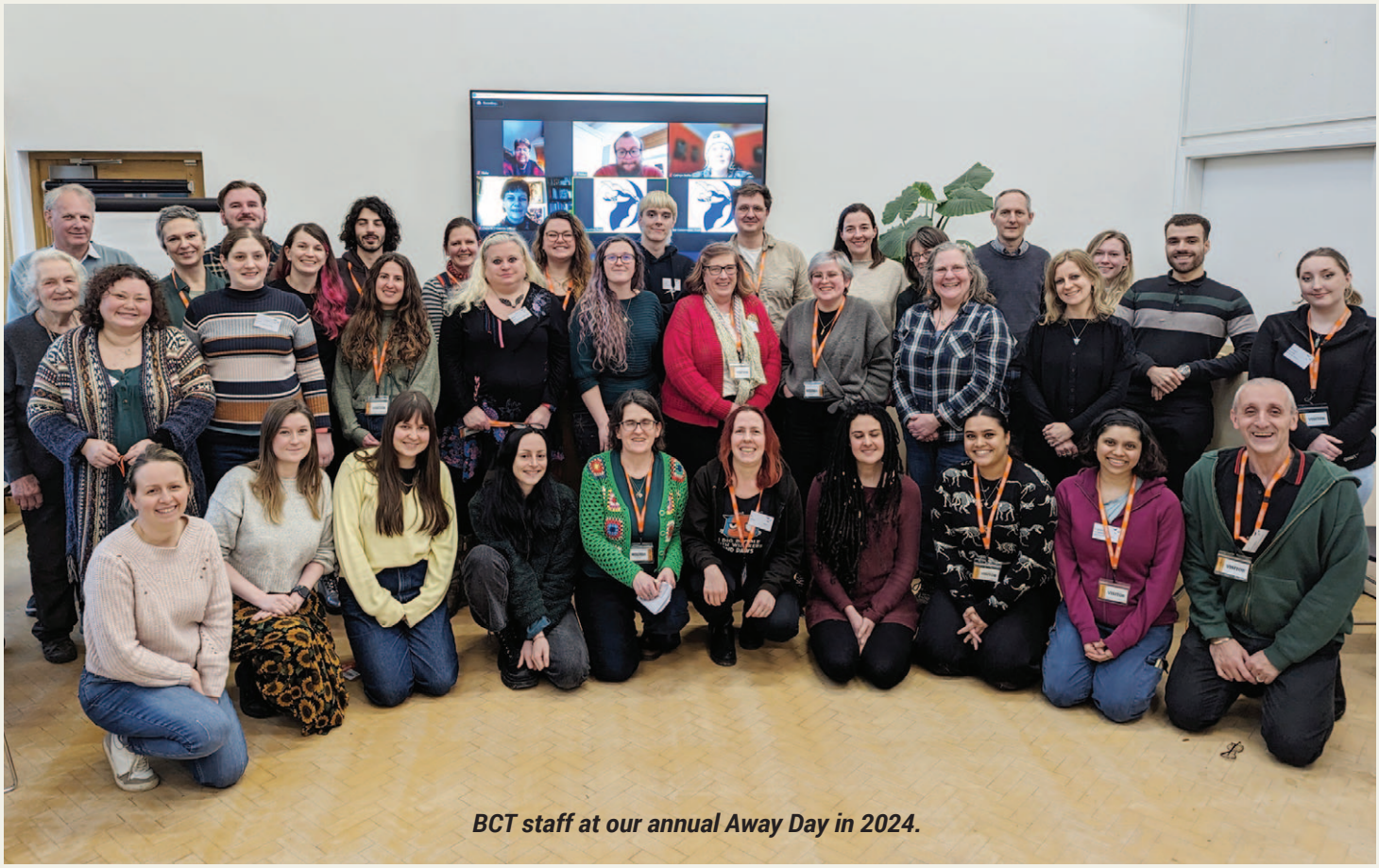
Corporate members (as of 1st April 2024)

Arbtech Consulting Ltd
ASW Ecology Ltd
BatAbility Courses & Tuition
BatBox Ltd.
Campsites.co.uk
Cleankill Environmental Services

Dr Stump[Ltd.
Echoes Ecology Ltd.
Ecological Survey and Assessment Limited
English Heritage
Ground Control Ltd.
Highland Titles Nature Reserve
Historic England
Holidaycottages.Co.Uk
Homegrown Timber (Rail Ltd.)
I&G Ecological Consultancy Ltd
Ingencia
Integrated Utility Services Ltd.
Kate's Clothing Ltd.
Linwood Sawmill Ltd.
M&L Ltd.
MelBek Technology Ltd
Nurture Holdings Ltd.
Stowe Family Law LLP
Tamworth Property Services
The Nestbox Company Ltd.
The Travel Chapter Ltd
Titley Scientific
Treework Ltd
United Environmental Services Ltd
Viking Optical Ltd.
Whitcher Wildlife Ltd
Wilby Tree Surgeons
Wild Surveys Ltd.
WildCare
Wildlife Acoustics
Wold Ecology Ltd.
Zoological Society of Hertfordshire

Donations from bat groups (of £100 or more in the year to 31 March 2024)

Devon Bat Group
Durham Bat Group
Hampshire Bat Group
Jersey Bat Group
North Ceredigion Bat Group
North Yorkshire Bat Group
Oxfordshire Bat Group
South Yorkshire Bat Group
Surrey Bat Group
Warwickshire Bat Group
West Yorkshire Bat Group
Wiltshire Bat Group



© Joe Nunez-Mino

BCT staff at our annual Away Day in 2024.

Photographers: BCT would like to thank all the photographers who so kindly donated their photographs during the year.

Cover image: Grey long-eared bat emerging from barn © Neil Aldrige

Auditor: Sayer Vincent LLP

Editor: Claire Moran

Designed by: Matthew Ward

Structure, Governance and Management

Administrative information

Status
The organisation is a charitable company limited by guarantee, incorporated on 7 May 1992 and registered as a charity on 29 June 1992.

Governing document
The company was established under a memorandum of association which established the objects and powers of the charitable company and is governed under its articles of association.

Company number 2712823

Charity number England and Wales 1012361

Charity number Scotland SC040116

Registered office and operational address
Studio 15 Cloisters House, Cloisters Business Centre, 8 Battersea Park Rd, London SW8 4BG

Trustees
Officers:
- Jean Matthews (Chair)
- Steven Roe (Vice Chair)
- Dr. Ruth Waters (Treasurer) (until 16 September 2023)
- Helen Slinger (Treasurer) (from 16 September 2023)
- Annika Binet (Hon Secretary)

Dr. Cerys Bradley
Stuart Brittenden
Dr. Abigail Entwistle
Colette Marshall
Lord John Randall
Dr. Orly Razgour
Matthew Terry

President Chris Packham CBE

Vice Presidents Professor Paul Racey
Dr. Robert Stebbings

Patron David Gower OBE

Ambassadors Kate Rusby
Aruhan Galieva

Honorary roles

Hon Education Officer	Shirley Thompson MBE
Hon Science & Conservation Advisor	Professor Paul Racey
Hon Science Advisors	Professor Gareth Jones Professor Kate Jones
Hon Legal Advisor	Michael Ford QC

Senior Management Team

Chief Executive	Kit Stoner
Director of Conservation	Lisa Worledge (since 15 May 2023)
Director of Communications & Fundraising	Dr. Joe Nunez-Mino

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

Health and Safety
JEM Safety Management Ltd
190 Moor Lane
Upminster
Essex RM14 1HG

Insurance brokers
First Insurance Solutions Ltd
First Insurance Solutions House
Centre 3000, St. Leonards Road
Maidstone, Kent ME16 0LS

Financial advisors
Coloma Wealth Management LLP
3rd Floor, Warwick House
65/66 Queen Street
London EC4R 1EB

Employment advisors
WorkNest
Woodhouse, Church Lane
Aldford, Chester CH3 6JD

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

Auditor
Sayer Vincent LLP
110 Golden Lane
London
EC1Y 0TG

Fundraising Statement

At BCT, we respect the wishes of our members, supporters and donors who ask for no further contact from us, and we adhere to Data Protection law. We employ reputable companies to assist with distributing membership material. We do not employ fundraising or marketing agencies to target people by telephone, or in the street, to persuade them to set up regular donations to BCT. BCT is registered with the Fundraising Regulator and agrees to abide by its rules and regulations. Those who register with the regulator agree to ensure their fundraising is legal, open, honest and respectful. There were no complaints related to fundraising during the period covered by this report.

In order to achieve our objective of financial stability, everyone at BCT contributes towards our fundraising efforts along with a small, dedicated fundraising team. We also support others who choose to make donations or take part in fundraising activities in whatever way they can.

Safeguarding

BCT is committed to upholding the principle that children and vulnerable adults are entitled to protection from physical, sexual and emotional harm and have the right to a safe, positive and enjoyable environment when involved with BCT. We are committed to maintaining a safeguarding policy, which can be viewed here: https://www.bats.org.uk/the-trust/policies/safeguarding and providing regular staff training.

The Trustees

The Trustees who served during the year and up to the date of this report are shown on page 4. All Trustees also act as directors for the purposes of company law.

The Trustees are elected at an Annual General Meeting (AGM) and serve for three years. Trustees are eligible for reselection at the end of their first and second term of three years, but following election for a third term, may not be eligible for reselection until one year has elapsed from them ceasing to be a member of the Board of Trustees. The Trustees may co-opt any Member eligible for election to fill a vacancy until the next AGM.

The Trustees regularly audit their collective skills, competencies and experience against those required to fulfil their responsibilities and proactively recruit new Trustees to fill gaps. All proposed Trustees are put to the BCT membership prior to any appointment. On appointment, training is given according to the needs of the Trustee and new Trustees have an induction with key members of staff.

The Trustees are members of the charity but this entitles them only to voting rights and any benefits received by the Trustees are incidental. As members of the charity they undertake to contribute an amount not exceeding £1 to the assets of the charity in the event of winding up. The total number of such undertakings at 31 March 2024 was 12 (2023: 12). The Trustees have referred to the guidance contained in the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit when reviewing the charity's aims and objectives and in planning its future activities. In particular, the Trustees consider how planned activities will contribute to the aims and objectives that have been set.

Risk Management

The Trustees and Senior Management Team have reviewed the major risks which the charity faces. They review these risks at least annually. The Trustees implement improvements to systems of internal control in order to mitigate other operational and business risks as and when identified.

Some of the major risk areas are:

- Pressure for change in government policy or legislation that impacts on bat conservation. BCT undertakes advocacy and mobilises our supporters to speak up for the importance of the legislation and policy protecting bats.
- Issues with sole contractor for key work – IT / Science. BCT is updating our IT strategy and risk controls including contingency plans. BCT has requested proposals for additional IT support capacity needed for current and future work plans.

Remuneration Policy

Remuneration of all staff is considered on an annual basis by the Board of Trustees. The Senior Management Team make recommendations to the Trustees for a) the cost of living based on inflation rates, the London Living Wage and a salary survey we take part in with other environmental NGOs, and b) for any staff increments based on job bands, performance and any extra responsibilities taken on. The Trustees make the final decision in the context of BCT's budget. The salary of the Chief Executive is set by the Chair in consultation with the Trustees.

Statement of Responsibilities of the Trustees

The Trustees (who are also directors of The Bat Conservation Trust) are responsible for preparing the Trustees' annual report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

Company law required the Trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charitable company and the incoming resources and application of resources, including the income and expenditure, of the charitable company for that period.

In preparing those financial statements the Trustees are required to:

- Select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- Observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP
- Make judgements and accounting estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- State whether applicable UK Accounting Standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements;
- Prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in operation.

The Trustees are responsible for keeping adequate accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006, the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005 and the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006 (as amended). They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charitable company and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

Disclosure of information to auditor

In so far as each of the Trustees is aware:

- There is no relevant audit information of which the charitable company's auditor is unaware;

And

- Each of the trustees has taken all steps that they ought to have taken to make themselves aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the auditor is aware of that information.

Treasurer's report

BCT has continued to grow its vital work, despite the continued economic uncertainty, which has impacted heavily on the charity sector as well as individuals. Due to a turnaround in our investments at year end and an increase in legacy and project income, we ended the year with an increase in funds.

We saw a surplus in unrestricted funds this year compared to a deficit last year. We have continued with careful management of our finances, but have also increased our project income and expenditure with the commencement of new projects or delivery phases of previous projects in development. This is reflected in the higher staff salary costs as we employed additional staff and met our living wage commitments during a time of higher cost of living pressures.

For the year ended 31 March 2024, income was £2,665,328 (2023: £1,689,685) and expenditure was £2,281,864 (2023: £1,773,272), leading to net surplus for the year of £383,464 (2023: deficit £83,587).

Taking into account gains on investments of £147,858 (2023: losses of £253,771), the net movement in funds for the year was an increase of £531,322 (2023: a decrease of £337,358).

Investment policy

Investments total £2,288,298 (2023: £2,369,739) at 31 March 2024. The aim of these funds is to provide a steady additional annual income stream to support our work, helping to reduce the risks associated with our reliance on project funding.

Investments are expected to meet our ethical criteria with returns reported on via a benchmark. Trustees and management are undertaking a full review of our investment portfolio and fund managers for performance against returns and ethical criteria. The target rate of return is to achieve UK CPI + 3% per annum, after fees and costs and this target is used for budgeting purposes.

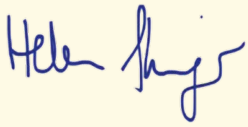
Reserves policy

We adopt a risk-based approach for our reserves policy in order to define the amount we need to enable us to sustain our operations and protect us from unforeseen events. We have also been investing some of our reserves in strategic projects to secure BCT's long-term financial viability.

At the end of the 2023/24 financial year our total reserves stand at £3,492,617 (2023: £2,961,295). Of this, £2,252,701 (2023: £2,116,693) are endowment funds and £242,602 (2023: £226,146) are restricted funds for projects. This leaves unrestricted funds of £997,314 (2023: £618,456) of which £523,447 (2023: £259,986) have been designated to key programmes

of work in the next financial year (see notes to the financial statements for details). This leaves us with £473,867 (2023: £358,470) as unrestricted, unallocated funds. Of this, £312,456 (2023: £275,452) represents free reserves after deducting the net book value of fixed assets.

The trustees' policy is to work towards holding six months operating costs, approximately £885,000, in unrestricted reserves. We will continue to review our reserves policy and our progress towards achieving it each year. On behalf of BCT, I would like to thank all our members, donors and partners for their fantastic support and our volunteers and staff for their endless hard work on behalf of bat conservation.



Helen Slinger
Treasurer

Auditor

Sayer Vincent LLP were appointed to act as the charitable company's auditor during the year.

The report of the Trustees has been prepared in accordance with the special provisions applicable to companies subject to the small companies' regime.

Approved by the Trustees on 1st August 2024 and signed on their behalf by

Jean Matthews
Chair

Independent Auditor's report to the members and trustees of the Bat Conservation Trust For the year ended 31 March 2024

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of The Bat Conservation Trust (the 'charitable company') for the year ended 31 March 2024 which comprise the statement of financial activities, balance sheet, statement of cash flows and notes to the financial statements, including significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including FRS 102 *The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland* (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

In our opinion, the financial statements:

- Give a true and fair view of the state of the charitable company's affairs as at 31 March 2024 and of its incoming resources and application of resources, including its income and expenditure, for the year then ended

- Have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice
- Have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006, the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005 and regulation 8 of the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006 (as amended)

Basis for opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAs (UK)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of our report. We are independent of the charitable company in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in the UK, including the FRC's Ethical Standard and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Conclusions relating to going concern

In auditing the financial statements, we have concluded that the trustees' use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is appropriate.

Based on the work we have performed, we have not identified any material uncertainties relating to events or conditions that, individually or collectively, may cast significant doubt on The Bat Conservation Trust's ability to continue as a going concern for a period of at least twelve months from when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

Our responsibilities and the responsibilities of the trustees with respect to going concern are described in the relevant sections of this report.

Other information

The other information comprises the information included in the trustees' annual report other than the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. The trustees are responsible for the other information contained within the annual report. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and, except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated in our report, we do not express any

form of assurance conclusion thereon. Our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the course of the audit, or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether this gives rise to a material misstatement in the financial statements themselves. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact.

We have nothing to report in this regard.

Opinions on other matters prescribed by the Companies Act 2006
In our opinion, based on the work undertaken in the course of the audit:

- The information given in the trustees' annual report for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements; and
- The trustees' annual report has been prepared in accordance with applicable legal requirements

Matters on which we are required to report by exception
In the light of the knowledge and understanding of the charitable company and its environment obtained in the course of the audit, we have not identified material misstatements in the trustees' annual report.

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters in relation to which the Companies Act 2006 and the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006 (as amended) require us to report to you if, in our opinion:

- Adequate accounting records have not been kept, or returns adequate for our audit have not been received from branches not visited by us; or
- The financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records and returns; or
- Certain disclosures of trustees' remuneration specified by law are not made; or
- We have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit; or
- The directors were not entitled to prepare the financial statements in accordance with the small companies regime and take advantage of the small companies' exemptions in preparing the trustees' annual report and from the requirement to prepare a strategic report.

Responsibilities of Trustees
As explained more fully in the statement of trustees' responsibilities set out in the trustees' annual report, the trustees (who are also the directors of the charitable company for the purposes of company law) are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the trustees determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, the trustees are responsible for assessing the charitable company's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the trustees either intend to liquidate the charitable company or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements
We have been appointed as auditor under section 44(1)(c) of the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005 and under the Companies Act 2006 and report in accordance with regulations made under those Acts.

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (UK) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

Irregularities, including fraud, are instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations. We design procedures in line with our responsibilities, outlined above, to detect material misstatements in respect of irregularities, including fraud. The extent to which our procedures are capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud are set out below.

Capability of the audit in detecting irregularities
In identifying and assessing risks of material misstatement in respect of irregularities, including fraud and non-compliance with laws and regulations, our procedures included the following:

- We enquired of management which included obtaining and reviewing supporting documentation, concerning the charity's policies and procedures relating to:

- Identifying, evaluating, and complying with laws and regulations and whether they were aware of any instances of non-compliance;
- Detecting and responding to the risks of fraud and whether they have knowledge of any actual, suspected, or alleged fraud;
- The internal controls established to mitigate risks related to fraud or non-compliance with laws and regulations.

- We inspected the minutes of meetings of those charged with governance.
- We obtained an understanding of the legal and regulatory framework that the charity operates in, focusing on those laws and regulations that had a material effect on the financial statements or that had a fundamental effect on the operations of the charity from our professional and sector experience.
- We communicated applicable laws and regulations throughout the audit team and remained alert to any indications of non-compliance throughout the audit.
- We reviewed any reports made to regulators.
- We reviewed the financial statement disclosures and tested these to supporting documentation to assess compliance with applicable laws and regulations.
- We performed analytical procedures to identify any unusual or unexpected relationships that may indicate risks of material misstatement due to fraud.
- In addressing the risk of fraud through management override of controls, we tested the appropriateness of journal entries and other adjustments, assessed whether the judgements made in making accounting estimates are indicative of a potential bias and tested significant transactions that are unusual or those outside the normal course of business.

Because of the inherent limitations of an audit, there is a risk that we will not detect all irregularities, including those leading to a material misstatement in the financial statements or non-compliance with regulation. This risk increases the more that compliance with a law or regulation is removed from the events and transactions reflected in the financial statements, as we will be less likely to become aware of instances of non-compliance. The risk is also greater regarding irregularities occurring due to fraud rather than error, as fraud involves intentional concealment, forgery, collusion, omission or misrepresentation.

A further description of our responsibilities is available on the Financial Reporting Council's website at: **www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilitie**s. This description forms part of our auditor's report.

Use of our report

This report is made solely to the charitable company's members as a body, in accordance with Chapter 3 of Part 16 of the Companies Act 2006 and section 44(1)(c) of the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the charitable company's members those matters we are required to state to them in an auditor's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the charitable company and the charitable company's members as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

Noelia Serrano
(Senior statutory auditor)

05 August 2024

for and on behalf of Sayer Vincent LLP,
Statutory Auditor
110 Golden Lane,
LONDON, EC1Y 0TG

Sayer Vincent LLP is eligible to act as auditor in terms of section 1212 of the Companies Act 2006

The Bat Conservation Trust

Statement of financial activities *(incorporating an income and expenditure account)*

For the year ended 31 March 2024

	Note	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	Endowment £	2024 Total £	2023 Total £
Income						
Donations and legacies	2	834,505	22,232	-	**856,737**	430,631
Investment income		59,185	-	-	**59,185**	53,781
Income from charitable activities						
Conferences		69,339	644	-	**69,983**	69,451
Training courses and meetings		84,537	-	-	**84,537**	113,240
Projects and research	3	717,052	822,682	-	**1,539,734**	985,175
Other activities		54,246	906	-	**55,152**	37,407
Total income		**1,818,864**	**846,464**	**-**	**2,665,328**	1,689,685
Expenditure						
Expenditure on raising funds						
Membership support	4	73,017	-	-	**73,017**	77,370
Costs of raising funds	4	159,516	6,116	11,234	**176,866**	145,305
Expenditure on charitable activities						
Conferences	4	75,001	-	-	**75,001**	67,107
Training courses and meetings	4	119,924	-	-	**119,924**	90,161
Project and research costs	5	1,013,164	823,892	-	**1,837,056**	1,393,329
Total expenditure	4	**1,440,622**	**830,008**	**11,234**	**2,281,864**	1,773,272
Net income / (expenditure) before net losses on investments		**378,242**	**16,456**	**(11,234)**	**383,464**	(83,587)
Net gains / (losses) on investments	12	616	-	147,242	**147,858**	(253,771)
Net income / (expenditure) for the year		**378,858**	**16,456**	**136,008**	**531,322**	(337,358)
Net movement in funds		**378,858**	**16,456**	**136,008**	**531,322**	(337,358)
Reconciliation of funds						
Total funds brought forward		618,456	226,146	2,116,693	2,961,295	3,298,653
Total funds carried forward	18	**997,314**	**242,602**	**2,252,701**	**3,492,617**	2,961,295

All of the above results are derived from continuing activities. There were no other recognised gains or losses other than those stated above. Movements in funds are disclosed in note 18 to the financial statements.

For Companies Act purposes, excluding Endowed funds, income for the year ended 31 March 2024 was £2,665,328 (2023: £1,689,685) and expenditure £2,270,630 (2023: £1,762,767) and gains / (losses) on investments of £616 (2023: (£21,772)). Net income / (expenditure) was £395,314 (2023: (£94,854)).

Comparatives for the statement of financial activities are given in note 20.

The Bat Conservation Trust

Balance Sheet

As at 31 March 2024

	Note	2024 £	£	2023 £	£
Fixed assets					
Tangible assets	10		**1,826**		3,971
Intangible assets	11		**159,585**		79,047
Investments	12		**2,288,298**		2,369,739
Non-current assets			**2,449,709**		2,452,757
Current assets					
Debtors	13	**1,192,317**		295,835	
Short term deposit		**302**		120,247	
Cash at bank and in hand		**147,568**		238,196	
		1,340,187		654,278	
Creditors: amounts due within one year	14	**(297,279)**		(145,740)	
Net current assets			**1,042,908**		508,538
Net assets	16		**3,492,617**		2,961,295
Reserves					
Endowment funds	18		**2,252,701**		2,116,693
Restricted funds	18		**242,602**		226,146
Unrestricted funds					
General funds	18	473,867		358,470	
Designated funds	18	523,447		259,986	
			997,314		618,456
Total funds	18		**3,492,617**		2,961,295

Approved by the trustees on 1st August

2024 Signed on their behalf by:

Jean Matthews (Chair)

The Bat Conservation Trust

Statement of Cash Flows

For the year ended 31 March 2024

	2024		2023	
	£	£	£	£
Cash flows from operating activities:				
Net income / (expenditure) for the year	**531,322**		(337,358)	
Adjustments for:				
Depreciation and amortisation charges	**39,572**		36,271	
Dividends and interest	**(59,185)**		(53,781)	
(Gains) / losses on investments	**(147,858)**		253,771	
(Increase) / decrease in debtors	**(896,482)**		76,366	
Increase / (decrease) in creditors	**151,539**		(55,559)	
Investment charges taken directly from cash held as part of the investment portfolio	**11,945**		10,746	
Net cash (used in) operating activities		**(369,147)**		(69,544)
Cash flows from investing activities:				
Bank interest received	**539**		118	
Cash withdrawals from investments	**276,000**		-	
Purchase of intangible assets	**(117,965)**		-	
Net cash provided by investing activities		**158,574**		118
Change in cash and cash equivalents in the year		**(210,573)**		(69,426)
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the year		**358,443**		427,869
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the year		**147,870**		358,443

Analysis of cash and cash equivalents	At 1 April 2023 £	Cash flows £	**At 31 March 2024 £**
Cash at bank and in hand	238,196	(90,628)	**147,568**
Short term deposit	120,247	(119,945)	**302**
	358,443	(210,573)	**147,870**

Analysis of change in net debt

The charity had no net debt during the year.

1. Accounting policies

Status
The organisation is a charitable company limited by guarantee, incorporated on 7 May 1992 and registered as a charity on 29 June 1992.

The registered office is Studio 15, Cloisters House, Cloisters Business Centre, 8 Battersea Park Road, London, England, SW8 4BG.

a) Basis of preparation

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with FRS102 "The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland" ("FRS102"), the Companies Act 2006, the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005, the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006 (as amended) and "Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102)" (effective 1 January 2019). The charity is a Public Benefit Entity as defined by FRS 102.

Assets and liabilities are initially recognised at historical cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policy note(s).

The functional currency of the financial statements is Sterling.

b) Going concern

The trustees have assessed whether the use of the going concern assumption is appropriate in preparing these accounts. The trustees have made this assessment in respect to a period of one year from the date of approval of these accounts.

The trustees of the charity have concluded that there are no material uncertainties related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the ability of the charity to continue as a going concern. The trustees are of the opinion that the charity will have sufficient resources to meet its liabilities as they fall due. With regard to the next accounting period, the year ending 31 March 2025, the most significant areas that affect the carrying value of the assets held by the charity are the delivery of grant funded activities and securing future funding for these activities (see the risk management section of the trustees' report for more information).

c) Income

Income from generated funds received by way of donations and member subscriptions are included in full in the statement of financial activities when probable.

Gifts in kind comprise meeting rooms and catering provided free of charge for trustee and other meetings and gifted IT services where material. Gifts in kind are included in income and expenditure at a reasonable estimate of their value to the charity, which is the price that would have had to be paid if hiring a room and paying for catering or contracting for IT services at a commercial rate on the open market. Volunteer time is not included in the financial statements.

Legacy income is accounted for on a receivable basis. A legacy is considered receivable when the charity is legally entitled to the income and the amount can be quantified with reasonable accuracy. Entitlement is the earlier of the charity being notified of an impending distribution or the legacy being received.

Investment income represents bank interest and dividend income, included in full in the statement of financial activities when receivable.

Revenue grants are credited to the Statement of Financial Activities when received or receivable whichever is earlier.

Where unconditional entitlement to grants receivable is dependent upon fulfilment of conditions within the charity's control, the incoming resources are recognised when there is sufficient evidence that conditions will be met. Where there is uncertainty as to whether the charity can meet such conditions, the incoming resource is deferred.

Grants for the purchase of fixed assets are credited to restricted income when probable.

Depreciation of fixed assets purchased with such grants is charged against the restricted fund. Where a fixed asset is donated to the charity for its own use, it is treated in a similar way to a restricted grant.

Fees for training courses and the annual conference are recognised in the financial statements during the year in which the conference or training course to which they relate occurred. Research contracts are recognised in the financial statements as entitlement is earned through completion of the contract.

d) Fund analysis

The expendable endowment funds are funds whereby the capital sum is invested, and interest earned is used to contribute to core costs. The capital element may also be spent should sufficient need arise.

The permanent endowment funds are funds whereby the capital sum is invested, and interest earned is used to contribute to core costs. The capital element is to be retained to generate future income for the work of BCT.

Restricted funds are to be used for specific purposes as laid down by the donor. Expenditure which meets these criteria is charged to the fund together with a fair allocation of management and support costs.

Unrestricted funds are donations and other income receivable or generated for the objects of the charity.
Designated funds are unrestricted funds earmarked by the trustees for particular purposes.

Transfers are made to and from designated funds at the discretion of the trustees. Transfers are made between restricted funds or from restricted funds to general funds only if agreement has been obtained from the donor.

e) Expenditure

Expenditure is recognised in the period in which it is incurred. Expenditure includes attributable VAT which cannot be recovered.

Expenditure is allocated to the particular activity where the cost relates directly to that activity. However, the cost of

overall direction and administration of each activity, comprising the salary and overhead costs of the central function, is apportioned on the following basis which are an estimate, based on staff time, of the amount attributable to each activity: Raising funds, Conferences, Biodiversity training courses and Project costs.

The costs of generating funds relate to the costs incurred by the charitable company in raising funds for the charitable work. Fundraising costs associated with raising funds for a specific charitable activity are allocated to that activity.

Rentals payable under operating leases, where substantially all the risks and rewards of ownership remain with the lessor, are charged to the Statement of Financial Activities in the year in which they fall due.

f) Tangible and intangible assets

Depreciation is provided at rates calculated to write down the cost of each asset to its estimated residual value over its expected useful life. The depreciation rates in use are as follows:

Computer equipment - 33% per annum on a straight-line basis.
Field equipment - 25% per annum on a straight-line basis.
Furniture and fittings - 20% per annum on a straight-line basis.

Items of equipment are capitalised where the purchase price exceeds £1,000 (this has risen from £500 in 2022-23). Depreciation costs are allocated to activities on the basis of the use of the related assets in those activities. Assets are reviewed for impairment if circumstances indicate their carrying value may exceed their net realisable value and value in use.

Intangible assets are recognised at cost and amortised over the assets' expected useful life. The amortisation rate in use is as follows:

Database - 20% per annum on a straight-line basis.

Amortisation costs are allocated to activities on the basis of the use of the related assets in those activities.

g) Pensions

The charity operates a defined contribution pension scheme. The assets of the scheme are held separately from those of the charity in an independently administered fund. The pension cost charge represents contributions payable under the scheme by the charity to the fund. The charity has no liability under the scheme other than for the payment of those contributions.

h) Foreign exchange rates

Transactions denominated in foreign currencies are translated into Sterling at the exchange rate ruling at the date of the transaction. Assets and liabilities in foreign currencies are translated into Sterling at the rates of exchange ruling at the end of the financial year. All exchange differences are written off to the Statement of Financial Activities.

i) Investments

Investments are stated at mid-market value at the balance sheet date. The gain or loss for the period is taken to the Statement of Financial Activities. All movements in value arising from investment changes or revaluations are shown in the Statement of Financial Activities.

j) Financial instruments

BCT has elected to apply the provisions of Section 11 'Basic Financial Instruments' and Section 12 'Other Financial Instruments Issues' of FRS 102 to all of its financial instruments. Financial instruments are recognised in the balance sheet when the company becomes party to the contractual provisions of the instrument. Financial assets and liabilities are offset, with the net amounts presented in the financial statements, when there is a legally enforceable right to set off the recognised amounts and there is an intention to settle on a net basis or to realise the asset and settle the liability simultaneously.

2. Donations and legacies

Current Year	Unrestricted	Restricted	**2024 Total**
	£	£	**£**
Membership subscriptions	173,176	-	**173,176**
Members' & other donations	137,142	22,232	**159,374**
Legacies	524,187	-	**524,187**
	834,505	**22,232**	**856,737**

Prior Year	*Unrestricted*	*Restricted*	*2023 Total*
	£	£	£
Membership subscriptions	*159,630*	*-*	*159,630*
Members' & other donations	*127,674*	*49,221*	*176,895*
Legacies	*94,106*	*-*	*94,106*
	381,410	*49,221*	*430,631*

3. Projects and research income

Current Year	Unrestricted	Restricted	**2024 Total**
	£	£	**£**
Government grants & contracts	665,183	662,832	**1,328,015**
Grants & contracts from other charitable bodies	51,869	159,850	**211,719**
	717,052	822,682	**1,539,734**

Projects and research income: grants, contracts and donations

Project income was received in the year from the following organisations and donors:

	Unrestricted	Restricted	**2024 Total**
	£	£	**£**
Animal and Plant Health Agency	13,000	-	**13,000**
Animal Friends	3,500	2,000	**5,500**
AWS Imagine	-	33,104	**33,104**
Church of England	24,592	-	**24,592**
David Webster Charitable Trust	-	2,000	**2,000**
Forestry England	-	14,379	**14,379**
Forest Research	-	136,323	**136,323**
Goldcrest	2,000	-	**2,000**
Garfield Weston	-	40,000	**40,000**
Groundwork	-	17,745	**17,745**
HDH Wills 1965 Charitable Trust	-	20,000	**20,000**
John Ellerman Foundation	-	45,000	**45,000**
Joint Nature Conservation Committee	276,147	-	**276,147**
Ministry of Justice	-	40,132	**40,132**
National Lottery Heritage Fund	-	300,485	**300,485**
Natural England	376,329	147,514	**523,843**
NatureScot	-	24,000	**24,000**
Vistry Group	12,500	-	**12,500**
Other grants and contracts	8,984	-	**8,984**
	717,052	822,682	**1,539,734**

Prior Year	*Unrestricted*	*Restricted*	2023 *Total*
	£	*£*	*£*
Government grants & contracts	*507,599*	*344,857*	*852,456*
Grants from other charitable bodies	*31,561*	*101,158*	*132,719*
	539,160	*446,015*	*985,175*

3. Projects and research income (continued)

Projects and research income - grants, contracts and donations

Project income was received in the year from the following organisations and donors:

	Unrestricted	*Restricted*	*2023 Total*
	£	*£*	*£*
Animal and Plant Health Agency	*10,000*	*-*	*10,000*
Animal Friends – BCT Helpline	*-*	*2,500*	*2,500*
Bentley Barn Building Preservation Trust	*-*	*4,648*	*4,648*
Bushy Park and Longford River analysis and report	*3,995*	*-*	*3,995*
Cecil Pilkington Charitable Trust	*6,000*	*-*	*6,000*
Centre for Ecology & Hydrology	*1,500*	*-*	*1,500*
Chapman Charitable Trust	*-*	*1,000*	*1,000*
David Webster Charitable Trust	*-*	*4,000*	*4,000*
Druid	*-*	*1,417*	*1,417*
Ernest Kleinwort	*-*	*12,195*	*12,195*
Esmée Fairbairn Foundation	*-*	*41,250*	*41,250*
Forestry England	*13,694*	*-*	*13,694*
Forest Research	*67,329*	*-*	*67,329*
Government of Jersey	*2,501*	*-*	*2,501*
Joint Nature Conservation Committee (JNCC)	*157,864*	*81,067*	*238,931*
Kathleen Beryl Sleigh Charitable Trust	*5,000*	*-*	*5,000*
National Lottery Heritage Fund	*-*	*123,475*	*123,475*
Natural England	*250,930*	*114,131*	*365,061*
Natural Resources Wales	*5,281*	*-*	*5,281*
NatureScot	*-*	*23,658*	*23,658*
Purbeck Favourable Conservation Status work	*1,288*	*-*	*1,288*
Rufford Foundation	*-*	*8,576*	*8,576*
John Swire 1989 Charitable Trust	*-*	*25,000*	*25,000*
Vistry Group	*10,000*	*-*	*10,000*
Other grants and contracts	*3,778*	*3,098*	*6,876*
	539,160	*446,015*	*985,175*

4. Total expenditure

	Costs of raising funds	Membership support	Conferences	Training courses and meetings	Projects and research (note 5)	Governance (note 6)	Other support costs (note 6)	**2024 Total**
Current Year	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	**£**
Salaries & temporary staff (note 8)	99,098	35,476	8,429	42,795	1,127,710	6,422	203,238	**1,523,168**
Travel & training	9,425	272	2,849	1,012	38,715	1,818	27,230	**81,321**
Advice & other project costs	17,982	8,896	-	34,901	182,180	-	17,067	**261,026**
Publications & events	1,037	7,809	51,586	23,366	21,913	-	360	**106,071**
Premises	-	-	-	-	1,940	-	47,119	**49,059**
Other costs	13,195	6,993	7,536	1,797	52,215	12,200	167,283	**261,219**
	140,737	59,446	70,400	103,871	1,424,673	20,440	462,297	**2,281,864**
Support costs allocated to activities	34,599	12,996	4,406	15,373	394,923	-	(462,297)	-
Governance costs allocated to activities	1,530	575	195	680	17,460	(20,440)	-	-
Total	**176,866**	**73,017**	**75,001**	**119,924**	**1,837,056**	-	-	**2,281,864**

	Costs of raising funds	*Membership support*	*Conferences*	*Training courses and meetings*	*Projects and research (note 5)*	*Governance (note 6)*	*Other support costs (note 6)*	***2023 Total***
Prior Year	*£*	*£*	*£*	*£*	*£*	*£*	*£*	***£***
Salaries & temporary staff (note 8)	*87,138*	*33,602*	*9,172*	*30,921*	*840,926*	*5,816*	*196,213*	*1,203,788*
Travel & training	*467*	*185*	*2,168*	*2,282*	*26,131*	*1,569*	*24,187*	*56,989*
Advice & other project costs	*8,223*	*8,494*	*-*	*23,919*	*111,199*	*-*	*10,005*	*161,840*
Publications & events	*3,085*	*9,674*	*40,241*	*21,041*	*11,286*	*-*	*61*	*85,388*
Premises	*-*	*-*	*-*	*-*	*2,434*	*-*	*36,647*	*39,081*
Other costs	*13,085*	*12,838*	*7,117*	*664*	*39,183*	*9,700*	*143,599*	*226,186*
	111,998	*64,793*	*58,698*	*78,827*	*1,031,159*	*17,085*	*410,712*	*1,773,272*
Support costs allocated to activities	*31,977*	*12,075*	*8,073*	*10,881*	*347,706*	*-*	*(410,712)*	*-*
Governance costs allocated to activities	*1,330*	*502*	*336*	*453*	*14,464*	*(17,085)*	*-*	*-*
Total	*145,305*	*77,370*	*67,107*	*90,161*	*1,393,329*	*-*	*-*	*1,773,272*

5. Projects and research costs

Current Year	Unrestricted	Restricted	**2024 Total**
	£	£	**£**
Bat Groups' Support & Public Education	78,775	78,099	**156,874**
Biodiversity Projects	642,833	406,842	**1,049,675**
National Bat Monitoring Programme	233,531	129,602	**363,133**
Research projects	58,025	209,349	**267,374**
	1,013,164	823,892	**1,837,056**

Prior Year	*Unrestricted*	*Restricted*	2023 *Total*
	£	*£*	*£*
Bat Groups' Support & Public Education	*30,530*	*36,505*	*67,035*
Bat Projects in Wales	*33,434*	*7,991*	*41,425*
Biodiversity Projects	*570,643*	*199,597*	*770,240*
International Projects	*4,475*	*1,600*	*6,075*
National Bat Monitoring Programme	*128,915*	*7,847*	*136,762*
Research projects – Bat conservation	*137,284*	*168,249*	*305,533*
Scottish Bat Project	*41,829*	*24,430*	*66,259*
	947,110	*446,219*	*1,393,329*

6. Governance and other support costs

	2024	2023
	£	£
Analysis of governance costs:		
Governance staff costs	**6,422**	5,816
Audit fee	**12,200**	9,700
Trustee expenses and meeting costs	**1,818**	1,569
	20,440	17,085
Analysis of other support costs:		
Salaries	**203,238**	188,306
Non-salary staff costs	**39,018**	35,215
Conference costs	**360**	61
Membership costs	**1,028**	194
Property	**47,119**	36,530
IT costs	**20,722**	12,649
Office running costs	**30,771**	31,853
Insurance	**22,213**	20,232
Legal fees	**350**	-
Depreciation and amortisation	**39,572**	36,271
Outsourced finance & payroll	**40,602**	40,917
Irrecoverable VAT	**11,688**	3,160
Bank charges	**5,616**	5,324
	462,297	410,712

7. Net income / (expenditure) for the year

	2024	2023
	£	£
This is stated after charging:		
Depreciation and amortisation	**39,572**	36,271
Operating lease costs	**27,059**	13,603
Trustees' expenses (2024:4 trustees) (2023:5 trustees)	**1,817**	1,569
Trustee indemnity insurance	**1,724**	1,655
Auditors' remuneration – audit services	**12,200**	9,700

Expenses reimbursed to trustees relate to travel and subsistence costs relating to both attendance at trustees' meetings and other operational work carried out in furtherance of the Trust's objects. No trustees were reimbursed for their services as trustees during the year (2023: no trustees reimbursed).

8. Staff numbers and costs

The aggregate payroll cost of these persons was as follows:

	2024	*2023*
	£	*£*
Wages and salaries	**1,357,984**	*1,072,814*
Social security costs	**113,312**	*91,094*
Employer's pension contributions	**48,473**	*39,880*
Redundancy payments	**3,399**	-
	1,523,168	*1,203,788*

No employees earned in excess of £60,000 in this year or the prior year.

The key management personnel of the Charity comprise the trustees and the Senior Management Team. The total employee benefits of the key management personnel of the Charity were £146,006. (2023: £145,130).

The average number of employees (head count based on number of staff employed and excluding trustees who are all non-executive) during the year were as follows:

	Number of employees	
	2024	2023
	No.	No.
Support and governance	**3**	3
Direct charitable activities	**46**	40
	49	43

9. Taxation

The charitable company is exempt from corporation tax as all its income is charitable and is applied for charitable purposes.

10. Fixed assets

	Furniture and fittings	Computers	Field equipment	**Total**
Cost	£	£	£	£
At the start of the year	3,174	11,835	16,428	31,437
At the end of the year	**3,174**	**11,835**	**16,428**	**31,437**
Depreciation				
At the start of the year	1,682	10,512	15,272	27,466
Charge for the year	417	1,271	457	2,145
At the end of the year	**2,099**	**11,783**	**15,729**	**29,611**
Net book value at the end of the year	**1,075**	**52**	**699**	**1,826**
Net book value at the start of the year	1,492	1,323	1,156	3,971

Prior Year

	Furniture and fittings	*Computers*	*Field equipment*	*Total*
Cost	*£*	*£*	*£*	*£*
At the start of the year	*3,174*	*11,835*	*16,428*	*31,437*
At the end of the year	*3,174*	*11,835*	*16,428*	*31,437*
Depreciation				
At the start of the year	*1,265*	*8,364*	*14,814*	*24,443*
Charge for the year	*417*	*2,148*	*458*	*3,023*
At the end of the year	*1,682*	*10,512*	*15,272*	*27,466*
Net book value at the end of the year	*1,492*	*1,323*	*1,156*	*3,971*
Net book value at the start of the year	*1,909*	*3,471*	*1,614*	*6,994*

11. Intangible assets

	CRM database	App development	**Total**
Cost	£	£	**£**
At the start of the year	121,122	45,121	**166,243**
Additions during the year	86,180	31,785	**117,965**
At the end of the year	**207,302**	**76,906**	**284,208**
Amortisation			
At the start of the year	72,673	14,523	**87,196**
Charge for the year	26,779	10,648	**37,427**
At the end of the year	**99,452**	**25,171**	**124,623**
Net book value at the end of the year	**107,850**	**51,735**	**159,585**
Net book value at the start of the year	48,449	30,598	79,047

Prior Year

	CRM database	*App development*	*Total*	
Cost		*£*	*£*	*£*
At the start of the year	*121,122*	*45,121*	*166,243*	
Cost at the end of the year	*121,122*	*45,121*	*166,243*	
Amortisation				
At the start of the year	*48,449*	*5,499*	*53,948*	
Charge for the year	*24,224*	*9,024*	*33,248*	
At the end of the year	*72,673*	*14,523*	*87,196*	
Net book value at the end of the year	*48,449*	*30,598*	*79,047*	
Net book value at the start of the year	*72,673*	*39,622*	*112,295*	

12. Investments

	Listed investments	Cash in portfolio	**Total**
	£	£	**£**
At the start of the year	2,307,671	62,068	**2,369,739**
Additions at cost	679,043	(679,043)	-
Less disposals at carrying value	(901,442)	625,442	**(276,000)**
Dividend income	-	58,646	**58,646**
Portfolio costs	-	(11,945)	**(11,945)**
Net gain on revaluation	147,858	-	**147,858**
At the end of the year	**2,233,130**	**55,168**	**2,288,298**

Prior year	*Listed investments*	*Cash in portfolio*	***Total***
	£	*£*	***£***
At the start of the year	*2,518,077*	*62,516*	*2,580,593*
Additions at cost	*260,775*	*(260,775)*	-
Less disposals at carrying value	*(217,410)*	*217,410*	-
Dividend income	-	*53,663*	*53,663*
Portfolio costs	-	*(10,746)*	*(10,746)*
Net loss on revaluation	*(253,771)*	-	*(253,771)*
At the end of the year	*2,307,671*	*62,068*	*2,369,739*

Listed Investments comprise:	***2024***	*2023*
	£	*£*
UK Corporate Bonds	***882,628***	*938,786*
UK Equity Growth	***239,879***	*476,554*
UK Equity Income	***550,439***	*320,156*
International Equity	***338,754***	*343,237*
Emerging Markets Equity	***221,430***	*228,938*
	2,233,130	*2,307,671*

The investments listed on a recognised stock exchange comprise the amounts held at fair value through profit or loss.

13. Debtors: amounts falling due within one year

	2024	2023
	£	£
Trade debtors	**366,150**	159,678
Other debtors	**18,570**	6,142
Accrued income	**760,487**	100,640
Prepayments	**47,110**	29,375
	1,192,317	295,835

14. Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2024	2023
	£	£
Trade creditors	**59,402**	39,799
Other taxes and social security	**89,308**	35,209
Accruals	**85,327**	32,142
Deferred income	**27,206**	10,000
Other creditors	**36,036**	28,590
	297,279	145,740

Deferred income comprises course and event income paid in advance.

	2024	2023
	£	£
Balance at the beginning of the year	**10,000**	9,661
Amount released to income in the year	**(10,000)**	(9,661)
Amount deferred in the year	**27,206**	10,000
	27,206	10,000

15. Operating lease commitments

The charity had commitments at the year end under operating leases as set out below:

	2024	2023
Land & buildings	**£**	£
- Not later than one year	**24,200**	7,333
- Later than one year and not later than five years	**8,067**	-
Other		
- Not later than one year	**1,162**	3,486
- Later than one year and not later than five years	**-**	1,162

16. Analysis of net assets between funds

Current Year	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Endowment funds	**2024 Total funds**
	£	£	£	**£**
Tangible fixed assets	1,826	-	-	**1,826**
Intangible fixed assets	159,585	-	-	**159,585**
Investments	35,597	-	2,252,701	**2,288,298**
Net current assets	800,306	242,602	-	**1,042,908**
Net assets at the end of the year	**997,314**	**242,602**	**2,252,701**	**3,492,617**

Prior Year	*Unrestricted funds*	*Restricted funds*	*Endowment funds*	*2023 Total funds*
	£	*£*	*£*	*£*
Tangible fixed assets	*3,971*	*-*	*-*	*3,971*
Intangible fixed assets	*79,047*	*-*	*-*	*79,047*
Investments	*253,046*	*-*	*2,116,693*	*2,369,739*
Net current assets	*282,392*	*226,146*	*-*	*508,538*
Net assets at the end of the year	*618,456*	*226,146*	*2,116,693*	*2,961,295*

17. Contingent assets

At the end of the year, we have been notified that we are entitled to funds from a total of one (2023: two) residual legacies. However, as at 31 March 2024, we had not been notified as to the value of our entitlement or when this would be received. As such we are not able to recognise these funds in the financial statements for the year.

18. Movements in funds

Current Year	At 1 April 2023	Income	Expenditure	Gains on investments	Transfers between funds	**At 31 March 2024**
	£	£	£	£	£	**£**
Vincent Weir endowment funds:						
Expendable endowment fund	1,819,696	-	(9,650)	126,581	-	**1,936,627**
Permanent endowment fund	296,997	-	(1,584)	20,661	-	**316,074**
Total endowment funds	2,116,693	-	(11,234)	147,242	-	**2,252,701**
Restricted funds:						
Animal Friends – Bat Helpline	-	2,000	(2,000)	-	-	-
AWS Imagine - SCS development	-	33,104	(2,325)	-	-	**30,779**
Bad Wolf - Woodland Hope project	10,000	-	-	-	-	**10,000**
Bat Group appeals - Wildlife Crime	-	12,191	(12,191)	-	-	-
Bat Ringing Project	32,173	5,588	(23,343)	-	-	**14,418**
Chapman Charitable Trust	1,000	-	(1,000)	-	-	-
David Webster Charitable Trust	2,000	2,000	(2,000)	-	-	**2,000**
Druid	1,417	-	(1,417)	-	-	-
Ernest Kleinwort - Nightwatch	5,094	-	(3,402)	-	400	**2,092**
Esmée Fairbairn Foundation - Nightwatch	80,841	-	(49,563)	-	(3,816)	**27,462**
Esmée Fairbairn Foundation - Planning	900	-	(900)	-	-	-
Forest Research - NFI Bat survey	-	136,323	(136,323)	-	-	-
Forestry England - Monitoring	-	14,379	(9,310)	-	3,416	**8,485**
Garfield Weston - Bat Group support	-	40,000	(10,000)	-	-	**30,000**
Groundwork - New to Nature	-	17,745	(17,745)	-	-	-
HDH Wills 1965 Charitable Trust - Bat groups	-	20,000	(3,333)	-	-	**16,667**
JNCC – Monitoring	20,805	-	(20,805)	-	-	-
John Ellerman Foundation - Policy	-	45,000	(18,750)	-	-	**26,250**
John Swire 1989 Charitable Trust - CPL	25,000	-	-	-	-	**25,000**
Kate Barlow Research Award	15,192	1,169	(2,404)	-	-	**13,957**
Ministry of Justice - Wildlife Assessment	-	40,132	(40,132)	-	-	-
National Lottery Heritage Fund - Bats in Churches	-	66,573	(64,845)	-	-	**1,728**
National Lottery Heritage Fund - CPL	-	99,684	(99,684)	-	-	-
National Lottery Heritage Fund - Natur am Byth	-	18,576	(18,576)	-	-	-
National Lottery Heritage Fund - Species on the Edge	-	51,230	(51,230)	-	-	-
National Lottery Heritage Fund - Woodland Hope	-	64,422	(64,422)	-	-	-
Natural England - Airborne DNA	-	14,000	(14,000)			-
Natural England - Biodiversity	-	14,418	(14,418)	-	-	-
Natural England - CPL	10,000	-	-	-	-	**10,000**
Natural England - Offshore project	-	16,286	(16,286)	-	-	-
Natural England - Partnerships	-	15,000	(15,000)	-	-	-
Natural England - Science & Monitoring	10,248	53,922	(47,344)	-	-	**16,826**
Natural England - Seedcorn	-	33,130	(33,130)	-	-	-
Natural England - Threatened Species Recovery Action	-	758	(758)	-	-	-
NatureScot – Scottish Bat Project	-	24,000	(24,000)	-	-	-
Other restricted project income	-	560	(560)	-	-	-
Other trusts and donations - BCT Helpline	-	4,274	(4,274)	-	-	-
Rufford Foundation - Bats and Health	11,476	-	(4,538)	-	-	**6,938**
Total restricted funds	226,146	846,464	(830,008)	-	-	**242,602**

18. **Movements in funds (continued)**	At 1 April 2023	Income	Expenditure	Gains on investments	Transfers between funds	**At 31 March 2024**
	£	£	£	£	£	**£**
Unrestricted funds:						
Designated funds:						
Bats in Churches Advisor	-	329	-	-	-	**329**
BCT Roost Partnership	6,804	2,629	(4,233)	-	-	5,200
Database Project	62,735	-	(62,735)	-	-	-
Digital fundraising and fundraising capacity	15,000	-	(15,000)	-	-	-
Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion	730	-	(730)	-	-	-
Fundraising Consultant	2,000	-	(2,000)	-	-	-
Helpline Database Money	11,564	-	(11,564)	-	-	-
JNCC – NBMP	24,834	-	(24,834)	-	-	-
Natural England – Helpline	-	16,282	(16,282)	-	-	-
NBMP	1,045	7,845	(8,890)	-	-	-
Night Vision Aid Guidance	-	1,725	-	-	-	**1,725**
Organisational development fund	130,000	415,414	(130,000)	-	-	**415,414**
Principal Ecologist at Ministry of Justice	1,400	-	(1,400)	-	-	-
Technology investment	-	100,000	-	-	-	**100,000**
Woodland	3,874	94	(3,189)	-	-	**779**
	259,986	544,318	(280,857)	-	-	**523,447**
General funds	358,470	1,274,546	(1,159,765)	616	-	**473,867**
Total unrestricted funds	618,456	1,818,864	(1,440,622)	616	-	**997,314**
Total funds	**2,961,295**	**2,665,328**	**(2,281,864)**	**147,858**	-	**3,492,617**

Prior Year	At 1 April 2022	Income	Expenditure	Losses on investments	Transfers between funds	**At 31 March 2023**
	£	£	£	£	£	**£**
Vincent Weir endowment funds:						
Expendable endowment fund	*2,028,166*	-	*(9,024)*	*(199,446)*	-	***1,819,696***
Permanent endowment fund	*331,031*	-	*(1,481)*	*(32,553)*	-	***296,997***
Total endowment funds	*2,359,197*	-	*(10,505)*	*(231,999)*	-	***2,116,693***
Restricted funds:						
Animal Friends – Bat Helpline	-	*2,500*	*(2,500)*	-	-	-
Bat Group appeals	-	*3,490*	*(3,490)*	-	-	-
Bat Ringing Project	-	*13,500*	*(2,742)*	-	*21,415*	***32,173***
Chapman Charitable Trust	-	*1,000*	-		-	***1,000***
David Webster Charitable Trust – Bats and Buildings	-	*4,000*	*(2,000)*	-	-	***2,000***
Druid	-	*1,417*	-	-	-	***1,417***
Ernest Kleinwort – NightWatch	-	*12,195*	*(7,101)*	-	-	***5,094***
Esmée Fairbairn Foundation – NightWatch	*103,555*	*41,250*	*(63,964)*	-	-	***80,841***
Esmée Fairbairn Foundation – Planning	*4,000*	-	*(3,100)*	-	-	***900***
Garfield Weston – Bat Helpline	*10,417*	-	*(10,417)*	-	-	-
JNCC – BBatS	-	*40,515*	*(30,264)*	-	-	***10,251***
JNCC – NBMP	-	*30,549*	*(29,995)*	-	-	***554***
JNCC – Genetics	-	*10,000*	-	-	-	***10,000***
John Swire 1989 Charitable Trust	-	*25,000*	-	-	-	***25,000***
Kate Barlow Research Award	*16,814*	*50*	*(1,672)*	-	-	***15,192***
Kickstarter Funding	-	*6,754*	*(6,754)*	-	-	-
National Lottery Heritage Fund – Natur am Byth	-	*7,991*	*(7,991)*	-	-	-
National Lottery Heritage Fund – Bats in Churches	-	*104,018*	*(104,018)*	-	-	-
National Lottery Heritage Fund – Species on the Edge	-	*11,466*	*(11,466)*	-	-	-
Natural England – Biodiversity	-	*43,631*	*(43,631)*	-	-	-
Natural England – People & Landscapes	-	*10,000*	-	-	-	***10,000***
Natural England – Science & Monitoring	*1,060*	*45,500*	*(36,312)*	-	-	***10,248***

18. **Movements in funds (continued)**	At 1 April 2022	Income	Expenditure	Losses on investments	Transfers between funds	**At 31 March 2023**
	£	£	£	£	£	**£**
Natural England – Partnerships	-	*15,000*	*(15,000)*	-	-	-
NatureScot – Scottish Bat Project	-	*23,658*	*(23,658)*	-	-	-
Rufford Foundation – Bats and Health	-	*11,476*	-	-	-	***11,476***
Rufford Foundation – Helpline	*1,600*	-	*(1,600)*	-	-	-
Rufford Foundation – International	*4,500*	*(2,900)*	*(1,600)*	-	-	-
Wildlife Crime	-	*6,271*	*(6,271)*	-	-	-
Woodland Hope Project	-	*10,000*	-	-	-	***10,000***
Other restricted project income	*27,981*	*3,530*	*(8,478)*	-	*(23,033)*	-
Other restricted project income – Bat Groups	-	*11,155*	*(12,773)*	-	*1,618*	-
Other trusts and donations – Bat Helpline	-	*11,422*	*(11,422)*	-	-	-
Total restricted funds	*169,927*	*504,438*	*(448,219)*	-	-	***226,146***
Unrestricted funds:						
Designated funds:						
BCT Roost Partnership	*7,117*	*3,467*	*(3,780)*	-	-	***6,804***
Database Project	*75,333*	-	*(12,598)*	-	-	***62,735***
Designated project funds	*10,773*	-	-	-	*(10,773)*	-
Digital fundraising and fundraising capacity	*15,000*	-	-	-	-	***15,000***
EDI - Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion	*3,159*	-	*(2,429)*	-	-	***730***
Fundraising Consultant	-	-	-	-	*2,000*	***2,000***
Helpline Database Money	-	-	-	-	*11,564*	***11,564***
JNCC – NBMP	*2,564*	-	-	-	*22,270*	***24,834***
Natural England – Helpline	*12,947*	-	*(12,947)*	-	-	-
NBMP	-	*6,367*	*(10,918)*	-	*5,596*	***1,045***
Organisational development fund	*140,000*	*25,000*	*(35,000)*	-	-	***130,000***
Principal Ecologist at Ministry of Justice	-	-	*(3,600)*	-	*5,000*	***1,400***
Woodland	-	*1,779*	*(1,779)*	-	*3,874*	***3,874***
	266,893	*36,613*	*(83,051)*	-	*39,531*	***259,986***
General funds	*502,636*	*1,148,634*	*(1,231,497)*	*(21,772)*	*(39,531)*	***358,470***
Total unrestricted funds	*769,529*	*1,185,247*	*(1,314,548)*	*(21,772)*	-	***618,456***
Total funds	***3,298,653***	***1,689,685***	***(1,773,272)***	***(253,771)***	**-**	***2,961,295***

Purposes of expendable endowment funds
The funds were donated by Vincent Weir to be invested to generate income for use to support core costs.

Purposes of permanent endowment funds
The Bat Conservation Trust Fund was established by trust deed dated 31 October 2006, so that the income only may be used to advance the charitable purposes of BCT.
Under a charity commission scheme dated 31 March 2010 the funds are treated as forming part of BCT for the purposes of registration and accounting.

Purposes of restricted funds

Animal Friends – Bat helpline	To support the bat care work of the BCT helpline.
AWS Imagine – SCS development	To further develop Sound Classification System.
Bad Wolf - Woodland Hope project	Funding to study the health of woodland habitats in Wales.
Bat Group appeals – Wildlife Crime	To support the work of the Wildlife Crime project.
Bat Ringing Project	Funding for the Ring the Changes project.
Chapman Charitable Trust	Funding for the NightWatch project.
David Webster Charitable Trust	Contributes towards the development of best practice lighting guidance for industry.

18. Movements in funds (continued)

Purposes of restricted funds (continued)

Druid	To advise a NERC funded project to understand and predict the cross-ecosystem impacts of insect decline on ecosystem services and natural capital.
Ernest Kleinwort – NightWatch	Funding towards the NightWatch project.
Esmée Fairbairn Foundation – NightWatch	To develop an inclusive, engagement-focused community science bat survey.
Esmée Fairbairn Foundation – Planning	Raising the profile of biodiversity in the planning system – a multi-species partnership project.
Forest Research – NFI Bat survey	To deliver the NFI Bat Survey, and support related work including development and improvement of a woodland soundscape classification algorithm.
Forestry England – Monitoring	Collection of baseline data via passive acoustic monitoring from Forestry England sites undergoing forest wilding and sharing of data with NBN Atlas.
Garfield Weston – Bat Group support	Towards bat group support and training in England, Wales and Scotland.
Garfield Weston – Bat Helpline	To contribute towards the running of the National Bat Helpline.
Groundwork – New to Nature	Funding for a paid work placement focusing on engaging under-represented audiences in the NBMP.
HDH Wills 1965 Charitable Trust – Bat groups	Towards bat group support and training in England, Wales and Scotland.
JNCC – Monitoring (Bbats, NBMP and Genetics combined)	Funding for development and delivery of the British Bat Survey.
	Funding for a citizen science programme for monitoring bats in the UK.
	Contribution towards understanding historic declines in bat populations.
John Ellerman Foundation – Policy	Funding towards work on core policy and advocacy through engagement with politicians and responding to consultations.
John Swire 1989 Charitable Trust - CPL	Funding towards the Connecting People and Landscapes project.
Kate Barlow Research Award	Award granted to a postgraduate student to conduct a substantive bat research project and to honour the late Dr Kate Barlow's contribution to bat conservation.
Kickstarter Funding	Payment from Government Kickstarter Scheme to contribute toward salaries of Kickstarters at BCT.
Ministry of Justice – Wildlife Assessment	Funding to support update of Wildlife Assessment Check.
National Lottery Heritage Fund – Bats in Churches	Partnership project put in place to provide solutions to issues with bats in churches in England.
National Lottery Heritage Fund – CPL	Funding for the development phase of the project Connecting People and Landscapes in a Changing Climate, aiming to bring together farmers and communities to improve outcomes for bats and other wildlife.
National Lottery Heritage Fund – Natur am Byth	Funding for the development phase of Wales' flagship Species Recovery project.
National Lottery Heritage Fund – Species on the Edge	Funding for the Species on the Edge programme; a partnership project to help vulnerable species on Scotland's coast and islands.
National Lottery Heritage Fund – Woodland Hope	Funding to study the health of woodland habitats in Wales.
Natural England – Airborne DNA	Funding to identify a set of functional primer assays for use with British bat species, and establish the sample duration needed to detect an airborne DNA signal at increasing distances from a bat roost in a woodland context.
Natural England – Biodiversity	Work to deliver objectives including implementation of actions for priority species, provision of engagement, training and guidance and raising the profile of bat conservation.
Natural England – Connecting People & Landscapes	Funding towards the Connecting People and Landscapes project.
Natural England – Offshore project	Investigating bat migration and the impact of offshore wind through a literature and evidence review, workshop organisation, engagement with stakeholders and production of a report.
Natural England – Partnerships	To contribute towards employing a Bat Groups Officer who provides support to local bat groups.
Natural England – Science and Monitoring	To contribute towards the NBMP and other monitoring and research work.
Natural England – Seedcorn	Purchase equipment, test monitoring options and pilot a passive acoustic monitoring survey on farmland.

18. Movements in funds (continued)

Purposes of restricted funds (continued)

Natural England	
– Threatened Species Recovery Action	Funding for production of Threatened Species Recovery Actions plans for 12 bat species for Natural England.
NatureScot – Scottish Bat Project	To contribute towards developing and carry out our conservation and partnership work in Scotland.
Other restricted project income	Amalgamated small donations restricted to particular projects.
Other restricted project income - Bat groups	Funds to support the bat group work.
Other trusts and donations – BCT Helpline	Donations to contribute towards the running of BCT's Helpline.
Rufford Foundation – Bats and Health	Funding for "Don't Blame Bats - Setting the Story Straight" campaign to provide accurate science-based communications.
Rufford Foundation – Helpline	Contribution to BCT staff time in supporting Malawian bat helpline.
Rufford Foundation – International	Contribution to training, development, and salaries of staff on Malawian bat helpline.
Wildlife Crime	Contributions to improving wildlife crime prevention and providing support to the police, Crown Prosecution Service, ecologists, and the public in bat crime cases.

Purposes of designated funds

Bats in Churches Advisor	To administer support for churches and training for volunteers.
BCT Roost partnership	To contribute towards bat box monitoring projects.
Database Project	A fund set aside for the amortisation of the investment in our current website and customer relationship management (CRM) system. The website will be updated and make it more effective and accessible, and the new CRM system will make our fundraising more efficient and improve the way we engage with members, donors, and supporters.
Designated project funds	Funds received in the previous year earmarked for specific projects during 23-24.
Digital fundraising and fundraising capacity	Investment into digital marketing to generate more income and increase our fundraising capacity more broadly.
EDI - Equity, Diversity and Inclusion	To support the equity, diversity and inclusion work at BCT.
Fundraising Consultant	To address the lack of fundraising capacity, we worked with a fundraising consultancy.
Helpline Database Money	To contribute to the development of a new Helpline database.
JNCC - NBMP	For work on the National Bat Monitoring Programme.
Natural England – Helpline	Contribution towards Natural England Bat Advice Service.
NBMP	For work on the National Bat Monitoring Programme.
Night Vision Aid Guidance	Staff time to work on Night Vision Aid Guidance document.
Organisational development fund	Fund to be used strategically for specific projects, capacity or other organisational requirements.
Principal Ecologist at Ministry of Justice	To fund ecological support work.
Technology Investment	To contribute towards development of a new Helpline database.
Woodland	Contributions towards woodland bats work.

19. Related party transactions

During the year ended 31 March 2024 it was agreed that Annika Binet, a trustee of the Bat Conservation Trust, would engage to provide bat surveying services to BCT and that payment would be made to her in respect of these services, not in respect of her work as a trustee. The board of trustees (excluding Annika Binet) are satisfied that Annika is best placed in terms of both location and expertise to provide this service and that the amount charged represents value for money and is at or below commercial rate. Amounts paid to Annika Binet in respect of the above in the year ended 31 March 2024 were £525 (2023: £400). At year end £525 (2023: £nil) was outstanding.

During the year aggregate donations from related parties totalled £526 (2023: £396).

There were no other related party transactions outside the normal course of business in the current or preceding year.

20. Prior year statement of financial activities

Statement of financial activities *(incorporating an income and expenditure account)*
For the year ended 31 March 2023

	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	Endowment £	Total £
Income				
Income from generated funds				
Donations and legacies	381,410	49,221	-	430,631
Investment income	53,781	-	-	53,781
Income from charitable activities				
Conferences	69,451	-	-	69,451
Training courses and meetings	113,240	-	-	113,240
Projects and research	539,160	446,015	-	985,175
Other activities	28,205	9,202	-	37,407
Total income	**1,185,247**	**504,438**	**-**	**1,689,685**
Expenditure				
Expenditure on raising funds				
Membership support	77,370	-	-	77,370
Costs of raising funds	132,800	2,000	10,505	145,305
Expenditure on charitable activities				
Conferences	67,107	-	-	67,107
Training courses & meetings	90,161	-	-	90,161
Project and research costs	947,110	446,219	-	1,393,329
Total expenditure	**1,314,548**	**448,219**	**10,505**	**1,773,272**
Net (expenditure) / income before net losses on investments	**(129,301)**	**56,219**	**(10,505)**	**(83,587)**
Net losses on investments	(21,772)	-	(231,999)	(253,771)
Net (expenditure) / income for the year	**(151,073)**	**56,219**	**(242,504)**	**(337,358)**
Net movement in funds	**(151,073)**	**56,219**	**(242,504)**	**(337,358)**
Reconciliation of funds				
Total funds brought forward	769,529	169,927	2,359,197	3,298,653
Total funds carried forward	**618,456**	**226,146**	**2,116,693**	**2,961,295**



Soprano pipistrelle emerging from a bat box

Brown long-eared bats maternity colony with pups.

Grey long-eared bat with privet hawk moth.

Photos © Daniel Hargreaves

Bat Conservation Trust

www.bats.org.uk

www.twitter.com/_BCT_

www.facebook.com/BatConservationTrust

www.linkedin.com/company/the-bat-conservation-trust/

www.instagram.com/batconservationtrust/

The Bat Conservation Trust is a registered charity in England and Wales (1012361) and in Scotland (SC040116).
Company Limited by Guarantee. Registered in England No: 2712823.
Registered office: Studio 15 Cloisters House, Cloisters Business Centre, 8 Battersea Park Road, London SW8 4BG.
Vat Reg No: 877158773.

THE BAT CONSERVATION TRUST

England & Wales - Charity number 1012361

Accounts

Company number: 02712823
Charity number: 1012361
OSCR number: SC040116

The Bat Conservation Trust

Report and financial statements

For the year ended 31 March 2023

The Bat Conservation Trust

Trustees' annual report

For the year ended 31 March 2023

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Status	The organisation is a charitable company limited by guarantee, incorporated on 7 May 1992 and registered as a charity on 29 June 1992.
Governing document	The company was established under a memorandum of association which established the objects and powers of the charitable company and is governed under its articles of association.
Company number	2712823
Charity number England and Wales	1012361
Charity number Scotland	SC040116
Registered office and operational address	Studio 15 Cloisters House, Cloisters Business Centre, 8 Battersea Park Rd, London SW8 4BG
Trustees	Officers: Jean Matthews (Chair) Steven Roe (Vice Chair) Dr. Ruth Waters (Treasurer) Annika Binet (Hon Secretary) Dr. Cerys Bradley Stuart Brittenden Dr. Abigail Entwistle Rupert Lancaster (resigned Sept 2022) Colette Marshall (appointed Sept 2022) Lord John Randall Dr. Orly Razgour Helen Slinger Matthew Terry
President **Vice Presidents**	Chris Packham CBE Professor Paul Racey John Burton (until May 2022) Dr. Robert Stebbings
Patron	David Gower OBE
Ambassadors	Kate Rusby Aruhan Galieva

Honorary roles	Hon Education Officer	Shirley Thompson MBE
	Hon Science & Conservation Advisor	Professor Paul Racey
	Hon Science Advisors	Professor Gareth Jones
		Professor Kate Jones
	Hon Legal Advisor	Michael Ford QC
Senior Management Team	Chief Executive	Kit Stoner
	Director of Conservation	Dr. Carol Williams (p/time)
	Director of Communications & Fundraising	Dr. Joe Nunez-Mino

Bankers	The Co-operative Bank plc Kings Valley Yew Street Stockport SK4 2JU
Health and Safety	JEM Safety Management Ltd 190 Moor Lane Upminster Essex RM14 1HG
Insurance brokers	First Insurance Solutions Ltd First Insurance Solutions House Centre 3000, St. Leonards Road Maidstone, Kent ME16 0LS
Financial advisors	Coloma Wealth Management LLP 5th Floor, Pinnacle House 23-26 St Dunstan's Hill London EC3R 8HN
Employment advisors	WorkNest (previously known as Ellis Whittam) Woodhouse, Church Lane Aldford, Chester CH3 6JD
Solicitors	Aaron & Partners LLP Grosvenor Court, Foregate Street Chester CH1 1HG
Auditor	Sayer Vincent LLP Invicta House, 108-114 Golden Lane London EC1Y 0TL

The President's Message

Welcome! Once again we've seen a busy year of activities highlighting the vital work and progress being made on bat conservation. I'll begin with the heartening news from our National Bat Monitoring Programme (NBMP), which showed that, at the national scale, some of Britain's bat populations continue to recover slowly from historical declines. This is direct thanks to conservation actions and wildlife laws, and highlights the invaluable work of the Bat Conservation Trust (BCT), bat groups and our many brilliant supporters. However, we must stay vigilant – It's a mixed picture and our bat populations still have a long way to go on their recovery. One third of Britain's most highly threatened mammal species are bats. The full NBMP results are on our website.

I'd like to encourage everyone to take part in our citizen science surveys. There are NBMP surveys suitable for all levels of experience and new technology is allowing us to get more people involved in capturing even more data. I warmly welcome seeing the progress made this year on widening diversity and inclusion in who takes part, long may this continue.

In 2023 we were saddened to hear of the death of one of BCT's co-founders, Tony Hutson. We will all miss him. Tony made a huge contribution to bat conservation. He was the UK's first bat conservation officer and an author with an encyclopedic knowledge. You can listen to him on a recent BatChat podcast. Tony helped to create the NBMP, the Eurobats agreement and BatLife Europe as well as bat groups and other bat conservation organisations. For 20 years he also monitored Britain's famous solo individual greater mouse-eared bat as part of Sussex Bat Group – he lived to see the known English population double to two individuals.

BCT has again been supporting and leading some outstanding cutting-edge science and developing great conservation projects. I am looking forward to seeing the results of ongoing work with PhD students in areas such as insect population declines, ecosystem services, climate change and the use of bat boxes in differing landscapes. I am excited to see two new projects in Wales: 'Natur am Byth' (Nature Forever) and 'Gobaith Coetir' (Woodland Hope) to save rare species and reconnect communities with nature, as well as giving a boost to precious diminished Celtic rainforests and their wildlife.

With scientific understanding being so vital and ever urgent, I applaud the important and complex ongoing work BCT's team is doing in collaboration with international partners on tackling relentless public misinformation around bats in relation to health and diseases and it is great to hear there is new funding to expand this work. A huge cheer for the National Bat Helpline which again fielded thousands of enquiries from the public seeking advice around bat conservation or injured bats. This year their work was expanded, with trained volunteers handling most bat care calls, which saw huge demand.

BCT's small staff team and invaluable supporters continue to deliver impressive outreach and education work too, and this year's mix of training, conferences, talks, BatFest, plus the stories I have seen in Bat News and Young Bat Worker magazines, in the news and shared on social media, are an asset to everyone's work in spreading the love, care and endless fascination for bats.

Chris Packham

President, Bat Conservation Trust

Review by the Chair and Chief Executive

Policy and advocacy has been a crucial area of work in the past year, and we have welcomed a new Species Advocacy and Policy Officer. Bats and wildlife more generally have been facing serious threats due to proposed changes to the planning system, the Retained EU Law Bill and other deregulatory initiatives. We wrote a piece for Wildlife and Countryside Link to dispel some of the myths around bat protection and planning, and we joined with other charities and NGOs in campaigning against the proposed changes to the law. Our supporters joined us in a campaign with more than 100 people writing to their MPs to emphasise the importance of maintaining the Habitats Regulations.

As ever we, and our brilliant supporters, spent time responding to media misinformation and inaccurate articles on a variety of issues around bats. Several misleading articles in leading publications and websites wrongly dismissed the role of wildlife legislation and planning policies in protecting wildlife. These articles promoted policy and law changes that would seriously impact bat conservation.

At the time of writing, the Retained EU Law Bill was due to receive Royal Assent following several sessions in both the House of Commons and the House of Lords. We will continue to work with our NGO partners to try to reduce or remove any negative impacts of the Bill (to become Act) on wildlife conservation and bat protection.

I am delighted that we have a new Agriculture Officer in place, as this is another key area of policy. They will build on our 'on the ground' work with farmers and landowners and ensure BCT is well placed to support farmers through the transition in agri-environment schemes.

BCT has always majored in partnership working. In addition to the fantastic Welsh projects mentioned by Chris Packham, this year saw the start of an exciting collaborative species recovery project in Scotland – Species on the Edge. It will be delivered by Rethink Nature (seven species conservation charities) and NatureScot. The vision is to work with local communities in some of Scotland's most remote areas to establish projects that improve the fortunes of 37 priority species found along Scotland's coast and islands.

Our Bats in Churches project is at the other end of its journey this year. The project has seen huge success with 753 churches in England being surveyed over the four years by volunteers – with some exciting finds, such as the discovery of two new roosts for the very rare grey long-eared bat. More details will be shared in 2023 and used to inform guidance to church communities on bat conservation in future years. Other successes have included working with more than 100 churches to help find good solutions on sharing their church spaces with bats.

Improving our approach to equity, diversity and inclusion (EDI) has remained important. We worked on the Wildlife and Countryside Link Route Map to address the lack of ethnic diversity in the sector, and with the help of a newly appointed Education and Engagement Officer and our EDI working group, are starting to implement the recommendations. We have also secured funding to recruit paid interns through the Kickstarter and New To Nature schemes and are applying learning from these to improve our recruitment practices

I would like to say a sincere thank you to everyone who supports our work – our staff, volunteers, partners, donors, supporters, members and many others. We have been developing a new strategy which will be launched later in 2023, and we very much look forward to sharing this and working with you to deliver it.

Jean Matthews, Chair

Kit Stoner, Chief Executive

The Trustees present their report and the audited financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2023.

Administrative information set out on page 3 to 4 forms part of this report. The financial statements comply with current statutory requirements, the Memorandum and Articles of Association and the Statement of Recommended Practice – Accounting and Reporting by Charities: SORP applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with FRS 102.

Structure, Governance & Management

History of the Bat Conservation Trust

The Bat Conservation Trust (BCT) was formed in 1991, by far-seeing individuals who recognised that the combination of challenges to the conservation of bats was unique. BCT is proud to be the leading non-governmental organisation devoted solely to the conservation of bats and their habitats. In a very short time, BCT has grown to become an organisation with nearly 5,000 members, with offices in England and Scotland and a team of around 43 staff including scientists, specialists in training, outreach and biodiversity, volunteer engagement, fundraising, media and membership. BCT's core activities include; biodiversity delivery (taking effective practical conservation actions and influencing policy to secure bat populations); the National Bat Monitoring Programme; delivering advice about bats through the National Bat Helpline and through long-term partnerships with the statutory nature conservation organisations (SNCOs) and with statutory investigators and prosecutors; training professionals and volunteers; and engaging and educating wider audiences.

An overview of who we are

BCT has championed bats for 30 years and the places they need to survive.

Our vital stats: We spend just 13p on fundraising per £1 raised

Around 215,000 online supporters across different platforms

Around 3,200 volunteers

Our purpose:

Vision: A world rich in wildlife where bats and people thrive together.

Mission: To conserve bats for present and future generations. Through education, collaborative action and scientific research, we inspire individuals and organisations to value and speak out for bats.

Values: Inspiration, collaboration, evidence-based.

The charity's main activities and the people and wildlife we strive to help are described below. All our charitable activities focus on conserving bats for present and future generations and are undertaken to further Bat Conservation Trust's charitable purposes for the public benefit.

We work to:

Discover: To ensure scientific evidence is in place to support bat conservation.

- Provide, either directly, through collaboration or by signposting to external organisations, the scientific evidence we need to understand and address threats to bat populations
- Deliver a world-leading, cost-effective citizen science programme supported by motivated volunteers, providing high quality data able to inform evidence needs, policy-relevant questions and metrics of bat population status, change and distribution

Act: To secure and enhance bat populations and their resilience in a changing world.

- Be the authoritative voice influencing positive outcomes (government, planning process, enforcement)
- Improved awareness, knowledge and action for bat conservation in key sectors (built environment, forestry, agriculture) and audiences (professional ecologists, volunteers, those that use places of worship)
- Advice provided is based on the most robust evidence available

Inspire: To win the levels of support required to secure and enhance bat populations.

- Increased engagement with and understanding of bats by the public and media
- Increased recruitment, retention and engagement of BCT members

Strengthen: To enable BCT to achieve financial stability and sustainable staff workloads; to ensure staff and volunteers are motivated and well led.

DISCOVER – to ensure scientific evidence is in place to support bat conservation

National Bat Monitoring Programme (NBMP)

The NBMP is run by the Bat Conservation Trust, in partnership with the Joint Nature Conservation Committee [JNCC], and supported and steered by Natural England, Natural Resources Wales, NatureScot and Northern Ireland Environment Agency. It is the longest running purpose-built, multi-species monitoring programme for mammals in the UK and relies on a nationwide network of citizen scientists.

In winter 2022/23, the Hibernation Survey again required surveyors to carry out site-level assessments on the risk of passing SARS-CoV-2 to bats. This approach was introduced in winter

2021/22 when surveying started up again after the Hibernation Survey was suspended in the previous winter due to COVID-19. These precautions meant that the number of sites surveyed in 2021/22 was only about 57% of the usual number. In winter 2022/23, we started trialling alternative methods of collecting data from sites that are not undergoing internal inspections while COVID precautions remain in place.

In 2022 the number of summer survey sites monitored was slightly higher than in 2021, 1,209 compared with 1,202, though not yet back up to pre-COVID numbers. Bat detector and sound analysis workshops were again run online but there was also a return to running in-person sessions. 653 volunteer surveyors were trained across 20 workshops.

We have secured funding for a full-time work placement through Groundwork's New To Nature scheme, funded by the National Lottery Heritage Fund. This scheme provides opportunities for young people who are from ethnically diverse backgrounds, who are disabled or who are economically disadvantaged. Through this scheme we have recruited a new NBMP Volunteer Engagement Officer, started in April 2023.

Work is underway to redevelop the NBMP online recording portal as the existing system was built more than ten years ago on a platform that needs updating to reflect the different ways users access the site. User interviews have been carried out to help define the specification of the new portal, which is expected to go live in April 2024.

NBMP data have enabled us to produce statistically robust population trends for 11 of the UK's 17 breeding bat species. The latest results were published in the NBMP Annual Report in May 2023.

Advances in monitoring

Solving mysteries: the British Bat Survey

A second British Bat Survey (BBatS) pilot was launched in July 2022, funded by Joint Nature Conservation Committee (JNCC). The aim of this structured survey is to plug the gaps in bat monitoring, by focussing efforts to collect data in underrepresented regions and habitats. BBatS also aims to improve population trend estimation for species where data are lacking from current NBMP monitoring. BBatS is planned to be embedded in the NBMP by 2025 and as it grows it will significantly improve our ability to monitor the health of British bats.

In July 2022, we appointed a Science Projects Manager to oversee the running of the project pilot, including developing a volunteer engagement strategy and data collection management strategy. We appointed a Science Projects Assistant (in March 2023) who will oversee volunteer communication and data management, as well as data upload and classification using BCT's Sound Classification System (SCS).

In the 2022 pilot data was collected at 96 site surveys. Most surveys took place in England with 13 in Scotland and five in Wales. The British Bat Survey will open to previous participants for beta testing in July. The survey portal initially developed for NightWatch is being further developed as part of

BBatS to incorporate the ability for volunteers to select from a random-stratified sample of 1km grid squares.

EchoHub

EchoHub is an open-source, community-built, sound library focusing exclusively on bat sounds. The goal of EchoHub is to make it easier to share and access recordings of bat sounds for diverse purposes such as scientific research, conservation, education, and the arts. The website's wireframe is completed. We have tested the website with initial users and collated feedback. We are currently editing the website to incorporate the users' feedback, for example the inclusion of the ability to download a .csv file with all the metadata associated with every call in the library.

The main focus of development has been finding a way to implement a "quality check" system of rating the calls, so that users can easily identify high quality recordings. We are currently investigating a suitable acoustic index calculation to act as a rating system. The next step will be to soft-launch the website with the collaboration of two or three bat groups.

NightWatch

NightWatch is a community science/citizen science project launched in 2021, with data collected in the summer and early autumn of 2021, 2022 and a third collection period running in 2023. It is run by the Bat Conservation Trust and supported by Esmée Fairbairn Foundation and the Joint Nature Conservation Committee (JNCC). NightWatch has two main goals:

- Engage people with nature, particularly those from urban and ethnic minority communities
- Produce locally-focused and fine resolution data that can be used at local scale

Our part time Engagement Officer for the NightWatch project has continued to work to develop and implement an engagement strategy to liaise with community groups and engage and recruit participants. A NightWatch intern was also recruited in 2022, to work part time on volunteer engagement over the survey season, as well as helping with survey logistics and data retrieval/management. We have appointed a second intern for the 2023 field season.

Data from both seasons have been analysed and shared with volunteers in the form of a personalised report for each site. Over the two years of the survey so far, 456 participants have taken part and 20-24% were from ethnic minority communities. We now have five NightWatch Champions, as a legacy of the project, with our former intern joining and wanting to continue with the project. Our 2023 Engagement Strategy is being carried out during the survey season. We are currently at the final states of co-creating a guide to night-time wildlife, scheduled to be released in July 2023. Legacy planning for the project is also underway and we are hoping to continue the project in the following years.

We are in the process of collating and providing feedback on the beta version of the NightWatch online portal. The website can host multiple surveys and other BCT passive acoustic surveys can be added at any time. We are developing an upload app that will enable volunteers to upload their recordings directly to our cloud-based sound classification system. We plan to trial the app this survey season.

Sound classification system

We are continuing to develop our Sound Classification System (SCS), which underpins all BCT's passive acoustic monitoring (PAM) surveys. Initial R&D work has been implemented and we have made good progress in refining different parts of the workflow. We have contracted an AWS and cloud computing specialist to undertake a major rebuild of our system. The SCS encompasses our data upload app, our survey website, our bat classification algorithm and an automated bespoke reporting function. It aims to streamline the data processing for NightWatch, BBatS and other PAM projects.

Woodland monitoring

We have continued to build on the success of our cutting-edge woodland monitoring science work. In 2022, BCT continued our collaboration with Forest Research and Forestry England exploring the use of passive acoustic technology for monitoring bat populations and other metrics of ecosystem health in woodland. We conducted PAM surveys in 36 National Forest Inventory plots and three Forestry England sites and are currently preparing survey reports using this data. Our findings will inform the survey design for long-term monitoring starting in the summer of 2023. This builds on the success of our woodland monitoring during 2021 and 2022, when we ran another pilot woodland passive acoustic monitoring (PAM) with Forest Research to refine our monitoring methods and improve our understanding of the variability of woodland bat monitoring data between years.

As part of this project, we are also working with experts in the fields of machine learning, edge-processing, passive acoustics, and Internet of Things devices to develop and test a prototype solar powered semi-autonomous passive acoustic sensor. The sensor was field-tested in 2022, and in 2023 we will be developing its edge processing and communication capabilities further, together with further field tests in a woodland setting. We also continue to refine the algorithms we use to classify bat sound and forest soundscapes. In 2023 we will continue this work and will extend it further to consider how woodland soundscapes can provide information about recreational use of these sites.

We started a new PAM project with Forestry England (FE) collecting baseline data on bat species occurrence and activity levels across three FE sites before 'forest wilding' work began. These data will then be used to calculate species metrics for each monitored site and will provide a baseline to track trends in activity on the 'forest wilding' sites if surveys are repeated. We also supported the NBMP with a PAM pilot on two Special Areas of Conservation (SAC) sites to trial and refine a PAM protocol, to establish robust trends in barbastelle activity over time at SAC sites currently included in the NBMP Woodland Survey.

We have also been working on the 'Fascinating World of Woodland bats – Bechstein's bat – finding its limits' project, to gather information about the Bechstein's bat use of what is seen as atypical habitats and landscapes.

Radiotracking was carried out by the Somerset Bat Group during the survey season with support from Dorset Bat Group. The final year of radiotracking is planned in Dorset in summer 2023. The information gathered will provide the basis for a review of Bechstein's bat habitat requirements at both a local and national level.

We also continued to provide training and delivered bespoke online refresher workshops on surveying trees for bats to Environment Agency workers and Bats and Arboriculture training to arborists in the UK, Derry and Jersey. We will continue to deliver this training in 2023.

Tree tags

The Bat Roost Tree Tag Scheme (BRTTS), whose primary purpose is to ensure trees containing confirmed roosts are easily identifiable, was launched over a year ago. Additionally, the scheme encourages tree and species records to be collected to support current and future work studying bats' use of different tree species and roosting opportunities. So far 321 tags have been sent out and 31 records have been submitted to BCT.

Research

Our support for new science research continued with a number of new studies this year.
BCT is project partner on a Natural Environment Research Council (NERC)-funded study investigating the drivers and repercussions of UK insect population declines, alongside the University of Leeds, UKCEH, University of Reading and Rothamsted Research, called the DRUID project (Drivers and Repercussions of UK Insect Declines). This project began in January 2021. It will be making the most comprehensive assessment to date of the state of the UK's insect populations, and seeking to link insect population changes to changes in insect predator populations (bats and birds).

BCT is co-supervisor of a PhD hosted by Rothamsted Research, investigating the long-term changes in the abundance and phenology of migrating insects as potential drivers of population change in insectivorous birds and bats.

Hannah Romanowski started the South West Bio Doctoral Training Partnership (SWBio DTP) studentship PhD in September 2021. She completed her Rotation 1 project with BCT and the British Trust for Ornithology (BTO), as an introduction to the NBMP and bird datasets she will be working with during her PhD. Hannah completed her field-based Rotation 2 at the University of Bristol with supervisory input from BCT and will be collecting further bat activity data for comparison to insect trap data in 2023. Hannah presented her results from her Rotation 2 at the BES conference as a poster entitled 'Investigating the long-term change in the abundance and phenology of aerial insects as potential drivers of population change in UK bat species' and a presentation with the title 'Aerial insects as potential drivers of long-term population change in bats' at the BritBats student conference in May 2023. Hannah is carrying out fieldwork this summer and hopes to incorporate localised insect trapping using light traps as well as using SM minis for recording bat activity.

BCT is co-supervisor of Penelope Fialas who is working towards a PhD on valuing ecosystem services provided by UK bats under climate change. Last year Penelope collected acoustic data at 16 vineyards that ranged in size from 0.4 to over 60 hectares. This included sites that were managed conventionally and others that were organic. Where bats were captured (under licence) droppings were collected for future dietary analysis.

Penelope has finalised the amplification of the arthropod prey DNA using PCRs. Out of the 388 extracted DNA samples, 360 samples were successfully amplified. Penelope aims to complete the analysis by August 2023. In December, Penelope completed generating the distribution models of 37

European bat species for the present and the future and calculated their range changes. The outputs were presented at the British Ecological Society Annual Meeting in December 2022. She is now estimating the impact of climate change on the functional diversity and community turnover of 37 bat species across Europe and plans to start writing this chapter with article submission by August 2023.

In addition, she has been preparing for this season's fieldwork during which she will be investigating the indirect effects of ecosystem services provided by the bats. This fieldwork will take place in August-September 2023.

BCT is co-supervisor of Eleri Kent at Stirling University. Eleri has also completed all her fieldwork. Sixty landscapes were surveyed, 36 of these in Scotland and 24 in England. Eleri has now had all the data collected in year one classified via the BCT Sound Classification System (SCS). Data for year two is being classified with final data being returned shortly. In the meantime, Eleri has been working on a long-term bat box data set from the south of England where she is comparing the changing use of boxes by bat species versus changes in surrounding land management.

Vincent Weir Scientific Award

The Vincent Weir Scientific Award was first established in 2010 to recognise the achievements of new bat researchers and their contributions to bat conservation. Joint winners in 2022 were Ella Browning (University College London & Institute of Zoology, Zoological Society London) and Roberto Novella Fernandez (University of Southampton).

Ella's PhD research focused on improving the understanding of bat population trends in Great Britain. She identified gaps in the evidence of drivers of bat population change, which showed that the impacts of many purported drivers, such as climate change and protective legislation, were poorly understood. Research from this thesis has been published in *Methods in Ecology and Evolution, Mammal Review* and *Ecological Indicators.*

Roberto investigated the trophic ecology of *Myotis escalerai* and *Myotis crypticus,* and suggested that local-scale trophic shifts can facilitate coexistence between both almost morphologically identical forest bats. Research from this thesis has been published in *Diversity and Distributions* (selected as editor's choice for that volume)*, Scientific Reports,* and *Ecology and Evolution.*

Kate Barlow Award

The Kate Barlow Award aims to encourage postgraduate students to conduct a substantive bat research project and to honour the late Dr Kate Barlow's contribution to bat conservation. The award was first established in 2017. The 2023 Kate Barlow Award was awarded to Oliver Aylen for his project *Arid zone bats resource availability and predation risk surrounding fenced conservation reserves*.

Since European colonisation, Australia has been altered by land-use change, the introduction of feral herbivores and predators and the removal of native predators. This has had multiple impacts on native bat populations, including predation of bats by cats, and changes to vegetation structure because of increased herbivory which may reduce insect abundance and recruitment of roost trees.

Fenced reserves are an increasingly used conservation tool to protect native/threatened nonvolant species in Australia, and globally. Oliver's project will investigate whether fenced reserves reduce bat predation, and harbour increased food resources and/or roost sites. He will also assess whether artificial roosts can be used to encourage bat populations to use fenced reserves. Oliver's project forms part of his PhD thesis at the University of New South Wales, Australia.

ACT – taking action on the ground in partnership with volunteers, professionals and government

Biodiversity

Professional Guidance / Standards

'Bat Surveys for Professional Ecologists: Good Practice Guidelines (3rd edition)' continues to have a far reach. Since publication in 2016 over 1,400 hard copies have been sold and the webpage accessed over 23,000 times. BCT's Head of Biodiversity (HoB) continues to work with the Technical Review Board on the 4th edition. We will publish this later in the year and sponsorship opportunities will be available.

We have been working with an ecological consultant partner, who is producing guidelines for bat surveys with IR cameras. We will convene a Working Group during 2023 to progress this further.

BCT's HoB set up a Working Group to discuss Bat Surveys on Large-Scale Maintenance Projects. Four meetings later and guidance is drafted to inform this type of local authority work. We will publish this later in the year, after review by the SNCOs.

BCT's HoB sat on the Advisory Group (led by the Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management (CIEEM)) for updating the 'Bat Mitigation Guidelines'. Following final review and a sign off meeting in January 2023, publication of these guidelines is expected in the next few months.

UK Bat Steering Group

BCT convenes the annual UK Bat Steering Group meeting. Members include the SNCOs, Joint Nature Conservation Committee, Forestry Commission, National Trust, Vincent Wildlife Trust, Environment Agency, Woodland Trust and Historic England. In 2022, the chosen topic was bat autumn swarming; more information can be found on the BCT website. The meeting has been used to inform the bat survey guidelines and a panel discussion at the National Bat Conference in 2022, followed by a discussion with the SNCOs in early 2023 on next steps. Later this year we will set up a Working Group to define swarming and discuss priorities for future research and other action.

Links with other organisations

BCT continues to work with organisations such as the SNCOs, CIEEM, the Association of Local Government Ecologists (ALGE) and the Environment Agency (EA). We also convened our annual Consultant's Forum in January 2023; this was attended by 141 people.

Earned Recognition Project

BCT has been working with Natural England and CIEEM on the beta phase of the Earned Recognition (ER) Project, which will streamline the licensing process, raise professional standards and improve outcomes for bats. ER works on the basis of assessing and accrediting a consultant's competence in undertaking survey work and designing effective mitigation so that, by using an accredited consultant, developers can experience a more streamlined licensing process for their scheme or project.

The beta phase has involved the improvement of assessment materials and the development of a Trees and Woodlands Annex, which BCT has assisted with. BCT sits on the Steering Group and Technical Group for the project. Assessment and accreditation of 150 more candidates is now underway and candidates who gained accreditation during the pilot continue to use the streamlined Site Registration licensing process.

The Partnership for Biodiversity in Planning (PBP)

Although funding for this project came to an end in 2020, BCT continues to maintain and promote the partnership website and Wildlife Assessment Checklist (WAC) and the latter is being updated as appropriate. We make contact with partners annually to check for updates. The number of users in 2022 was 9,113. Since 2020 there have been 34,362 users of the website. Fifty percent of users find the website by internet search, approximately 25% link through from other sites and approximately 25% arrive directly. Of those linking from other sites, nearly 50% come from the Planning Portal, with smaller numbers from the websites of other organisations such as at least 30 local planning authorities, partners, other NGOs, consultancies, Bat Groups, CIEEM, Local Environmental Records Centres, National Biodiversity Network, Wildlife and Countryside Link, Historic England and academic institutions.

Bats and farming

BCT has this year recruited an Agriculture Officer to ensure we engage with and embed ourselves in this vital stakeholder group. The early months of this post being in place has seen greater engagement with collaborative partners that form Farm Wildlife and the Nature Friendly Farming Network. It has also seen participation in the agriculture sub-groups of Wildlife Countryside Link [England] and Cyswllt Amgylchedd Cymru Wales Environment Link.

In the past, our project work has engaged with farmers on the ground – such as the land managers in south and east Devon as part of the 'Back from the Brink' grey long-eared project which concluded in 2022. On the ground projects of this nature will continue with more planned for next year. However, this post will enable a more consistent and broader approach to liaising with farmers at a

time when the agricultural sector is moving through a period of great transition in the approach to farming and support given by agri-environment schemes. It is a vital time for this engagement as how the land is farmed will be crucial in confronting the biodiversity crisis.

As the UK moves away from the European Common Agricultural Policy, BCT's involvement with evolving Environment Land Management Schemes [ELMS] in England, Sustainable Farming Scheme [SFS] in Wales, Preparing for Sustainable Farming [PSF] in Scotland and schemes in Northern Ireland is imperative. More generally building relationships with land owners and farmers, and BCT becoming a place of support and direction for the agricultural sector is an area of work to progress further.

Policy

In the past year, a number of policy challenges and opportunities have arisen including: the Retained EU Law Bill, proposed changes to the planning system, Environment Act 2021 implementation, the Environmental Improvement Plan and the United Nations Biodiversity Summit (COP15) and resulting Global Biodiversity Framework.

This is in addition to policy issues that have continued to be of interest from the previous year such as Biodiversity Net Gain and Local Nature Recovery Strategies. In Scotland, we have particularly focused on the Scottish Biodiversity Strategy, national parks, and agricultural policy. Agri-environment policy and the associated initiatives continue to evolve across the UK nations. BCT is engaged in seeking opportunities to support bats and other species as part of these initiatives, in collaboration with NGO colleagues.

Of all the challenges we face, the Retained EU Law Bill, and similar deregulatory initiatives, has been one of the most time-intensive issues, requiring significant research, analysis and engagement. We have continued to work with Wildlife and Countryside Link, Welsh Environment Link and ScotLINK, as well as Greener UK and the Better Planning Coalition. Through and alongside these groups, we have responded to a number of consultations including: National Planning Policy Framework (England), Biodiversity Net Gain (England), National Parks (Scotland), offshore energy strategic environmental assessment (England), wildlife trapping (Scotland) and environmental assessment (England). We have also contributed to and signed onto more than 15 letters, reports and briefings, including letters to government ministers and reports on a variety of environmental topics related to bats.

Our involvement in the Species Champions project is yielding positive engagement for bat conservation (England: 3 Species Champions, Wales: 1 Species Champion, Scotland: 6 Nature Champions).

In terms of looking forward, the same threats and opportunities we see now are likely to persist well into the next reporting year.

Jersey Licensing Framework

During 2022 we continued to partner with the Government of Jersey to analyse ten years of acoustic data from Jersey, and make recommendations for a comprehensive monitoring programme for the

island that includes a variety of monitoring approaches. As part of this we are planning to do some spatial analysis that will inform monitoring on the island going forward.

Wildlife Crime Project

Britain remains largely in the dark on the full extent of its wildlife crimes. The Bat Conservation Trust sees this as a problem – how can our country tackle problems we know too little about?

To address this, we have been working alongside other wildlife organisations to put Britain's wildlife crime fully in the picture for the first time, by working towards creating an official 'notifiable status' for crimes that are reported to the police.

This would require all police forces to officially provide figures to the Home Office. It would mean all wildlife crime records are centrally collected into one database. At present, without this, there is no clear and available nationwide information on the extent, types, details and trends of wildlife crimes or the effectiveness of measures in tackling them. The potential benefit of this will include having a more evidence-based focus on where to target resources and identifying priorities.

We have met with the Home Office, along with other partners on this, in an attempt to establish notifiable status. This follows a recommendation in 2021 by the United Nation's Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) report. The case for developing notifiable status and recommendations were submitted in 2022 to ministers and to the Crime Recording Strategic Group for consideration in 2023.

The 2021 report reviewed the state of wildlife crime and law enforcement within the UK and made recommendations to the Government drawn from international expertise, police officers, civil servants and other interested groups. It called for three steps to enable wildlife crime to be more effectively tackled: to make wildlife crimes notifiable; to increase resources for wildlife crime teams; and to reform wildlife crime laws.

The Wildlife and Countryside LINK, a collective of conservation groups, found records for 1,414 reported wildlife crimes in 2021. During 2022, we advised police on 84 incidents relating to bat offences. There were significant prosecutions on bat crime, including a Metropolitan Police case after the destruction of a bat roost resulting in £10,249 in fines and costs against the defendant, who pleaded guilty. In Wales, a developer had to pay £7,400 in costs and penalties for breaching bat licence requirements. This included a £600 donation in costs to BCT.

Compensation is now being sought by BCT on all bat related cases going to court. Several out of court settlements with bat crime offenders resulted in community conservation measures such as positive planting, agreements to protect the ecology of a site or payments to local bat groups.

Our team also works on bat crime prevention through education and training, and in partnership with other individuals, NGOs, statutory bodies and the police to support enforcement when needed.

During the past year BCT's wildlife crime project provided advice, support and expertise to the police on 136 wildlife crime cases and we trained hundreds of police officers as part of the National Wildlife Crime Training Program. We lectured criminology students at Plymouth University.

January 2022 saw the release of new advice on investigating bat crime. We understand police forces are finding it useful enough to have reduced their need to contact us as often for direct advice.

Built environment

BCT's work to improve awareness, knowledge and action for bat conservation within the built environment sector continues to build on its successes. In 2022, this included delivering the next technical workshop in the strategic partnership with housebuilder Vistry Group, on landscaping and lighting. Key staff were invited to think about maximising benefits on their sites and identifying demonstrator sites to showcase best practice.

Guidance on mitigating the impacts of artificial lighting on bats was updated through the steering group comprising a cross sector of industry experts and chaired by BCT's Built Environment Manager. A preview event was held on 28 February 2023 when the document was in final draft form. Proceedings were also collected from the day to share experiences and lessons learned, both due to be made freely public to download.

The 2021 Roost Award winner Chris Damant has been working hard promoting avoidance as a mitigation technique including on the Bat Chat podcast episode and judging the Roost Awards 2023, to be announced at the National Bat Conference. Knowledge gathered from case studies and engagement with ecologists continues to feed into the Roost Partnership to create the best opportunities for bats by working with bat box and access product manufacturers. A proportion of the sales revenue from partners is reinvested into the Roost scheme, with the aim of improving bat roosting habitat. This unique partnership scheme signed up a new partner in 2022, Manthorpe Building Supplies, who are looking to develop brand new bat access products through the scheme after their success with their swift brick.

Engagement with ecologists to gather feedback on the built environment project, as well as other relevant BCT departments, was done through the Consultants Forum that ran in January 2023 and was attended by 150 ecological consultants. Topics included key policy work and changes in licensing processes that could impact consultants.

Bats in churches

With help from hundreds of volunteers, we surveyed more than 400 churches during the summer of 2022.

In total, the Bats in Churches project has now surveyed 753 churches over the four years thanks to our two citizen science surveys. We are now analysing the valuable information from all those church visits. The findings will be shared in 2023 and used to inform guidance to church communities on bat conservation.

We know from this wonderful project that many people caring for churches are now interested to know more about the species of bats that live among their community. We aim to lend them our equipment and sound analysis skills in summer 2023 to help them discovery more about their winged guests.

BCT has led on the citizen science and training elements of Bats in Churches. We have seen more than 250 people take part in the training, including 29 events in 2022. These included cleaning workshops and skills and knowledge building for the NBMP and Volunteer Bat Roost Visitor [VBRV] projects. We've also seen hundreds of people use online e-learning created by Bats in Churches.

Our external evaluators stated that the project's training was far ahead of targets and the programme has increased longer term bat survey capacity, with thanks to good numbers of new people joining the NBMP and as VBRVs.

The project is now in its final year, which will include hosting a series of Bats in Churches LIVE webinars plus more training and engagement events at churches. We hope the project will leave a positive legacy for many years to come.

In September 2023, there will be a hybrid celebration event in London for policy makers and those who have given their time and energy to the success of the Bats in Churches Project. This four-year project ends in November 2023.

INSPIRE people to appreciate and support bats and their environment

Helpline

Our National Bat Helpline fielded over 10,800 calls, emails and letters in 2022-23. It provides advice to anyone interested in bats and their roosts.

Throughout summer, the trained dedicated volunteers on our Volunteer Bat Care Helpline provided out-of-hours welfare advice during evenings and weekends to anyone who found grounded, injured and orphaned bats. They handled over 6,000 enquiries during 2022-23.
Helpline staff organised 680 roost visits for Natural England and advised on 1,400 further enquiries not needing a visit. The Natural England casework is an enormously important part of our work, which would not be possible without the dedication and flexibility of VBRVs.
The Helpline advised on calls from various sectors, for example, giving expert advice and training to church communities and the Bats in Churches project. We also hosted a blog of stories, news and best practice for the UK Bat Care Network who rescue bats and we began offering lunchtime online talks.
Thank you to everyone who has supported the Helpline with time, expertise or donations. It is extremely valuable and we believe it is vital to the conservation of bats in the UK.

Training and conferences

BCT delivered 36 training courses this year for a combined audience of over 600 people. We held 15 courses in person and 21 online. We offered 5 courses for volunteers, 16 inhouse courses and 15 openly advertised courses.

We introduced a new course in collaboration with Eco-explore titled Introduction to analysing bat data in R online. Building on the success of last year's courses, we've identified key courses which work particularly well online, such as our bat care training course and British bats, their ecology and conservation. All received positive feedback.

For the first time, the National Bat Conference was held as a hybrid event at Yarnfield Park Conference Centre in Stafford with almost 200 in person delegates and over 120 people attending online via Zoom. We took the opportunity to shine a light on some taboo subjects such as mental health and menstruation, motherhood and menopause as well as sharing research developments and conservation updates.

During the summer, we undertook a consultation on our regional bat conferences and incorporated the feedback as we continued to experiment with hybrid conferences for both the South East and East of England Bat Conferences held in November. While numbers were lower than prior to the pandemic, the feedback was very positive. Excitingly, in March the South West of England Bat Conference sold out of in-person tickets with late bookers having to settle for joining virtually with over 180 people booked in total.

We repeated "BatFest" our series of online events in September, with some old favourites returning as well as new events including "Carry on up the Bat Roost AKA 50 Shades of Grey Long-eared Bat" in collaboration with Matthew Terry. We repeated our successful online panel discussion for International Day of Women and Girls in Science, this time collaborating with Action for Conservation and Butterfly Conservation for "Getting started with bats and butterflies – answers and some questions" to explore some of the barriers people can face getting started in bat work.

Membership

The support of our members is vital, not just to help fund our work but also to share what we do, to be extra eyes, ears and voices, and work together to achieve good outcomes for bats.

Our membership income has continued to steadily increase, but there has been a slowdown. To help recruit more support we invited our supporters to give us feedback, we improved our website, encouraged new members via social media and through offers and giveaways. We have explored new ways to encourage more supporters. We are planning more improvements to the members' area of our website and the welcome pack.

Members receive a subscription to our membership magazines. Corporate members receive advance opportunities for sponsoring projects, events and publications. Our popular Adopt a Bat cuddly toy and newsletter offer provides an alternative route for supporting bat conservation without becoming a member.

Education and Outreach

Our engagement with children continues thanks to The Young Batworker magazine led by BCT's Honorary Education Officer, Shirley Thompson, and our social media presence. We also offer free resources on our website including a bilingual educational pack (Welsh and English). This year we have recruited an Education and Engagement Officer to further develop and promote resources.

A strong online presence is a vital way we engage with wider audiences. Our platforms have raised awareness and education on bats and their conservation with professionals, academics, enthusiasts and the general public. BCT's social media following keeps growing. This year saw:

- 124,000 followers on Facebook (in 2021-22: 119,000)
- 56,500 followers on twitter (in 2021-22: 54,000)
- 8,000 followers on LinkedIn (in 2021-22: 7,000)
- 27,000 followers on Instagram (in 2021-22: 24,500)
- 560 subscribers to your YouTube Channel (in 2021-22: 529)
- 29 online news pieces
- 3 blogs
- Season 4 of the BatChat podcast had 6265 downloads. BatChat has 54,000 downloads overall.

Bat group support: UK, Channel Islands and the Isle of Man

This year we have been trialling an expansion to the support fund through which we give dedicated time to bat group projects. Three grant awards were made this year totalling £1,200.

We could not deliver everything we do for conservation without the support of bat groups. We have a formal relationship with 84 groups (69 partner groups and 15 network groups in England, Wales, Scotland, Northern Ireland, Isle of Man and the Channel Islands).

We support them with talks, training, outreach materials, insurance, advice and guidance, networking opportunities and some financial support. They also receive a monthly bulletin, direct regular contact, meetings, regional conferences and the annual Bat Workers Forum.

We are working on how we can better support bat groups through training and expansion of accessible resources. We would also like to encourage uptake of existing partnerships and collaborations, as well as finding new ways of showcasing the wonderful work being done locally in front-line bat conservation. We hope in the coming year to share the results of the Mapping the Bat Groups project, connecting people with their local groups more easily.

BCT in Wales

The Natur am Byth partnership is Wales' flagship Green Recovery project and unites nine environmental charities (the seven Rethink Nature species NGOs plus Marine Conservation Society and Vincent Wildlife Trust), with Natural Resources Wales. It is the country's largest natural heritage and outreach programme to save species from extinction and reconnect people to nature.

This financial year saw the development phase of this work and was funded by the National Lottery Heritage Fund.

In this time, we've progressed a project called Swansea Bay Stars of the Night which focuses on local community engagement and conserving lesser horseshoes bats. Wales holds 61% of the UK population of lesser horseshoe bats and therefore has a national responsibility for the species. Research has found that the Gower population are genetically isolated. The project looks to identify and mitigate barriers to their free movement across this landscape.

In 2022 our Project Officer had conversations with numerous interest groups including Gower AONB, The Gower Society, Swansea Astronomical Society, Glamorgan Bat Group, Swansea University and the Ethnic Minorities & Youth Support Team (Wales). The response to the project has been overwhelmingly supportive.

Field work protocols have been developed and an ecological monitoring plan created, following work with Glamorgan Bat Group. Key survey locations were identified, and we are glad to have been granted survey access permissions.

The project plans have been finalised and the development phase came to an end in February 2023. A funding application to take the project forward to the delivery phase has now been successful.

Additional funding support from Esmée Fairbairn and the Welsh Government's Landfill Disposals Tax Communities Scheme administered by Wales Council for Voluntary Action (WCVA) has been confirmed to support the delivery of this exciting project.

BCT in Scotland

With the support of NatureScot, BCT runs the Scottish Bat Project which engages people in bat recording, conservation and education.

The project has been working with 11 volunteer bat groups, as well as the NBMP volunteers, to increase our knowledge of the nine bat species found in Scotland and to tackle their conservation threats. We also undertake a range of public engagement work. Some of the project highlights over the past year:

- Bat habitat management training was delivered to 32 people.
- Six online training sessions and a bat group mingle for the Scottish Nathusius' Pipistrelle Project (SNPP). Over 350 viewings of online recorded sessions.
- 79 people attended the Scottish Bat Conference in March 2023. It was one of the largest opportunities since the pandemic for Scottish bat workers to come together and share knowledge.
- 25 people took part in training on advanced survey techniques for SNPP volunteers, in March 2023.

Through 2023 into 2024 we will continue working with Scottish bat groups and build connections between our volunteers, landowners and land managers. Our SNPP work will continue, including training to advance existing survey skills so we can advance scientific knowledge about Nathusius' pipistrelles in Scotland.

There will be a Spring Into Action event in March 2024 where Scottish bat workers and bat enthusiasts will be able to gain further hands-on knowledge and skills.

The Scottish Bat Project will continue working with the Species on the Edge project, a partnership conservation project active in various areas of Scotland.

Species on the Edge

Species on the Edge is a partnership of NatureScot and the seven nature conservation charities that comprise Rethink Nature, including BCT. The delivery phase of this four-year programme of conservation work began in November 2022 and is funded by the National Lottery Heritage Fund.

The vision is to work with local communities in some of Scotland's most remote areas to establish projects that improve the fortunes of 37 priority species found along Scotland's coast and islands.

BCT is leading on the Protecting Scotland's Island Wonders project, which will work with local communities to learn more about bats on Skye but also in Argyll and Inner Hebrides, Outer Hebrides, Orkney, Solway and the East Coast. Recruitment for a BCT Project Officer was successful and they started on 16 January 2023.

The coming year will see the launch of this programme of work and the development of our bat monitoring strategy, which will be created in collaboration with landowners, bat groups and other community groups.

Our Project Officer will work closely with a team across Argyll and Inner Hebrides to aid conservation of other focal species on Skye, such as Marsh fritillary and Corncrake and to collaborate on community engagement. The coming year will also see the start of a youth panel, and training for young people to design and create an audio trail on Skye, to celebrate their magnificent wildlife.

Pete Guest Award

Congratulations to Morgan Hughes, this year's winner of the Pete Guest Award. It is given annually to an individual who has made an outstanding practical contribution to bat conservation. In 2022, three bat workers were nominated and over 300 votes were received.

BCT in Europe and Internationally

Things have been busy on the international front. We've been working with Eurobats on monitoring, indicators, light pollution, climate change, insect declines, bat rescue and rehabilitation, sound analysis, plus helping to draft guidelines on insulation. We have also been in discussions on a future European biodiversity monitoring centre. And we are now part of an international team developing new science communication plans.

We also attended the International Bat Research Symposium, the 2022 EuropaBON Conference and Global Union of Bat Diversity Networks (GBatNet) workshops.

Bats and disease

Our bats, health and diseases work has focused on biosecurity, human-to-bat and bat-to-human pathogen risk. We have run workshops and talks on biosecurity, effective disease risk management and produced a new section on biosecurity for the new edition of the Bat Survey Guidelines.

We have been working with specialists around the world on bat ecology, health, virology and immunology, on producing international guidelines, via the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN); and the Global Union of Bat Diversity Networks (GBatNet).

We gave presentations this year at the International Infectious Diseases of Bats Symposium, the International Bat Research Symposium and other national and international science meetings and workshops.

We have given advice on bats, health and disease to the public, volunteers and bat workers. This includes rabies, white-nose syndrome, COVID-19 / SARS-CoV-2 and biosecurity. We do this online and through articles in Bat News, the Bat Group Bulletin, Bat Carers' Blog, talks, external publications, meetings and conferences.

We have continued working with government bodies such as the Animal & Plant Health Agency (APHA), Defra, and the GB Exotic Disease Core Group for Rabies, on disease surveillance and communication. We have supported Imperial College, London with a project testing bats in care for coronaviruses, contributing to a journal paper on testing bats in rehabilitation for SARS-CoV-2.

At the heart of our health and disease work is strong communications, to counter public and media misunderstandings. We are grateful for contributions from generous BCT supporters, and experts nationally and internationally. We still have a significant shortfall in funding this work.

We have funding from the Rufford Foundation for a new collaborative project. 'Don't Blame Bats – Setting the Story Straight'. This aims to provide engaging, accurate, accessible, science-based information about bats and diseases, using storytelling to tackle an increase in misinformation and misuse of research findings.

BatLife Europe

We are a founding member of BatLife Europe, which has 37 partners. The priorities for the year ahead include a webinar series, increasing social media, progressing the EU Bat Action Plan and identifying a suitable pan-European project for partners to support.

STRENGTHEN - To enable BCT to achieve financial stability and sustainable staff workloads; to ensure staff and volunteers are motivated and well led

EDI

This year we made significant investments of both time and money to support our progress on Equity, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI). Highlights include:

- Creating an EDI Working Group with cross-departmental and cross-hierarchical representation including SMT and Trustee levels
- Increasing the number of volunteers from under-represented groups taking part in NBMP and Nightwatch surveys
- Signing up and contributing data to the RACE Report
- Contributing to the development of the Wildlife and Countryside Link Route Map to address the lack of diversity in the sector and beginning to implement the organisational milestones within BCT
- Rolling out Anti-Oppression training to all BCT staff
- Securing funding and recruiting paid interns through the Kickstarter and New To Nature schemes and applying learning from these to improve our recruitment practices
- Shining a light on key EDI-related and taboo issues through public talks and panel discussions
- Incorporating more inclusive practices at our events

BCT is an accredited Living Wage Employer, which means we are committed to paying the real Living Wage, the only UK wage rate based on the cost of living.

Resources

BCT has made continual improvements in both our office space and our remote working capabilities. IT infrastructure allows for flexibility for staff in home working and improved hotdesking experience when in the office. We are investing in replacing older databases and working towards increasing our IT support capacity.

Engagement

Projects such as Nightwatch are engaging people with nature, particularly those from urban and ethnic minority communities. Events have been held online or in a hybrid online/in-person format to encourage more diverse participation and included topics like mental health, menopause and a panel discussion for International Day of Women and Girls in Science.

Staff

BCT undertakes an annual Charity Pulse survey conducted by Birdsong Charity Consulting and Third Sector magazine, benchmarking with other charities. This is a good opportunity to identify areas for

improvement but also highlights positives in areas of staff satisfaction. In the 2022 report, 97% of staff would recommend BCT as an employer.

Fundraising Statement

At BCT, we respect the wishes of our members, supporters and donors who ask for no further contact from us, and we adhere to Data Protection law. We employ reputable companies to assist with distributing membership material. We do not employ fundraising or marketing agencies to target people by telephone, or in the street, to persuade them to set up regular donations to BCT. BCT is registered with the Fundraising Regulator and agrees to abide by its rules and regulations. Those who register with the regulator agree to ensure their fundraising is legal, open, honest and respectful. There were no complaints related to fundraising during the period covered by this report.

In order to achieve our objective of financial stability, everyone at BCT contributes towards our fundraising efforts along with a small, dedicated fundraising team. We also support others who choose to make donations or take part in fundraising activities in whatever way they can.

Safeguarding

BCT is committed to upholding the principle that children and vulnerable adults are entitled to protection from physical, sexual and emotional harm and have the right to a safe, positive and enjoyable environment when involved with BCT. We are committed to maintaining a safeguarding policy, which can be viewed here: https://www.bats.org.uk/the-trust/policies/safeguarding and providing regular staff training.

The Trustees

The Trustees who served during the year and up to the date of this report are shown on page 3. All Trustees also act as directors for the purposes of company law.

The Trustees are elected at an Annual General Meeting (AGM) and serve for three years. Trustees are eligible for reselection at the end of their first and second term of three years, but following election for a third term, may not be eligible for reselection until one year has elapsed from them ceasing to be a member of the Board of Trustees. The Trustees may co-opt any Member eligible for election to fill a vacancy until the next AGM.

The Trustees regularly audit their collective skills, competencies and experience against those required to fulfil their responsibilities and proactively recruit new Trustees to fill gaps. All proposed Trustees are put to the BCT membership prior to any appointment. On appointment training is given according to the needs of the Trustee and new Trustees have an induction with key members of staff.

The Trustees are members of the charity but this entitles them only to voting rights and any benefits received by the Trustees are incidental. As members of the charity they undertake to contribute an amount not exceeding £1 to the assets of the charity in the event of winding up. The total number of such undertakings at 31st March 2023 was 12 (2022: 12).

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

Risk Management

The Trustees and Senior Management Team have reviewed the major risks which the charity faces. They review these risks at least annually. The Trustees implement improvements to systems of internal control in order to mitigate other operational and business risks as and when identified.

Some of the major risk areas are:

- Pressure for change in government policy or legislation (particularly arising from Britain leaving the EU) that impacts on bat conservation. BCT undertakes advocacy and mobilises our supporters to speak up for the importance of the legislation and policy protecting bats.
- Issues with sole contractor for key work – IT / Science. BCT is updating our IT strategy and risk controls including contingency plans. BCT is also identifying the additional IT capacity needed to support current and future work plans.

Remuneration Policy

Remuneration of all staff is considered on an annual basis by the Board of Trustees. The Senior Management Team make recommendations to the Trustees for a) the cost of living based on inflation rates, the London Living Wage and an annual salary survey we take part in with other environmental NGOs, and b) for any staff increments based on job bands, performance and any extra responsibilities taken on. The Trustees make the final decision in the context of BCT's budget. The salary of the Chief Executive is set by the Chair in consultation with the Trustees.

Statement of Responsibilities of the Trustees

The Trustees (who are also directors of The Bat Conservation Trust) are responsible for preparing the Trustees' annual report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

Company law required the Trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charitable company and the incoming resources and application of resources, including the income and expenditure, of the charitable company for that period.

In preparing those financial statements the Trustees are required to:

- Select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- Observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP
- Make judgements and accounting estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- State whether applicable UK Accounting Standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements;
- Prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in operation.

The Trustees are responsible for keeping adequate accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006, the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005 and the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006 (as amended). They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charitable company and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

Disclosure of information to auditor

In so far as each of the Trustees is aware:

- There is no relevant audit information of which the charitable company's auditor is unaware;

And

- Each of the trustees has taken all steps that they ought to have taken to make themselves aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the auditor is aware of that information.

Treasurer's report

Despite the continued economic uncertainty, which has impacted heavily on the charity sector as well as individuals, BCT has continued its vital work. The economic downturn has meant we ended the year with a decrease in funds, largely due to a loss on investments reflected at the time of our financial statements.

We saw a small deficit in unrestricted funds this year compared to a small surplus last year. Continuing with careful management of our finances, we did however see an increase in project expenditure as well as an increase in staff salary costs in the year 2022/23 with higher cost of living pressures. The difficulties in the global financial market mean we will continue our cautious approach to spending and continue to invest in diversifying our income streams.

For the year ended 31 March 2023, income was £1,689,685 (2022: £1,632,007) and expenditure was £1,773,272 (2022: £1,595,153), leading to net deficit for the year of £83,587 (2022: surplus £36,854). Taking into account losses on investments of £253,771 (2022: losses of £57,186), the net movement in funds for the year was a decrease of £337,358 (2022: a decrease of £20,332).

Investment policy

Investments total £2,369,739 (2022: £2,580,593) at 31 March 2023. The aim of these funds is to provide a steady additional annual income stream to support our work, helping to reduce the risks associated with our reliance on project funding. Both this and the prior year were unpredictable in terms of investments and global stock markets were severely impacted by continued impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic and the Russian invasion of Ukraine.

For budgeting purposes, BCT assume a 6% total return per year to take into account market fluctuations. Investments are expected to meet our ethical criteria with returns reported on via a benchmark.

Reserves policy

We adopt a risk-based approach for our reserves policy in order to define the amount we need to enable us to sustain our operations and protect us from unforeseen events. We have also been investing some of our reserves in strategic projects to secure BCT's long-term financial viability. At the end of the 2022/23 financial year our total reserves stand at £2,961,295 (2022: £3,298,653). Of this, £2,116,693 (2022: £2,359,197) are endowment funds and £226,146 (2022: £169,927) are restricted funds for projects. This leaves unrestricted funds of £618,456 (2022: £769,529) of which £259,986 (2022: £266,893) have been designated to key programmes of work in the next financial year (see notes to the financial statements for details). This leaves us with £358,470 (2022: £502,636) as unrestricted, unallocated funds. Of this, £275,452 (2022: £383,347) represents free reserves after deducting the net book value of fixed assets.

The trustees' policy is to work towards holding six months operating costs, approximately £500,000, in unrestricted reserves. We will continue to review our reserves policy and our progress towards achieving it each year. On behalf of BCT, I would like to thank all our members, donors and partners for their fantastic support and our volunteers and staff for their endless hard work on behalf of bat conservation.

Ruth Waters, Treasurer

Thanks to our Supporters

We would like to thank all our members and friends who have made donations during the past year. We do not have the space to name everyone; however, we would like to thank everyone for their greatly valued support without which none of our work would be possible.

Partner Bat Groups

3 Counties Bat Conservation & Research Volunteers
Alderney Bat Group
Avon Bat Group
Ayrshire and Arran Bat Group
Bedfordshire Bat Group
Berkshire & South Bucks Bat Group
Birmingham & Black Country Bat Group
Brecknock Bat Group
Cambridgeshire Bat Group
Cardiff Bat Group
Carmarthenshire Bat Group
Central Scotland Bat Group
Cheshire Bat Group
Cleveland Bat Group
Clwyd Bat Group
Clyde Bat Group
Cornwall Bat Group
Cumberland Bat Group
Derbyshire Bat Conservation Group
Devon Bat Conservation & Research Group
Devon Bat Group
Dorset Bat Group
Dumfries & Galloway Bat Group
Durham Bat Group
East Yorkshire Bat Group
Essex Bat Group
Fife and Kinross Bat Group
Glamorgan Bat Group
Gloucestershire Bat Group
Guernsey Bat Group
Gwynedd Bat Group
Hampshire Bat Group
Herefordshire Bat Research Group
Herefordshire Mammal Group
Herts & Middlesex Bat Group
Inverness Bat Group
Isle of Wight Bat Group
Isle of Wight Bat Hospital
Isles of Scilly Bat Group
Jersey Bat Group
Kent Bat Group
Leicestershire & Rutland Bat Group
Lincolnshire Bat Group
Loch Lomond Bat Group
London Bat Group
Lothians Bat Group
Manx Bat Group
Merseyside & West Lancashire Bat Group
Monmouthshire Bat Group
Montgomeryshire Bat Group
Nene Valley Bats
Norfolk and Norwich Study Group
North Bucks Bat Group
North Ceredigion Bat Group
North Devon Bat Care
North East Scotland Bat Group
North Lancashire Bat Group
North Wales Mammal Group
North Yorkshire Bat Group
Northern Ireland Bat Group
Northumberland Bat Group
Nottinghamshire Bat Group
Oxfordshire Bat Group
Pembrokeshire Bat Group
Radnorshire Bat Group
River Allen Bat Roost
Shropshire Bat Group
Skye and Lochalsh Bat Group
Somerset Bat Group
Sorby – Sheffield Bat Group
South Cumbria Bat Group
South Lancashire Bat Group
South Wales Bat Research Group
South Yorkshire Bat Group
Staffordshire Bat Group
Suffolk Bat Group
Surrey Bat Group
Sussex Bat Group
Tayside Bat Group
Vale of Glamorgan & Bridgend Bat Group

Valleys Bat Group
Warwickshire Bat Group
West Yorkshire Bat Group
Wiltshire Bat Group

Charitable Trusts, Statutory Bodies and Other Organisations

Animal and Plant Health Agency
Animal Friends Insurance
Bad Wolf Productions
Benefact Group (Ecclesiastical Insurance)
Cecil Pilkington Charitable Trust
Centre for Ecology and Hydrology
Chapman Charitable Trust
Ernest Kleinwort Charitable Trust
Esmée Fairbairn Foundation
Evesham Bat Care
Forest Research
Forestry England
Garfield Weston Foundation
Government of Jersey
Green Mountain Trust
Jack Patston Charitable Trust
John Swire 1989 Charitable Trust
Joint Nature Conservation Committee
Kathleen Beryl Sleigh Charitable Trust
Marjorie Coote Animal Charity Trust
Natural England
Natural Resources Wales
Nature Networks Fund
NatureScot
Pilkington General Charity Fund
Principal Ecology
Rufford Foundation
Signify Lighting
The Barry Green Memorial Fund
The David Webster Charitable Trust
The Marsh Charitable Trust
The National Lottery Heritage Fund
Vistry
William Dean Countryside and Educational Trust

Sponsors (Sponsorships of £100 or more)

Kingfisher Lighting Ltd
Pettersson
Wildcare
Wildlife Acoustics, Inc.

Corporate Members (as at 31 March 2023)

Arbtech Consulting Ltd
Asw Ecology Ltd
Batability Courses & Tuition
Batbox Ltd
Big Domain
Campsites.co.uk
Canine Cottages
Cleankill Environmental Services Ltd
Dr Stump Ltd
Echoes Ecology Ltd
Ecological Survey and Assessment Limited
English Heritage
Green & Blue
Ground Control Ltd
Highland Titles Nature Reserve
Historic England
Holidaycottages.co.uk
Homegrown Timber Ltd
I&G Ecological Consultancy Ltd
Ingencia
Kate's Clothing Ltd
M & L Ltd
Nurture Holdings Ltd
Stay in Cornwall
Stay in Devon
Tamworth Property Services
Titley Scientific
Treework Ltd
United Environmental Services Ltd
Vivara Pro
Whitcher Wildlife Ltd
Wilby Tree Surgeons
Wildcare
Wildlife Acoustics
Wold Ecology Ltd

Donations from Bat Groups (of £100 or more in the year to 31 March 2023)

Devon Bat Group
Fife Bat Group
Hampshire Bat Group
Hertfordshire & Middlesex Bat Group

Jersey Bat Group
Merseyside & West Lancashire Bat Group
Nottinghamshire Bat Group
South Lancashire Bat Group
South Yorkshire Bat Group

Legacies

Ms Marion Nesta Terry

Auditor

Sayer Vincent LLP were appointed to act as the charitable company's auditor during the year.

The report of the Trustees has been prepared in accordance with the special provisions applicable to companies subject to the small companies' regime.

Approved by the Trustees on 02 August 2023 and signed on their behalf by

Jean Matthews
Chair

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of The Bat Conservation Trust (the 'charitable company') for the year ended 31 March 2023 which comprise the statement of financial activities, balance sheet, statement of cash flows and notes to the financial statements, including significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including FRS 102 *The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland* (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

In our opinion, the financial statements:

- Give a true and fair view of the state of the charitable company's affairs as at 31 March 2023 and of its incoming resources and application of resources, including its income and expenditure, for the year then ended
- Have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice
- Have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006, the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005 and regulation 8 of the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006 (as amended)

Basis for opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAs (UK)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of our report. We are independent of the charitable company in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in the UK, including the FRC's Ethical Standard and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Conclusions relating to going concern

In auditing the financial statements, we have concluded that the trustees' use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is appropriate.

Based on the work we have performed, we have not identified any material uncertainties relating to events or conditions that, individually or collectively, may cast significant doubt on The Bat Conservation Trust's ability to continue as a going concern for a period of at least twelve months from when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

Our responsibilities and the responsibilities of the trustees with respect to going concern are described in the relevant sections of this report.

Other information

The other information comprises the information included in the trustees' annual report other than the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. The trustees are responsible for the other information contained within the annual report. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and, except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated in our report, we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon. Our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the course of the audit, or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether this gives rise to a material misstatement in the financial statements themselves. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact.

We have nothing to report in this regard.

Opinions on other matters prescribed by the Companies Act 2006

In our opinion, based on the work undertaken in the course of the audit:

- The information given in the trustees' annual report for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements; and
- The trustees' annual report has been prepared in accordance with applicable legal requirements

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

In the light of the knowledge and understanding of the charitable company and its environment obtained in the course of the audit, we have not identified material misstatements in the trustees' annual report.

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters in relation to which the Companies Act 2006 and the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006 (as amended) require us to report to you if, in our opinion:

- Adequate accounting records have not been kept, or returns adequate for our audit have not been received from branches not visited by us; or
- The financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records and returns; or
- Certain disclosures of trustees' remuneration specified by law are not made; or
- We have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit; or
- The directors were not entitled to prepare the financial statements in accordance with the small companies regime and take advantage of the small companies' exemptions in preparing the trustees' annual report and from the requirement to prepare a strategic report.

Responsibilities of Trustees

As explained more fully in the statement of trustees' responsibilities set out in the trustees' annual report, the trustees (who are also the directors of the charitable company for the purposes of company law) are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the trustees determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, the trustees are responsible for assessing the charitable company's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the trustees either intend to liquidate the charitable company or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

We have been appointed as auditor under section 44(1)(c) of the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005 and under the Companies Act 2006 and report in accordance with regulations made under those Acts.

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (UK) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

Irregularities, including fraud, are instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations. We design procedures in line with our responsibilities, outlined above, to detect material misstatements in respect of irregularities, including fraud. The extent to which our procedures are capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud are set out below.

Capability of the audit in detecting irregularities
In identifying and assessing risks of material misstatement in respect of irregularities, including fraud and non-compliance with laws and regulations, our procedures included the following:

- We enquired of management which included obtaining and reviewing supporting documentation, concerning the charity's policies and procedures relating to:
  - Identifying, evaluating, and complying with laws and regulations and whether they were aware of any instances of non-compliance;
  - Detecting and responding to the risks of fraud and whether they have knowledge of any actual, suspected, or alleged fraud;
  - The internal controls established to mitigate risks related to fraud or non-compliance with laws and regulations.
- We inspected the minutes of meetings of those charged with governance.

- We obtained an understanding of the legal and regulatory framework that the charity operates in, focusing on those laws and regulations that had a material effect on the financial statements or that had a fundamental effect on the operations of the charity from our professional and sector experience.
- We communicated applicable laws and regulations throughout the audit team and remained alert to any indications of non-compliance throughout the audit.
- We reviewed any reports made to regulators.
- We reviewed the financial statement disclosures and tested these to supporting documentation to assess compliance with applicable laws and regulations.
- We performed analytical procedures to identify any unusual or unexpected relationships that may indicate risks of material misstatement due to fraud.
- In addressing the risk of fraud through management override of controls, we tested the appropriateness of journal entries and other adjustments, assessed whether the judgements made in making accounting estimates are indicative of a potential bias and tested significant transactions that are unusual or those outside the normal course of business.

Because of the inherent limitations of an audit, there is a risk that we will not detect all irregularities, including those leading to a material misstatement in the financial statements or non-compliance with regulation. This risk increases the more that compliance with a law or regulation is removed from the events and transactions reflected in the financial statements, as we will be less likely to become aware of instances of non-compliance. The risk is also greater regarding irregularities occurring due to fraud rather than error, as fraud involves intentional concealment, forgery, collusion, omission or misrepresentation.

A further description of our responsibilities is available on the Financial Reporting Council's website at: www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities. This description forms part of our auditor's report.

Use of our report

This report is made solely to the charitable company's members as a body, in accordance with Chapter 3 of Part 16 of the Companies Act 2006 and section 44(1)(c) of the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the charitable company's members those matters we are required to state to them in an auditor's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the charitable company and the charitable company's members as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

Noelia Serrano (Senior statutory auditor) 3 August 2023

for and on behalf of Sayer Vincent LLP, Statutory Auditor
Invicta House, 108-114 Golden Lane, LONDON, EC1Y 0TL

Sayer Vincent LLP is eligible to act as auditor in terms of section 1212 of the Companies Act 2006

The Bat Conservation Trust

Statement of financial activities *(incorporating an income and expenditure account)*

For the year ended 31 March 2023

	Note	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	Endowment £	2023 Total £	2022 Total £
Income						
Donations and legacies	2	381,410	49,221	-	**430,631**	440,935
Investment income		53,781	-	-	**53,781**	48,503
Income from charitable activities						
Conferences		69,451	-	-	**69,451**	29,289
Training courses and meetings		113,240	-	-	**113,240**	73,991
Projects and research	3	539,160	446,015	-	**985,175**	962,723
Other activities		28,205	9,202	-	**37,407**	76,566
Total income		**1,185,247**	**504,438**	**-**	**1,689,685**	1,632,007
Expenditure						
Expenditure on raising funds						
Membership support	5	77,370	-	-	**77,370**	66,778
Costs of raising funds	5	132,800	2,000	10,505	**145,305**	145,075
Expenditure on charitable activities						
Conferences	5	67,107	-	-	**67,107**	26,862
Training courses and meetings	5	90,161	-	-	**90,161**	68,640
Project and research costs	4	947,110	446,219	-	**1,393,329**	1,287,798
Total expenditure	5	**1,314,548**	**448,219**	**10,505**	**1,773,272**	1,595,153
Net (expenditure) / income before net losses on investments		**(129,301)**	**56,219**	**(10,505)**	**(83,587)**	36,854
Net losses on investments	11	(21,772)	-	(231,999)	(253,771)	(57,186)
Net (expenditure) / income for the year		**(151,073)**	**56,219**	**(242,504)**	**(337,358)**	(20,332)
Net movement in funds		**(151,073)**	**56,219**	**(242,504)**	**(337,358)**	(20,332)
Reconciliation of funds						
Total funds brought forward		769,529	169,927	2,359,197	3,298,653	3,318,985
Total funds carried forward	18	**618,456**	**226,146**	**2,116,693**	**2,961,295**	3,298,653

All of the above results are derived from continuing activities. There were no other recognised gains or losses other than those stated above. Movements in funds are disclosed in note 18 to the financial statements.

For Companies Act purposes, excluding Endowed funds income for the year ended 31 March 2023 was £1,689,685 (2022: £1,632,007) and expenditure £1,762,767 (2022: £1,581,897) and losses on investments of £21,772 (2022: £3,904). Net expenditure was £94,854 (2022: £46,206)

Comparatives for the statement of financial activities are given in note 2

The Bat Conservation Trust

Company number: 02712823

Balance Sheet

As at 31 March 2023

	Note	2023 £	2023 £	2022 £	2022 £
Fixed assets					
Tangible assets	9		**3,971**		6,994
Intangible assets	10		**79,047**		112,295
Investments	11		**2,369,739**		2,580,593
Non-current assets			**2,452,757**		2,699,882
Current assets					
Debtors	13	**295,835**		372,201	
Cash at bank and in hand		**358,443**		427,869	
		654,278		800,070	
Creditors: amounts due within one year	14	**(145,740)**		(201,299)	
Net current assets			**508,538**		598,771
Net assets	16		**2,961,295**		3,298,653
Reserves					
Endowment funds	18		**2,116,693**		2,359,197
Restricted funds	18		**226,146**		169,927
Unrestricted funds					
General funds	18	358,470		502,636	
Designated funds	18	259,986		266,893	
			618,456		769,529
Total funds	**18**		**2,961,295**		3,298,653

Approved by the trustees on 2 August 2023

Signed on their behalf by:

Jean Matthews (Chair)

The Bat Conservation Trust

Statement of Cash Flows

For the year ended 31 March 2023

	2023		2022	
	£	**£**	£	£
Cash flows from operating activities:				
Net expenditure for the year	**(337,358)**		(20,332)	
Adjustments for:				
Depreciation and amortisation charges	**36,271**		32,322	
Dividends and interest	**(53,781)**		(48,503)	
Loss on disposal of fixed assets	**-**		1,473	
Sale of property bequeathed to the charity	**-**		155,000	
Losses on investments	**253,771**		57,186	
Decrease / (increase) in debtors	**76,366**		(222,615)	
(Decrease) / Increase in creditors	**(55,559)**		36,268	
Investment charges taken directly from cash held as part of the investment portfolio	**10,746**		14,219	
Net cash (used in) / provided by operating activities		**(69,544)**		5,018
Cash flows from investing activities:				
Bank interest received	**118**		19	
Purchase of property, plant and equipment	**-**		(5,721)	
Purchase of intangible asset	**-**		(41,321)	
Net cash provided / (used) by investing activities		**118**		(47,023)
Change in cash and cash equivalents in the year		**(69,426)**		(42,005)
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the year		**427,869**		469,874
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the year		**358,443**		427,869

Analysis of cash and cash equivalents	At 1 April 2022	Cash flows	At 31 March 2023
	£	£	£
Cash at bank and in hand	307,735	(69,539)	238,196
Short term deposit	120,134	113	120,247
	427,869	(69,426)	358,443

Analysis of change in net debt

The charity had no net debt during the year

1. Accounting policies

Status

The organisation is a charitable company limited by guarantee, incorporated on 7 May 1992 and registered as a charity on 29 June 1992.

The registered office is Studio 15, Cloisters House, Cloisters Business Centre, 8 Battersea Park Road, London, England, SW8 4BG.

a) Basis of preparation

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with FRS102 "The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland" ("FRS102"), the Companies Act 2006, the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005, the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006 (as amended) and “Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102)” (effective 1 January 2019). The charity is a Public Benefit Entity as defined by FRS 102.

Assets and liabilities are initially recognised at historical cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policy note(s).

The functional currency of the financial statements is Sterling.

b) Going concern

The trustees have assessed whether the use of the going concern assumption is appropriate in preparing these accounts. The trustees have made this assessment in respect to a period of one year from the date of approval of these accounts.

The trustees of the charity have concluded that there are no material uncertainties related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the ability of the charity to continue as a going concern. The trustees are of the opinion that the charity will have sufficient resources to meet its liabilities as they fall due. . With regard to the next accounting period, the year ending 31 March 2024, the most significant areas that affect the carrying value of the assets held by the charity are the delivery of grant funded activities and securing future funding for these activities (see the risk management section of the trustees’ report for more information).

c) Income

Income from generated funds received by way of donations and member subscriptions are included in full in the statement of financial activities when probable.

Gifts in kind comprise meeting rooms and catering provided free of charge for trustee and other meetings and gifted IT services where material. Gifts in kind are included in income and expenditure at a reasonable estimate of their value to the charity, which is the price that would have had to be paid if hiring a room and paying for catering or contracting for IT services at a commercial rate on the open market. Volunteer time is not included in the financial statements.

Income (continued)

Legacy income is accounted for on a receivable basis. A legacy is considered receivable when the charity is legally entitled to the income and the amount can be quantified with reasonable accuracy. Entitlement is the earlier of the charity being notified of an impending distribution or the legacy being received.

Investment income represents bank interest and dividend income, included in full in the statement of financial activities when receivable.

Revenue grants are credited to the Statement of Financial Activities when received or receivable whichever is earlier.

Where unconditional entitlement to grants receivable is dependent upon fulfilment of conditions within the charity's control, the incoming resources are recognised when there is sufficient evidence that conditions will be met. Where there is uncertainty as to whether the charity can meet such conditions, the incoming resource is deferred.

Grants for the purchase of fixed assets are credited to restricted income when probable.

Depreciation of fixed assets purchased with such grants is charged against the restricted fund. Where a fixed asset is donated to the charity for its own use, it is treated in a similar way to a restricted grant.

Fees for training courses and the annual conference are recognised in the financial statements during the year in which the conference or training course to which they relate occurred. Research contracts are recognised in the financial statements as entitlement is earned through completion of the contract.

d) **Fund analysis**

The expendable endowment funds are funds whereby the capital sum is invested, and interest earned is used to contribute to core costs. The capital element may also be spent should sufficient need arise.

The permanent endowment funds are funds whereby the capital sum is invested, and interest earned is used to contribute to core costs. The capital element is to be retained to generate future income for the work of BCT.

Restricted funds are to be used for specific purposes as laid down by the donor. Expenditure which meets these criteria is charged to the fund together with a fair allocation of management and support costs.

Unrestricted funds are donations and other income receivable or generated for the objects of the charity.

Designated funds are unrestricted funds earmarked by the trustees for particular purposes.

Transfers are made to and from designated funds at the discretion of the trustees. Transfers are made between restricted funds or from restricted funds to general funds only if agreement has been obtained from the donor.

e) **Expenditure**

Expenditure is recognised in the period in which it is incurred. Expenditure includes attributable VAT which cannot be recovered.

Expenditure is allocated to the particular activity where the cost relates directly to that activity. However, the cost of overall direction and administration of each activity, comprising the salary and overhead costs of the central function, is apportioned on the following basis which are an estimate, based on staff time, of the amount attributable to each activity: Raising funds, Conferences, Biodiversity training courses and Project costs.

The costs of generating funds relate to the costs incurred by the charitable company in raising funds for the charitable work. Fundraising costs associated with raising funds for a specific charitable activity are allocated to that activity.

Rentals payable under operating leases, where substantially all the risks and rewards of ownership remain with the lessor, are charged to the Statement of Financial Activities in the year in which they fall due.

f) **Tangible and intangible assets**

Depreciation is provided at rates calculated to write down the cost of each asset to its estimated residual value over its expected useful life. The depreciation rates in use are as follows:

Computer equipment - 33% per annum on a straight-line basis.
Field equipment - 25% per annum on a straight-line basis.
Furniture and fittings - 20% per annum on a straight-line basis.

Items of equipment are capitalised where the purchase price exceeds £500. Depreciation costs are allocated to activities on the basis of the use of the related assets in those activities. Assets are reviewed for impairment if circumstances indicate their carrying value may exceed their net realisable value and value in use.

Intangible assets are recognised at cost and amortised over the assets' expected useful life. The amortisation rate in use is as follows:

Database - 20% per annum on a straight-line basis.

Amortisation costs are allocated to activities on the basis of the use of the related assets in those activities.

g) **Pensions**

The charity operates a defined contribution pension scheme. The assets of the scheme are held separately from those of the charity in an independently administered fund. The pension cost charge represents contributions payable under the scheme by the charity to the fund. The charity has no liability under the scheme other than for the payment of those contributions.

h) **Foreign exchange rates**

Transactions denominated in foreign currencies are translated into Sterling at the exchange rate ruling at the date of the transaction. Assets and liabilities in foreign currencies are translated into Sterling at the rates of exchange ruling at the end of the financial year. All exchange differences are written off to the Statement of Financial Activities.

i) **Investments**

Investments are stated at mid-market value at the balance sheet date. The gain or loss for the period is taken to the Statement of Financial Activities. All movements in value arising from investment changes or revaluations are shown in the Statement of Financial Activities.

j) **Financial instruments**

BCT has elected to apply the provisions of Section 11 'Basic Financial Instruments' and Section 12 'Other Financial Instruments Issues' of FRS 102 to all of its financial instruments. Financial instruments are recognised in the balance sheet when the company becomes party to the contractual provisions of the instrument. Financial assets and liabilities are offset, with the net amounts presented in the financial statements, when there is a legally enforceable right to set off the recognised amounts and there is an intention to settle on a net basis or to realise the asset and settle the liability simultaneously.

2. Donations and legacies

Current Year	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	**2023 Total £**
Membership subscriptions	159,630	-	**159,630**
Members' & other donations	127,674	49,221	**176,895**
Legacies	94,106	-	**94,106**
	381,410	49,221	**430,631**

Prior Year	*Unrestricted £*	*Restricted £*	*2022 Total £*
Membership subscriptions	*163,214*	*-*	*163,214*
Members' & other donations	*100,812*	*36,909*	*137,721*
Legacies	*140,000*	*-*	*140,000*
	404,026	*36,909*	*440,935*

3. Projects and research income

Current Year	Unrestricted	Restricted	**2023 Total**
	£	£	**£**
Government grants & contracts	507,599	344,857	**852,456**
Grants & contracts from other charitable bodies	31,561	101,158	**132,719**
	539,160	446,015	**985,175**

Projects and research income: grants, contracts and donations

Project income was received in the year from the following organisations and donors:

	Unrestricted	Restricted	**2023 Total**
	£	£	**£**
Animal and Plant Health Agency	10,000	-	**10,000**
Animal Friends – BCT Helpline	-	2,500	**2,500**
Bentley Barn Building Preservation Trust	-	4,648	**4,648**
Bushy Park and Longford River analysis and report	3,995	-	**3,995**
Cecil Pilkington Charitable Trust	6,000	-	**6,000**
Centre for Ecology & Hydrology	1,500	-	**1,500**
Chapman Charitable Trust	-	1,000	**1,000**
David Webster Charitable Trust	-	4,000	**4,000**
Druid	-	1,417	**1,417**
Ernest Kleinwort	-	12,195	**12,195**
Esmée Fairbairn Charitable Trust	-	41,250	**41,250**
Forestry England	13,694	-	**13,694**
Forest Research	67,329	-	**67,329**
Government of Jersey	2,501	-	**2,501**
Joint Nature Conservation Committee (JNCC)	157,864	81,067	**238,931**
Kathleen Beryl Sleigh Charitable Trust	5,000	-	**5,000**
National Lottery Heritage Fund - Bats in Churches	-	104,018	**104,018**
National Lottery Heritage Fund - Natural am Byth	-	7,991	**7,991**
National Lottery Heritage Fund - Species on the Edge	-	11,466	**11,466**
Natural England	250,930	114,131	**365,061**
Natural Resources Wales	5,281	-	**5,281**
NatureScot	-	23,658	**23,658**
Purbeck Favourable Conservation Status work	1,288	-	**1,288**
Rufford Foundation	-	8,576	**8,576**
The John Swire 1989 Charitable Trust	-	25,000	**25,000**
Vistry Group	10,000	-	**10,000**
Other grants and contracts	3,778	3,098	**6,876**
	539,160	446,015	**985,175**

3. Projects and research income (continued)

Prior Year	*Unrestricted*	*Restricted*	*2022 Total*
	£	*£*	*£*
Government grants & contracts	*466,952*	*214,948*	*681,900*
Grants from other charitable bodies	*60,351*	*220,472*	*280,823*
	527,303	*435,420*	*962,723*

Projects and research income - grants, contracts and donations

Project income was received in the year from the following organisations and donors:

	Unrestricted	*Restricted*	*2022 Total*
	£	*£*	*£*
Animal and Plant Health Agency	*-*	*10,000*	*10,000*
Animal Friends – Bat Helpline	*-*	*37,000*	*37,000*
Cecil Pilkington Charitable Trust	*-*	*3,500*	*3,500*
Chapman Charitable Trust	*1,000*	*-*	*1,000*
David Webster Charitable Trust	*-*	*2,000*	*2,000*
East Devon Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty	*32,483*	*-*	*32,483*
Esmée Fairbairn Charitable Trust	*-*	*37,500*	*37,500*
Forest Research	*-*	*48,423*	*48,423*
Forestry Commission	*-*	*15,000*	*15,000*
Garfield Weston	*-*	*25,000*	*25,000*
Government of Jersey	*39,121*	*-*	*39,121*
Historic England	*1,500*	*-*	*1,500*
Joint Nature Conservation Committee (JNCC)	*184,000*	*-*	*184,000*
Michael Cornish Foundation	*-*	*1,000*	*1,000*
National Lottery Heritage Fund - Back from the Brink	*-*	*35,883*	*35,883*
National Lottery Heritage Fund - Bats in Churches	*-*	*113,472*	*113,472*
National Lottery Heritage Fund - NAB	*-*	*2,785*	*2,785*
National Lottery Heritage Fund - Species on the Edge	*-*	*32,598*	*32,598*
Natural England	*201,251*	*39,612*	*240,863*
Natural Resources Wales	*4,202*	*-*	*4,202*
NatureScot	*-*	*30,647*	*30,647*
Office for National Statistics	*4,395*	*-*	*4,395*
Principal Ecology	*43,250*	*-*	*43,250*
Vistry Group	*13,250*	*-*	*13,250*
Other grants and contracts	*2,851*	*1,000*	*3,851*
	527,303	*435,420*	*962,723*

4. Projects and research costs

Current Year	Unrestricted	Restricted	**2023 Total**
	£	£	**£**
Bat Groups' Support & Public Education	30,530	36,505	**67,035**
Bat Projects in Wales	33,434	7,991	**41,425**
Biodiversity Projects	570,643	199,597	**770,240**
International Projects	4,475	1,600	**6,075**
National Bat Monitoring Programme	128,915	7,847	**136,762**
Research projects – Bat conservation	137,284	168,249	**305,533**
Scottish Bat Project	41,829	24,430	**66,259**
	947,110	446,219	**1,393,329**

Prior Year	*Unrestricted*	*Restricted*	*2022 Total*
	£	*£*	*£*
Bat Groups' Support & Public Education	*27,515*	*34,641*	*62,156*
Biodiversity Projects	*441,217*	*326,875*	*768,092*
International Projects	*278*	*4,510*	*4,788*
National Bat Monitoring Programme	*159,335*	*19,934*	*179,269*
Research projects – Bat conservation	*51,341*	*133,952*	*185,293*
Scottish Bat Project	*26,292*	*31,790*	*58,082*
Wales Bat Project	*27,333*	*2,785*	*30,118*
	733,311	*554,487*	*1,287,798*

5. Total expenditure

	Costs of raising funds	Membership support	Conferences	Training courses and meetings	Projects and research	Governance	Other support costs	**2023 Total**
Current Year	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	**£**
Salaries & temporary staff (note 7)	87,138	33,602	9,172	30,921	840,926	5,816	196,213	**1,203,788**
Travel & training	467	185	2,168	2,282	26,131	1,569	24,187	**56,989**
Advice & other project costs	8,223	8,494	-	23,919	111,199	-	10,005	**161,840**
Publications & events	3,085	9,674	40,241	21,041	11,286	-	61	**85,388**
Premises	-	-	-	-	2,434	-	36,647	**39,081**
Other costs	13,085	12,838	7,117	664	39,183	9,700	143,599	**226,186**
	111,998	64,793	58,698	78,827	1,031,159	17,085	410,712	**1,773,272**
Support costs allocated to activities	31,977	12,075	8,073	10,881	347,706	-	(410,712)	**-**
Governance costs allocated to activities	1,330	502	336	453	14,464	(17,085)	-	**-**
Total	**145,305**	**77,370**	**67,107**	**90,161**	**1,393,329**	**-**	**-**	**1,773,272**

	Costs of raising funds	*Membership support*	*Conferences*	*Training courses and meetings*	*Projects and research*	*Governance*	*Other support costs*	***2022 Total***
Prior Year	*£*	£	*£*	*£*	*£*	*£*	*£*	***£***
Salaries & temporary staff (note 7)	*78,932*	*29,122*	*8,643*	*29,163*	*737,917*	*5,816*	*154,814*	*1,044,407*
Travel & training	*110*	*146*	*359*	*1,475*	*22,374*	*653*	*9,705*	*34,822*
Advice & other project costs	*7,676*	*7,284*	*-*	*16,103*	*105,713*	*-*	*18,462*	*155,238*
Publications & events	*1,553*	*7,400*	*6,739*	*10,102*	*6,131*	*-*	*-*	*31,925*
Premises	*-*	*-*	*-*	*-*	*980*	*-*	*103,401*	*104,381*
Other costs	*28,855*	*12,814*	*8,246*	*779*	*26,923*	*8,150*	*138,613*	*224,380*
	117,126	*56,766*	*23,987*	*57,622*	*900,038*	*14,619*	*424,995*	*1,595,153*
Support costs allocated to activities	*27,020*	*9,679*	*2,779*	*10,652*	*374,865*	*-*	*(424,995)*	*-*
Governance costs allocated to activities	*929*	*333*	*96*	*366*	*12,895*	*(14,619)*	*-*	*-*
Total	*145,075*	*66,778*	*26,862*	*68,640*	*1,287,798*	*-*	*-*	*1,595,153*

5. Total expenditure (continued)

	2023	*2022*
	£	*£*
Analysis of support costs:		
Salaries	**188,306**	*154,814*
Non salary staff costs	**35,215**	*10,742*
Conference Costs	**61**	-
Membership costs	**194**	*194*
Property	**36,530**	*105,292*
IT costs	**12,649**	*9,686*
Office running costs	**31,853**	*35,645*
Insurance	**20,232**	*17,815*
Legal fees	**-**	*500*
Depreciation and amortisation	**36,271**	*32,322*
Outsourced finance & payroll	**40,917**	*35,731*
Irrecoverable VAT	**3,160**	*17,013*
Bank charges	**5,324**	*5,241*
	410,712	*424,995*
Analysis of governance costs:		
Governance staff costs	**5,816**	*5,816*
Audit Fee	**9,700**	*8,150*
Trustee expenses and meeting costs	**1,569**	*653*
	17,085	*14,619*

6. Net (expenditure)/income for the year

	2023	*2023*
	£	*£*
This is stated after charging:		
Depreciation and amortisation	**36,271**	*32,322*
Operating lease costs	**13,603**	*39,304*
Loss on disposal of fixed assets	**-**	*1,473*
Trustees' expenses (2023:5 trustees (2022:2 trustees))	**1,569**	*653*
Trustee indemnity insurance	**8,807**	*1,542*
Auditors' remuneration – audit services	**9,700**	*8,150*

Expenses reimbursed to trustees relate to travel and subsistence costs relating to both attendance at trustees' meetings and other operational work carried out in furtherance of the Trust's objects. No trustees were reimbursed for their services as trustees during the year (2022: no trustees reimbursed).

7. Staff numbers and costs

The aggregate payroll cost of these persons was as follows:

	2023	*2022*
	£	*£*
Wages and salaries	**1,072,814**	*933,845*
Social security costs	**91,094**	*75,143*
Employer's pension contributions	**39,880**	*35,419*
	1,203,788	*1,044,407*

Included in staff costs above are redundancy costs of £nil (2022: £nil).

No employees earned in excess of £60,000 in this year or the prior year.

The key management personnel of the Charity comprise the trustees and the Senior Management Team. The total employee benefits of the key management personnel of the Charity were £145,130. (2022: £158,915).

The average number of employees (head count based on number of staff employed and excluding trustees who are all non-executive) during the year were as follows:

	Number of employees	
	2023	2022
	No.	No.
Support and governance	**3**	*3*
Direct charitable activities	**40**	*35*
	43	*38*

8. Taxation

The charitable company is exempt from corporation tax as all its income is charitable and is applied for charitable purposes.

9. Fixed assets

	Furniture and fittings	Computers	Field equipment	**Total**
Cost	£	£	£	**£**
At the start of the year	3,174	11,835	16,428	31,437
At the end of the year	**3,174**	**11,835**	**16,428**	**31,437**
Depreciation				
At the start of the year	1,265	8,364	14,814	24,443
Charge for the year	417	2,148	458	3,023
At the end of the year	**1,682**	**10,512**	**15,272**	**27,466**
Net book value at the end of the year	**1,492**	**1,323**	**1,156**	**3,971**
Net book value at the start of the year	1,909	3,471	1,614	6,994

Prior Year

	Furniture and fittings	*Computers*	*Field equipment*	*Total*
Cost	*£*	*£*	*£*	*£*
At the start of the year	*70,794*	*14,007*	*14,598*	*99,399*
Additions during the year	*2,085*	*1,806*	*1,830*	*5,721*
Disposals during the year	*(69,705)*	*(3,978)*	*-*	*(73,683)*
At the end of the year	*3,174*	*11,835*	*16,428*	*31,437*
Depreciation				
At the start of the year	*68,832*	*10,245*	*14,598*	*93,675*
Charge for the year	*664*	*2,098*	*216*	*2,978*
Released on disposal	*(68,231)*	*(3,979)*	*-*	*(72,210)*
At the end of the year	*1,265*	*8,364*	*14,814*	*24,443*
Net book value at the end of the year	*1,909*	*3,471*	*1,614*	*6,994*
Net book value at the start of the year	*1,962*	*3,762*	*-*	*5,724*

10. Intangible assets

	CRM database	App development	**Total**
Cost	£	£	**£**
At the start of the year	121,122	45,121	**166,243**
Cost at the end of the year	121,122	45,121	**166,243**
Amortisation at the start of the year	48,449	5,499	**53,948**
Charge for the year	24,224	9,024	**33,248**
Amortisation at the end of the year	72,673	14,523	**87,196**
Net book value at the end of the year	48,449	30,598	**79,047**
Net book value at the start of the year	72,673	39,622	112,295

Prior Year

	CRM database	*App development*	*Total*
Cost	*£*	*£*	*£*
At the start of the year	*121,122*	*3,800*	*124,922*
Additions during the year	*-*	*41,321*	*41,321*
Cost at the end of the year	*121,122*	*45,121*	*166,243*
Depreciation			
Amortisation at the start of the year	*24,224*	*380*	*24,604*
Charge for the year	*24,225*	*5,119*	*29,344*
Amortisation at the end of the year	*48,449*	*5,499*	*53,948*
Net book value at the end of the year	*72,673*	*39,622*	*112,295*
Net book value at the start of the year	*96,898*	*3,420*	*100,318*

11. Investments

2022-23	Listed investments £	Cash in portfolio £	**Total £**
At the start of the year	2,518,077	62,516	**2,580,593**
Additions at cost	260,775	(260,775)	**-**
Less disposals at carrying value	(217,410)	217,410	**-**
Dividend income	-	53,663	**53,663**
Portfolio costs	-	(10,746)	**(10,746)**
Net loss on revaluation	(253,771)	-	**(253,771)**
At the end of the year	2,307,671	62,068	**2,369,739**

2021-22	*Listed investments £*	*Cash in portfolio £*	***Total £***
At the start of the year	*2,546,534*	*56,980*	*2,603,514*
Additions at cost	*828,346*	*(828,346)*	*-*
Less disposals at carrying value	*(799,617)*	*799,617*	*-*
Dividend income	*-*	*48,484*	*48,484*
Portfolio costs	*-*	*(14,219)*	*(14,219)*
Net loss on revaluation	*(57,186)*	*-*	*(57,186)*
At the end of the year	*2,518,077*	*62,516*	*2,580,593*

Listed Investments comprise:	***2023***	*2022*
	£	*£*
UK Corporate Bonds	***938,786***	*1,003,633*
UK Equity Growth	***476,554***	*518,783*
UK Equity Income	***320,156***	*352,483*
International Equity	***343,237***	*394,545*
Emerging Markets Equity	***228,938***	*248,633*
	2,307,671	*2,518,077*

The investments listed on a recognised stock exchange comprise the amounts held at fair value through profit or loss.

12. Assets held for sale

Current assets held for sale	**2023**	2022
	£	£
Value at the start of the year	**-**	155,000
Proceeds from sale	**-**	(155,000)
Value at the end of the year	**-**	-

Assets held for sale at the start of 2022 represented a property bequeathed to Bat Conservation Trust. The sale of this property was completed during the year ended 31 March 2022.

13. Debtors: amounts falling due within one year

	2023	2022
	£	£
Trade debtors	**159,678**	169,189
Other debtors	**6,142**	9,615
Accrued income	**100,640**	170,943
Prepayments	**29,375**	22,454
	295,835	372,201

14. Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2023	2022
	£	£
Trade creditors	**39,799**	46,776
Other taxes and social security	**35,209**	63,502
Accruals	**32,142**	63,556
Deferred course and event income	**10,000**	9,661
Other creditors	**28,590**	17,804
	145,740	201,299

Deferred income comprises course and event income paid in advance.

	2023	2022
	£	£
Balance at the beginning of the year	**9,661**	20,794
Amount released to income in the year	**(9,661)**	(20,794)
Amount deferred in the year	**10,000**	9,661
	10,000	9,661

15. Operating lease commitments

The charity had commitments at the year end under operating leases as set out below:

	2023	2022
Land & buildings	**£**	£
- Not later than one year	**7,333**	22,000
- Later than one year and not later than five years	-	7,333
Other		
- Not later than one year	**3,486**	3,486
- Later than one year and not later than five years	**1,162**	4,648

16. Analysis of net assets between funds

Current Year	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Endowment funds	**2023 Total funds**
	£	£	£	**£**
Tangible fixed assets	3,971	-	-	**3,971**
Intangible fixed assets	79,047	-	-	**79,047**
Investments	253,046	-	2,116,693	**2,369,739**
Net current assets	282,392	226,146	-	**508,538**
Net assets at the end of the year	**618,456**	**226,146**	**2,116,693**	**2,961,295**

Prior Year	*Unrestricted funds*	*Restricted funds*	*Endowment funds*	*2022 Total funds*
	£	*£*	*£*	*£*
Tangible fixed assets	*6,994*	-	-	*6,994*
Intangible fixed assets	*112,295*	-	-	*112,295*
Investments	*221,396*	-	*2,359,197*	*2,580,593*
Net current assets	*428,844*	*169,927*	-	*598,771*
Net assets at the end of the year	*769,529*	*169,927*	*2,359,197*	*3,298,653*

17. Contingent assets

At the end of the year, we have been notified that we are entitled to funds from a total of two (2022: nil) residual legacies. However, as at 31 March 2023, we had not been notified as to the value of our entitlement or when this would be received. As such we are not able to recognise these funds in the financial statements for the year.

18. Movements in funds

Current Year	At 1 April 2022	Income	Expenditure	Losses on investments	Transfers between funds	**At 31 March 2023**
	£	£	£	£	£	**£**
Vincent Weir endowment funds:						
Expendable endowment fund	2,028,16	-	(9,024)	(199,446)	-	**1,819,696**
Permanent endowment fund	331,031	-	(1,481)	(32,553)	-	**296,997**
Total endowment funds	2,359,19 7	-	(10,505)	(231,999)	-	**2,116,693**
Restricted funds:						
Animal Friends – Bat Helpline	-	2,500	(2,500)	-	-	**-**
Bat Group appeals	-	3,490	(3,490)	-	-	**-**
Bat Ringing Project	-	13,500	(2,742)	-	21,415	**32,173**
Chapman Charitable Trust	-	1,000	-			**1,000**
David Webster Charitable Trust – Bats and Buildings	-	4,000	(2,000)	-	-	**2,000**
Druid	-	1,417	-	-	-	**1,417**
Ernest Kleinwort – NightWatch	-	12,195	(7,101)	-	-	**5,094**
Esmée Fairbairn Foundation – NightWatch	103,555	41,250	(63,964)	-	-	**80,841**
Esmée Fairbairn Foundation – Planning	4,000	-	(3,100)	-	-	**900**
Garfield Weston – Bat Helpline	10,417	-	(10,417)	-	-	**-**
JNCC – BBatS	-	40,515	(30,264)	-	-	**10,251**
JNCC – NBMP	-	30,549	(29,995)	-	-	**554**
JNCC – Genetics	-	10,000	-	-	-	**10,000**
John Swire 1989 Charitable Trust	-	25,000	-	-	-	**25,000**
Kate Barlow Research Award	16,814	50	(1,672)	-	-	**15,192**
Kickstarter Funding	-	6,754	(6,754)	-	-	**-**
National Lottery Heritage Fund – Natur am Byth	-	7,991	(7,991)	-	-	**-**
National Lottery Heritage Fund – Bats in Churches	-	104,018	(104,018)	-	-	**-**
National Lottery Heritage Fund – Species on the Edge	-	11,466	(11,466)	-	-	**-**
Natural England – Biodiversity	-	43,631	(43,631)	-	-	**-**
Natural England – People & Landscapes	-	10,000	-	-	-	**10,000**
Natural England – Monitoring & Genetics	1,060	45,500	(36,312)	-	-	**10,248**
Natural England – Partnerships	-	15,000	(15,000)	-	-	**-**
NatureScot – Scottish Bat Project	-	23,658	(23,658)	-	-	**-**
Rufford Foundation – Bats and Health	-	11,476	-	-	-	**11,476**
Rufford Foundation – Helpline	1,600	-	(1,600)	-	-	**-**
Rufford Foundation – International	4,500	(2,900)	(1,600)	-	-	**-**
Wildlife Crime	-	6,271	(6,271)	-	-	**-**
Woodland Hope Project	-	10,000	-	-	-	**10,000**
Other restricted project income	27,981	3,530	(8,478)	-	(23,033)	**-**
Other restricted project income – Bat Groups	-	11,155	(12,773)	-	1,618	**-**
Other trusts and donations – Bat Helpline	-	11,422	(11,422)	-	-	**-**
Total restricted funds	169,927	504,438	(448,219)	-	-	**226,146**

18. Movements in funds (continued)

	At 1 April 2022	Income	Expenditure	Losses on investments	Transfers between funds	**At 31 March 2023**
	£	£	£	£	£	**£**
Unrestricted funds:						
Designated funds:						
BCT Roost Partnership	7,117	3,467	(3,780)	-	-	**6,804**
Database Project	75,333	-	(12,598)	-	-	**62,735**
Designated project funds	10,773	-	-	-	(10,773)	**-**
Digital fundraising and fundraising	15,000	-	-	-	-	**15,000**
Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion	3,159	-	(2,429)	-	-	**730**
Fundraising Consultant	-	-	-	-	2,000	**2,000**
Helpline Database Money	-	-	-	-	11,564	**11,564**
JNCC – NBMP	2,564	-	-	-	22,270	**24,834**
Natural England – Helpline	12,947	-	(12,947)	-	-	**-**
NBMP	-	6,367	(10,918)	-	5,596	**1,045**
Organisational development fund	140,000	25,000	(35,000)	-	-	**130,000**
Principal Ecologist at Ministry of Justice	-	-	(3,600)	-	5,000	**1,400**
Woodland	-	1,779	(1,779)	-	3,874	**3,874**
	266,893	36,613	(83,051)	-	39,531	**259,986**
General funds	502,636	1,148,634	(1,231,497)	(21,772)	(39,531)	**358,470**
Total unrestricted funds	769,529	1,185,247	(1,314,548)	(21,772)	-	**618,456**
Total funds	**3,298,653**	**1,689,685**	**(1,773,272)**	**(253,771)**	-	**2,961,295**

18. Movements in funds (continued)

Prior Year	*At 1 April 2021*	*Income*	*Expenditure*	*Losses on investments*	*Transfers between funds*	***At 31 March 2022***
	£	*£*	*£*	*£*	*£*	***£***
Vincent Weir endowment funds:						
Expendable Endowment Fund	*2,085,362*	*-*	*(11,391)*	*(45,805)*	*-*	***2,028,166***
Permanent endowment fund	*340,373*	*-*	*(1,865)*	*(7,477)*	*-*	***331,031***
Total endowment funds	*2,425,735*	*-*	*(13,256)*	*(53,282)*	*-*	***2,359,197***
Restricted funds:						
Animal and Plant Health Agency – Bat Helpline	*-*	*10,000*	*(10,000)*	*-*	*-*	***-***
Animal Friends – Bat Helpline	*-*	*37,000*	*(37,000)*	*-*	*-*	***-***
Anonymous donation	*1,610*	*-*	*(1,610)*	*-*	*-*	***-***
Bat Group appeals	*-*	*15,243*	*(15,243)*	*-*	*-*	***-***
British Ecological Society – Bats in Churches	*1,906*	*-*	*(1,906)*	*-*	*-*	***-***
David Webster Charitable Trust – Bats and Buildings	*-*	*2,000*	*(2,000)*	*-*	*-*	*-*
Edith Murphy Foundation – Woodland Bats	*2,000*	*-*	*(2,000)*	*-*	*-*	***-***
Ernest Kleinwort – Woodland Bats	*4,795*	*-*	*(4,795)*	*-*	*-*	***-***
Esmée Fairbairn Foundation – NightWatch	*111,483*	*37,500*	*(45,428)*	*-*	*-*	***103,555***
Esmée Fairbairn Foundation – Planning	*10,000*	*-*	*(6,000)*	*-*	*-*	***4,000***
Forestry Commission	*8,602*	*15,000*	*(23,602)*	*-*	*-*	***-***
Forestry Commission – Woodland Bats	*2,700*	*-*	*(2,700)*	*-*	*-*	***-***
Forest Research – National Forest Inventory	*-*	*48,423*	*(48,423)*	*-*	*-*	***-***
Garfield Weston – Bat Helpline	*-*	*25,000*	*(14,583)*	*-*	*-*	***10,417***
Kate Barlow Research Award	*24,749*	*500*	*(8,435)*	*-*	*-*	***16,814***
Kickstarter Funding	*-*	*12,129*	*(12,129)*	*-*	*-*	***-***
National Lottery Heritage Fund – Back from the Brink	*-*	*35,883*	*(35,883)*	*-*	*-*	***-***
National Lottery Heritage Fund – Bats in Churches	*-*	*113,472*	*(113,472)*	*-*	*-*	***-***
National Lottery Heritage Fund – Species on the Edge	*-*	*32,598*	*(32,598)*	*-*	*-*	***-***
Natural England – Biodiversity	*10,000*	*30,612*	*(40,612)*	*-*	*-*	***-***
Natural England – Monitoring & Genetics	*10,000*	*4,500*	*(13,440)*	*-*	*-*	***1,060***
Natural England – Partnerships	*10,000*	*4,500*	*(14,500)*	*-*	*-*	***-***
NatureScot – Scottish Bat Project	*-*	*30,647*	*(30,647)*	*-*	*-*	***-***
Rufford Foundation – Helpline	*2,400*	*-*	*(800)*	*-*	*-*	***1,600***
Rufford Foundation – International	*5,900*	*-*	*(1,400)*	*-*	*-*	***4,500***
Other restricted project income	*23,515*	*19,520*	*(15,054)*	*-*	*-*	***27,981***
Other trusts and donations – Bat helpline	*10,296*	*9,931*	*(20,227)*	*-*	*-*	***-***
Total restricted funds	*239,956*	*484,458*	*(554,487)*	*-*	*-*	***169,927***

18. Movements in funds (continued)

	At 1 April 2021	*Income*	*Expenditure*	*Losses on investments*	*Transfers between funds*	***At 31 March 2022***
	£	*£*	*£*	*£*	*£*	*£*
Unrestricted funds:						
Designated funds:						
BCT Bat Box Partnership	*10,228*	*-*	*(6,623)*	*-*	*3,512*	***7,117***
Bellway Homes – wildlife crime project	*20,000*	*-*	*(20,000)*	*-*	*-*	***-***
Capacity and support – science and monitoring	*13,000*	*-*	*(13,000)*	*-*	*-*	***-***
Capacity building – Fidra	*10,417*	*-*	*(10,417)*	*-*	*-*	***-***
Database Project	*100,318*	*-*	*(24,985)*	*-*	*-*	***75,333***
Designated project funds	*-*	*-*	*-*	*-*	*10,773*	***10,773***
Digital fundraising and fundraising capacity	*-*	*-*	*-*	*-*	*15,000*	***15,000***
DRUID project	*1,099*	*-*	*(1,099)*	*-*	*-*	***-***
EDI – Equity, Diversity and Inclusion	*-*	*-*	*-*	*-*	*3,159*	***3,159***
JNCC – NBMP	*-*	*-*	*-*	*-*	*2,564*	***2,564***
JNCC – NightWatch	*8,255*	*-*	*(8,255)*	*-*	*-*	***-***
Natural England – Earned Recognition	*15,000*	*-*	*(15,000)*	*-*	*-*	***-***
Natural England – Helpline	*11,000*	*-*	*(11,000)*	*-*	*12,947*	***12,947***
Organisational development fund	*-*	*-*	*-*	*-*	*140,000*	***140,000***
	189,317	*-*	*(110,379)*	*-*	*187,955*	***266,893***
General funds	*463,977*	*1,147,549*	*(917,031)*	*(3,904)*	*(187,955)*	*502,636*
Total unrestricted funds	*653,294*	*1,147,549*	*(1,027,410)*	*(3,904)*	*-*	*769,529*
Total funds	***3,318,985***	***1,632,007***	***(1,595,153)***	***(57,186)***	*-*	***3,298,653***

Purposes of expendable endowment funds
The funds were donated by Vincent Weir to be invested to generate income for use to support core costs.

Purposes of permanent endowment funds
The Bat Conservation Trust Fund was established by trust deed dated 31 October 2006, so that the income only may be used to advance the charitable purposes of BCT.

Under a charity commission scheme dated 31 March 2010 the funds are treated as forming part of BCT for the purposes of registration and accounting.

Purposes of restricted funds

Animal and Plant Health Agency – bat helpline	To contribute towards rabies surveillance work and risk management.
Animal Friends – bat helpline	To support the bat care work of the BCT helpline.
Anonymous donation	Contribute towards monitoring a bat roost in France.

18. Movements in funds (continued)

Purposes of restricted funds (continued)

Bat Group Appeals	Towards conservation and monitoring work in England and Scotland.
Bat Ringing Project	Funding for the Ring the Changes project.
British Ecological Society – Bats in Churches	Ecological outreach with the aim of educating non-scientific audiences, primarily a church audience, about bats.
Chapman Charitable Trust	Funding for the NightWatch project.
David Webster Charitable Trust – Bats and Buildings	Contributes towards the development of best practice lighting guidance for industry.
Druid	To advise a NERC funded project to understand and predict the cross-ecosystem impacts of insect decline on ecosystem services and natural capital.
Edith Murphy Foundation – Woodland Bats	To support work with woodland bats.
Ernest Kleinwort – NightWatch	Funding towards the NightWatch project.
Ernest Kleinwort – Woodland Bats	To support work with woodland bats.
Esmée Fairbairn Foundation – NightWatch	To develop an inclusive, engagement-focused community science bat survey.
Esmée Fairbairn Foundation – Planning	Raising the profile of biodiversity in the planning system – a multi-species partnership project.
Forestry Commission	To support work with woodland bats.
Forestry Commission - Woodland Bats	To support work with woodland bats.
Forest Research – National Forest Inventory	Funding for the Forest Research Bat Survey.
Garfield Weston – Bat Helpline	To contribute towards the running of the National Bat Helpline.
JNCC – BBatS	Funding to support efforts to collect bat data in underrepresented regions and habitats.
JNCC – NBMP	Funding for a citizen science programme for monitoring bats in the UK.
JNCC – Genetics	Contribution towards understanding historic declines in bat populations.
John Swire 1989 Charitable Trust	Funding towards the Connecting People and Landscapes project.
Kate Barlow Research Award	Award granted to a postgraduate student to conduct a substantive bat research project and to honour the late Dr Kate Barlow's contribution to bat conservation.

18. Movements in funds (continued)

Purposes of restricted funds (continued)

Kickstarter Funding	Payment from Government Kickstarter Scheme to contribute toward salaries of Kickstarters at BCT.
National Lottery Heritage Fund – Natur am Byth	Funding for the development phase of Wales' flagship Species Recovery project.
National Lottery Heritage Fund – Back from the Brink	To undertake development work for Back from the Brink, a collaborative project to save England's most threatened species.
National Lottery Heritage Fund – Bats in Churches	Partnership project put in place to provide solutions to issues with bats in churches in England.
National Lottery Heritage Fund – Species on the Edge	Partnership work to deliver significant benefits for Scottish biodiversity by tackling the pressures facing some of our most beleaguered species.
Natural England – Biodiversity	To contribute towards our work leading on species conservation plans for six species of bat.
Natural England – People & Landscapes	Funding towards the Connecting People and Landscapes project.
Natural England – Monitoring & Genetics	To contribute towards site condition monitoring through the National Bat Monitoring Programme.
Natural England – Partnerships	To contribute towards employing a Bat Groups Officer who provides support to local bat groups.
NatureScot – Scottish Bat Project	To contribute towards developing and carry out our conservation and partnership work in Scotland.
Other restricted project income	Amalgamated small donations restricted to particular projects.
Other restricted project income - Bat groups	Funds to support the bat group work.
Other trusts and donations – BCT helpline	Donations to contribute towards the running of BCT's Helpline.
Rufford Foundation – Bats and Health	Funding for "Don't Blame Bats - Setting the Story Straight" campaign to provide accurate science-based communications.
Rufford Foundation – Helpline	Contribution to BCT staff time in supporting Malawian bat helpline.
Rufford Foundation – International	Contribution to training, development, and salaries of staff on Malawian bat helpline.
Wildlife Crime	Contributions to improving wildlife crime prevention and providing support to the police, Crown Prosecution Service, ecologists, and the public in bat crime cases.
Woodland Hope	Funding to study the health of woodland habitats in Wales.

18. Movements in funds (continued)

Purposes of designated funds

BCT Bat Box Partnership	To contribute towards bat box monitoring projects.
Bellway Homes – wildlife crime project	Providing support to the police, Crown Prosecution Service, ecologists and the public in bat crime cases.
Capacity and support – science and monitoring	To assist with delivery of BCT's Science and Monitoring strategies.
Capacity building – Fidra	Contribution to maintaining core operations of the Bat Conservation Trust.
Database project	A fund set aside for the amortisation of the investment in our current website and customer relationship management (CRM) system. The website will be updated and make it more effective and accessible, and the new CRM system will make our fundraising more efficient and improve the way we engage with members, donors, and supporters.
Designated project funds	Funds received in the previous year earmarked for specific projects during 22-23.
Digital fundraising and fundraising capacity	Investment into digital marketing to generate more income and increase our fundraising capacity more broadly.
DRUID project	To advise a NERC funded project to understand and predict the cross-ecosystem impacts of insect decline on ecosystem services and natural capital.
EDI - Equity, Diversity and Inclusion	To support the equity, diversity and inclusion work at BCT.
Fundraising Consultant	To address the lack of fundraising capacity, we worked with a fundraising consultancy.
Helpline database money	To contribute to the development of a new Helpline database.
JNCC – NBMP	For work on the National Bat Monitoring Programme.
JNCC – NightWatch	Contributes to develop an inclusive, engagement-focused community science bat survey.
Natural England – Earned Recognition	Work on a pilot for a new approach to licensing mitigation work in England that impacts on bats.
Natural England – Helpline	Contribution towards Natural England Bat Advice Service health and safety review.
NBMP	For work on the National Bat Monitoring Programme.
Organisational development fund	Fund to be used strategically for specific projects, capacity or other organisational requirements.
Principal Ecologist at Ministry of Justice	To fund ecological support work.
BCT Roost partnership	To contribute towards bat box monitoring projects.
Woodland	Contributions towards woodland bats.

19. Related party transactions

During the year ended 31 March 2022 it was agreed that Annika Binet, a trustee of the Bat Conservation Trust, would engage to provide bat surveying services to BCT and that payment would be made to her in respect of these services, not in respect of her work as a trustee. The board of trustees (excluding Annika Binet) are satisfied that Annika is best placed in terms of both location and expertise to provide this service and that her fee represents value for money and is at or below commercial rate. Amounts paid to Annika Binet in respect of the above in the year ended 31 March 2023 were £400 (2022: £694). There were no amounts outstanding at the year end.

During the year aggregate donations from related parties totalled £nil (2022: £26,279).

There were no other related party transactions outside the normal course of business in the current or preceding year.

20. Prior year statement of financial activities

Statement of financial activities *(incorporating an income and expenditure account)*
For the year ended 31 March 2022

	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	Endowment £	Total £
Income				
Income from generated funds				
Donations and legacies	404,026	36,909	-	**440,935**
Investment income	48,503	-	-	**48,503**
Income from charitable activities				
Conferences	29,289	-	-	**29,289**
Training courses and meetings	73,991	-	-	**73,991**
Projects and research	527,303	435,420	-	**962,723**
Other activities	64,437	12,129	-	**76,566**
Total income	**1,147,549**	**484,458**	**-**	**1,632,007**
Expenditure				
Expenditure on raising funds				
Membership support	66,778	-	-	**66,778**
Costs of raising funds	131,819	-	13,256	**145,075**
Expenditure on charitable activities				
Conferences	26,862	-	-	**26,862**
Biodiversity training courses	68,640	-	-	**68,640**
Project and research costs	733,311	554,487	-	**1,287,798**
Total expenditure	**1,027,410**	**554,487**	**13,256**	**1,595,153**
Net income/(expenditure) before net gains on investments	**120,139**	**(70,029)**	**(13,256)**	**36,854**
Net gains on investments	(3,904)	-	(53,282)	(57,186)
Net income for the year	**116,235**	**(70,029)**	**(66,538)**	**(20,332)**
Net movement in funds	**116,235**	**(70,029)**	**(66,538)**	**(20,332)**
Reconciliation of funds				
Total funds brought forward	653,294	239,956	2,425,735	**3,318,985**
Total funds carried forward	**769,529**	**169,927**	**2,359,197**	**3,298,653**

THE BAT CONSERVATION TRUST

England & Wales - Charity number 1012361

Accounts

Company number: 02712823
Charity number: 1012361
OSCR number: SC040116

The Bat Conservation Trust

Report and financial statements

For the year ended 31 March 2022

The Bat Conservation Trust

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Status	The organisation is a charitable company limited by guarantee, incorporated on 7 May 1992 and registered as a charity in England and Wales on 29 June 1992 and in Scotland on 9 December 2008.
Governing document	The company was established under a memorandum of association which established the objects and powers of the charitable company and is governed under its articles of association.
Company number	02712823
Charity number England and Wales	1012361
Charity number Scotland	SC040116
Registered office and operational address	Studio 15 Cloisters House, Cloisters Business Centre, 8 Battersea Park Rd, London SW8 4BG
Trustees	Professor Kirsty Park (Chair, resigned Oct 2021) Jean Matthews (Chair from Oct 2021, previously Vice Chair) Steven Roe (Vice Chair from Oct 2021) Steve Markham (Treasurer, resigned Oct 2021) Dr. Ruth Waters (Treasurer from Oct 2021) Bob Cornes (Hon Secretary, resigned Oct 2021) Annika Binet (Hon Secretary from Oct 2021) Dr. Cerys Bradley (from Oct 2021) Stuart Brittenden Dr. Abigail Entwistle Rupert Lancaster Colette Marshall (co-opted May 2022) Roger Mortlock (resigned Oct 2021) Lord John Randall Dr. Orly Razgour (from Oct 2021) Helen Slinger (from Oct 2021) Matthew Terry (from Oct 2021)
President	Chris Packham CBE
Vice Presidents	Professor Paul Racey John Burton Dr. Robert Stebbings
Patron	David Gower OBE
Ambassador	Kate Rusby

Honorary roles	Hon Education Officer	Shirley Thompson MBE
	Hon Science & Conservation Advisor	Professor Paul Racey
	Hon Science Advisors	Professor Gareth Jones
		Professor Kate Jones
	Hon Legal Advisor	Michael Ford QC
Senior Management Team		
	Chief Executive	Kit Stoner
	Director of Conservation	Dr. Carol Williams (p/time)
	Director of Communications & Fundraising	Dr. Joe Nunez-Mino
Bankers	The Co-operative Bank plc Kings Valley Yew Street Stockport SK4 2JU	
Health and Safety	JEM Safety Management Ltd 190 Moor Lane Upminster Essex RM14 1HG	
Insurance brokers	First Insurance Solutions Ltd First Insurance Solutions House Centre 3000, St. Leonards Road Maidstone, Kent ME16 0LS	
Financial advisors	Coloma Wealth Management LLP 5th Floor, Pinnacle House 23-26 St Dunstan's Hill London EC3R 8HN	
Investment managers	Parmenion Capital Partners LLP Aurora, Counterslip Bristol BS1 6BX	
Employment advisors	Ellis Whittam Ltd Woodhouse, Church Lane Aldford, Chester CH3 6JD	
Solicitors	Aaron & Partners LLP Grosvenor Court, Foregate Street Chester CH1 1HG	
Auditor	HW Fisher LLP Acre House, 11-15 William Road London NW1 3ER	

The President's Message

As I look back on the remarkable achievements made by the Bat Conservation Trust (BCT) and its supporters since I became President in 2006 and as I look at what was achieved and discovered even just during this 30th anniversary year, I realise, like all of us, that I am still learning incredible things about bats and this wonderful charity. All of it fills me with a sense of confidence that if the next 30 years can achieve at least as much, we are moving nature recovery in the right direction.

We have just seen another year of successes in bat population increases for some British species and we only know this thanks to the amazing work of citizen scientists who take part in BCT'S National Bat Monitoring Programme (NBMP). These dedicated volunteers donate their skilled time and passion to record vital data to enable BCT to see how our wild bat populations are faring. Although the pandemic interfered with NBMP work and other face-to-face and field work, we still saw a 49% increase in summer sites surveyed, plus 599 volunteers trained, 19 online workshops and 1,202 sites surveyed.

Of course, those conservation wins have not happened by chance, but by passion, toil and dedication by so many brilliant and skilled people, working on conservation in so many important ways, whether it's joining individual projects, working in science discovery and research, on the Helpline, giving advice, outreach or expertise in other ways.

For example, the fantastic Back from the Brink project brought together BCT and several wildlife charities to help almost 100 threatened species, including bats, in England. Those species' prospects of survival have improved after five years of concerted work by eight organisations funded primarily by the National Lottery Heritage Fund. We also saw new species information guides for grey long-eared, barbastelle, noctule and Bechstein's bats.

That was just for England, so it's great to learn that new initiatives are starting in Wales with Natur am Byth and Scotland with Species on the Edge. Work to save rare species and reconnect communities with nature is getting off the ground with both of these exciting projects.

The Bats in Churches project also had its busiest year since it began in 2019, with events reaching over 3,000 people. As a result, we know that around half of historic churches are thought to house bats, but it could be many more.

As the world watched the COP26 try to deliver action on climate change, we also saw incredibly important research by scientists on the impacts of global heating on bats. You can read this in the special freely downloadable Spring 2021 edition of Bat News via the resources on our website.

Migration patterns are predicted to change due to the warming climate, so it was fascinating to see one of Britain's ringed bats, dubbed the 'Olympian' bat smashing a British record for long distance migration, and flying 2,018 km across Europe. This is one of the farthest ever known flights by a bat, globally. What a terrible pity she ended up in the jaws of a cat.

Here's to another 30 brilliant years of bat conservation, through education, inspiration, collaborative action and scientific research to inspire us all to value and speak up for the world's only flying mammals.

Chris Packham



President, Bat Conservation Trust

Review by the Chair and Chief Executive

This was a big birthday year for us. With our supporters, we enjoyed celebrating 30 years of championing bats and working with a diverse spectrum of people and organisations to conserve these magnificent mammals for today and tomorrow. We reflected on our achievements and discoveries so far, and the big challenges ahead through all our events, in special features in our Bat News member magazine, and in a whole month of batty themed activities during BatFest.

It's been a year of actions to reach out to new audiences, to be more inclusive and to increase nature access for everyone. This included our panel debate for International Women and Girls in Science Day, our work with Wildlife and Countryside Link and the Diverse Sustainability Initiative, and our online and face-to-face events and projects. In 2021 we developed new ways to engage younger and more ethnically diverse volunteers, increasing participation from 16-25 year olds and ethnic minority individuals. We launched the NightWatch community science project in England. It is engaging more people with nature, increasing more diverse participation among those from urban and ethnic minority communities and gathering new bat data. NightWatch Glasgow began too, and we held training, workshops, walks, and introduced AudioMoth bat detectors in urban areas.

In the past year, influencing policy has continued to be a key focus for BCT. The Environment Bill became the Environment Act. We are delighted that supporters joined the mass campaign calling for legally binding targets to end wildlife's decline by 2030. We will continue working with other NGOs to make sure that the targets are fit for purpose, and to ensure that other initiatives coming out of the Act (for example, biodiversity net gain for developments and Local Nature Recovery Strategies) work for bat conservation.

The Levelling Up and Regeneration Bill has just been published, and in the months leading up to this, we have worked with other NGOs on two related areas: planning and access to nature. We joined more than 60 nature, health, planning and equality organisations to demand 'a legal right to nature' in upcoming Levelling Up legislation. We responded to several consultations including the 7th Quinquennial Review for reviewing species in Schedules 5 and 8 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981, a vital piece of legislation for bat conservation.

On development and planning, we saw more than 15,000 people using the Partnership for Biodiversity online planning advice portal, even though funding has ended. The BCT Roost Awards and Bat Roost Tree Tag Scheme have been showcasing best practice techniques in avoiding bat roost impacts and the web pages for both schemes went live. BCT worked with Natural England (NE) and Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management (CIEEM) on a new approach to licensing mitigation work in England, called Earned Recognition.

Our work on bat crime prevention saw 36 proposals reviewed, working alongside police and the Bat Crime Priority Delivery Group (PDG). We ran workshops as part of the UK Wildlife Crime Enforcers Conference and had oversight on 136 police investigations.

A huge thank you once again to everyone who supports our work and makes bat conservation impactful. This year, for example, the National Bat Helpline began recruiting volunteers for a new out of hours service and saw an incredible response. The Helpline fielded 11,187 enquiries, with 5,311 of them handled by the out-of-hours Volunteer Bat Care Helpline.

The support from everyone especially through such challenging times strengthens everything we do and builds our hopes for a better future for bats, wildlife and people.





Jean Matthews, Chair

Kit Stoner, Chief Executive

The Trustees present their report and the audited financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2022.

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies set out in note 1 to the financial statements and comply with the charity's Memorandum and Articles of Association, applicable law and Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019).

Structure, Governance & Management

History of The Bat Conservation Trust

The Bat Conservation Trust (BCT) was formed in 1991, by far-seeing individuals who recognised that the combination of challenges to the conservation of bats was unique. BCT is proud to be the leading non-governmental organisation devoted solely to the conservation of bats and their habitats. In a very short time, BCT has grown to become an organisation with more than 6,500 members, with offices in England, Wales and Scotland and a team equivalent to around 30 full-time staff including scientists, specialists in training, outreach and biodiversity, volunteer engagement, fundraising, media and membership. BCT's core activities include: biodiversity delivery (taking effective practical conservation actions and influencing policy to secure bat populations); the National Bat Monitoring Programme; delivering advice about bats (through the National Bat Helpline and through long-term partnerships with the statutory nature conservation organisations and with statutory investigators and prosecutors); training professionals and volunteers; and engaging and educating wider audiences.

An overview of who we are

BCT has championed bats for 30 years and the places they need to survive.

Our vital stats: We spend just 13p (2021: 12p) on fundraising per £1 raised

Around 200,000 online supporters

Around 3,000 volunteers

Our purpose:

Vision: A world rich in wildlife where bats and people thrive together.

Mission: To conserve bats for present and future generations. Through education, collaborative action and scientific research, we inspire individuals and organisations to value and speak out for bats.

Values: Inspiration, collaboration, evidence-based.

The charity's main activities and the people and wildlife we strive to help are described below. All our charitable activities focus on conserving bats for present and future generations and are undertaken to further Bat Conservation Trust's charitable purposes for the public benefit.

We work to:

Discover: To ensure scientific evidence is in place to support bat conservation.

- Provide, either directly, through collaboration or by signposting to external organisations, the scientific evidence we need to understand and address threats to bat populations
- Deliver a world-leading, cost-effective citizen science programme supported by motivated volunteers, providing high quality data able to inform evidence needs, policy-relevant questions and metrics of bat population status, change and distribution

Act: To secure and enhance bat populations and their resilience in a changing world.

- Be the authoritative voice influencing positive outcomes (government, planning process, enforcement)
- Improved awareness, knowledge and action for bat conservation in key sectors (built environment, forestry, agriculture) and audiences (professional ecologists, volunteers, those that use places of worship)
- Advice provided is based on the most robust evidence available

Inspire: To win the levels of support required to secure and enhance bat populations.

- Increased engagement with and understanding of bats by the public and media
- Increased recruitment, retention and engagement of BCT members

Strengthen: To enable BCT to achieve financial stability and sustainable staff workloads; to ensure staff and volunteers are motivated and well led.

DISCOVER

National Bat Monitoring Programme (NBMP)

The NBMP is run by the Bat Conservation Trust, in partnership with the Joint Nature Conservation Committee, and supported and steered by Natural England, Natural Resources Wales, NatureScot and Northern Ireland Environment Agency.

It is the longest running purpose-built, multi-species monitoring programme for mammals in the UK and relies on a nationwide network of citizen scientists. In 2021, the Hibernation Survey was suspended due to the unknown but credible risk of humans passing SARS-CoV-2 on to bats while carrying out close-proximity surveys. However, summer surveys were less impacted by COVID-19 than in 2020, and there was a 49% increase in the number of sites surveyed, with 1,202 sites surveyed in total. Bat detector and sound analysis workshops were again run online, with 19 (2021: 13) workshops providing training for 599 volunteer surveyors. Eighty-seven percent (2021: 88%) of volunteers used our online recording portal to return their survey data.

Following on from the volunteer demographic and engagement reports we commissioned in early 2021 we have been working to engage younger and more ethnically diverse volunteers. This work was supported by our new Volunteer Engagement Officer role, funded through the government's Kickstart scheme. We ran some free online introductory workshops on looking for bats in your local area, expanded our social media promotion of the Sunset Survey, reached out to groups that connect people with nature, and delivered bat talks in partnership with Voyage Youth. Volunteer demographics are now monitored through a new demographic form included as an optional part of the NBMP online sign-up process. We are starting to see some positive results from this work, including increased numbers of new sign-ups within the 16-25 age group (16.3% of new sign-ups from May 2021 to March 2022 compared with <3% of existing volunteers responding to our questionnaire in March 2021). There was also an increase in new sign-ups who identified themselves as belonging to an ethnic minority group (4.1% of new sign-ups compared with 0.02% of March 2021 questionnaire respondents).

NBMP data have enabled us to produce statistically robust population trends for 11 of the UK's 17 breeding bat species. The latest results were published in the NBMP Annual Report in May 2021.

Advances in monitoring

EchoHub

EchoHub is an open-source, community-built, sound library focusing exclusively on bat sounds. The goal of EchoHub is to make it easier to share and access recordings of bat sounds for diverse purposes such as scientific research, conservation, education, and the arts. The website's wireframe is completed. We have tested the website with initial users and collated feedback. We are currently editing the website to incorporate the users' feedback. The next step will be to soft-launch the website with the collaboration of two or three bat groups.

NightWatch

NightWatch is a community science/citizen science project launched in 2021. It is run by the Bat Conservation Trust and supported by Esmée Fairbairn Foundation and Joint Nature Conservation Committee (JNCC). NightWatch has two main goals:

- Engage people with nature, particularly those from urban and ethnic minority communities
- Produce locally-focused and fine resolution data that can be used at local scale

Ninety-five participants took part in our NightWatch pilot survey in the 2021 summer/autumn. We are currently analysing the data and will share the results with them soon. We have recruited a part time Engagement Officer for the NightWatch project who will develop and implement an engagement strategy to liaise with community groups and engage and recruit participants.

We are in the process of collating and providing feedback on the beta version of the NightWatch online portal. The website can host multiple surveys and other BCT passive acoustic surveys can be added at any time. We are developing an upload app that will enable volunteers to upload their recordings directly to the cloud-based classification system. We plan to trial the app this coming survey season.

Sound classification system
We are developing our sound classification system with the help of an Amazon Web Services specialist. The sound classification system will encompass our upload app, our survey website and our bat classification algorithm. It will streamline the data processing for NightWatch and other passive acoustic projects.

Woodland monitoring
In 2021, BCT and Forest Research undertook a scoping study to investigate ways to integrate acoustic monitoring of bats into the National Forest Inventory field survey (NFI). In addition, following on from the successful 2019 Forestry England Bat Survey proof-of-concept study, we undertook a second pilot survey during 2021 with Forestry England, to refine the survey protocol for long term woodland monitoring and improve our understanding of the variability of woodland bat monitoring data between years. We are currently carrying out statistical analysis of the data which will inform the survey design for the woodland surveys that we plan to run in summer 2022.

Other monitoring partnerships
During 2021 we continued to partner with the Government of Jersey to analyse ten years of acoustic data from Jersey, and make recommendations for a comprehensive monitoring programme for the island that includes a variety of monitoring approaches. We are also supporting the RSPB to pilot bat monitoring across their reserves.

Research

Impacts of bias on detecting bat population change
BCT have co-supervised two PhDs over the past year that have looked at the impacts of bias in bat population modelling: 'Modelling drivers of population change in bats' (Lea Dambly, hosted by the UK Centre for Ecology & Hydrology (UKCEH)) and 'Using ecoacoustics to understand anthropogenic impacts on biodiversity: a case study on European bats' (Ella Browning, hosted by UCL), both of which draw on data from the NBMP.

Ella completed her PhD in 2021 and published another paper in collaboration with BCT 'Accounting for spatial autocorrelation and environment are important to derive robust bat population trends from citizen science data' (Ecological Indicators 2022; https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S1470160X2200190X). In this work, Ella used Bayesian hierarchical modelling method (integrated nested Laplace approximation) to investigate the impact of spatial and environmental bias on trends estimated using Field Survey data. The nature of the NBMP as a citizen science programme means that there is greater survey coverage in areas of greater population density, and in certain habitats. This is partially controlled by weighting data for Great Britain by country, in proportion to the ratio of non-upland area to number of sites surveyed; however, this does not account for within-country spatial autocorrelation, or biased

sampling of different habitats. Using this novel modelling approach, this study confirmed that the reported population trends are broadly robust, although some small changes were found.

NBMP data were also used by PhD student Lea Dambly in a case study examining parameters affecting species distribution models that use integrated data (data from more than one source). Lea used integrated data from the NBMP and National Biodiversity Network (NBN) for the serotine bat (*Eptesicus serotinus*) in Great Britain to create point process models that use Bayesian methods to fit a triangular mesh over the spatial domain. These models are very effective for data integration but as changing the mesh density, to fit more or less to the data can influence the model predictions, these types of models are often avoided by ecological modellers. In this study, Lea compares models with different mesh sizes and recommends caution when modelling, to avoid overfitting with a too fine mesh, versus loss of accuracy with increased coarseness. Data integration is crucial if modellers are to utilise location data from the maximum number of sources, so Lea's study is an important step forward in highlighting the tools available for researchers to do this.

Bats and insects

BCT is project partner on a new Natural Environment Research Council (NERC)-funded study investigating the drivers and repercussions of UK insect population declines, alongside the University of Leeds, UKCEH, University of Reading and Rothamsted Research, called the DRUID project (Drivers and Repercussions of UK Insect Declines). This project began in January 2021. It will be making the most comprehensive assessment to date of the state of the UK's insect populations, and seeking to link insect population changes to changes in insect predator populations (bats and birds).

BCT is co-supervisor of a PhD hosted by Rothamsted Research, investigating the long-term changes in the abundance and phenology of migrating insects as potential drivers of population change in insectivorous birds and bats. Hannah Romanowski started the South West Bio Doctoral Training Partnership (SWBio DTP) studentship PhD in Sept 2021. She completed her Rotation 1 project with BCT and the British Trust for Ornithology (BTO), as an introduction to the NBMP and bird datasets she will be working with during her PhD. Hannah is due to complete her field-based Rotation 2 at the University of Bristol with supervisory input from BCT and will be collecting bat activity data for comparison to insect trap data.

BCT is also co-supervisor of Penelope Fialas who is working towards a PhD on valuing ecosystem services provided by UK bats under climate change. This coming season will focus on vineyards.

Vincent Weir Scientific Award

The Vincent Weir Scientific Award was first established in 2010 to recognise the achievements of new bat researchers and their contributions to bat conservation. Domhnall Finch won the award in 2021 for his PhD work on the landscape scale management of greater horseshoe bats. Domhnall used multiple research techniques, including field experiments, meta-analysis and computer modelling, to examine horseshoe bat responses to traffic noise, landscape features and management systems. Domhnall has published four papers from this PhD research in good academic journals, including Environmental Pollution, Landscape Ecology, Environmental Toxicology and Chemistry, and Animals.

Kate Barlow Award

The 2022 Kate Barlow Award was awarded to Elyce Gosselin of the University of Idaho, USA. Genomic data generated as a part of Elyce's project will provide novel information about the phylogenomics, landscape genomics and population genomics of the two species of bats found in the Galápagos Islands: the Galápagos red bat (*Lasiurus blossevillii brachyotis*) and hoary bat (*L. villosissimus*). While the Galápagos is an iconic island system and many species have been studied extensively, very little is known about the bat populations despite their status as two of the few terrestrial mammals native to the Galápagos. With the genomic data, Elyce will be able to evaluate the taxonomic status of the two species of bats, determine the timing and number of colonization events, evaluate whether there is gene flow between islands, and estimate genetic diversity and effective population size. This information, as well as occupancy modelling and habitat-use data collected as another part of her project, will be used to create a data-informed, long-term management and monitoring plan with Galápagos National Park. Elyce's project forms part of her PhD thesis at the University of Idaho, USA.

ACT

Biodiversity

Professional Guidance/Standards

'Bat Surveys for Professional Ecologists: Good Practice Guidelines (3rd edition)' continues to have a far reach. During 2021, the UK Bat Steering Group discussed tree surveys for bats (see below) and several meetings were held to discuss the technical content of the next edition of the guidelines, notably around the use of infrared cameras and how to cover more significant maintenance and infrastructure projects. A draft of the 4th edition is now with the Technical Review Board for their comments and will be published in hard copy format (with a non-printable pdf available on the BCT website) later in 2022. There will be opportunities to sponsor this publication.

An updated version of 'Bats and Onshore Wind Turbines: Survey, Assessment and Mitigation' was published on the NatureScot website in August 2021. BCT contributed to this update. BCT attended the Conference on Wind Energy and Wildlife in the Netherlands in April 2022.

BCT's Head of Biodiversity sits on the Advisory Group (led by CIEEM) for updating the 'Bat Mitigation Guidelines', alongside a variety of stakeholders including the Statutory Nature Conservation Bodies (SNCBs). The results of our mitigation project were fed into the new guidelines. A beta version was published in summer 2021 for public comment and BCT has attended subsequent meetings and contributed to further reviews. The guidance should be published later in 2022. The guidelines will be widely publicised by BCT and others, including on our website, through our bulletins, through our developer contacts and at the Consultant's Forum in 2023.

UK Bat Steering Group

On an annual basis BCT convenes the UK Bat Steering Group. This group is made up of a range of organisations that influence bat conservation through their activities (SNCBs, Joint Nature Conservation Committee, Forestry Commission, National Trust, Vincent Wildlife Trust, Environment Agency, Woodland Trust and Historic England). In 2021, two meetings of the group were held, one on bat surveys of trees/woodland and the other on mitigation and compensation for impacts on trees/woodland during development. More detail can be found on the BCT website. The content of the meeting has been used in updating the bat survey guidelines (see above).

Links with other organisations

BCT continues to work with organisations with which we have overlapping work areas as this level of collaboration is vital in achieving positive outcomes. These organisations include the SNCBs, CIEEM, the Association of Local Government Ecologists (ALGE) and the Environment Agency (EA).

In addition, we convene a Consultants Forum annually to update consultants on BCT's activities and to hear from them on their concerns and priorities. This year's forum went ahead in January 2022.

Earned Recognition Project

BCT is working with Natural England and CIEEM on the pilot for a new transformative approach to licensing mitigation work in England that impacts on bats, which will streamline the licensing process, raise professional standards and improve outcomes for bats. This approach is known as Earned Recognition (ER).

ER works on the basis of assessing and accrediting a consultant's competence in undertaking survey work and designing effective mitigation so that, by using an accredited consultant, developers can experience a more streamlined licensing process for their scheme or project.

The competency requirements for consultants are being defined on the basis of relevant selected elements of CIEEM's Competency Framework (but a more detailed version with an emphasis on bats) with the indicators of competence mapped across to BCT's Professional Training Standards. There will be different competency requirements based on the level of accreditation applied for, which, in turn, relates to the degree of risk to bats and bat roosts from the projects that the accredited consultant will be able to work on.

During the last financial year, BCT has contributed to the production of ER assessment materials, the assessment and training of ER assessors, evaluation of the pilot and important decisions through the Steering Group. The project is currently in the process of completing assessments and accreditation for up to 100 ecologists. Some have already been accredited and the Site Registration portal has been opened for those ecologists to benefit from the more streamlined licensing process.

Bats and farming

In this last year, BCT has been part of two collaborative projects with a focus on delivering for bats in the farmed landscape. Both have been focussed on the grey long-eared bat and both projects have completed in this year.

The Grey Long-eared Bat Project, as part of 'Back from the Brink', continued to work with farmers and landowners to improve foraging habitat (primarily species rich grassland) and connectivity, throughout the south Devon project area until it completed in November 2021. It was a very successful project with 213 landowners engaged (2021: 198), the number of hectares enhanced or restored (80.5ha) and the number of community events (62) all far exceeding their targets. A total of 86 volunteers were trained or engaged by the project. Legacy was an important part of closing this project.

One aspect of this was the collaboration with East Devon Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) and a Green Recovery Challenge Funded project 'Return of the True Night Rider'. This 18-month project continued and expanded upon the work of the Back from the Brink Grey Long-eared Bat Project moving the focus to East Devon and into West Dorset. Work continued with farmers and landowners on habitat improvement and connectivity. This project completed in January 2022 when in this short period a further 47 land managers had been engaged and 19.25 Ha of habitat enhanced or restored. With both projects successfully completed, BCT is looking to build on this foundation with further collaborative farming-based projects for a wider range of bats.

Partnership working has continued with the Nature Friendly Farming Network, Farm Wildlife and Pesticides Action Network UK, although this work has been much reduced due to lack of a farm wildlife specialist from August 2021.

Policy

The past year has been challenging in terms of policy work, with some very important reforms and policies being proposed that could have significant impacts on bat conservation, but reduced capacity to input into these in the second half of the year. Policy work has included the Environment Bill (now Act), planning reform and access to nature for everyone, Nature Recovery Green Paper, Biodiversity Net Gain, High Speed Two, Environmental Land Management Schemes, the Quinquennial Review (QQR7) for reviewing species in Schedules 5 and 8 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981, Local Nature Recovery Strategies and Nature Recovery Networks. As well as inputting into many of these areas as an individual organisation, we also continue to work very closely with other environmental NGOs through the four Environment Links and Greener UK, to get a strong and effective voice for conservation across the United Kingdom. In recent months we have joined the newly set up Better Planning Coalition which has a focus on proposed planning reforms.

BCT continues to promote the importance of retaining and strengthening the legislation protecting bats. Promotion of bats and their protection is supported through our Species Champions projects (England: 3 Species Champions, Wales: 1 Species Champion, Scotland: 1 Nature Champion).

Licence monitoring project with NE

BCT is currently working with NE and stakeholders on a project to identify options to improve European Protected Species licence monitoring. A stakeholder day was held in March 2022, attended by 20 stakeholders who shared views on key issues and potential solutions. A report has been drafted consolidating these views and developing three options for improvements, with pros and cons for each (including stakeholder impact).

Jersey Licensing Framework

BCT is currently working with the Jersey Government on a new licensing framework for bats, following the introduction of the Wildlife (Jersey) Law in 2021. Stakeholder consultation is part of this work, one stakeholder day went ahead in October 2021 and another in March 2022, after which the licences will be finalised. The framework includes the following licences: Bat Ecologist Class Licence, Bat Care Class Licence, Arborist Class Licence, Bat Mitigation Licence and Bat Research Licence.

The Partnership for Biodiversity in Planning (PBP)

Our funding for the Partnership for Biodiversity in Planning Project has now come to an end. However, we continue to maintain the partnership website and Wildlife Assessment Checklist (WAC) and the latter is being updated as appropriate. We make contact with partners annually to check for updates.

- The Wildlife Assessment Checklist (WAC) is promoted whenever possible and continues to be linked from the Planning Portal.
- In the last year there have been 15,165 users in a steady stream visiting the site (with a couple of peaks in usage in September 2021 and March 2022). This is slightly more than the previous year, which recorded 10,637 users. In the last year, 12.7% of those were returning visitors and 87% were new visitors (these figures are very similar to last year).
- 53.1% of users came from an internet search, 23.7% were referred from other websites, 22% directly entered the web address and 1% came from links on social media. These figures are also similar to previous years since the tool was launched.
- Of those users arriving to the website from other websites, 46.8% come from the Planning Portal.
- Smaller numbers of users were directed to the WAC from the websites of at least 24 Local Planning Authorities (in other words, they have links to the WAC on their websites).
- Users also linked to the WAC from the websites of the project partners (Bat Conservation Trust, Amphibian and Reptile Conservation, People's Trust for Endangered Species, Mammal Society, Royal Town Planning Institute), other NGOs, consultancies, Bat Groups, CIEEM, Local Environmental Records Centres, National Biodiversity Network, Historic England and academic institutions. This is an increase on last year, particularly with respect to the local authorities with links to the WAC, which may be down to general promotion of the WAC by partners whenever possible.

Wildlife Crime Project

Our statistics show that the majority of bat-related offences occur within development/construction projects. Armed with this knowledge, the Wildlife Crime Project's strategic work has focussed on relevant crime prevention initiatives in the last year. At the December 2021 UK Wildlife Crime Enforcers Conference the project ran two workshops entitled, 'COVID and Bats/Crime Prevention & Planning (development)'. The latter workshop was to develop new preventative approaches to bat offences, some 36 proposals were made, which have been consolidated and are being looked at by the police-chaired Bat Crime Priority Delivery Group (Bat Crime PDG).

The Deputy Chief Constable (DCC) for Northumbria Police, Debbie Ford (who recently took the National Police Chief Council (NPCC) portfolio lead on Wildlife and Rural Crime) stated that the Police/NGO partnership is the best working example she has ever seen in her 28-year career.

The United Nations' 'wildlife and forest crime analytic toolkit report' was publicly released on 17 December 2021. The document involved the seven wildlife crime priorities, one of which is bat crime. The BCT Wildlife Crime Project was involved. The Bat Crime PDG has a 12-month work plan which will encompass recommendations from this report. BCT has published a position statement on the website calling for more accountability from other bodies in relation to the report's recommendations.

The day-to-day operational work of the project continues; primary demand is from the police, ecologists and the public seeking advice and guidance on bat related offending. In the last 12 months the project has had oversight on 136 (2021: 125) police investigations into bat crime. Offence disposals have varied from restorative justice outcomes to police cautions and court prosecutions.

With the continuous challenges on funding and capacity, the project strives in partnership to protect bats and their habitats in line with BCT conservation priorities, whilst ensuring offenders do not benefit from their illegal actions.

Built environment

BCT's work to improve awareness, knowledge and action for bat conservation within the built environment sector goes from strength to strength. In 2021, this meant the launch of BCT's first exciting strategic partnership with a housebuilder. Vistry Group approached BCT with aims that aligned with BCT's goals, to upskill their staff in biodiversity awareness, to enable them to go above and beyond mandatory biodiversity net gain. The Built Environment Manager ran two webinars for Vistry Group staff in early 2022; introducing their staff to BCT and bats, then the second webinar focussed on technical advice. This is prior to workshops for key staff to be run later in the year and the identification of demonstrator sites to showcase best practice.

The year included delivering a suite of online engagement work; existing training courses such as 'Bats for Building Professionals' and 'Bats for Pest Controllers' were run through the year, but new online courses were also launched. The Built Environment Manager was contracted by Historic England to produce bats in traditional buildings awareness guidance webpages, then to deliver a technical webinar to building professionals on this topic. From this work a new 'Bats for Heritage Professionals' training was developed to much interest, with courses running in January and February 2022.

The Roost Award winner has been working closely with the built environment project, promoting the best practice techniques of avoidance of bat roost impacts recognised by their case study. The winner Chris Damant delivered a workshop at the National Bat Conference on heritage buildings and became a judge for the upcoming Roost Awards 2022, to be announced at the National Bat Conference.

Knowledge gathered from case studies and engagement with ecologists continues to feed into the Roost Partnership to create the best opportunities for bats in the built environment by working with bat box and access product manufacturers. A proportion of the sales revenue from partners is reinvested into the Roost scheme, with the aim of improving bat roosting habitat. This unique partnership signed up a new partner in 2021, lead roof tile manufacturer Just Lead, which led to articles promoting the Partnership in trade magazines such as Roofing Today.

Engagement with ecologists to gather feedback on the built environment project, as well as other relevant BCT departments, was done through the Consultants Forum that ran in January 2022 and was attended by 100 ecological consultants, topics included key policy work and changes in licensing processes that could impact consultants.

The steering group that oversees the issue of non-bitumen coated roofing membrane impacts on bats continues to meet on a regular basis and to support each other to tackle issues raised by ecologists and the industry. The steering group which comprises BCT, academics and the SNCBs welcomed roofing membrane manufacturer TLX to the board in early 2022 to further this work.

After delays due to COVID-19 and securing funding, the next phase of bat box sensor testing work with partners Arup began in March 2022. This aims to refine the sensor design and with further field testing and data analysis to assess their viability. Long-term, the goal is to have a partnership involving property developers, environmental consultancies and conservation technologists to look at the potential for a commercial product.

Bats and woodland

The following Back from the Brink (BftB) integrated projects – Roots of Rockingham, Dorset Heathland Heart and Ancients of the Future drew to a close in July, August and November respectively. BCT's Woodland Officer worked with the project leads and partners to complete the project's final reports and survey summary reports with habitat recommendations were shared with landowners and volunteer surveyors. In addition, species information guides for barbastelle, noctule and Bechstein's bat were produced and are now available to download from the BftB and BCT websites. The legacy of these projects continues after the completion of the projects. A local bat group in Northamptonshire has agreed to continue with the surveys started by the Roots of Rockingham project, which includes NBMP roost counts, monitoring of veteranisation techniques trials (using trial cameras) and continued support to a private estate on the conversion of air raid shelters into hibernaculum. Following the completion of the 'habitat requirements of Bechstein's bats in the Dorset Heaths' report in 2020, Dorset Bat Group and BCT had a virtual meeting with Forestry England and local landowners during February 2022 to discuss the project findings and consideration of key commuting routes in any future management plans. This was followed by a site visit in the afternoon led by the Dorset Bat Group.

BCT's Bat Roost Tree Tag Scheme (BRTTS) web pages went live in May 2021. The primary purpose of the scheme is to ensure trees containing confirmed bat roosts are easily identifiable. The presence of a tag on a tree is well recognised by woodland workers and site managers, so providing a bat roost tree tag will bring clarity to those on the ground about those trees already identified as bat roosts. When a woodland operative sees a tag and their actions may impact the tree, they will know they need to seek appropriate advice before proceeding with any work, giving a significantly increased level of protection for bat roosts in trees. Additionally, all tree roost and species records collected through the scheme will support current and future work studying bats' use of different tree species and roosting opportunities.

Looking forward, during this year's survey season, we will be working with the Dorset and Somerset Bat Groups to complete three radiotracking surveys to learn more about Bechstein's bat's use of atypical habitat and landscapes through our Fascinating World of Woodland Bats project. Radiotracking training will also be delivered to members of the Somerset Bat Group through the project.

BCT's Woodland Officer continued to work with the NBMP on their passive acoustic monitoring projects and took on the project officer role for two pilot Forest Bat Surveys in 2021, one for Forestry England and one for Forest Research. The datasets collected from both projects has allowed us to refine a survey protocol that can be used to construct a Natural Capital Account for the bat population in woodlands and trial survey methods and administrative procedures.

Bats in churches

The project has continued to work closely work with over 100 project churches. All of the churches which needed surveys have had them and a majority of the project capital works are complete and in a phase of post-work monitoring.

Over the year we hosted or were part of 29 engagement events which took place at project churches, celebrating the churches and their bats. There were a further 13 (2021: 14) online events from our Bats in Churches LIVE webinars to talks to bat groups. Collectively, our events reached over 3,000 people. We delivered 28 training events, from heritage cleaning workshops to bat survey training and best practice forums for professional ecologists and architects. In addition, we shared project news via nine radio interviews and were on television on BBC Midlands Today and Celebrity Antiques Road Trip. Over the year, the project has had articles in nine magazines or newspapers, including 'The Biologist and Conservation Land Management'.

The project continued to run our citizen science surveys between June and August and we had our busiest year since it started in 2019. The aim of the surveys is to learn more about bats' use of church buildings and to better understand perspectives around bats in churches across the country. The study has a total of 785 volunteers registered and to date 338 churches have been surveyed. We have developed a new results page to easily share a summary of our findings: https://batsinchurches.bats.org.uk/Results.aspx.

One of the main barriers when it comes to volunteer involvement in our surveys is contacting a selected church. To help, over the winter we've contacted the priority churches we hope to survey in 2022 and are currently matching the churches with volunteers. We hope that this will encourage a large uptake in the surveys over the summer for our fourth and final Bats in Churches Study season.

Our Research Strategy Group has continued to shape our approach to understanding and sharing our findings and will be increasingly important in the upcoming year as we begin to collate and analyse the findings from our mitigation and citizen science work. In 2021, a legacy group was also formed to ensure the project has a long-term positive impact and it will continue to meet once a quarter.

INSPIRE

Helpline

The National Bat Helpline provides a national advice and information service available to anyone who is interested in or concerned about bats. You can find helpful advice about bats and their roosts online (https://www.bats.org.uk/advice) or reach us on 0345 1300 228 between 9.30am and 4.30pm on weekdays all year round. The Helpline fielded a total of 11,187 (2021: 14,857) enquiries (calls, emails and letters) in 2021-22.

The Helpline provides immediate welfare advice to those who have found grounded, injured and orphaned bats through our Volunteer Bat Care Helpline. Trained volunteers help us respond to members of the public who have found grounded and injured bats during our open hours, with an 'Out of Hours' Volunteer Bat Care Helpline also provided during evenings and weekends in the summer. These dedicated volunteers handled 5,311 enquiries during 2021-22. We maintain a blog for members of the UK Bat Care Network as a way of sharing stories, news and best practice with the volunteers who rescue bats. We continued to raise funds to support the running of this service.

Helpline staff organised 674 (2021: 618) roost visits (6% of all Helpline enquiries (2021: 4.2%)) on behalf of Natural England through their free bat advice service. We also advised on a further 1,462 (2021: 2,890) Natural England enquiries (13.1% of all Helpline enquiries (2021: 19.5%)) which did not require a visit. The Natural England casework is an enormously important part of our work, which would not be possible without the dedication and flexibility of their Volunteer Bat Roost Visitors. The help and advice given by those who take part in this service is extremely valuable and we at BCT believe the system is vital to the conservation of bats in the UK.

The Helpline advised on calls from various sectors including churches with enquiries about safely undertaking maintenance work, bat walks and involving parishioners in encouraging bats to the church and grounds. We have also contributed to the Bats in Churches partnership project and will continue to do so over the coming year.

Thank you to everyone who has supported the Helpline whether that be donations of time, money or expertise over the last year. We are so grateful to our callers who do the right things for bats and seek out advice from the National Bat Helpline.

Training and conferences

BCT delivered 27 (2021: 25) training courses this year for a combined audience of over 500 people (2021: 349 people); this is more than in previous years, partly due to the increased capacity of some

of the new online courses. We started reintroducing in-person training and held nine courses in person and the rest online.

We reversed last year's pattern and returned to the majority of our courses being openly advertised courses with 10 as in-house courses.

Building on the success of last year's experiments, we continued to run some courses online as well as introducing new ones such as online bat care training course in collaboration with Maggie Brown of West Yorkshire Bat Hospital and 'British bats, their ecology and conservation'. All received positive feedback. BCT also collaborated with the Environment Agency on our first training videos to help their field staff working with trees.

Following consultation, the National Bat Conference was held online again and was attended by 250 (2021: 278) people. It was moved to Halloween this year and extended to include Friday afternoon as well to incorporate celebrations of BCT's 30th anniversary including a panel discussion looking at 30 years of the Bat Conservation Trust. For 2022, we are planning a hybrid format incorporating the best of our online events with an in-person conference at Yarnfield Park near Stafford on 23-25 September 2022.

We continued to hold regional bat conferences online until March 2022 when the Midlands Bat Conference was our first hybrid conference with both in person and virtual delegates. Bookings were lower than expected and we are undertaking a consultation with bat workers to understand what they want from regional bat conferences moving forward.

We repeated "BatFest" a series of online events which ran from International Bat Night on and through September. New events included the Batty Sketch-a-long, Bats versus Moths – our collaboration with Butterfly Conservation and the Batty Awards. We also ran a successful online panel discussion for International Day of Women and Girls in Science exploring "Challenges and Opportunities for Women and Girls in Bat Science and Conservation" which shone a light on a variety of topics not often discussed publicly from barriers to getting started in bat work to menstruation and balancing fieldwork and parenthood. As part of our Equality, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI) work, we plan to continue exploring some of these topics in future events.

Membership

Membership continues to be an important source of income and is also a way for supporters to add their voice to ours and become more informed and involved in bat conservation. Membership makes up approximately 10% of BCT's income and is a particularly important because it is unrestricted in nature. We aim to continue supporting existing BCT members and encouraging others to join.

The number of members and membership income has increased every year over the last five years but the rate of growth has slowed over the last 12 months. BCT's fulfilment (sending out of welcome packs and membership magazines) is back up and running, after stalling during the pandemic, and we have been exploring ways to improve the current welcome pack new members receive. We are aiming to implement some further improvements to the way we interact with members in 2022-23. We have also run membership recruitment campaigns, which have been successful so we plan to do more in the future. We encourage supporters to join as members through a series of channels

including (but not restricted to): social media, newsletters from several BCT departments (e.g. NBMP, Helpline, Communications & Fundraising), communications with the press, bat groups, etc.

We are pleased to say that we had five (2021: eight) new life members and four new corporate members over the year. Corporate members receive opportunities for sponsoring projects, events and publications ahead of being offered to others.

Our current members receive one or both our magazines (depending on membership type) as well as discounts on BCT conferences and training courses. We continue to produce engaging content for our members. The spring 2021 issue of Bat News focused on climate change and the summer edition marked BCT's 30th anniversary with a range of articles covering the discoveries and bat conservation progress that have been made during the last 30 years.

The Adopt a Bat scheme is another important source of income and an engagement tool. Income decreased slightly this year but it had been increasing steadily for the last five years. Adopt a Bat subscribers have the perk of receiving a cuddly bat with their welcome packs and we will be reviewing the contents of this pack in 2022-23 to ensure this is still an attractive subscription. They also receive a newsletter twice a year with fun and interesting information about bats and bat conservation.

Championing bats

BCT continues to champion bats by raising appreciation of bats and the importance of bat conservation as well as encouraging supporters to get involved; whether that is becoming members, donating, volunteering, raising funds for bats, raising awareness or sharing our news. Last year it was BCT's 30th anniversary which was celebrated through a series of events and promoted via a series of channels.

BCT published 24 news pieces about topics ranging from bat crime, policy/advocacy, celebrating collaborative projects; and six blogs from a variety of guests were also shared across our network, via newsletters, membership magazines, mainstream media and social media.

Having a social media presence is an important to way to raise awareness of bats and bat conservation with a wide range of people, from professionals, academia, bat enthusiasts and wildlife enthusiasts. It is also an effective education, fundraising and membership recruitment tool and a useful way to be kept up to date with relevant news from the sector, including research projects and other relevant news.

Bat Conservation Trust's presence in social media continues to grow despite not having a dedicated member of staff. At the end of the financial year the Bat Conservation Trust had:
- Over 119,000 followers on Facebook
- Over 54,500 (2021: 51,600) followers on twitter
- Over 7,000 (2021: 5,700) followers on LinkedIn
- Over 24,500 (2021: 22,800) followers on Instagram

The third season of our podcast BatChat finished just before the year end and was sponsored by two of our corporate members. Season 4 is already being recorded and will be launched in Autumn 2022. So far BatChat has been downloaded 35,390 times. The first episode ever published (Shirley

Thompson: The Past, Present & Future of Bat Conservation) is the most popular episode ever, followed by 'Bats & Coronavirus' and 'Woodchester Mansion'.

Education

Education is a theme that runs throughout all our projects and activities. Our engagement with Younger Audiences continues to happen via The Young Batworker magazine entirely produced by Shirley Thompson MBE, BCT's Honorary Education Officer. We are increasingly interacting with younger audiences via social media which generates significant content for the magazine.

We have a range of freely downloadable resources and activities from the website including a bilingual educational pack (Welsh and English). We aim to develop further resources and make best use of the existing material so that we can support the education work carried out by bat groups.

Bat group support: UK, Channel Islands and the Isle of Man

BCT could not deliver all that it does for bat conservation without the support of bat groups across the British Islands. We have a formal relationship with 86 (2021: 88) groups (70 (2021: 70) Partner Groups and 16 (2021: 18) Network Groups) across the British Isles, with new groups forming this year in England and Scotland.

Abby Packham, Bat Groups Officer, now supports groups in England, Wales, Northern Ireland, Isle of Man and the Channel Islands (this follows the retirement of Steve Lucas, see 'BCT in Wales' below). After her return from maternity leave in the winter Liz Ferrell, Scottish Bat Officer, moved organisations to spend more work time in the great outdoors. We wish Liz all the best and thank her for all her hard work to support bat groups and bat conservation in Scotland. Claudia Gebhardt, who was maternity cover for Liz, is now the permanent full time Scottish Bat Officer.

Together, our Bat Groups Officer and Scottish Bat Officer provide a range of support to groups, including talks, training, outreach materials (e.g. leaflets), insurance, advice and guidance, and networking opportunities such as the (new this year) online bat group mingles. Bat group projects are supported financially through the Partner Group Support Fund (with five awards made this year totalling £1,502 (2021: three totalling £1,028)) as well as through advice, guidance and participation for collaborative work, where appropriate. Updates and information are disseminated to bat groups through the production of the monthly bat group bulletin, the BCT website (which includes dedicated pages for bat groups), as well as through direct regular contact, annual meetings (which include presentations and training), regional meetings, biennial regional conferences, and the annual Bat Workers' Forum. Due to restrictions on gatherings continuing this year, many events have been held virtually which has opened up access; however we have also seen the return to in-person events such as the hybrid Midlands Regional Conference, where attendees could join in-person or online for the same event.

Looking ahead, we are working on how we can better support bat groups through training and expansion of accessible resources, to encourage them to make the most of virtual opportunities. We would also like to encourage uptake of existing partnerships and develop more collaborative projects that engage with the bat groups, as well as finding new ways of showcasing the wonderful work being done locally in front-line bat conservation, throughout the British Isles.

BCT in Wales

This year has seen Steve Lucas, our Wales Officer and Species Legislation & Policy Specialist, retired after 13 years with BCT. We are thankful to Steve for his years of dedicated work and his expertise. He will be missed by the bat groups he supported as well as by colleagues at BCT. In recent years, Steve had worked three days a week as our Species Policy & Legislation Specialist, with the Wales Officer role reduced to only two days a week due to funding constraints. We remain without a Wales Bat Officer post at present due to lack of funding for this role. The Welsh landscape is tremendously important for 15 British bat species. Therefore, our Bat Groups Officer is continuing to provide support to bat groups in Wales and in February 2022 a successful Wales Bat Workers Day was held. This included a session to honour Tom McOwat, a long-standing bat worker who died in October 2021. Tom was a pillar of the bat conservation community, his reach extending far beyond Wales, and his outstanding achievements have helped shape bat conservation today.

Delivering for bats on the ground in Wales is still in focus. Natur am Byth is a collaborative project based in Wales and linked to the Back from the Brink family which in the last year has successfully entered its development phase. As well as having a role across other landscape scale multi-partner projects across the country, BCT has a single species project on the population of lesser horseshoe bats on the Gower. This population is genetically separated and possibly isolated from those elsewhere. Increasing urbanisation and associated light pollution have restricted the locations where these bats are able to move between the Gower and elsewhere. The project will utilise citizen science to understand how lesser horseshoe bats are currently able to move in and out of the Gower and will work with local authorities, communities, and the lighting sector to tackle the features of urbanisation that are causing this important population to falter.

BCT in Scotland

With the support of NatureScot, BCT runs the Scottish Bat Project which engages people in bat recording, conservation, and education activities. The project currently works with 10 volunteer bat groups, as well as 173 active National Bat Monitoring Programme volunteers, to increase our knowledge of the nine bat species found in Scotland and to tackle their conservation threats. We also undertake a range of public engagement work.

Some of the project highlights over the past year:

- The 'NightWatch Glasgow' pilot project included two online training events for 20 attendees of the LGBTQ+ community in Scotland. As a result, 10 volunteers signed up to participate in bat surveys, using AudioMoth bat detectors to collect data on urban bats.
- Fourteen RSPB Reserves managers attended an in-person daytime bat walk about bat ecology and land management.
- Thirty-six attendees participated in the 'Spring into Action' event, which was held online. Workshops included topics such as hands-off bat ID, sound analysis, and biosecurity and bats.
- The Scottish Bat Officer and the National Bat Monitoring Programme (NBMP) trainers delivered various NBMP workshops online which were attended by a minimum of 150 people from around Scotland.
- During 2021/22, a total of 77 new NBMP volunteers signed up in Scotland.

- One new Scottish bat group (Skye and Lochalsh) formed, and one bat group (Ayrshire and Arran) came out of 'hibernation' in the last year.

Through 2022 into 2023 we will continue to work with Scottish Bat Groups and create new connections between our volunteers and landowners and land managers, and with other environmental organisations. We will help them to develop skills in managing Scottish landscapes for bats and bat groups will gain access to new areas to find out more about their local bat populations. A large focus will be on growing the skills of existing volunteers through the Scottish Nathusius' Pipistrelle Skills Programme, which will include training in advanced survey skills to find out more about Nathusius' pipistrelles in Scotland. We will continue to bring bat skills and enthusiasm to young people through online training events. The 'NightWatch' project will continue in Scotland, enabling underserved communities to participate in bat surveys and reaching new, more diverse audiences. At the Scottish Bat Workers' Conference' event planned for March 2023, Scottish bat workers and bat enthusiasts will be able to meet up and attend a variety of talks to further develop our bat survey skills and knowledge. If the funding application is successful, the Scottish Bat Project will also be linking up again with the 'Species on the Edge' project, a partnership project active in various areas of Scotland.

Pete Guest Award

This award is given in memory of Pete Guest who was an inspirational figure in the bat conservation movement for more than 20 years. Each year, the bat world is invited to nominate individuals who have made an outstanding practical contribution to bat conservation.

A total of seven (2021: 10) bat workers (including two joint nominations) were nominated in 2021 and we received almost 400 votes. The 2021 winner was Tony Atkinson of the Cornwall Bat Group. Tony has been a dedicated bat conservationist in the Cornwall area for many decades, and has inspired and supported many in their own batty journeys. Well done Tony!

BCT in Europe and Internationally

BCT has focused primarily on UK work in the past year, but has continued to engage with the Eurobats Agreement. The Eurobats Advisory Committee of Eurobats took place online in 2021 with BCT staff attending Intersessional Working Group sessions on Monitoring and Indicators, Light Pollution, Communication, Bat Conservation and Public Health, Evaluation Criteria for Assessment Reports Concerning Bats, and Bats and Climate Change. BCT staff are also inputting into guidelines for Bats and Insulation and Bat Rescue and Rehabilitation.

During 2021/22 we have once again collaborated with international colleagues on COVID-19/SARS-CoV-2 guidance for bat rehabilitators, researchers, and cavers, as well as information for a wider general audience, through participation in the International Union for Conservation of Nature Species Survival Commission (IUCN SSC) Bat Specialist Group and the Global Union of Bat Diversity Networks (GBatNet). The work with the IUCN SSC BSG OneHealth Working Group has increased in remit to look more generally at the situation with regards to bats and diseases.

Bats and disease

We continue to provide advice and guidance to the public, volunteers and bat workers around issues relating to bats and disease, including rabies, white-nose syndrome and COVID-19. We proactively communicate about disease-related matters through our web pages, articles in Bat News, the Bat Group Bulletin, Bat Carers' Bulletin Blog, other external publications (where the opportunities arise), as well as presentations at meetings and conferences.

The past year has once again seen a focus on COVID-19 and SARS-CoV-2 (the coronavirus that causes COVID-19). Through membership of the IUCN SSC Bat Specialist Group One Health Working Group, we have contributed to updated guidance for bat field workers, bat rehabilitators, and cavers. As part of the 2021 National Bat Conference we included a panel discussion on 'Communications around bats, COVID-19 and other diseases', with four experts covering virology, bat disease research, science communications and journalism. Although SARS-CoV-2 has not been found in bats, there is a risk of human to bat transmission of the virus. We have worked with Imperial College London on a project to test for SARS-CoV-2 in bats that have had contact with finders or rehabilitators with COVID-19.

We continue to work with UK governmental organisations such as the Animal & Plant Health Agency (APHA) and Defra on disease surveillance, including representation on the GB Exotic Disease Core Group for Rabies. Only our activities supporting the APHA rabies passive surveillance programme are directly funded (with a contract in place through to the end of March 2023). BCT's lead on diseases was a co-author on a paper 'Incursion of European Bat Lyssavirus 1 (EBLV-1) in Serotine Bats in the United Kingdom' published in the journal Viruses. The latest addition to our web pages on bats and diseases is a section dedicated to information on rabies pre-exposure vaccinations aimed at volunteers and professional bat workers. We have developed a completely new workshop on 'Biosecurity and bats: effective disease risk management' which compliments a new section in the fourth edition of the Bat Survey Good Practice Guidelines (due to be published by the end of 2022).

Looking ahead, we need to find new sources of funding for our disease risk management activities. We hope to attend the 3rd International Symposium on Infectious Diseases of Bats in July 2022. We will continue to collaborate with UK and international experts and hope to build on the panel discussion at the 2021 National Bat Conference by developing plans for a dedicated event around science communication to take place in the next few years. We are very grateful for the support of external expert advisors. Our ongoing work to keep our information and guidance on bats and diseases as current as possible remains a priority.

BatLife Europe

As a founding partner of BatLife Europe (which has 36 NGO partners), BCT has supported this initiative since its creation, and continues to do so with BCT's CEO currently acting as a Trustee and Treasurer. Due to COVID-19 and capacity, BatLife Europe has not carried out all its planned activities, but has progressed the Bat of the Year project, with the brown long-eared bat being chosen as bat of the year for 2022/23.

STRENGTHEN

BCT works hard to make our funds go further and this was partly achieved in 2021 by downsizing our office space and careful budgeting across the organisation. We have also been building on our approach to flexible and remote working opportunities for staff, supporting people in different circumstances in their work-life balance. We have also been working to build staff capacity in various areas of our work to build organisational resilience and address staff workloads. We continue to provide Mental Health First Aid training and an Employee Assistance Programme.

Volunteers are crucial to BCT's work and get involved in many different ways, including through our National Bat Helpline, through NBMP surveys and via their local bat groups. We continued to provide support through our Bat Groups and Country Officers. Dedicated volunteers handled 'Out of Hours' calls on our helpline and received training and support throughout the busy season. To get more people from a wider background involved in the NBMP, we commissioned volunteer demographic and engagement reports and have used the information to engage effectively with younger and more ethnically diverse volunteers, running free online introductory workshops on looking for bats, running bat talks and using social media to promote survey opportunities.

Equality, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI)

Diverse organisations are more welcoming to a wider range of people, but there is also evidence that they benefit from improved performance, innovation and creativity. BCT is committed to improving our own practices to ensure that we are an inclusive employer and that our activities are welcoming and open to all.

Activities undertaken by BCT in this past year to improve EDI have included:

- Setting up an EDI working group with representation from different teams, staff levels and trustees.
- Improving our recruitment procedures.
- Commissioning a report exploring barriers to participation in conservation.
- Online and face-to-face training workshops specifically aimed at ethnic minorities.
- Kickstarter roles reaching out to wider audiences.
- Panel debate for International Day of Women and Girls in Science, exploring varied topics including socioeconomics and menstruation and fieldwork.
- Bursaries for the National Bat Conference.
- New community science project (Nightwatch) launched in England and Scotland. Pilot in England focused on urban audiences from a minority ethnic background, and in Scotland, we worked with an LGBTQ+ group.

- We continue to be a member of the Diverse Sustainability Initiative, and have been a member of the Wildlife and Countryside Link Working Group developing a route map for increasing ethnic diversity in the environmental sector.

EDI will remain a focus in 2022/23 with the new appointment of a part-time staff member who will help to support the EDI Working Group in undertaking key priorities and actions, and ensuring that EDI is embedded in our organisational strategy.

Fundraising Statement

Bat Conservation Trust (BCT) was established to promote the conservation and study of bats in the British Isles and elsewhere in the world, and to disseminate information relevant to these objects. BCT is committed to these charitable aims and fundraises in order to fulfil these.

FUNDRAISING APPROACH: We have a small, dedicated fundraising team who work to secure the resources needed to fund BCT's work. We secure funding from different sources which includes applying for funding from trusts and grants, encouraging donations from members and wider supporters, while also encouraging them to carry out their own independent community fundraising to support our work. We have collaborator agreements in place with some companies who choose to donate part of their profits. Where a company chooses to support our work by being a corporate member, sponsorship or direct donation we carry out an assessment of their suitability as donors. Fundraising targets are reflected in the budget and reviewed in an income tracker document.

FUNDRAISING REGULATION: BCT is registered with the Fundraising Regulator and abides by its rules and regulations.

FAILURES: We have had no failures in fundraising regulator compliance. We employ reputable companies to assist with distributing membership material. We do not employ fundraising or marketing agencies to target people by telephone, or in the street, to persuade them to set up regular donations to BCT.

MONITORING: We have not used any external fundraising companies and have not monitored the activities of anyone carrying out community fundraising.

COMPLAINTS: We have an established fundraising complaints procedure and have not received any complaints over this period.

PROTECTION OF PRIVACY AND VULNERABLE PEOPLE: At BCT, we respect the privacy and contact preferences of all members, supporters and donors. We adhere to Data Protection law. We will respond promptly to requests to cease contacts or complaints and act to address their causes. We have a safeguarding policy that covers all aspects of our charitable activities.

BCT respects the rights of its members and supporters to have clear, truthful information on the work we are involved in; to report openly on how we spend donated and statutory funds and to manage donors' information responsibly. We comply with the Charity Commission and UK law in every respect, including those regarding openness and honesty with our supporters and members of the public.

Safeguarding

BCT is committed to upholding the principle that children and vulnerable adults are entitled to protection from physical, sexual and emotional harm and have the right to a safe, positive and enjoyable environment. We are committed to upholding our safeguarding policy, which can be viewed here: https://www.bats.org.uk/the-trust/policies/safeguarding

The Trustees

The Trustees who served during the year and up to the date of this report are shown on page 3. All Trustees also act as directors for the purposes of company law.

The Trustees are elected at an Annual General Meeting (AGM) and serve for three years. Trustees are eligible for reselection at the end of their first and second term of three years, but following election for a third term, may not be eligible for reselection until one year has elapsed from them ceasing to be a member of the Board of Trustees. The Trustees may co-opt any Member eligible for election to fill a vacancy until the next AGM.

The Trustees regularly audit their collective skills, competencies and experience against those required to fulfil their responsibilities and proactively recruit new Trustees to fill gaps. All proposed Trustees are put to the BCT membership prior to any appointment. On appointment training is given according to the needs of the Trustee and new Trustees have an induction with key members of staff.

The Trustees are members of the charity but this entitles them only to voting rights and any benefits received by the Trustees are incidental. As members of the charity they undertake to contribute an amount not exceeding £1 to the assets of the charity in the event of winding up. The total number of such undertakings at 31 March 2022 was 12 (2021: 11).

Public Benefit

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

Risk Management

The Trustees and Senior Management Team have reviewed the major risks which the charity faces. They review these risks at least annually. The Trustees implement improvements to systems of internal control in order to mitigate other operational and business risks as and when identified.

Some of the major risk areas are:

- Pressure for change in government policy or legislation (particularly arising from Britain leaving the EU) that impacts on bat conservation. BCT undertakes advocacy and mobilises our supporters to speak up for the importance of the legislation and policy protecting bats.
- Dealing with a controversial issue which results in negative publicity for bats and their conservation. BCT proactively communicates with stakeholders and the media to identify, consult on and address potentially controversial areas.
- Reduced funding for key projects and services due to changes in the economy, government policy or demand. BCT regularly reviews our financial situation, income, fundraising pipeline and upcoming government policy. We work to diversify our funding sources and build new income streams. We work in close collaboration with funders, supporters and partners to build strong long-term relationships and to respond robustly to key risks for wildlife conservation.
- Loss of volunteers due to processes outside of BCT's control where BCT's reputation is linked to the effective delivery of a project. BCT proactively engages with partners and constantly reviews our work delivery with a view to the long-term future of vital projects.
- Reduced support and funding in a competitive market. BCT is proactive in engaging with a wide range of sectors and research.
- Contractual obligations conflicting with our charitable purpose. BCT undertakes due diligence on projects and reviews potential risks at senior management and board level.
- Disruption due to weather, transport, sickness epidemic or other. This identified risk is pertinent to COVID-19. We have implemented measures to mitigate the impact such as improved ICT systems allowing a more flexible approach to work and careful financial management.
- Loss of staff capacity and key knowledge due to long term staff absence or departure. BCT undertakes work to understand and mitigate stressors, providing resources and appropriate training to staff. BCT is also working to provide adequate capacity for growing areas of work and reduce our reliance on sole contractors where work is outsourced.

Remuneration Policy

Remuneration of all staff is considered on an annual basis by the Board of Trustees. The Senior Management Team make recommendations to the Trustees for a) the cost of living based on inflation rates, the London Living Wage and an annual salary survey we take part in with other environmental NGOs, and b) for any staff increments based on job bands, performance and any extra responsibilities taken on. The Trustees make the final decision in the context of BCT's budget. The salary of the Chief Executive is set by the Chair in consultation with the Trustees.

Statement of Responsibilities of the Trustees

The Trustees (who are also directors of The Bat Conservation Trust) are responsible for preparing the Trustees' annual report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

Company law requires the Trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charitable company and the incoming resources and application of resources, including the income and expenditure, of the charitable company for that period.

In preparing those financial statements the Trustees are required to:

- Select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- Observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP;
- Make judgements and accounting estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- State whether applicable UK Accounting Standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements;
- Prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in operation.

The Trustees are responsible for keeping adequate accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006, the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005 and the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006 (as amended). They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charitable company and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

Disclosure of information to auditor

In so far as each of the Trustees is aware:

- There is no relevant audit information of which the charitable company's auditor is unaware;

And

- Each of the trustees has taken all steps that they ought to have taken to make themselves aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the auditor is aware of that information.

Treasurer's report

Despite the continued economic uncertainty, which has impacted heavily on the charity sector, BCT has continued its vital work. The economic downturn has meant we ended the year with a slight decrease in funds, this was due to a loss on investments reflected at the time of our financial statements.

We achieved a small surplus in unrestricted funds through careful management of our finances due to cost-cutting measures such as a change in office space and by continuing to invest in fundraising. However, the scale of the surplus shows we must continue with this cautious spending and diversification of income streams.

For the year ended 31 March 2022, income was £1,632,007 (2021: £1,568,217) and expenditure was £1,595,153 (2021: £1,412,574), leading to net surplus for the year of £36,854 (2021: £155,643). Taking into account losses on investments of £57,186 (2021: gains of £483,565), the net movement in funds for the year was a decrease of £20,332 (2021: an increase of £639,208).

Investment policy

Investments total £2,580,593 (2021: £2,603,514) at 31 March 2022. The aim of these funds is to provide a steady additional annual income stream to support our work, helping to reduce the risks associated with our reliance on project funding. Both this and the prior year were unpredictable in terms of investments and global stock markets were severely impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. For budgeting purposes, BCT assume a 6% total return per year to take into account market fluctuations. Investments are expected to meet our ethical criteria with returns reported on via a benchmark.

Reserves policy

We adopt a risk-based approach for our reserves policy in order to define the amount we need to enable us to sustain our operations and protect us from unforeseen events. We have also been investing some of our reserves in strategic projects to secure BCT's long-term financial viability. At the end of the 2021/22 financial year our total reserves stand at £3,298,653 (2021: £3,318,985). Of this, £2,359,197 (2021: £2,425,735) are endowment funds and £169,927 (2021: £239,956) are restricted funds for projects. This leaves unrestricted funds of £769,529 (2021: £653,294) of which £266,893 (2021: £189,317) have been designated to key programmes of work in the next financial year (see notes to the financial statements for details). This leaves us with £502,636 (2021: £463,977) as unrestricted, unallocated funds. Of this, £383,347 (2021: £357,935) represents free reserves after deducting the net book value of fixed assets.

The trustees' policy is to work towards holding six months operating costs, approximately £500,000, in unrestricted free reserves. We will continue to review our reserves policy and our progress towards achieving it each year. On behalf of BCT, I would like to thank all our members, donors and partners for their fantastic support and our volunteers and staff for their endless hard work on behalf of bat conservation.



Ruth Waters, Treasurer

Thanks to our Supporters

We would like to thank all our members and friends who have made donations during the past year. We do not have the space to name everyone; however, we would like to thank everyone for their greatly valued support without which none of our work would be possible.

Partner Bat Groups

Avon Bat Group
Ayrshire and Arran Bat Group
Bedfordshire Bat Group
Berkshire & South Bucks Bat Group
Birmingham & Black Country Bat Group
Cambridgeshire Bat Group
Cardiff Bat Group
Central Scotland Bat Group
Cheshire Bat Group
Cleveland Bat Group
Clwyd Bat Group
Clyde Bat Group
Cornwall Bat Group
Derbyshire Bat Conservation Group
Devon Bat Group
Dorset Bat Group
Dumfries & Galloway Bat Group
Durham Bat Group
East Lancashire Bat Group
East Yorkshire Bat Group
Essex Bat Group
Fife & Kinross Bat Group
Glamorgan Bat Group
Gloucestershire Bat Group
Guernsey Bat Group
Gwynedd Bat Group
Hampshire Bat Group
Herefordshire Mammal Group
Herts & Middlesex Bat Group
Inverness Bat Group
Isle of Wight Bat Group
Isles of Scilly Bat Group
Jersey Bat Group
Kent Bat Group
Leicestershire & Rutland Bat Group
Lincolnshire Bat Group
Loch Lomond Bat Group
London Bat Group
Lothians Bat Group
Manx Bat Group
Merseyside & West Lancashire Bat Group
Montgomeryshire Bat Group
Nene Valley Bats
Norfolk and Norwich Study Group
North Bucks Bat Group
North Ceredigion Bat Group
North East Scotland Bat Group
North Lancashire Bat Group
North Wales Mammal Group
Northern Ireland Bat Group
Northumberland Bat Group
Nottinghamshire Bat Group
Oxfordshire Bat Group
Pembrokeshire Bat Group
Shropshire Bat Group
Skye and Lochalsh Bat Group
Somerset Bat Group
South Cumbria Bat Group
South Lancashire Bat Group
South Yorkshire Bat Group
Staffordshire Bat Group
Surrey Bat Group
Sussex Bat Group
Tayside Bat Group
Vale of Glamorgan & Bridgend Bat Group
Valleys Bat Group
Warwickshire Bat Group
West Yorkshire Bat Group
Worcestershire Bat Group

Charitable Trusts, Statutory Bodies and Other Organisations

Animal and Plant Health Agency
Animal Friends Insurance
Betty Phillips Charitable Trust
Cecil Pilkington Charitable Trust
Chapman Charitable Trust
Ernest Kleinwort
Esmée Fairbairn Foundation
Forest Research
Forestry England
Garfield Weston Foundation
Green Mountain Trust

Idris and Margaret Jones Charitable Trust
Jack Patston Charitable Trust
Michael Cornish Charitable Trust
Natural England
Pilkington General Charity Fund
Pillar Charitable Trust
The David Webster Charitable Trust
The Marsh Charitable Trust
The National Lottery Heritage Fund
The Rose Animal Welfare Trust CIO

Sponsors (Sponsorships of £100 or more)

Animal Friends
Echoes Ecology
Highland Titles
Lotek
NHBS
Pettersson
Titley Scientific
Vistry
Wildcare
Wildlife Acoustics, Inc.

Corporate Members (as at 31 March 2022)

Arbtech Consulting Ltd
Asw Ecology Ltd
Batability Courses & Tuition
Batbox Ltd
Big Domain
Campsites.co.uk
Canine Cottages
Cleankill Environmental Services Ltd
Continental Landscapes
Dorset County Council
Echoes Ecology Ltd
Ecological Survey and Assessment Ltd
English Heritage
Highland Titles Ltd
Historic England
Holidaycottages.co.uk
Homegrown Timber Ltd
I&G Ecological Consultancy Ltd
Ingencia
Kate's Clothing Ltd
Killgerm Chemicals Ltd
Marquis & Lord Ltd
Original Cottages
Stay in Cornwall
Stay in Devon
Tamworth Property Services
The Nestbox Company Ltd
Titley Scientific
Treework Ltd
United Environmental Services Ltd
Viking Optical Ltd
Vivara Pro
Whitcher Wildlife Ltd
Wilby Tree Surgeons
Wildcare
Wildlife Acoustics
Wold Ecology Ltd

Donations from Bat Groups (of £100 or more in the year to 31 March 2022)

Derbyshire Bat Conservation Group
Devon Bat Group
Hampshire Bat Group
Hertfordshire & Middlesex Bat Group
Kent Bat Group
Manx Bat Group
North Ceredigion Bat Group
Oxfordshire Bat Group
South Lancashire Bat Group
Surrey Bat Group
Warwickshire Bat Group

Legacies

Elizabeth Anne Wallace

Auditor

HW Fisher LLP were re-appointed as the charitable company's auditor during the year.

The report of the Trustees has been prepared in accordance with the special provisions applicable to companies subject to the small companies' regime.

Approved by the Trustees and signed on their behalf by



Jean Matthews
Chair

11 Aug 2022

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of The Bat Conservation Trust (the 'charity') for the year ended 31 March 2022 which comprise the Statement of Financial Activities, the Balance Sheet, the Statement of Cash Flows and the notes to the financial statements, including significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including FRS 102 The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

In our opinion, the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the charitable company's affairs as at 31 March 2022 and of its incoming resources and application of resources, including its income and expenditure, for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006, the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005 and regulation 8 of the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006 (as amended).

Basis for opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAs (UK)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in *the Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements* section of our report. We are independent of the Charity in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in the UK, including the FRC's Ethical Standard, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Conclusions relating to going concern

In auditing the financial statements, we have concluded that the trustees' use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is appropriate.

Based on the work we have performed, we have not identified any material uncertainties relating to events or conditions that, individually or collectively, may cast significant doubt on the charity's ability to continue as a going concern for a period of at least twelve months from when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

Our responsibilities and the responsibilities of the trustees with respect to going concern are described in the relevant sections of this report.

Other information

The other information comprises the information included in the annual report, other than the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. The Trustees are responsible for the other information. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and, except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated in our report, we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon. Our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the course of the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether there is a material misstatement in the financial statements or a material misstatement of the other information. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact.

We have nothing to report in this regard.

Opinions on other matters prescribed by the Companies Act 2006

In our opinion, based on the work undertaken in the course of our audit:

- The information given in the Trustees' annual Report, which includes the Directors' Report prepared for the purposes of company law, for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements; and
- the Directors' Report included within the Trustees' annual report has been prepared in accordance with applicable legal requirements.

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

In the light of the knowledge and understanding of the charity and its environment obtained in the course of the audit, we have not identified material misstatements in the Directors' Report included within the Trustees' annual report.

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters in relation to which the Companies Act 2006 and the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006 (as amended) require us to report to you if, in our opinion:

- Adequate and proper accounting records have not been kept, or returns adequate for our audit have not been received from branches not visited by us; or
- The financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records and returns; or
- Certain disclosures of trustees' remuneration specified by law are not made; or
- We have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit; or
- The trustees were not entitled to prepare the financial statements in accordance with the small companies' regime and take advantage of the small companies' exemptions in preparing the trustees' annual report and from the requirement to prepare a strategic report.

Responsibilities of Trustees

As explained more fully in the Statement of Responsibilities of the Trustees, the Trustees, who are also the Directors of the Charity for the purpose of company law, are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the directors determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error. In preparing the financial statements, the Trustees are responsible for assessing the Charity's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the trustees either intend to liquidate the company or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

We have been appointed as auditor under section 44(1)(c) of the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005 and under the Companies Act 2006 and report in accordance with the Acts and relevant regulations made or having effect thereunder.

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (UK) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

Irregularities, including fraud, are instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations. We design procedures in line with our responsibilities, outlined above, to detect material misstatements in respect of irregularities, including fraud. The extent to which our procedures are capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud, is detailed below.

As part of our planning process:

- We enquired of management the systems and controls the charity has in place, the areas of the financial statements that are most susceptible to the risk of irregularities and fraud, and whether there was any known, suspected or alleged fraud. The charity did not inform us of any known, suspected or alleged fraud.
- We obtained an understanding of the legal and regulatory frameworks applicable to the charity. We determined that the following were most relevant: the Charity SORP, FRS 102, Charities Act 2011, Companies Act 2006, the Charities and Trustee (Scotland) Act 2005 and the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006 (as amended).
- We considered the incentives and opportunities that exist in the charity, including the extent of management bias, which present a potential for irregularities and fraud to be perpetuated, and tailored our risk assessment accordingly.
- Using our knowledge of the charity, together with the discussions held with the charity at the planning stage, we formed a conclusion on the risk of misstatement due to irregularities including fraud and tailored our procedures according to this risk assessment.

The key procedures we undertook to detect irregularities including fraud during the course of the audit included:

- Identifying and testing journal entries and the overall accounting records, in particular those that were significant and unusual.
- Reviewing the financial statement disclosures and determining whether accounting policies have been appropriately applied.
- Assessing the extent of compliance, or lack of, with the relevant laws and regulations.
- Assessing the validity of the classification of income, expenditure, assets and liabilities between unrestricted, designated, endowment and restricted funds.
- Obtaining third-party confirmation of material bank balances and investments
- Documenting and verifying all significant related party balances and transactions
- Reviewing documentation such as the charity board minutes for discussions of irregularities including fraud.

Owing to the inherent limitations of an audit, there is an unavoidable risk that we may not have detected some material misstatements in the financial statements even though we have properly planned and performed our audit in accordance with auditing standards. The primary responsibility for the prevention and detection of irregularities and fraud rests with the trustees of the charity.

A further description of our responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements is located on the Financial Reporting Council's website at: http://www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities. This description forms part of our auditor's report.

Use of our report

This report is made solely to the charitable company's members, as a body, in accordance with Chapter 3 of Part 16 of the Companies Act 2006 and to the charitable company's trustees, as a body, in accordance with regulation 10 of the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the charitable company's members and trustees those matters we are required to state to them in an auditors' report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the charitable company, the charitable company's members as a body, and the charitable company's trustees as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

Carol Rudge

Carol Rudge (Senior Statutory Auditor)
for and on behalf of HW Fisher LLP

Chartered Accountants
Statutory Auditor
Acre House
11-15 William Road
London NW1 3ER

Date: 11 Aug 2022

The Bat Conservation Trust

Statement of financial activities *(incorporating an income and expenditure account)*

For the year ended 31 March 2022

	Note	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	Endowment £	2022 Total £	2021 Total £
Income						
Donations and legacies	2	404,026	36,909	-	**440,935**	400,980
Investment income		48,503	-	-	**48,503**	43,685
Income from charitable activities						
Conferences		29,289	-	-	**29,289**	62,744
Training courses and meetings		73,991	-	-	**73,991**	37,347
Projects and research	3	527,303	435,420	-	**962,723**	976,795
Other activities		64,437	12,129	-	**76,566**	46,666
Total income		**1,147,549**	**484,458**	**-**	**1,632,007**	1,568,217
Expenditure						
Expenditure on raising funds						
Membership support	5	66,778	-	-	**66,778**	67,118
Costs of raising funds		131,819	-	13,256	**145,075**	120,259
Expenditure on charitable activities						
Conferences		26,862	-	-	**26,862**	17,493
Biodiversity training courses		68,640	-	-	**68,640**	63,479
Project and research costs	4	733,311	554,487	-	**1,287,798**	1,144,225
Total expenditure	5	**1,027,410**	**554,487**	**13,256**	**1,595,153**	1,412,574
Net income/(expenditure) before net (losses)/gains on investments		**120,139**	**(70,029)**	**(13,256)**	**36,854**	155,643
Net (losses)/gains on investments	11	(3,904)	-	(53,282)	(57,186)	483,565
Net income/(expenditure) for the year		**116,235**	**(70,029)**	**(66,538)**	**(20,332)**	639,208
Net movement in funds		**116,235**	**(70,029)**	**(66,538)**	**(20,332)**	639,208
Reconciliation of funds						
Total funds brought forward		653,294	239,956	2,425,735	**3,318,985**	2,679,777
Total funds carried forward	17	**769,529**	**169,927**	**2,359,197**	**3,298,653**	3,318,985

All of the above results are derived from continuing activities. There were no other recognised gains or losses other than those stated above. Movements in funds are disclosed in note 17 to the financial statements.

For Companies Act purposes, excluding Endowed funds, income for the year ended 31 March 2022 was £1,632,007 (2021: £1,568,217) and expenditure £1,581,897 (2021: £1,398,934) and losses on investments of £3,904 (2021: Gain £40,900). Net income was £46,206 (2021: £210,183)

Comparatives for the statement of financial activities are given in note 19.

The Bat Conservation Trust
Company number: 02712823

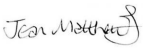
Balance Sheet

As at 31 March 2022

	Note	2022 £	2022 £	2021 £	2021 £
Fixed assets					
Tangible assets	9		**6,994**		5,724
Intangible assets	10		**112,295**		100,318
Investments	11		**2,580,593**		2,603,514
Non-current assets			**2,699,882**		2,709,556
Current assets					
Assets held for sale	12	-		155,000	
Debtors	13	**372,201**		149,586	
Cash at bank and in hand		**427,869**		469,874	
		800,070		774,460	
Creditors: amounts due within one year	14	**(201,299)**		(165,031)	
Net current assets			**598,771**		609,429
Net assets	16		**3,298,653**		3,318,985
Reserves					
Endowment funds	17		**2,359,197**		2,425,735
Restricted funds	17		**169,927**		239,956
Unrestricted funds					
General funds	17	502,636		463,977	
Designated funds	17	266,893		189,317	
			769,529		653,294
Total funds	**17**		**3,298,653**		3,318,985

Approved by the trustees

Signed on their behalf by:



Jean Matthews (chair)

11 Aug 2022

The Bat Conservation Trust

Statement of Cash Flows

For the year ended 31 March 2022

	2022		2021	
	£	£	£	£
Cash flows from operating activities:				
Net (expenditure)/income for the year	**(20,332)**		639,208	
Adjustments for:				
Depreciation and amortisation charges	**32,322**		26,277	
Dividends and interest	**(48,503)**		(43,685)	
Loss on disposal of fixed assets	**1,473**		-	
Sale of property bequeathed to the charity	**155,000**		-	
Losses/(gains) on investments	**57,186**		(483,565)	
(Increase)/decrease in debtors	**(222,615)**		6,733	
Increase in creditors	**36,268**		55,299	
Cash withdrawn from investment portfolio	-		90,000	
Investment charges taken directly from cash held as part of the investment portfolio	**14,219**		14,896	
Net cash provided by operating activities		**5,018**		305,163
Cash flows from investing activities:				
Bank interest received	**19**		34	
Purchase of property, plant and equipment	**(5,721)**		(3,001)	
Purchase of intangible asset	**(41,321)**		(3,800)	
Net cash provided by investing activities		**(47,023)**		(6,767)
Change in cash and cash equivalents in the year		**(42,005)**		298,396
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the year		**469,874**		171,478
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the year		**427,869**		469,874

Analysis of cash and cash equivalents	At 1 April 2021	Cash flows	At 31 March 2022
	£	£	£
Cash at bank and in hand	469,874	(42,005)	427,869
	469,874	(42,005)	427,869

Analysis of change in net debt

The charity had no net debt during the year

1. Accounting policies

Status

The organisation is a charitable company limited by guarantee, incorporated on 7 May 1992 and registered as a charity on 29 June 1992.

The registered office is Studio 15, Cloisters House, Cloisters Business Centre, 8 Battersea Park Road, London, England, SW8 4BG.

a) Basis of preparation

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with FRS102 "The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland" ("FRS102"), the Companies Act 2006, the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005, the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006 (as amended) and "Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102)" (effective 1 January 2019). The charity is a Public Benefit Entity as defined by FRS 102.

Assets and liabilities are initially recognised at historical cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policy note(s).

The functional currency of the financial statements is Sterling.

b) Going concern

The trustees have assessed whether the use of the going concern basis is appropriate and have considered possible events or conditions that might cast significant doubt on the ability of the charity to continue as a going concern. The trustees have made this assessment for a period exceeding 12 months from the date of signature. In particular the trustees have considered the charity's forecasts and projections and have taken account of pressures on donation and investment income.

The Trustees have a reasonable expectation that the Charity has adequate resources to continue in operation for the foreseeable future. The charity therefore continues to adopt the going concern basis in preparing its financial statements.

c) Income

Income received by way of donations is included in full in the statement of financial activities when receipt is probable and can be measured reliably. Member subscriptions are accounted for on receipt.

Gifts in kind comprise meeting rooms and catering provided free of charge for trustee and other meetings where material. Gifts in kind are included in income and expenditure at a reasonable estimate of their value to the charity, which is the price that would have had to be paid if hiring a room and paying for catering on the open market. Volunteer time is not included in the financial statements.

Income (continued)

Legacy income is accounted for on a receivable basis. A legacy is considered receivable when the charity is legally entitled to the income and the amount can be quantified with reasonable accuracy. Entitlement is the earlier of the charity being notified of an impending distribution or the legacy being received.

Investment income represents bank interest and dividend income, included in full in the statement of financial activities when receivable.

Revenue grants are credited to the statement of financial activities when the charity is legally entitled to the amounts, any performance conditions have been met, the amounts can be measured reliably and it is probable that the income will be received.

Where unconditional entitlement to grants receivable is dependent upon the fulfilment of conditions within the charity's control, the incoming resources are recognised when there is sufficient evidence that the conditions will be met. Where there is uncertainty as to whether the charity can meet such conditions the incoming resource is deferred.

Grants for the purchase of fixed assets are credited to restricted income when receipt is probable. Depreciation of fixed assets purchased with such grants is charged against the restricted fund. Where a fixed asset is donated to the charity for a specific purpose, it is treated in a similar way to a restricted grant.

Fees for training courses and the annual conference are recognised in the financial statements during the year in which the conference or training course to which they relate occurred. Research contracts are recognised in the financial statements as entitlement is earned through completion of the contract.

d) **Fund analysis**

The expendable endowment funds are funds whereby the capital sum is invested, and income earned is used to contribute to core costs. The capital element may also be spent should sufficient need arise.

The permanent endowment funds are funds whereby the capital sum is invested, and income earned is used to contribute to core costs. The capital element is to be retained to generate future income for the work of BCT.

Restricted funds are to be used for specific purposes as laid down by the donor. Expenditure which meets these criteria is charged to the fund together with a fair allocation of management and support costs.

Unrestricted funds are donations and other income receivable or generated for the objects of the charity.

Designated funds are unrestricted funds earmarked by the trustees for particular purposes.

Fund analysis (continued)

Transfers are made to and from designated funds at the discretion of the trustees. Transfers are made between restricted funds or from restricted funds to general funds only if agreement has been obtained from the donor.

e) **Expenditure**

Expenditure is recognised in the period in which it is incurred. Expenditure includes attributable VAT which cannot be recovered.

Expenditure is allocated to the particular activity where the cost relates directly to that activity. However, the cost of overall direction and administration of each activity, comprising the salary and overhead costs of the central function is apportioned based on staff time.

The costs of generating funds relate to the costs incurred by the charitable company in raising funds for the charitable work. Fundraising costs associated with raising funds for a specific charitable activity are allocated to that activity.

Rentals payable under operating leases, where substantially all the risks and rewards of ownership remain with the lessor, are charged to the statement of financial activities in the year in which they fall due.

f) **Tangible and Intangible Assets**

Depreciation is provided at rates calculated to write down the cost of each asset to its estimated residual value over its expected useful life. The depreciation rates in use are as follows:

Computer equipment - 33% per annum on a straight line basis.

Field equipment - 25% per annum on a straight line basis.

Furniture and fittings - 20% per annum on a straight-line basis.

Items of equipment are capitalised where the purchase price exceeds £500. Depreciation costs are allocated to activities on the basis of the use of the related assets in those activities. Assets are reviewed for impairment if circumstances indicate their carrying value may exceed their net realisable value and value in use.

Intangible assets are recognised at cost and amortised over the assets' expected useful life. The amortisation rate in use is as follows:

Database - 20% per annum on a straight line basis.

Amortisation costs are allocated to activities on the basis of the use of the related assets in those activities.

g) **Pensions**

The charity operates a defined contribution pension scheme. The assets of the scheme are held separately from those of the charity in an independently administered fund. The pension cost charge represents contributions payable under the scheme by the charity to the fund. The charity has no liability under the scheme other than for the payment of those contributions.

h) **Foreign exchange rates**

Transactions denominated in foreign currencies are translated into sterling at the exchange rate ruling at the date of the transaction. Assets and liabilities in foreign currencies are translated into sterling at the rates of exchange ruling at the end of the financial year. All exchange differences are written off to the Statement of Financial Activities.

i) **Investments**

Investments are stated at mid-market value at the balance sheet date. The gain or loss for the period is taken to the statement of financial activities. All movements in value arising from investment changes or revaluations are shown in the statement of financial activities.

j) **Financial Instruments**

BCT has elected to apply the provisions of Section 11 'Basic Financial Instruments' and Section 12 'Other Financial Instruments Issues' of FRS 102 to all of its financial instruments. Financial instruments are recognised in the balance sheet when the company becomes party to the contractual provisions of the instrument. Financial assets and liabilities are offset, with the net amounts presented in the financial statements, when there is a legally enforceable right to set off the recognised amounts and there is an intention to settle on a net basis or to realise the asset and settle the liability simultaneously.

2. Donations and legacies

Current Year	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	**2022 Total £**
Membership subscriptions	163,214	-	**163,214**
Members' & other donations	100,812	36,909	**137,721**
Legacies	140,000	-	**140,000**
	404,026	36,909	**440,935**

Prior Year	*Unrestricted £*	*Restricted £*	*2021 Total £*
Membership subscriptions	*158,684*	*-*	*158,684*
Members' & other donations	*119,906*	*66,752*	*186,658*
Legacies	*55,638*	*-*	*55,638*
	334,228	*66,752*	*400,980*

3. Projects and research income

Current Year	Unrestricted	Restricted	**2022 Total**
	£	£	**£**
Government grants & contracts	466,952	214,948	**681,900**
Grants & contracts from other charitable bodies	60,351	220,472	**280,823**
	527,303	435,420	**962,723**

Projects and research income- grants, contracts and donations

Project income was received in the year from the following organisations and donors:

	Unrestricted	Restricted	**2022 Total**
	£	£	**£**
Natural England	201,251	39,612	**240,863**
Joint Nature Conservation Committee	184,000	-	**184,000**
National Lottery Heritage Fund - Back from the Brink	-	35,883	**35,883**
National Lottery Heritage Fund - Bats in Churches	-	113,472	**113,472**
National Lottery Heritage Fund - Species on the Edge	-	32,598	**32,598**
National Lottery Heritage Fund - NAB	-	2,785	**2,785**
NatureScot	-	30,647	**30,647**
Natural Resources Wales	4,202	-	**4,202**
Government of Jersey	39,121	-	**39,121**
Animal and Plant Health Agency	-	10,000	**10,000**
Forestry England	-	15,000	**15,000**
Esmée Fairbairn Charitable Trust	-	37,500	**37,500**
Historic England	1,500	-	**1,500**
East Devon AONB	32,483	-	**32,483**
Forest Research	-	48,423	**48,423**
Office for National Statistics	4,395	-	**4,395**
Ministry of Justice	43,250	-	**43,250**
Michael Cornish Foundation	-	1,000	**1,000**
Cecil Pilkington Charitable Trust	-	3,500	**3,500**
Garfield Weston	-	25,000	**25,000**
David Webster Charitable Trust	-	2,000	**2,000**
Vistry Group	13,250	-	**13,250**
Chapman Charitable Trust	1,000	-	**1,000**
Animal Friends	-	37,000	**37,000**
Other Grants and Contracts	2,851	1,000	**3,851**
	527,303	435,420	**962,723**

3. Projects and research income (continued)

Prior Year	*Unrestricted*	*Restricted*	*2021 Total*
	£	*£*	*£*
Government grants & contracts	*457,278*	*262,283*	*719,561*
Grants from other charitable bodies	*40,004*	*217,230*	*257,234*
	497,282	*479,513*	*976,795*

Projects and research income - grants, contracts and donations

Project income was received in the year from the following organisations and donors:

	Unrestricted	*Restricted*	*2021 Total*
	£	*£*	*£*
Natural England	*277,924*	*111,655*	*389,579*
Joint Nature Conservation Committee	*148,060*	*-*	*148,060*
National Lottery Heritage Fund - Back from the Brink	*-*	*65,980*	*65,980*
National Lottery Heritage Fund - Bats in Churches		*73,571*	*73,571*
National Lottery Heritage Fund - Species on the Edge	*-*	*26,239*	*26,239*
NatureScot	*-*	*29,963*	*29,963*
Natural Resources Wales	*-*	*5,667*	*5,667*
Government of Jersey	*6,645*	*-*	*6,645*
Animal and Plant Health Agency	*-*	*8,000*	*8,000*
Forestry Commission	*-*	*14,779*	*14,779*
The Rufford Foundation	*-*	*10,000*	*10,000*
Esmée Fairbairn Charitable Trust	*-*	*124,000*	*124,000*
Edith Murphy Foundation	*-*	*2,000*	*2,000*
Historic England	*10,170*	*-*	*10,170*
Fidra	*25,000*	*-*	*25,000*
David Webster Charitable Trust		*2,000*	*2,000*
British Ecological Society		*1,998*	*1,998*
Government Furlough grant	*20,544*	*-*	*20,544*
Other Grants and Contracts	*8,939*	*3,661*	*12,600*
	497,282	*479,513*	*976,795*

4. Projects and research costs

Current Year	Unrestricted	Restricted	**2022 Total**
	£	£	**£**
Biodiversity Projects	441,217	326,875	**768,092**
National Bat Monitoring Programme	159,335	19,934	**179,269**
Research projects – Bat conservation	51,341	133,952	**185,293**
Bat Groups Support & Public Education	27,515	34,641	**62,156**
International Projects	278	4,510	**4,788**
Scottish Bat Project	26,292	31,790	**58,082**
Wales Bat Project	27,333	2,785	**30,118**
	733,311	554,487	**1,287,798**

Prior Year	*Unrestricted*	*Restricted*	*2021 Total*
	£	*£*	*£*
Biodiversity Projects	*476,746*	*300,906*	*777,652*
National Bat Monitoring Programme	*146,278*	*22,667*	*168,945*
Research projects – Bat conservation	*12,013*	*21,788*	*33,801*
Bat Groups Support & Public Education	*46,903*	*22,366*	*69,269*
International Projects	*(634)*	*421*	*(213)*
Scottish Bat Project	*25,386*	*30,983*	*56,369*
Wales Bat Project	*37,120*	*1,282*	*38,402*
	743,812	*400,413*	*1,144,225*

5. Total Expenditure

Current Year	Costs of raising funds £	Membership support £	Conferences £	Biodiversity training courses £	Projects and research £	Governance £	Other support costs £	**2022 Total £**
Salaries & temporary staff (note 7)	78,932	29,122	8,643	29,163	737,917	5,816	154,814	**1,044,407**
Travel & training	110	146	359	1,475	22,374	653	9,705	**34,822**
Advice & other project costs	7,676	7,284	-	16,103	105,713	8,150	18,462	**163,388**
Publications & events	1,553	7,400	6,739	10,102	6,131	-	-	**31,925**
Premises	-	-	-	-	980	-	103,401	**104,381**
Other costs	28,855	12,814	8,246	779	26,923	-	138,613	**216,230**
	117,126	56,766	23,987	57,622	900,038	14,619	424,995	**1,595,153**
Support costs allocated to activities	27,020	9,679	2,779	10,652	374,865	-	(424,995)	**-**
Governance costs allocated to activities	929	333	96	366	12,895	(14,619)	-	**-**
Total	**145,075**	**66,778**	**26,862**	**68,640**	**1,287,798**	**-**	**-**	**1,595,153**

Prior Year	*Costs of raising funds* £	*Membership support* £	*Conferences* £	*Biodiversity training courses* £	*Projects and research* £	*Governance* £	*Other Support costs* £	***2021 Total £***
Salaries & temporary staff (note 7)	*72,120*	*33,570*	*8,039*	*34,652*	*800,312*	*5,777*	*61,449*	*1,015,919*
Travel & training	*313*	*239*	*-*	*846*	*18,696*	*72*	*11,173*	*31,339*
Advice & other project costs	*11,011*	*10,434*	*-*	*14,233*	*56,425*	*6,000*	*13,977*	*112,080*
Publications & events	*1,292*	*6,905*	*460*	*5,389*	*4,352*	*-*	*-*	*18,398*
Premises	*-*	*-*	*-*	*-*	*2,121*	*-*	*61,512*	*63,633*
Other costs	15,254	8,709	6,910	369	14,798	-	125,165	171,205
	99,990	59,857	15,409	55,489	896,704	11,849	273,276	1,412,574
Support costs allocated to activities	*19,427*	*6,959*	*1,997*	*7,658*	*237,235*	*-*	*(273,276)*	*-*
Governance costs allocated to activities	*842*	*302*	*87*	*332*	*10,286*	*(11,849)*	*-*	*-*
Total	*120,259*	*67,118*	*17,493*	*63,479*	*1,144,225*	*-*	*-*	*1,412,574*

5. Total Expenditure (continued)

	2022	*2021*
	£	*£*
Analysis of support costs:		
Salaries	**154,814**	*61,449*
Non salary staff costs	**10,742**	*11,207*
Membership costs	**194**	*697*
Property	**105,292**	*61,513*
IT costs	**9,686**	*14,807*
Office running costs	**35,645**	*24,949*
Insurance	**17,815**	*19,099*
Legal fees	**500**	-
Depreciation and amortisation	**32,322**	*26,277*
Outsourced finance & payroll	**35,731**	*35,230*
Irrecoverable VAT	**17,013**	*12,980*
Bank charges	**5,241**	*5,068*
	424,995	*273,276*
Analysis of governance costs:		
Governance staff costs	**5,816**	*5,777*
Audit Fee	**8,150**	*6,000*
Trustee expenses and meeting costs	**653**	*72*
	14,619	*11,849*

6. Net (expenditure)/income for the year

	2022	*2021*
	£	*£*
This is stated after charging:		
Depreciation and amortisation	**32,322**	*26,277*
Operating lease costs	**39,304**	*47,811*
Loss on disposal of fixed assets	**1,473**	-
Trustees' expenses (2022:2 trustees (2021:1 trustee))	**653**	*72*
Trustee indemnity insurance	**1,542**	*1,320*
Auditors' remuneration – audit services	**8,150**	*6,000*

Expenses reimbursed to trustees relate to travel and subsistence costs relating to both attendance at trustees' meetings and other operational work carried out in furtherance of the Trust's objects. No trustees were reimbursed for their services as trustees during the year (2021: no trustees reimbursed).

7. Staff numbers and costs

The aggregate payroll cost of these persons was as follows:

	2022	*2021*
	£	*£*
Wages and salaries	**933,845**	*910,640*
Social security costs	**75,143**	*77,175*
Employer's pension contributions	**35,419**	*28,104*
	1,044,407	*1,015,919*

Included in staff costs above are redundancy costs of £nil (2021: £nil)

The average number of employees (head count based on number of staff employed and excluding trustees who are all non-executive) during the year were as follows:

	Number of employees	
	2022	2021
	No.	No.
Support and governance	**3**	3
Direct charitable activities	**35**	33
	38	36

No employees earned more than £60,000 during the year (2021: No employees earned more than £60,000 during the year).

The key management personnel of the Charity comprise the trustees and the Senior Management Team. The total employee benefits of the key management personnel of the Charity were £146,510. (2021: £144,038).

8. Taxation

The charitable company is exempt from corporation tax as all its income is charitable and is applied for charitable purposes.

9. Fixed assets

	Furniture & Fittings	Computers	Field equipment	**Total**
Cost	£	£	£	**£**
At the start of the year	70,794	14,007	14,598	**99,399**
Additions during the year	2,085	1,806	1,830	**5,721**
Disposals during the year	(69,705)	(3,978)	-	**(73,683)**
At the end of the year	**3,174**	**11,835**	**16,428**	**31,437**
Depreciation				
At the start of the year	68,832	10,245	14,598	**93,675**
Charge for the year	664	2,098	216	**2,978**
Released on disposal	(68,231)	(3,979)	-	**(72,210)**
At the end of the year	**1,265**	**8,364**	**14,814**	**24,443**
Net book value at the end of the year	**1,909**	**3,471**	**1,614**	**6,994**
Net book value at the start of the year	1,962	3,762	-	**5,724**

Prior Year

	Furniture and Fittings	Computers	Field equipment	Total
Cost	£	£	£	£
At the start of the year	70,794	11,006	14,598	96,398
Additions during the year	-	3,001	-	3,001
At the end of the year	70,794	14,007	14,598	99,399
Depreciation				
At the start of the year	68,342	9,062	14,598	92,002
Charge for the year	490	1,183	-	1,673
At the end of the year	68,832	10,245	14,598	93,675
Net book value at the end of the year	1,962	3,762	-	5,724
Net book value at the start of the year	2,452	1,944	-	4,396

10. Intangible assets

	CRM database	App development	**Total**
Cost	£	£	**£**
At the start of the year	121,122	3,800	**124,922**
Additions during the year	-	41,321	**41,321**
Cost at the end of the year	121,122	45,121	**166,243**
Amortisation at the start of the year	24,224	380	**24,604**
Charge for the year	24,225	5,119	**29,344**
Amortisation at the end of the year	48,449	5,499	**53,948**
Net book value at the end of the year	72,673	39,622	**112,295**
Net book value at the start of the year	96,898	3,420	100,318

Prior Year

	CRM database	App development	Total
Cost	£	£	£
At the start of the year	121,122	-	121,122
Additions during the year	-	3,800	3,800
Cost at the end of the year	121,122	3,800	124,922
Depreciation			
Amortisation at the start of the year	-	-	-
Charge for the year	24,224	380	24,604
Amortisation at the end of the year	24,224	380	24,604
Net book value at the end of the year	96,898	3,420	100,318
Net book value at the start of the year	121,122	-	121,122

11. Investments

2021-22	Listed investments £	Cash in portfolio £	**Total** £
At the start of the year	2,546,534	56,980	**2,603,514**
Additions at cost	828,346	(828,346)	**-**
Less disposals at carrying value	(799,617)	799,617	**-**
Dividend income	-	48,484	**48,484**
Portfolio costs	-	(14,219)	**(14,219)**
Net loss on revaluation	(57,186)	-	**(57,186)**
At the end of the year	2,518,077	62,516	**2,580,593**

2020-21	Listed investments £	Cash in portfolio £	**Total** £
At the start of the year	2,122,277	58,917	2,181,194
Additions at cost	351,105	(351,105)	-
Less disposals at carrying value	(410,413)	410,413	-
Withdrawals	-	(90,000)	(90,000)
Dividend income	-	43,654	43,654
Portfolio costs	-	(14,899)	(14,899)
Net gain on revaluation	483,565	-	483,565
At the end of the year	2,546,534	56,980	2,603,514

Listed Investments comprise:	**2022**	2021
	£	£
UK Corporate Bonds	**1,003,633**	1,003,530
UK Equity Growth	**518,783**	545,306
UK Equity Income	**352,483**	367,814
International Equity	**394,545**	379,031
Emerging Markets Equity	**248,633**	250,853
	2,518,077	2,546,534

The investments listed on a recognised stock exchange comprise the amounts held at fair value through profit or loss.

12. Assets held for sale

Current assets held for sale	**2022**	2021
	£	£
Value at the start of the year	**155,000**	155,000
Proceeds from sale	**(155,000)**	-
Value at the end of the year	**-**	155,000

Assets held for sale in the prior year represented a property bequeathed to Bat Conservation Trust. The sale of this property was completed during the year ended 31 March 2022.

13. Debtors: amounts falling due within one year

	2022	2021
	£	£
Trade debtors	**169,189**	30,661
Other debtors	**9,615**	5,026
Accrued income	**170,943**	73,032
Prepayments	**22,454**	40,867
	372,201	149,586

14. Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2022	2021
	£	£
Trade creditors	**46,776**	48,683
Other taxes and social security	**63,502**	45,672
Accruals	**63,556**	36,746
Deferred course and event income	**9,661**	20,794
Other creditors	**17,804**	13,136
	201,299	165,031

Deferred income comprises course and event income paid in advance.

	2022	2021
	£	£
Balance at the beginning of the year	**20,794**	32,374
Amount released to income in the year	**(20,794)**	(32,374)
Amount deferred in the year	**9,661**	20,794
	9,661	20,794

15. Operating lease commitments

The charity had commitments at the year end under operating leases expiring as follows:

	2022	2021
Land & buildings	**£**	£
- Less than one year	**22,000**	17,250
- Two to five years	**7,333**	-
Other		
- Less than one year	**3,486**	3,486
- Two to five years	**4,648**	8,134

16. Analysis of net assets between funds

Current Year	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Endowment funds	**2022 Total funds**
	£	£	£	**£**
Fixed assets	119,289	-	-	**119,289**
Investments	221,396	-	2,359,197	**2,580,593**
Net current assets	428,844	169,927	-	**598,771**
Net assets at the end of the year	**769,529**	**169,927**	**2,359,197**	**3,298,653**

Prior Year	Unrestricted funds	*Restricted funds*	*Endowment funds*	*2021 Total funds*
	£	*£*	*£*	*£*
Fixed assets	*106,042*	-	-	*106,042*
Investments	*177,779*	-	*2,425,735*	*2,603,514*
Net current assets	*369,473*	*239,956*	-	*609,429*
Net assets at the end of the year	*653,294*	*239,956*	*2,425,735*	*3,318,985*

17. Movements in funds

Current Year	At 1 April 2021	Income	Expenditure	Losses on investments	Transfers between funds	**At 31 March 2022**
	£	£	£	£	£	**£**
Vincent Weir endowment funds:						
Expendable Endowment Fund	2,085,362	-	(11,391)	(45,805)	-	**2,028,166**
Permanent endowment fund	340,373	-	(1,865)	(7,477)	-	**331,031**
Total endowment funds	2,425,735	-	(13,256)	(53,282)	-	**2,359,197**
Restricted funds:						
Esmée Fairbairn Foundation – Planning	10,000	-	(6,000)	-	-	**4,000**
Esmée Fairbairn Foundation – NightWatch	111,483	37,500	(45,428)	-	-	**103,555**
Natural England – Biodiversity	10,000	30,612	(40,612)	-	-	**-**
Natural England – Monitoring	10,000	4,500	(13,440)	-	-	**1,060**
Natural England – Partnerships	10,000	4,500	(14,500)	-	-	**-**
NatureScot – Scottish Bat Project	-	30,647	(30,647)	-	-	**-**
National Lottery Heritage Fund – Species on the Edge	-	32,598	(32,598)	-	-	**-**
National Lottery Heritage Fund – Back from the Brink	-	35,883	(35,883)	-	-	**-**
National Lottery Heritage Fund – Bats in Churches	-	113,472	(113,472)	-	-	**-**
Forestry Commission – Woodland Bats	2,700	-	(2,700)	-	-	**-**
Ernest Kleinwort – Woodland Bats	4,795	-	(4,795)	-	-	**-**
Edith Murphy Foundation – Woodland	2,000	-	(2,000)	-	-	**-**
Forestry England	8,602	15,000	(23,602)	-	-	**-**
Forest Research – National Forest Inventory	-	48,423	(48,423)	-	-	**-**
Animal and Plant Health Agency – Bat	-	10,000	(10,000)	-	-	**-**
Rufford Foundation – Helpline	2,400	-	(800)	-	-	**1,600**
Animal Friends – Bat Helpline	-	37,000	(37,000)	-	-	**-**
Garfield Weston – Bat Helpline	-	25,000	(14,583)	-	-	**10,417**
Other trusts and donations – Bat Helpline	10,296	9,931	(20,227)	-	-	**-**
Kate Barlow Research Award	24,749	500	(8,435)	-	-	**16,814**
Bat Group appeals	-	15,243	(15,243)	-	-	**-**
British Ecological Society – Bats in Churches	1,906	-	(1,906)	-	-	**-**
David Webster Charitable Trust	-	2,000	(2,000)	-	-	-
Rufford Foundation – International	5,900	-	(1,400)	-	-	**4,500**
Government Kickstarter scheme	-	12,129	(12,129)	-	-	**-**
Anonymous donation	1,610	-	(1,610)	-	-	**-**
Other restricted project income	23,515	19,520	(15,054)	-	-	**27,981**
Total restricted funds	239,956	484,458	(554,487)	-	-	**169,927**

17. Movements in funds (continued)

	At 1 April 2021	Income	Expenditure	Losses on investments	Transfers between funds	**At 31 March 2022**
Unrestricted funds:						
Designated funds:						
BCT Roost Partnership	10,228	-	(6,623)	-	3,512	**7,117**
Database Project	100,318	-	(24,985)	-	-	**75,333**
JNCC – NBMP	-	-	-	-	2,564	**2,564**
Natural England – Earned Recognition	15,000	-	(15,000)	-	-	**-**
Natural England – Helpline	11,000	-	(11,000)	-	12,947	**12,947**
DRUID project	1,099	-	(1,099)	-	-	**-**
JNCC – Nightwatch	8,255	-	(8,255)	-	-	**-**
Capacity building – Fidra	10,417	-	(10,417)	-	-	**-**
Capacity and support – science and monitoring	13,000	-	(13,000)	-	-	**-**
Digital fundraising and fundraising capacity	-	-	-	-	15,000	**15,000**
Equality, Diversity and Inclusion	-	-	-	-	3,159	**3,159**
Bellway Homes – wildlife crime project	20,000	-	(20,000)	-	-	**-**
Organisational development fund	-	-	-	-	140,000	**140,000**
Designated project funds	-	-	-	-	10,773	**10,773**
	189,317	-	(110,379)	-	187,955	**266,893**
General funds	463,977	1,147,549	(917,031)	(3,904)	(187,955)	**502,636**
Total unrestricted funds	653,294	1,147,549	(1,027,410)	(3,904)	-	**769,529**
Total funds	**3,318,985**	**1,632,007**	**(1,595,153)**	**(57,186)**	-	**3,298,653**

17. Movements in funds (continued)

Prior Year	*At 1 April 2020*	*Income*	*Expenditure*	*Gains on investments*	*Transfers between funds*	*At 31 March 2021*
	£	*£*	*£*	*£*	*£*	*£*
Vincent Weir endowment funds:						
Expendable Endowment Fund	1,716,532	-	(11,720)	380,550	-	**2,085,362**
Permanent endowment fund	280,178	-	(1,920)	62,115	-	**340,373**
Total endowment funds	1,996,710	-	(13,640)	442,665	-	**2,425,735**
Restricted funds:						
Esmée Fairbairn Foundation - Planning	16,175	-	(6,175)	-	-	**10,000**
Esmée Fairbairn Foundation - Bearing Witness for Wildlife	6,480	-	(6,480)	-	-	**-**
Esmée Fairbairn Foundation - Nightwatch	-	124,000	(12,517)	-	-	**111,483**
Natural England - Biodiversity	-	61,655	(51,655)	-	-	**10,000**
Natural England - Monitoring	-	25,000	(15,000)	-	-	**10,000**
Natural England - Partnerships	-	25,000	(15,000)	-	-	**10,000**
Natural Resources Wales - NBMP MoA Contribution	-	5,667	(5,667)	-	-	**-**
NatureScot - Scottish Bat Project	-	29,963	(29,963)	-	-	**-**
National Lottery Heritage Fund - Species on the Edge	-	26,239	(26,239)	-	-	**-**
National Lottery Heritage Fund - Back from the Brink	-	65,980	(65,980)	-	-	**-**
National Lottery Heritage Fund - Bats in Churches	-	73,571	(73,571)	-	-	**-**
Forestry Commission - Woodland Bats	-	2,700	-	-	-	**2,700**
Ernest Kleinwort - Woodland Bats	10,000	-	(5,205)	-	-	**4,795**
Edith Murphy Foundation - Woodland	-	2,000	-	-	-	**2,000**
Forestry England	-	12,079	(3,477)	-	-	**8,602**
Animal and Plant Health Agency - BCT Helpline	-	8,000	(8,000)	-	-	**-**
Rufford Foundation - Helpline	-	3,200	(800)	-	-	**2,400**
Other trusts and donations - BCT Helpline	-	57,862	(47,566)	-	-	**10,296**
Kate Barlow Research Award	30,543	-	(5,794)	-	-	**24,749**
Bat Group appeals	-	4,960	(4,960)	-	-	**-**
British Ecological Society - Bats in Churches	-	1,998	(92)	-	-	**1,906**
David Webster Charitable Trust - Bats and Buildings	-	2,000	(2,000)	-	-	**-**
Rufford Foundation - International	-	5,900	-	-	-	**5,900**
Anonymous donation	2,031	-	(421)	-	-	**1,610**
Other restricted project income	28,875	8,491	(13,851)	-	-	**23,515**
Total restricted funds	94,104	546,265	(400,413)	-	-	**239,956**

17. Movements in funds (continued)

Prior Year	*At 1 April 2020*	*Income*	*Expenditure*	*Gains on investments*	*Transfers between funds*	*At 31 March 2021*
	£	*£*	*£*	*£*	*£*	*£*
Designated funds:						
BCT Bat Roost Partnership	13,578	-	(3,350)	-	-	**10,228**
Database Project	121,122	-	(24,604)	-	3,800	**100,318**
JNCC - NBMP	960	-	(960)	-	-	**-**
Natural England - Earned Recognition	-	-	-	-	15,000	**15,000**
DRUID project	-	-	-	-	1,099	**1,099**
JNCC - Nightwatch	-	-	-	-	8,255	**8,255**
Natural England - Helpline	-	-	-	-	11,000	**11,000**
Capacity building - Fidra	-	-	-	-	10,417	**10,417**
Capacity and support - science and monitoring	-	-	-	-	13,000	**13,000**
Bellway Homes - Wildlife Crime	-	-	-	-	20,000	**20,000**
	135,660	-	(28,914)	-	82,571	**189,317**
General funds	453,303	1,021,952	(969,607)	40,900	(82,571)	**463,977**
Total unrestricted funds	588,963	1,021,952	(998,521)	40,900	-	**653,294**
Total funds	**2,679,777**	**1,568,217**	**(1,412,574)**	**483,565**	-	**3,318,985**

Purposes of expendable endowment funds
The funds were donated by Vincent Weir to be invested to generate income for use to support core costs.

Purposes of permanent endowment funds
The Bat Conservation Trust Fund was established by trust deed dated 31 October 2006, so that the income only may be used to advance the charitable purposes of BCT.
Under a charity commission scheme dated 31 March 2010 the funds are treated as forming part of BCT for the purposes of registration and accounting.

Purposes of restricted funds

Esmée Fairbairn Foundation – Planning	Raising the profile of biodiversity in the planning system – a multi-species partnership project.
Esmée Fairbairn Foundation – Bearing Witness for Wildlife	A project working to ensure that wildlife crime prevention and mitigation improve conservation action for bats and those acting to protect them.
Esmée Fairbairn Foundation – NightWatch	To develop an inclusive, engagement-focused community science bat survey.
Natural England – Biodiversity	To contribute towards our work leading on species conservation plans for six species of bat.
Natural England – Monitoring	To contribute towards site condition monitoring through the National Bat Monitoring Programme.
Natural England – Partnerships	To contribute towards employing a Bat Groups Officer who provides support to local bat groups.

17. Movements in funds (continued)

Purposes of restricted funds (continued)

NRW – NBMP MoA contribution	A contribution towards the JNCC funded National Bat Monitoring Programme to bolster delivery in Wales.
NatureScot – Scottish Bat Project	To contribute towards developing and carry out our conservation and partnership work in Scotland.
National Lottery Heritage Fund – Species on the Edge	Species on the Edge funding from NHLF is for the development year and new collaborative project with seven other conservation organisations, led by NatureScot.
National Lottery Heritage Fund – Back from the Brink	To undertake development work for Back from the Brink, a collaborative project to save England's most threatened species.
National Lottery Heritage Fund – Bats in Churches	Partnership project put in place to provide solutions to issues with bats in churches in England.
Forestry Commission - Woodland Bats	To support work with woodland bats.
Ernest Kleinwort - Woodland Bats	To support work with woodland bats.
Edith Murphy – Woodland Bats	To support work with woodland bats.
Mapping Woodland Bats	To fund the Woodland Officer's work in the South East of England.
Forestry England	Funding for the Forestry England Bat Survey.
Forest Research – National Forest Inventory	Funding for the Forest Research Bat Survey.
Animal and Plant Health Agency – bat helpline	To contribute towards rabies surveillance work and risk management.
Rufford Foundation – bat helpline	Contribution to BCT staff time in supporting Malawian bat helpline.
Animal Friends – bat helpline	To support the bat care work of the BCT Helpline.
Garfield Weston – bat helpline	To contribute to the running of the BCT helpline.
Other trusts and donations – bat helpline	Donations to contribute towards the running of BCT's Helpline.
Kate Barlow Research Award	Award granted to a postgraduate student to conduct a substantive bat research project and to honour the late Dr Kate Barlow's contribution to bat conservation.
Bat Group Appeals	Towards conservation and monitoring work in England and Scotland.
British Ecological Society – Bats in Churches	Ecological outreach with the aim of educating non-scientific audiences, primarily a church audience, about bats.
David Webster Charitable Trust – Bats and Buildings	Contributes towards the development of best practice lighting guidance for industry.
Rufford Foundation – International	Contribution to training, development and salaries of staff on Malawian bat helpline.
Anonymous donation	Contribute towards surveying for bats in Suffolk.
Government kickstart funding	Payment from Government Kickstarter Scheme to contribute toward salaries of three Kickstarters at BCT.
Other restricted project income	Amalgamated small donations restricted to particular projects.

17. Movements in funds (continued)

Purposes of designated funds

BCT Roost Partnership	To contribute towards bat box monitoring projects.
Joint Nature Conservation Committee – National Bat Monitoring Project	For work on the National Bat Monitoring Programme.
Natural England – Earned Recognition	Streamlining the bat mitigation licensing system, raising professional standards and improving outcomes for bats.
Database project	A fund set aside for our current website and customer relationship management (CRM) system. The website will be updated and make it more effective and accessible, and the new CRM system will make our fundraising more efficient and improve the way we engage with members, donors and supporters.
DRUID project	To advise a NERC funded project to understand and predict the cross-ecosystem impacts of insect decline on ecosystem services and natural capital.
JNCC – NightWatch	Contributes to develop an inclusive, engagement-focused community science bat survey.
Natural England – Helpline	Contribution towards Natural England Bat Advice Service health and safety review.
Capacity building – Fidra	Contribution to maintaining core operations of the Bat Conservation Trust
Capacity and support – science and monitoring	To assist with delivery of BCT's Science and Monitoring strategies.
Equality, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI)	To invest in training and other EDI priorities
Bellway Homes – wildlife crime	Providing support to the police, Crown Prosecution Service, ecologists and the public in bat crime cases.
Designated project funds	Funds received in the current year earmarked for specific projects during 2021-22
Organisational development fund	Fund to be used strategically for specific projects, capacity or other organisational requirements

18. Related party transactions

During the year ended 31 March 2021 it was agreed that Annika Binet, a trustee of the Bat Conservation Trust, would be engaged to provide bat surveying services to BCT and that payment would be made to her in respect of these services, not in respect of her work as a trustee. The board of trustees (excluding Annika Binet) are satisfied that Annika is best placed in terms of both location and expertise to provide this service and that her quote cost represents value for money and is at or below commercial rate. Amounts paid to Annika Binet in respect of the above in the year ended 31 March 2022 were £694 (2021: Nil). There were no amounts outstanding at the year end.

During the year aggregate donations from related parties totalled £nil (2021: £26,279).

There were no other related party transactions outside the normal course of business in the current or preceding year.

19. Prior year statement of financial activities

Statement of financial activities *(incorporating an income and expenditure account)*
For the year ended 31 March 2021

	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	Endowment £	Total £
Income				
Income from generated funds				
Donations and legacies	334,228	66,752	-	**400,980**
Investment income	43,685	-	-	**43,685**
Income from charitable activities				
Conferences	62,744	-	-	**62,744**
Training courses and meetings	37,347	-	-	**37,347**
Projects and research	497,282	479,513	-	**976,795**
Other activities	46,666	-	-	**46,666**
Total income	1,021,952	546,265	-	**1,568,217**
Expenditure				
Expenditure on raising funds				
Membership support	67,118	-	-	**67,118**
Costs of raising funds	106,619	-	13,640	**120,259**
Expenditure on charitable activities				
Conferences	17,493	-	-	**17,493**
Biodiversity training courses	63,479	-	-	**63,479**
Project and research costs	743,812	400,413	-	**1,144,225**
Total expenditure	998,521	400,413	13,640	**1,412,574**
Net income/(expenditure) before net gains on investments	23,431	145,852	(13,640)	**155,643**
Net gains on investments	40,900	-	442,665	**483,565**
Net income for the year	64,331	145,852	429,025	**639,208**
Net movement in funds	64,331	145,852	429,025	**639,208**
Reconciliation of funds				
Total funds brought forward	588,963	94,104	1,996,710	**2,679,777**
Total funds carried forward	653,294	239,956	2,425,735	**3,318,985**

THE BAT CONSERVATION TRUST

England & Wales - Charity number 1012361

Accounts

Company number: 02712823
Charity number: 1012361
OSCR number: SC040116

The Bat Conservation Trust

Report and financial statements

For the year ended 31 March 2021

The Bat Conservation Trust

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The Bat Conservation Trust

Administrative Information

For the year ended 31 March 2021

Status	The organisation is a charitable company limited by guarantee, incorporated on 7 May 1992 and registered as a charity on 29 June 1992.	
Governing document	The company was established under a memorandum of association which established the objects and powers of the charitable company and is governed under its articles of association.	
Company number	02712823	
Charity number England and Wales	1012361	
Charity number Scotland	SC040116	
Registered office and operational address	Quadrant House, 250 Kennington Lane London SE11 5RD	
Trustees	Dr. Abigail Entwistle (Chair, Sept 2019-Sept 2020) Professor Kirsty Park (Vice Chair, then Chair from Sept 2020) Jean Matthews (Vice Chair, from Sept 2020) Steve Markham (Treasurer) Bob Cornes (Hon Secretary) Annika Binet Stuart Brittenden Rupert Lancaster Roger Mortlock Lord John Randall (appointed 10 October 2020) Steven Roe Dr. Ruth Waters	
President **Vice Presidents**	Chris Packham CBE Professor Paul Racey John Burton Dr. Robert Stebbings	
Patron	David Gower OBE	
Ambassador	Kate Rusby	
Honorary roles	Hon Education Officer Hon Science & Conservation Advisor Hon Science Advisors Hon Legal Advisor	Shirley Thompson MBE Professor Paul Racey Professor Gareth Jones Professor Kate Jones Michael Ford QC

The Bat Conservation Trust

Administrative Information

For the year ended 31 March 2021

Staff

<u>Senior Management Team</u>	
Chief Executive	Kit Stoner
Director of Conservation	Dr. Carol Williams (part time)
Director of Communications & Fundraising	Dr. Joe Nunez-Mino
<u>Science Team</u>	
Head of Science & Monitoring	Dr. Katherine Boughey (part time)
Monitoring Manager	Philip Briggs
NBMP Survey Co-ordinator	David Williamson (until Apr) Penelope Fialas (Apr-Aug) Dr. Parvathy Venugopal (from Sept)
Projects Officer	Maisy Inston (from Feb, part time)
NBMP Intern	Esme Clarke (Dec-Mar, part time)
Science Intern	Giada Giacomini (from Jan, part time)
<u>Conservation team</u>	
Biodiversity:	
Head of Biodiversity	Jan Collins (part time)
Built Environment Manager	Joanna Ferguson
Conservation Wildlife Crime Officer	Mark Goulding (part time)
Woodland Officer	Sonia Reveley
Grey Long-Eared Bat Project Officer + Land Management Advisor	Craig Dunton (part time)
Species on the Edge Project Development Officer	Dr. Rachael Cooper-Bohannon
Defining Favourable Conservation Status Research Assistant	Lisa Hundt (from Nov, part time)
Conservation Services:	
Head of Conservation Services	Lisa Worledge
Training & Conferences Manager	Naomi Webster
Scottish Officer	Elisabeth Ferrell
Scottish Officer (maternity cover)	Claudia Gebhardt (from Feb, part time)
Wales Officer/Species Legislation & Policy Specialist	Steve Lucas
Bat Groups Officer	Colin Morris (until Nov) Abby Packham (from Feb, part time)
Bat Groups Admin Officer	Sophie Dennis (from Nov, part time)
Bats in Churches Training & Survey Officer	Claire Boothby
Helpline:	
Helpline Managers	Hannah Van Hesteren Rebecca Wilson

	Senior Bat Advisors	Laura Brown
		Marie Canny
		Tristan Evans
		Eleanor Johnstone
		Jennifer Pope (part time)
	Bat Advisors	Jack Bonnick (from May)
		Sophie Dennis (May-Oct)
		Magdalena Howitt (May-Oct)
		Maisy Inston (May-Oct)
		Kate Wynter (May-Oct)
	<u>Communications/Fundraising team</u>	
	Senior Engagement & Fundraising Officer	Andreia Correia da Costa
	Fundraising & Development Officer	Nicola Quinn
	Press & Communications Officer	Alex Morss (from May)
	Engagement & Fundraising Assistant	Emily Walsh (from May)
	<u>Finance & Operations team</u>	
	Head of Operations	Peter Crome
	Operations Manager/PA to CEO	Janet Baumkotter (part time)
	Senior Administration Officer	Sian Moore
	Admin Support Officer	Jessica Taylor (until Sept)
Bankers	The Co-operative Bank plc Kings Valley Yew Street Stockport SK4 2JU	
Health and Safety	JEM Safety Management Ltd 190 Moor Lane Upminster Essex RM14 1HG	
Insurance brokers	First Insurance Solutions Ltd First Insurance Solutions House Centre 3000, St. Leonards Road Maidstone, Kent ME16 0LS	
Financial advisors	Coloma Wealth Management LLP 5th Floor, Pinnacle House 23-26 St Dunstan's Hill London EC3R 8HN	
Employment advisors	Ellis Whittam Ltd1 Woodhouse, Church Lane Aldford, Chester CH3 6JD	

Solicitors	Aaron & Partners LLP Grosvenor Court, Foregate Street Chester CH1 1HG
Auditor	HW Fisher LLP Acre House, 11-15 William Road London NW1 3ER

The President's Message

What an extraordinary year. So many of us have had to rethink how we continue with vital conservation work amid COVID-19 restrictions, and as a result the Bat Conservation Trust (BCT) has seen innovation, incredible support, challenges, moved much more of its work online and delivered many of its achievements remotely, for the first time.

Whilst the pandemic closed many doors it also prompted some new ones to open up, in how we confront challenges, work differently, share and connect with each other to keep conservation pushing forwards.

For example, it was a pleasure to address the Bat Conservation Trust's first online AGM in 2020, and like many others, I was beamed in from home. In my case, a bat-friendly nook in the New Forest from where I have been sharing nature during lockdown, via the online Self Isolating Bird Club, which has featured bats, BCT and bat volunteers.

Among other firsts, BCT saw a successful Big Bat Skills online event in May, and then the National Bat Conference online. BCT launched BatFest, over a month of fascinating and easily accessible online events to suit all tastes and ages throughout September – another new way to bring more people closer to bats and their conservation.

We held three regional conferences online in October and November, as well as the Woodland Symposium and Discover the Wonder of Bats, held in January. It was reassuring to see how this new delivery method attracted more than 2,000 participants, with overwhelmingly positive feedback. Going online for the first time yielded other benefits too, making events cheaper and more accessible to new audiences.

In October we continued with the popular Bat Chat podcast series, with 10 more episodes presented by BCT trustee Steve Roe, which I very much enjoyed being part of. This great resource has exceeded 20,000 downloads.

The misinformation around COVID-19 and bats has been a continuous challenge, and forced BCT to divert considerable resources to managing communications and weathering a storm of untruths around bats and diseases. We fought back with the Don't Blame Bats campaign, launched with the Spanish Association for the Conservation and Research of Bats (SECEMU).

We also have a fantastic new website resource called ROOST, to promote the best practice in bat roost protection and mitigation during building works, sharing excellent cases studies and celebrating them via the Roost Awards.

BCT continues to provide clear information through all its channels on bat conservation and has a growing social media presence, now reaching around 200,000 followers.

And of course we are bolstered in all our efforts by the unfaltering volunteers and supporters who have helped carry bat conservation through such challenging times.

The Bat Conservation Trust

The President's message

For the year ended 31 March 2021

This year has demonstrated how innovation can happen when we are catalysed to think differently. This might offer hope to all those who feel, like I do, that we can be more ambitious with how we confront a greener recovery for nature.

And 2021 marks the 30th anniversary of the Bat Conservation Trust being set up. I am looking forward to BCT's forthcoming celebrations to reflect on all the achievements for bat conservation during that period, and cheering on the next 30 years as we strive for a wildlife richer future.

Chris Packham



President, Bat Conservation Trust

Date: 17 August 2021

Review by the Chair and Chief Executive

The past year has been challenging for BCT, as it has been for so many. As well as the need to address misinformation around bats and COVID-19, highlighted by Chris, we have also had to adapt our activities to work in a remote world.

BCT's National Bat Helpline has been as busy as ever, fielding nearly 15,000 enquiries in 2020/21. Throughout the pandemic, the Helpline has adapted its processes to enable it to continue providing support to the general public, including using technology to carry out 'virtual' roost visits and a network of volunteers offering remote advice to those who had found grounded, injured and orphaned bats.

Like many charities, in the past year we have had to take action to reduce our expenditure, to ensure that we are sustainable going forwards. For example, we are trialling a Volunteer Bat Care Helpline, set up to run both in and out of office hours during summer.

Our advocacy and policy work have continued to be a high priority. We have worked closely with other environmental organisations to campaign for an ambitious fit-for-purpose Environment Act to protect our wildlife for generations to come. Most recently this has involved galvanising supporters to sign a petition calling for a legally binding target to halt the decline of species. We have also responded to proposed planning reforms, and called on our supporters to write to their MPs to voice their concerns.

We have continued to work in partnership with others on species recovery projects, to help some of the UK's rarest species. As part of 'Back from the Brink', the Grey Long-eared Bat Project has worked with nearly 200 farmers and landowners to improve foraging habitat and connectivity. We will build on this work, in partnership with East Devon Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty through a new project called 'Return of the True Night Rider'. 'Species on the Edge', another collaborative project in Scotland, is in its development year, and an exciting funding application for 'Natur am Byth' in Wales was recently submitted.

Technology and innovation have continued to be a theme in BCT's work. We partnered with the Government of Jersey to deliver the Jersey Bat Survey, a passive acoustic bat monitoring survey. 2020 also saw the report of our Forestry England pilot, which explored the use of acoustic monitoring to inform natural capital accounting and woodland condition monitoring. We are now working with Forest Research to integrate passive acoustic monitoring of bats into the National Forest Inventory field survey.

We have also secured funding for a new project called Nightwatch – a free, tech-enabled night-time biodiversity survey open to all, regardless of background or experience. Nightwatch will collect robust, locally focused biodiversity data, whilst engaging a wide range of people from diverse backgrounds and abilities, initially in urban areas.

The importance of reaching a wider range of supporters and volunteers was highlighted by our recent membership and National Bat Monitoring Programme volunteer surveys. We have much work to do to reach a wider audience and this year we will continue to take action to improve our own practices to make BCT a more inclusive employer and provide more volunteering opportunities for all. We have joined the Diverse Sustainability Initiative and will continue to support the Wildlife and Countryside Link Review into Ethnic Diversity in the Environment Sector.

And finally, we would like to offer huge thanks to all of you – our staff, volunteers, partners, donors, supporters, members – your continued support over the past year has been invaluable and has allowed us to continue working hard for bat conservation. We look forward to working with you over the coming year.





Kirsty Park, Chair

Kit Stoner, Chief Executive

Date: 17 August 2021

The Trustees present their report and the audited financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2021.

Administrative information is set out on page 3 to 6 forms part of this report. The financial statements comply with current statutory requirements, the Memorandum and Articles of Association and the Statement of Recommended Practice - Accounting and Reporting by Charities: SORP applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with FRS 102.

Structure, Governance & Management

History of The Bat Conservation Trust

The Bat Conservation Trust (BCT) was formed in 1991, by far-seeing individuals who recognised that the combination of challenges to the conservation of bats was unique. BCT is proud to be the leading non-governmental organisation devoted solely to the conservation of bats and their habitats. In a very short time, BCT has grown to become an organisation with more than 6,500 members, with offices in England, Wales and Scotland and a team of around 30 staff including scientists, specialists in training, outreach and biodiversity, volunteer engagement, fundraising, media and membership. BCT's core activities include; biodiversity delivery (taking effective practical conservation actions and influencing policy to secure bat populations); the National Bat Monitoring Programme; delivering advice about bats (through the National Bat Helpline and through long-term partnerships with the statutory nature conservation organisations and with statutory investigators and prosecutors); training professionals and volunteers; and engaging and educating wider audiences.

An overview of who we are

BCT has championed bats for 30 years and the places they need to survive.

Our vital stats: We spend just 12p on fundraising per £1 raised

Around 200,000 online supporters

Around 3,000 volunteers

Our purpose:

Vision: A world rich in wildlife where bats and people thrive together.

Mission: To conserve bats for present and future generations. Through education, collaborative action and scientific research, we inspire individuals and organisations to value and speak out for bats.

Values: Inspiration, collaboration, evidence-based.

The charity's main activities and the people and wildlife we strive to help are described below. All our charitable activities focus on conserving bats for present and future generations and are undertaken to further Bat Conservation Trust's charitable purposes for the public benefit.

We work to:

Discover: To ensure scientific evidence is in place to support bat conservation.

- Provide, either directly, through collaboration or by signposting to external organisations, the scientific evidence we need to understand and address threats to bat populations
- Deliver a world-leading, cost-effective citizen science programme supported by motivated volunteers, providing high quality data able to inform evidence needs, policy-relevant questions and metrics of bat population status, change and distribution

Act: To secure and enhance bat populations and their resilience in a changing world.

- Be the authoritative voice influencing positive outcomes (government, planning process, enforcement)
- Improved awareness, knowledge and action for bat conservation in key sectors (built environment, forestry, agriculture) and audiences (professional ecologists, volunteers, those that use places of worship)
- Advice provided is based on the most robust evidence available

Inspire: To win the levels of support required to secure and enhance bat populations.

- Increased engagement with and understanding of bats by the public and media
- Increased recruitment, retention and engagement of BCT members

Strengthen: To enable BCT to achieve financial stability and sustainable staff workloads; to ensure staff and volunteers are motivated and well led.

DISCOVER – to ensure scientific evidence is in place to support bat conservation

National Bat Monitoring Programme (NBMP)

The NBMP is run by the Bat Conservation Trust, in partnership with the Joint Nature Conservation Committee, and supported and steered by Natural England, Natural Resources Wales, NatureScot and Northern Ireland Environment Agency.

It is the longest running purpose-built, multi-species monitoring programme for mammals in the UK and relies on a nationwide network of citizen scientists. In 2020, participation was reduced as a result of COVID-19 restrictions. Nevertheless, a total of 1,340 sites were surveyed by 850 volunteers, respectively around 66% and 82% of the 2019 figures but still almost double the 1997 volunteer numbers. Bat detector and sound analysis workshops were taken online, with 13 workshops

providing training for over 400 volunteer surveyors. Eighty-eight percent of volunteers are now using our online recording portal to return their survey data.

We worked with BirdSong Charity Consulting to produce a volunteer questionnaire and report on volunteer demographics, motivations and experiences of taking part in the NBMP. The results are informing work being carried out by more onion, a digital mobilisation agency, to produce a new NBMP volunteer engagement strategy which provides recommendations for improving the effectiveness of our volunteer engagement and communications and for engaging more diverse audiences.

NBMP data have enabled us to produce statistically robust population trends for 11 of the UK's 17 breeding bat species. The data are once again being prepared for use as part of the next UK Biodiversity Indicators report to be published in 2021.

Advances in monitoring

As a result of COVID-19 restrictions we decided not to run a further pilot of the British Bat Survey in 2020. Instead we focussed our field work on testing the best way to deploy passive acoustic sensors to maximise their effectiveness.

Local monitoring
Over the last year we have been developing Nightwatch – a free, inclusive, tech-enabled night-time biodiversity survey open to all regardless of background, experience, or physical ability. Nightwatch has the dual aims of collecting robust, locally focused biodiversity data, while at the same time engaging a wide range of people from diverse backgrounds and abilities. Initially it will be targeted in urban areas. Our aspiration is that this survey will become multi-taxa, working in partnership with other species NGOs to collect robust monitoring information for a range of nocturnal species.

Woodland Monitoring
In 2019 BCT collaborated with Forestry England to undertake a groundbreaking pilot in South-West GB to explore the use of acoustic monitoring to inform natural capital accounting and woodland condition monitoring. The pilot was huge success, amassing the largest, most comprehensive and attribute-rich dataset of woodland bat records ever compiled by BCT. Building on this success, we are now working with Forest Research to integrate passive acoustic monitoring of bats into the National Forest Inventory field survey, with the aim undertaking field studies in summer 2021. We are also supporting Bat Conservation Ireland to develop a similar woodland survey for the Republic of Ireland.

Other monitoring partnerships
In summer 2020 we partnered with the Government of Jersey to deliver the Jersey Bat Survey, a passive acoustic bat monitoring survey across Jersey. We are now working to analyse ten years of acoustic data from Jersey, and develop a comprehensive monitoring programme for the island that includes a variety of monitoring approaches. We are also supporting the RSPB to pilot bat monitoring across their reserves.

EchoHub
We will shortly be launching EchoHub, an open-source sound library focusing exclusively on bat sounds. It will feature recordings contributed by a community of professionals, researchers, educators, and anyone with an interest in bat bioacoustics. It will be free to share and download bat sounds on the portal. The goal of EchoHub is to make it easier to share and access recordings of bat sounds for diverse purposes such as scientific research, conservation, education, and the arts.

Research

Drivers of Bat Population Change
BCT are co-supervising two PhDs considering drivers of bat population change: Modelling drivers of population change in bats (Lea Dambly, hosted by UKCEH) and Using ecoacoustics to understand anthropogenic impacts on biodiversity: a case study on European bats (Ella Browning, hosted by UCL), both of which draw on data from the NBMP.

In collaboration with BCT, Ella published the paper 'Drivers of bat population change: a review reveals evidence gaps' (Mammal Review, 2021; https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/full/10.1111/mam.12239). This paper reviews the evidence linking proposed drivers to impacts on bat populations in Europe, using the results of a previous cross-taxa semi-quantitative assessment as a framework.

Impacts of bias on detecting bat population change
For certain species monitored by the NBMP, trends estimated from Roost Survey data differ substantially from trends estimated using data from the Field and Hibernation Survey. Our UKCEH PhD used a 'virtual ecologist' approach to model the effect of biased site selection and uneven observer retention on our ability to accurately detect abundance trends using Roost Count data. The findings suggest that trends derived from Roost Count surveys are negatively biased as a result of the interaction between low site fidelity in some species and the tendency of observers to cease monitoring if bats abandon their roosts. The magnitude of the bias depends on the degree of site fidelity: species with low site fidelity are more likely to be affected. These findings were published in a Citizen Science special edition of the Journal of Applied Ecology in 2020 ('Observer retention, site selection and population dynamics interact to bias abundance trends in bats'; https://besjournals.onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/1365-2664.13760).

In 2021 we received funding from JNCC to further explore this bias. This work suggested that excluding zero counts (which largely represent instances where the colony is absent from the roost and so are more accurately characterised as missing data, rather than instances where the whole colony has died, which would represent a true zero) reduces the degree of negative bias, although it does not remove it completely. It also suggests that a greater understanding of change in the number of roosts present in the population is needed to produce unbiased long-term trend estimates.

Bats and insects
BCT is project partner on a new NERC-funded study investigating the drivers and repercussions of UK insect population declines, alongside the University of Leeds, UKCEH, University of Reading and Rothamsted Research. This project began in January 2021. It will undertake a comprehensive

assessment of the state of the UK's insect populations, and link insect population changes to changes in insect predator populations (bats and birds).

BCT are also co-supervisors of a PhD hosted by Rothamsted Research, investigating the long-term changes in the abundance and phenology of migrating insects as potential drivers of population change in insectivorous birds and bats. Hannah Romanowski successfully secured a SWBio DTP studentship for this PhD in the latest award round, and the PhD is due to start Sept 2021.

Vincent Weir Scientific Award

The Vincent Weir Scientific Award was first established in 2010 to recognise the achievements of new bat researchers and their contributions to bat conservation. Rana Khayat (Manchester Metropolitan University) won the award in 2020 for her PhD project which characterised the causes and effects of wing tears for the first time, in common pipistrelles and other UK bat species. Rana collected her data from bat carers, who sent pictures of bat wings and swabs from injured bat wings.

Kate Barlow Award

The 2021 Kate Barlow Award was awarded to Laura Torrent of the Universidade do Porto, Portugal. Laura's project will provide one of the most thorough evaluations to date of the bat diversity of Equatorial Guinea, a hugely understudied region located in one of the most important biodiversity hotspots in Africa. This work will provide critical information for local authorities and support their efforts to protect its bat species. This project will use genetic techniques to assess an entirely unstudied voucher collection of over 1,000 bat specimens collected across Equatorial Guinea in the 1990s. This will allow a conservation benefit to be derived from this collection. In addition it will consider wing-punch tissue samples collected in more recent years. Laura's project forms part of her PhD.

ACT – taking action on the ground in partnership with volunteers, professionals and government

Biodiversity

Professional standards

'Bat Surveys for Professional Ecologists: Good Practice Guidelines (3rd edition)' continues to have a far reach. In 2020 we carried out a public consultation and hosted meetings with the Technical Review Board in order to update the guidelines. Publication is currently proposed for spring 2022, delayed due to the need to divert capacity to the Earned Recognition Project (see below).

BCT recently discussed updates to the 'Thermal Imaging Survey Guidelines', originally published in September 2019, with the author. An updated version will be published in spring/summer 2021.

BCT (as part of a collaborative group led by NatureScot) recently discussed updates to the Bats and Onshore Wind Turbines guidance, originally published in early 2019. An updated version will be published in spring/summer 2021.

BCT's Head of Biodiversity sits on the Advisory Group (led by CIEEM) for updating the 'Bat Mitigation Guidelines', alongside a variety of stakeholders including the SNCBs. The results of our mitigation project (see below) will be fed into the new guidelines. These guidelines will be published initially as a beta version so that feedback can be received. The guidelines will be widely publicised by BCT and others, including on our website, through our bulletins, through our developer contacts and at the Consultant's Forum at the National Bat Conference in 2021.

UK Bat Steering Group

On an annual basis BCT convenes the UK Bat Steering Group. This group is made up of a range of organisations that influence bat conservation through their activities (SNCBs, Joint Nature Conservation Committee, Forestry Commission, National Trust, Vincent Wildlife Trust, Environment Agency, Woodland Trust and Historic England). The 2020 meeting explored Bats and Climate Change and the 2021 meeting will discuss tree and woodland surveys and mitigation for development. More detail can be found on the BCT website.

Links with other organisations

BCT continues to meet regularly with organisations with which we have overlapping work areas as this level of collaboration is vital in achieving positive outcomes. These organisations include the SNCBs, CIEEM, the Association of Local Government Ecologists and EA.

Earned Recognition Project

BCT is working with Natural England and CIEEM on the pilot for a new transformative approach to licensing mitigation work in England that impacts on bats, which will streamline the licensing process, raise professional standards and improve outcomes for bats. This approach is known as Earned Recognition.

Earned Recognition works on the basis of assessing and accrediting a consultant's competence in undertaking survey work and designing effective mitigation so that, by using an accredited consultant, developers can experience a more streamlined licensing process for their scheme or project.

The competency requirements for consultants are being defined on the basis of relevant selected elements of CIEEM's Competency Framework (but a more detailed version with an emphasis on bats) with the indicators of competence mapped across to BCT's Professional Training Standards. There will be different competency requirements based on the level of accreditation applied for, which, in turn, relates to the degree of risk to bats and bat roosts from the projects that the accredited consultant will be able to work on.

BCT led on two recent consultations about the project with consultant ecologists and other stakeholders in the licensing process (local authority planners, local authority ecologists, developers, architects, planning consultants, builders and NGOs). The results of the consultations can be found on the BCT website along with a consultation Q & A document, which is due to be updated in April 2021.

Bats and farming

The Grey Long-eared Bat Project, as part of 'Back from the Brink', is fortunate to have been granted an extension until August 2021. The project has continued to work with farmers and landowners to improve foraging habitat (primarily species rich grassland) and connectivity, throughout the project areas. The current number of farmers/landowners engaged is 198. Work will continue through a contractor until project end.

BCT has also been fortunate to have had a successful bid to the Green Recovery Challenge Fund, working in partnership with East Devon AONB. This project continues and expands upon the work of the Back from the Brink Grey Long-eared Bat project, continuing to work with farmers and landowners on habitat improvement and connectivity. This project has been operating since February 2021 and has engaged with over 20 landowners. Work will continue until January 2022, focusing on land around the key roosts in East Devon and West Dorset. Plans are in place for grassland restoration works throughout the area, engagement events with the East Devon Farmers Group, partnership working with Dorset AONB and Dorset Wildlife Trust and educational events at agricultural colleges in the area.

Partnership working has continued with the Nature Friendly Farming Network, Farm Wildlife and Pesticides Action Network UK, although this work has been much reduced due to lack of capacity as of February 2021.

Policy

We continue to work very closely with other environmental NGOs through the four Environment Links and Greener UK to pool resources and expertise to get a strong and effective voice for bat conservation across the United Kingdom. With the UK finally leaving the EU and the conclusion of the transition period at the end of 2020, this has resulted in an unprecedented amount of collaborative work on various elements of the (Westminster) Environment Bill, as well as trying to ensure that gaps in Governance arrangements and the loss of environmental principles are properly filled – this work is ongoing and is undertaken alongside our work in the other devolved administrations where possible thereby ensuring that each of the three countries and the United Kingdom as a whole, maintain the high environmental standards that the EU has set.

BCT has run two campaigns to get our supporters to write to their elected politicians to stand up for bats and environmental protection more widely.

BCT continues to promote the importance of retaining and strengthening the legislation protecting bats and we have an internal Core Brexit Group to discuss action. Promotion of bats and their protection is supported through our Species Champions projects (England – 3 Species Champions, Wales – 2 Species Champions, Scotland – 7 Species Champions).

The Partnership for Biodiversity in Planning (PBP)

Our funding for the Partnership for Biodiversity in Planning Project has now come to an end and since the end of March 2020 we have not had a Project Officer in post.

However, we continue to maintain the partnership website and Wildlife Assessment Checklist (WAC) and the latter will be updated as appropriate. We make contact with partners at least every 6 months to check for updates – Plantlife's Important Plant Areas were updated within the WAC during summer 2020.

The Wildlife Assessment Checklist is promoted whenever possible and continues to be linked from the Planning Portal. In the last year there have been over 10,000 visitors in a steady stream visiting the site. The majority of visitors arrive at the site via an internet search, with approximately a fifth entering the web address directly and approximately a sixth using the link from the Planning Portal. These patterns match previous years since the tool was launched.

Smaller numbers of users were directed to the Wildlife Assessment Checklist from Local Planning Authority websites, including Cornwall, Thurrock, Carlisle, Dartmoor, Derbyshire Dales, Exeter and Newcastle. Users also linked to the WAC from the websites of the partners (BCT, ARC, RTPI), other NGOs, consultancies, Bat Groups, LERCs, NBN, academic institutions and Facebook.

We are now exploring how the WAC may be promoted through the police via the Wildlife Crime Project following planning decisions made without due consideration for biodiversity resulting in crime.

Bat Roost Mitigation

Following completion of our Bearing Witness for Wildlife Bat Roost Mitigation Project we have now published the full report on the BCT website and articles in Conservation Evidence, CIEEM's 'In Practice' (on monitoring) and 'Bat News'. The results increase our understanding of how to improve efficacy for bat lofts, bat boxes and roost access points and have been fed into the 'Bat Mitigation Guidelines' update (see above).

Wildlife Crime Project

The Wildlife Crime Project has seen changes through this review period, following the conclusion of the Bearing Witness for Wildlife project and the recruitment of Mark Goulding to the post during the pandemic. As a result the project has evolved.

The project continues to develop crime prevention measures to prevent bat crime through education, whether via the BCT website using 'position statements' or via the delivery of remote training. The project has provided police training to Lincolnshire, Leicestershire, Nottinghamshire, Dorset and Wiltshire police forces as well as giving presentations to Bat Groups.

The 'Wildlife Crime Poster' on Bats and the Law, developed by the project, has been circulated to all UK police forces and was used by Police Scotland on 'Operation Wingspan', an initiative focused on bat crime prevention during February and March 2021.
The project continues to create new ways to support police investigations into bat crimes.

Working with BCT's Head of Biodiversity, the project has produced a generic species impact summary on bats which is used upon 'first contact' with the police to assist them with time management and case development during early-stage investigations.

The project, working with the National Wildlife Crime Unit (NWCU), has created an analytical tool on bat crime, using nine years of BCT records. This data tool will allow police forces UK wide to identify bat crime hotspots within their regions with information on time, dates, and locations.
Between April 2020 and the end of March 2021 there were 125 police related investigations into bat crime.

During the first quarter of 2021 project engagement with the police on bat crime had more than doubled in comparison to the first quarter of 2020, with 42 and 17 incidents respectively. This is a significant rise in workload in this first quarter. The demand is predominantly coming from UK police forces. The project will not know until the end of 2021 if overall this increase will level out and fall in line with the long-term average.

During this period, the project was able to continue work on cases initiated in 2019 and early 2020. Devon and Cornwall Police achieved a reparation 'out of court disposal' of £2500 for the destruction of a bat roost in July 2020, a significant amount not previously seen.

The Metropolitan Police achieved the highest known penalty against a housing developer for the loss of a roost at £600,000 in December 2020, which also secured a £20,000 donation to BCT as part of the offender's mitigation strategy.

The project monitors trends against the species. Devonshire Police issued a police caution for 'disturbance of hibernating bats' in March 2021 against an individual who recorded himself stroking a torpid bat in a cave system whilst urban exploring that he had shared on a social media platform. BCT is currently producing a position statement on urban exploring.

The project continues its strategic role within wildlife crime enforcement UK wide, and this is reflected in its position as the secretariat on the Bat Priority Delivery Group and on the CPS Community Panel, as well as its work with LINK.

More recently the project was invited to attend the United Nations International Consortium on Combating Wildlife Crime (ICCWC) UK launch to carry out an assessment of UK Wildlife and Forestry Crime through situational analysis. It is anticipated the project will be providing data on bat crime during 2021 for this assessment.

The project strives in partnership to protect bats and their habitats in line with BCT conservation priorities, through crime prevention and investigative police support, against those who commit offences against bats whilst ensuring offenders do not benefit from their illegal actions.

Built environment

BCT continues to work to improve awareness, knowledge and action for bat conservation within the built environment sector. In 2020 this meant planned engagement work such as training courses rapidly being adapted to meet new online learning requirements. The Built Environment Manager reformatted the 'Bats for Building Professionals' course and ran open and in-house courses. A new bespoke online course for pest controllers was also launched with sector training hosts and Corporate Members KillGerm Ltd. All were well received.

The online format was also utilised for the first remote Built Environment technical workshops focussed on bat roost mitigation and lessons learned, promoting sharing best practice as part of the new Roost webpages launched September 2020. The 'Mitigation Masterclass' covered tree management, historic buildings and even an 'Ecologists Anonymous' session which was very popular! Being online meant the workshops attracted over 150 attendees from right across the UK. Workshops were followed by the newly launched Roost Awards. Entries included case studies carried over from the original website, from our Bearing Witness for Wildlife mitigation project and those submitted by ecological consultants independently. The winner was 'Avoidance of swarming site loss during restoration works at Cliveden' by Bernwood ESC Ltd.

Knowledge gathered from case studies and engagement with ecologists feeds into the new Roost Partnership to create the best opportunities for bats in the built environment by working with bat box and access product manufacturers. A proportion of the sales revenue from Partners is reinvested into the Roost scheme, with the aim of improving bat roosting habitat. This unique partnership has already signed up integrated bat box manufacturer and Corporate Member Green&Blue.
Another successful hurdle was overcome in May this year when the steering group that oversees the issue of Non-Bitumen Coated Roofing Membrane impacts on bats published an independent methods paper for the industry. The steering group which comprises BCT, academics and the SNCBs works to promote the paper and arrange testing through a steering group member.

In addition to the permanent stand promoting awareness of bat conservation, training courses and the Roost Partnership, the Built Environment Manager was asked to speak at two online events, at the National Self Build and Renovation Centre (NSBRC) in 2020 and 2021. Interest in the presentation topic of considering bats during your build and for including provision for bats in new builds using bat boxes from the BCT scheme was clearly evident in questions asked.

The second phase of the project to develop a bat box sensor that BCT are running with our partners at Arup started in March 2020 but was quickly was put on pause. However funding was acquired for Arup to continue data analysis for the sensors ground-truthed against footage from pinhole cameras fitted in the boxes. Next steps when able are to refine the sensor design with further field testing and data analysis. Long-term the goal is to have a partnership involving property developers, environmental consultancies and conservation technologists to look at the potential for a commercial product.

Bats and woodland

BCT's Woodland Officer continues to work with partners and has provided support to the following Back from the Brink (BftB) integrated projects – Roots of Rockingham and the Ancients of the Future. Monitoring by volunteers continued once lockdown restrictions were lifted. Various primary and secondary Roots of Rockingham and Ancients of the Future sites, including hedgerows, were surveyed to better understand bat use in the landscape. BCT's Woodland Officer also delivered landowner workshops and volunteer training, including five online cross taxa workshops for the Ancients of the Future project and three online workshops for the Roots of Rockingham Project, covering sound analysis and survey refresher sessions for volunteers. Working with the Dorset Bat Group, we collated our findings from three radiotracking studies and produced a report looking at the habitat requirements of Bechstein's bats in the Dorset Heaths, and a standalone local landowner's guidance document for the BftB Adding Diversity to Dorset Heaths project.

The rescheduled Woodland Symposium was delivered online over two days in November. It provided an opportunity for bat workers, landowners, ecologists and professionals from the woodland/forestry industry to gather and listen to talks from 15 speakers covering research, knowledge updates and case studies on woodland and bats. Two hundred and seven delegates attended which included 11 students who won student bursaries funded by the BftB project. The addition of panel discussions provided opportunities for us to host three sessions that covered a range of relevant topics – 'Climate Change and Conservation' (with a presentation from Dr. Orly Razgour on her work on Forest Bats and Climate Change), 'Working in Collaboration' with Back from the Brink and 'Drivers of Change' covering infrastructure projects, tree planting and woodland creation and tree diseases.

BCT's Woodland Officer continued to work with the NBMP on their passive acoustic monitoring projects. This included support for the British Bat Survey tests on aspects of the survey design and for the Jersey Bat Survey, a collaboration with the Government of Jersey. The Forestry England Bat Survey proof of concept study summary report that covers the acoustic monitoring work carried out in collaboration with Forestry England during 2019, can be downloaded from our website. The report has been well received and BCT's Woodland Officer presented this work at the Woodland Symposium and at the Wales Bat Worker's Day.

BCT's Woodland Officer also supported the BCT's training programme. A bespoke online refresher workshop on surveying trees for bats was delivered to Environment Agency operatives and scoping survey training for arborists to ensure compliance with good practice was adapted to be delivered online. This was trialled in November to good feedback and has allowed BCT to deliver two additional online workshops.

Bats in churches

The project is working closely with 108 churches and the capital works continued last year. In March 2021 we held our second Ecologist Best Practice Forum to share learning and updates with professional consultants. In addition, the Training and Survey Officer has developed a Research Strategy Group to guide the research and the sharing of project learnings.

The citizen science surveys continued over the summer for pre-existing volunteers, under additional safety guidelines and with the permission of the church. With the issues around limited church access we decided not to advertise the surveys. In total 68 churches were surveyed.

The project also managed to deliver numerous free training sessions and events through an online forum, including five Bats in Churches LIVE lunchtime webinars and hosting 14 online training sessions (from bat surveying, working with churches, to engagement activities to help both church, heritage and bat group audiences). In addition to this we've undertaken a series of talks with local bat groups and given talks and workshops at the national and regional bat conferences.

INSPIRE people to appreciate and support bats and their environment

Helpline

The National Bat Helpline provides a national service available to anyone who is interested in or concerned about bats. You can find most of our advice online (https://www.bats.org.uk/advice) or reach us on 0345 1300 228 between 9.30am and 4.30pm on weekdays all year round, with an 'Out of Hours' service provided during the summer by trained volunteers.

The Helpline fielded a total of 14 857 enquiries (calls, emails and letters) in 2020-21;

- 11,840 were dealt with by Helpline staff.
- 3,017 came through the Out of Hours volunteer service.

We organised 618 roost visits (4.2% of all Helpline enquiries) on behalf of Natural England. The free Bat Advice Service evolved alongside the pandemic to provide as much advice and support to the public as was safe. This included the use of technology to carry out 'virtual' roost visits for the first time. We also advised on a further 2,890 Natural England enquiries (19.5% of all Helpline enquiries) which did not require a visit. The Natural England casework is an enormously important part of our work, which would not be possible without the dedication and flexibility of their Volunteer Bat Roost Visitors who responded well to changes during a challenging year. The help and advice given by those who take part in this service is extremely valuable and we at BCT believe the system is vital to the conservation of bats in the UK.

The Helpline advised on calls from various sectors including churches with enquiries about injured bats, safely undertaking maintenance work, bat walks and involving parishioners in encouraging bats to the church and grounds. We have also contributed to the Bats in Churches partnership project and will continue to do so over the coming year.

The Helpline also provides immediate welfare advice to those who have found grounded, injured and orphaned bats. Again, we responded to the challenges of the pandemic and were still able to put callers into contact with over 280 local volunteer bat care experts and regional helplines who comprise the UK Bat Care Network, which is co-ordinated by the Helpline. In 2020-21 we launched a new blog for UK Bat Care Network members as a way of sharing stories, news and best practice with the volunteers who rescue bats. We continued to raise funds to support the running of this service.

The Helpline had another very busy year and as always, the feedback we received about our service was positive. For example, 95% of Natural England free bat advice service users rated the service positively. One respondent to our feedback form said they were "reassured by the whole process, my bats and I are very happy in our house!" and a donor to our Bat Care Just Giving page said "Thanks to the Bat Conservation Trust and a very helpful volunteer, our injured pipistrelle is doing better than expected and responding to antibiotics." This is a great testament to the hard work of all the dedicated Helpline team, including the Out of Hours volunteers, the Volunteer Bat Roost Visitors and Bat Care Network volunteers.

Training and conferences

BCT delivered 25 training courses in 2020-21 for a combined audience of 349 people; this is less than 2019-20 when we trained 400 people but more than 2018-19 (341 people). All but two of these courses were held online due to COVID-19.

Eleven courses were openly advertised and, for the first time, the majority were in-house courses, including a number for the Environment Agency.

As a result of the pandemic, we adapted a number of courses for online delivery including the Volunteer Bat Roost Visitor Trainer course, Bats for Building Professionals and our Lantra accredited Scoping Surveys for Arborists course. All received positive feedback.

The National Bat Conference was held online for the first time and was attended by 278 people including speakers from New Zealand, India, Europe, the US and Mexico. The programme was adapted for online and included panel discussions on Climate Change and Equality, Diversity and Inclusion. The feedback from participants was positive and moving forward, we plan to utilise a hybrid format incorporating online elements to our in-person events. The conference was part of 'BatFest' a series of online events which ran from International Bat Night on 29 August to 30 September 2020. Chris Packham attended the launch event which had 278 attendees. BatFest events had a combined live audience of over 1000 people across 10 online events.

The regional bat conferences were all held on Zoom this year, with the postponed Midlands and East of England Bat Conferences held in the autumn. Feedback has been positive regarding the move online despite slightly lower attendance overall. A new event, the Big Bat Skills Event – Online, launched in May 2020 and was successfully repeated in February 2021 as it allowed bat workers to continue developing their skills from home.

Membership

Bat Conservation Trust continues to be committed to providing a positive membership experience for our members and to seek ways to continue to improve it. BCT conducted a membership survey in Summer 2020 that gathered 358 responses. The results have been useful to understand more about who our members are, what motivates their interest and support of bat conservation and to generally assess their satisfaction with what their membership currently offers. A summary of results will be published in 2021, but preliminary results show that the majority of members are happy with their membership and the benefits they receive. We will be using the results to further improve the membership experience and identify opportunities to appeal to a larger and more diverse number of people.

BCT is committed to encouraging more supporters to take up membership and support our work. Larger and more representative membership will make us more relevant and increase our ability to influence key stakeholders. Unfortunately, due to COVID-19 our membership fulfilment was suspended, and we were unable to send welcome packs for nine months. While we were unable to continue fulfilment, BCT took that opportunity to review our membership fulfilment needs and, after a procurement process, we have now changed the company that provides these services.

Despite the challenging year, membership has continued to grow steadily throughout 2020/21; on average, 16 new members joined every week while seven cancelled their direct debits. Despite the increase in membership fees in November 2019, 95% of the members that responded to our survey agreed that BCT's membership is good value for money. Eight new life members joined in 2020-21 (two fewer than in the previous year).

We encourage supporters to join through a series of channels including (but not restricted to): social media, newsletters from several BCT departments (e.g. NBMP, Helpline, Comms & Fundraising), communications with the press, bat groups, collaborations with other companies, etc.

We continue producing our membership magazines Bat News and The Young Batworker (aimed at children under 16). We always look to include relevant, current and engaging content for our members.

Due to the pandemic, we ran our first online AGM which attracted a higher-than-average number of members and received very positive feedback. The AGM was opened by a speech from our president, Chris Packham.

There was a slight decrease in Adopt a Bat subscribers (42 fewer than the previous year) although it remains popular and generates valuable income. Adopt a Bat packs were previously sent from the office by a member of staff and in the future they will be sent by our new fulfilment partners making the process more efficient and cost effective.

Championing bats

Having a social media presence is an important to way to raise awareness of bats and bat conservation, update supporters on BCT's work and collaborative projects and raise funds with a broad audience. It is also useful to find out what others are doing in relation to bat conservation including research and projects. It has generated collaborations as well as blog posts, features in BCT magazines, podcasts, etc.

Bat Conservation Trust's presence in social media continues to grow across all platforms. At the end of the financial year the Bat Conservation Trust had:

- Over 118,500 likes on Facebook
- Over 51,600 followers on twitter
- Over 5,700 followers on LinkedIn
- Over 22,800 followers on Instagram

The link between COVID-19 and bats has generated a lot of misunderstanding and misinformation which has forced us to divert considerable resources to managing communications including

supporting other individuals and organisations in the conservation sector. Our response has been to educate by providing factual science-based information in a variety of forms suitable for different audiences. This included the Don't Blame Bats campaign with our colleagues in the Spanish Association for the Conservation and Research of Bats (SECEMU).

BCT continues to engage with mainstream media on a variety of topics; from celebrating collaborative projects through to encouraging people to take part in BCT's British BatBake for Halloween and join campaigns on a variety of policy issues.

The second season of our podcast BatChat launched in October 2020 and 10 episodes were published. So far this great resource has had over 20,000 downloads. The most popular episode was 'Bats & Coronavirus', followed by Shirley Thompson's (which was the first episode we published).

We continue to interact with wider Bat Conservation Trust supporters through our Bat and Corporate e-Bulletins to over 2,000 contacts. Last year we also posted 42 news stories directly onto the BCT website and four blogs from a range of bat enthusiasts.

We also have increased the Communication and Fundraising team's capacity by hiring a Communications and Press Officer and an Engagement and Fundraising Assistant.

Education

Educating younger audiences is essential for the work BCT does as they are the future supporters and advocates for bats. The main way we connect with this audience is through The Young Batworker magazine entirely produced by BCT's Honorary Education Officer. This magazine is sent to Family, Young Batworker and Teacher memberships three times per year and is packed with engaging and educational content for our under -16 members.

In addition to The Young Batworker magazine we also have a range of freely downloadable activities from the website including a bilingual educational pack (Welsh/English) which continues to be very popular.

Bat group support: UK, Channel Islands and the Isle of Man

BCT could not deliver all that it does for bat conservation without the support of bat groups across the British Islands. We have a formal relationship with 88 groups (70 Partner Groups and 18 Network Groups) across the British Islands, with new groups forming this year in England and Scotland. We were delighted to welcome Abby Packham to BCT, at the beginning of February 2021, as our new Bat Groups Officer. Abby, along with Elisabeth Ferrell (Scottish Bat Officer), Claudia Gebhardt (Scottish Bat Officer Maternity Cover), Steve Lucas (Wales Officer), and Sophie Dennis (Bat Groups Admin Officer) provide a range of support to groups, including talks, training, outreach materials (e.g. leaflets), insurance, advice and guidance.

Bat group projects are supported financially through the Partner Group Support Fund (with three awards made this year totalling £1,028) as well as through advice, guidance and participation for collaborative work, where appropriate. Updates and information are disseminated to bat groups through the production of the monthly bat group bulletin, the BCT website (which includes dedicated pages for bat groups), as well as through direct regular contact, annual meetings (which

include presentations and training), regional meetings, regional conferences, and the annual Bat Workers' Forum. Due to restrictions on gatherings this year, many events have been held virtually which has opened up access and will be an aspect we take onboard moving forward.

Looking ahead, we are working on how we can better support bat groups through training and expansion of accessible resources, to encourage them to make the most of the increasing virtual opportunities. We would also like to encourage uptake of existing partnerships and develop more collaborative projects that engage with the bat groups, as well as finding new ways of showcasing the wonderful work being done locally in front-line bat conservation, throughout the British Islands.

BCT in Wales

The rich Welsh landscape provides a diverse range of habitats for 15 British bat species. BCT runs the Wales Bat Project where we work alongside 250 volunteers in 15 volunteer local bat groups across Wales.

In the last year we held a series of events in Wales:

- The Wales Bat Workers Day was held online for the first time and there was a further on-line evening event, the concept of which has sparked considerable interest.
- Due to COVID-19, all bat detector workshops were run online in 2020 and at least 19 people attended from Wales.

We continue to work closely with other environmental NGOs through Wales Environment Link, but also at a UK level through Environment Links UK to pool resources and expertise to get a strong and effective voice for bat conservation in Wales. As predicted, much of our work has focused on the impacts of Brexit and proposals for replacing the governance structures and principles and we have also responded to the Welsh Government white paper consultation on the future of agriculture in Wales.

BCT in Scotland

With the support of NatureScot, BCT runs the Scottish Bat Project which engages people in bat recording, conservation, and education activities. The project currently works with 133 National Bat Monitoring Programme volunteers, as well as 11 volunteer bat groups, to increase our knowledge of the ten bat species found in Scotland, as well as tackle their conservation threats.

Other areas of our work in Scotland include public engagement and advocacy. Our advocacy is focused on our joint action with the Scottish Environment LINK and its members to ensure that the environment is fully recognised in the development of policy and legislation affecting Scotland. Some of the project highlights over the past year:

- Over 300 attendees participated in the 'Big Bats Skills Event', a rebranded, two-day, version of 'Spring into Action' in May 2020. The event was the first BCT event held online and therefore accessible for all areas of the UK and beyond.
- Seventy-eight delegates attended our 2021 conference which was held online. This day delivered a wide range of talks covering bat group activities, as well as the latest research, technology, and bat news.

- The Scottish Bat Officer and the National Bat Monitoring Programme (NBMP) trainers delivered a total of 14 workshops held online and attended by a minimum of 58 people from around Scotland. Over 100 new volunteers based in Scotland signed up to take part in the NBMP.
- During 2020 participation in the 'Sunset Sunrise Survey' rose from 12 to 29 (increase of 142%) in Scotland after promotion of this survey by the Scottish Bat Officer.

Through 2021 into 2022 we will continue to work with Scottish Bat Groups through the 'Putting Scotland's Bats on the Map' project and create new connections between our volunteers and landowners and managers, and with other environmental organisations. A large focus will be on skills development of existing volunteers as well as bringing bat skills and enthusiasm to young people through a unique pilot project of bat surveys and training. A 'NightWatch' pilot project will come to Scotland, enabling underserved communities to participate in bat surveys and reaching more diverse, new audiences. The project will make use of new technologies in an accessible way to promote and inspire the enjoyment of bats and the natural environment. At the 'Spring Into Action' event planned for March 2022, the Scottish bat workers and enthusiasts will hopefully be able to meet up in-person again and participate in a variety of training courses to further develop our bat survey skills and knowledge.

Of course, the Scottish Bat Project will also be linking up with the 'Species on the Edge' project, a partnership project active in various areas of Scotland.

Pete Guest Award

This award is given in memory of Pete Guest who was an inspirational figure in the bat conservation movement for more than 20 years. Each year, the bat world is invited to nominate individuals who have made an outstanding practical contribution to bat conservation.

A total of ten bat workers (including one joint nomination) were nominated in 2020 and we received over 510 votes, which was over double the previous year. The 2020 winner was Michelle Young of Gloucestershire Bat Group and Evesham Bat Care. Michelle's commitment to bat conservation and her tireless duty to bat care, made her a worthy winner.

BCT in Europe and Internationally

BCT has continued to focus primarily on UK work in the past year, but has continued to engage with the Eurobats Agreement. The Eurobats Advisory Committee of Eurobats did not take place in 2020 due to COVID-19. However, some Intersessional Working Groups met via Zoom in March 2021 and BCT staff attended sessions on Monitoring and Indicators, Light Pollution, Communication, Bat Conservation and Public Health, Evaluation criteria for Assessment Reports Concerning Bats, and Bats and Climate Change. BCT's CEO co-convened an ad-hoc working group in May 2020 to develop Eurobats recommendations on potential risks of SARS-CoV-2 transmission from humans to bats. See 'Bats and Diseases' for more international work relating to SARS-CoV-2.

Bats and disease

Through key staff at BCT, including the National Bat Helpline and communications team, supported by specialist advisors we continue to provide advice and guidance to the public volunteers and bat workers around issues relating to bats and disease, including rabies, white-nose syndrome and COVID-19. We proactively communicate about disease related matters through our web pages, articles in Bat News, the Bat Group Bulletin, Bat Carers' Bulletin, other external publications (where the opportunities arise), as well as presentations at meetings and conferences.

Over the past year we have had a strong focus on COVID-19 and SARS-CoV-2 (the coronavirus that causes COVID-19). Although COVID-19 is a human disease work has included developing and maintaining a set of frequently asked questions (FAQs) aimed at members of the public in the UK (which has been used by organisations in several other countries, inc. translations of the FAQs into other languages), news items on our website, producing guidance for bat rehabilitators on managing disease risk, text for bulletins to bat groups, dealing with a significant number of enquiries (from a variety of organisations, bat workers, the public and various media outlets), and contributing to international collaborations (including participation in the IUCN Bat Specialist Group, The Global Union of Bat Diversity Networks GBatNet, and a collaboration with SECEMU over the #dontblamebats online campaign.

We continue to work with UK governmental organisations such as the Animal & Plant Health Agency (APHA) and Defra on disease surveillance, including representation on the GB Exotic Disease Core Group for Rabies. Only our activities supporting the APHA rabies passive surveillance programme are directly funded (with a contract in place through to the end of March 2023). We received additional one-off funds this year thanks to the generosity of BCT supporters responding to a campaign around our diseases work.

Looking ahead, we need to find new sources of funding for our disease risk management activities. Communications and work around COVID-19 will continue into the foreseeable future and we are supported in this by external expert advisors, whose guidance we are very grateful for. Our ongoing work to keep our information and guidance on bats and diseases as current as possible remains a priority.

BatLife Europe

As a founding partner of BatLife Europe (which has 36 NGO partners), BCT has supported this initiative since its creation, and continues to do so with BCT's CEO acting as a Trustee and Treasurer. The three yearly partner meeting was due to take place in 2020 but was put on hold due to COVID-19 and heldvia Zoom in May 2021.

Fundraising Statement

Bat Conservation Trust (BCT) was established to promote the conservation and study of bats in the British Isles and elsewhere in the world, and to disseminate information relevant to these objects. BCT is committed to these charitable aims, and fundraises in order to fulfil these. BCT respects the rights of its members and supporters to have clear, truthful information on the work we are involved

in; to openly report how we spend donated and statutory funds and to manage donors' information responsibly. We will comply with the Charity Commission and UK law in every respect, including those regarding openness and honesty with our supporters and members of the public. We respect the privacy and contact preferences of all members and donors. We will respond promptly to requests to cease contacts or complaints and act to address their causes.

At BCT we do not pass on contact details of our supporters and donors to anyone else, including other charities. We respect the wishes of our members, supporters and donors who ask for no further contact from us, and we adhere to Data Protection law. We employ reputable companies to assist with distributing membership material. We do not employ fundraising or marketing agencies to target people by telephone, or in the street, to persuade them to set up regular donations to BCT. BCT is registered with the Fundraising Regulator and agrees to abide by its rules and regulations. Those who register with the regulator agree to ensure their fundraising is legal, open, honest and respectful. There were no complaints related to fundraising during the period covered by this report.

BCT has a small fundraising team which works hard to gain funding for our work. We also support others who choose to make donations or take part in fundraising activities in whatever way they can.

Safeguarding

BCT is committed to upholding the principle that children and vulnerable adults are entitled to protection from physical, sexual and emotional harm and have the right to a safe, positive and enjoyable environment when involved with BCT. We are committed to maintaining a safeguarding policy, which can be viewed here: https://www.bats.org.uk/the-trust/policies/safeguarding

The Trustees

The Trustees who served during the year and up to the date of this report are shown on page 3. All Trustees also act as directors for the purposes of company law.

The Trustees are elected at an Annual General Meeting (AGM) and serve for three years. Trustees are eligible for reselection at the end of their first and second term of three years, but following election for a third term, may not be eligible for reselection until one year has elapsed from them ceasing to be a member of the Board of Trustees. The Trustees may co-opt any Member eligible for election to fill a vacancy until the next AGM.

The Trustees regularly audit their collective skills, competencies and experience against those required to fulfil their responsibilities and proactively recruit new Trustees to fill gaps. All proposed Trustees are put to the BCT membership prior to any appointment. On appointment training is given according to the needs of the Trustee and new Trustees have an induction with key members of staff.

The Trustees are members of the charity but this entitles them only to voting rights and any benefits received by the Trustees are incidental. As members of the charity they undertake to contribute an amount not exceeding £1 to the assets of the charity in the event of winding up. The total number of such undertakings at 31st March 2021 was 11 (2020: 11).

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

Risk Management

The Trustees and Senior Management Team have reviewed the major risks which the charity faces. They review these risks at least annually. The Trustees implement improvements to systems of internal control in order to mitigate other operational and business risks as and when identified.

Some of the major risk areas are:

- Pressure for change in government policy or legislation (particularly arising from Britain leaving the EU) that impacts on bat conservation. BCT undertakes advocacy and mobilises our supporters to speak up for the importance of the legislation and policy protecting bats.
- Dealing with a controversial issue which results in negative publicity for bats and their conservation. BCT proactively communicates with stakeholders and the media to identify, consult on and address potentially controversial areas.
- Reduced funding for key projects and services due to changes in the economy, government policy or demand. BCT regularly reviews our financial situation, income, fundraising pipeline and upcoming government policy. We work to diversify our funding sources and build new income streams. We work in close collaboration with funders, supporters and partners to build strong long term relationships and to respond robustly to key risks for wildlife conservation.
- Disruption due to weather, transport, sickness epidemic or other. This identified risk is pertinent to COVID-19. We have implemented measures to mitigate the impact such as improved ICT systems allowing a more flexible approach to work and careful financial management.

Remuneration Policy

Remuneration of all staff is considered on an annual basis by the Board of Trustees. The Senior Management Team make recommendations to the Trustees for a) the cost of living based on inflation rates, the London Living Wage and an annual salary survey we take part in with other environmental NGOs, and b) for any staff increments based on job bands, performance and any extra responsibilities taken on. The Trustees make the final decision in the context of BCT's budget. The salary of the Chief Executive is set by the Chair in consultation with the Trustees

Statement of Responsibilities of the Trustees

The Trustees (who are also directors of The Bat Conservation Trust) are responsible for preparing the Trustees' annual report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

Company law required the Trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charitable company and the incoming resources and application of resources, including the income and expenditure, of the charitable company for that period.

In preparing those financial statements the Trustees are required to:

- Select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- Observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP
- Make judgements and accounting estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- State whether applicable UK Accounting Standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements;
- Prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in operation.

The Trustees are responsible for keeping adequate accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006, the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005 and the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006 (as amended). They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charitable company and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

Disclosure of information to auditor

In so far as each of the Trustees is aware:

- There is no relevant audit information of which the charitable company's auditor is unaware;

And

- Each of the trustees has taken all steps that they ought to have taken to make themselves aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the auditor is aware of that information.

Treasurer's report

The last year has been very unusual for all, including those in the charity sector, and this is reflected in BCT's accounts. It was a difficult twelve months, but BCT managed to continue our vital work with some changes and achieved a positive year with respect to our financial position.

Through careful cost-cutting measures and by continuing to invest in fundraising, we have achieved a very small but important surplus in unrestricted funds. This realises a return on all our efforts, but shows we must continue with this careful control of expenditure and diversification of income streams in the immediate future. A welcome positive shift in the value of our investments from the low of a year previous is reflected in the timing of our annual accounts.

Every year is challenging and the times ahead are going to be no different; our current financial position gives some comfort but it doesn't reduce our need for strict management of these funds to secure the future of the organisation.
For the year ended 31 March 2021, income was £1,568,217 (2020: £1,267,202) and expenditure was £1,412,574 (2020: £1,602,907), leading to net surplus for the year of £155,643 (2020: net deficit of £335,705). Taking into account gains on investments of £483,565 (2020: losses of £118,383), the net movement in funds for the year was an increase of £639,208 (2020: a decrease of £454,088).

Investment policy

Investments total £2,603,514 (2020: £2,181,194) at 31 March 2021. The aim of these funds is to provide a steady additional annual income stream to support our work, helping to reduce the risks associated with our reliance on project funding. Both this and the prior year were unpredictable in terms of investments and global stock markets were severely impacted by the Covid-19 pandemic, investments have however largely recovered during the year ended 31 March 2021. For budgeting purposes, BCT assume a 6% total return per year to take into account market fluctuations.

Reserves policy

We adopt a risk-based approach for our reserves policy in order to define the amount we need to enable us to sustain our operations and protect us from unforeseen events. We have also been investing some of our reserves in strategic projects to secure BCT's long term financial viability.
At the end of the 2020/21 financial year our total reserves stand at £3,318,985 (2020: £2,679,777). Of this, £2,425,735 (2020: £1,996,710) are endowment funds and £239,956 (2020: £94,104) are restricted funds for projects. This leaves unrestricted funds of £653,294 (200: £588,963) of which £166,963 (2020: £135,660) have been designated to key programmes of work in the next financial year (see notes to the financial statements for details). This leaves us with £486,331 (2020: £453,303) as unrestricted, unallocated funds.

The trustees' policy is to work towards holding six months operating costs, approximately £500,000, in unrestricted reserves. We will continue to review our reserves policy and our progress towards achieving it each year. On behalf of BCT, I would like to thank all our members, donors and partners for their fantastic support and our volunteers and staff for their endless hard work on behalf of bat conservation.

Stephen C Markham

Stephen Markham, Treasurer
Date: 17 August 2021

Thanks to our Supporters

We would like to thank all our members and friends who have made donations during the past year. We do not have the space to name everyone; however, we would like to thank everyone for their greatly valued support without which none of our work would be possible.

Partner Bat Groups

Avon Bat Group
Bedfordshire Bat Group
Berkshire & South Bucks Bat Group
Birmingham & Black Country Bat Group
Borders Bat Group
Cambridgeshire Bat Group
Cardiff Bat Group
Central Scotland Bat Group
Cheshire Bat Group
Cleveland Bat Group
Clwyd Bat Group
Clyde Bat Group
Cornwall Bat Group
Derbyshire Bat Conservation Group
Devon Bat Group
Dorset Bat Group
Dumfries & Galloway Bat Group
Durham Bat Group
East Lancashire Bat Group
East Yorkshire Bat Group
Essex Bat Group
Fife & Kinross Bat Group
Glamorgan Bat Group
Gloucestershire Bat Group
Guernsey Bat Group
Gwynedd Bat Group
Hampshire Bat Group
Herefordshire Mammal Group
Herts & Middlesex Bat Group
Inverness Bat Group
Isle of Wight Bat Group
Isles of Scilly Bat Group
Jersey Bat Group
Kent Bat Group
Leicestershire & Rutland Bat Group
Lincolnshire Bat Group
Loch Lomond Bat Group
London Bat Group
Lothians Bat Group
Manx Bat Group
Merseyside & West Lancashire Bat Group
Mid Anglian Bat Group
Montgomeryshire Bat Group
Norfolk Barbastelle Study Group
North Bucks Bat Group
North Ceredigion Bat Group
North East Scotland Bat Group
North Highland Bat Network
North Lancashire Bat Group
North Wales Mammal Group
Northern Ireland Bat Group
Northumberland Bat Group
Norwich Bat Group
Nottinghamshire Bat Group
Oxfordshire Bat Group
Pembrokeshire Bat Group
Shropshire Bat Group
Somerset Bat Group
South Cumbria Bat Group
South Lancashire Bat Group
South Yorkshire Bat Group
Staffordshire Bat Group
Surrey Bat Group
Sussex Bat Group
Tayside Bat Group
Vale of Glamorgan & Bridgend Bat Group
Valleys Bat Group
Warwickshire Bat Group
West Yorkshire Bat Group
Worcestershire Bat Group

Charitable Trusts, Statutory Bodies and Other Organisations

Bellway Homes
British Ecological Society
Edith Murphy Foundation
Esmée Fairbairn Foundation
FIDRA
Forestry Commission
Green & Blue
National Lottery Heritage Fund
Natural England
Pillar Charitable Trust

The Pilgrim Family Charitable Trust
The Reeve Charitable Trust
The Rufford Foundation
The Walker S97 Trust
The William Dean Countryside and Educational Trust
The William Haddon Charitable Trust

Sponsors (Sponsorships of £100 or more)

Batbox
Lotek
NHBS
Pettersson
Sonobat
Titley Scientific
Wildlife Acoustics, Inc.

Corporate Members (as at 31 March 2021)

Arbtech Consulting Ltd
Asw Ecology
Batability Courses & Tuition
Batbox Ltd
Big Domain
Campsites.co.uk
Canine Cottages
Cleankill Environmental Services Ltd
Continental Landscapes
Dorset County Council
Echoes Ecology Ltd
ECOSA
Green & Blue
Ground Control Ltd
Highland Titles Ltd
Historic England
Holidaycottages.co.uk
I&G Ecological Consultancy Ltd
Ingencia
Kate's Clothing Ltd
Killgerm Chemicals Ltd
Marquis & Lord Ltd
Original Cottages
Stay In Cornwall
Stay in Devon
Tamworth Property Services
The Nestbox Company Ltd
Titley Scientific
Treework Ltd
United Environmental Services Ltd
Vivara Pro
Whitcher Wildlife Ltd
Wilby Tree Surgeons
Wildcare
Wildlife Acoustics
Wold Ecology Ltd

Donations from Bat Groups (of £100 or more in the year to 31 March 2021)

Bedfordshire Bat Group
Berkshire and South Buckinghamshire Bat Group
Derbyshire Bat Conservation Group
Devon Bat Group
Essex Bat Group
Hampshire Bat Group
Hertfordshire & Middlesex Bat Group
Isles of Scilly Bat Group
North Buckinghamshire Bat Group
Oxfordshire Bat Group
South Lancashire Bat Group
South Yorkshire Bat Group
Surrey Bat Group
Tayside Bat Group
Warwickshire Bat Group

Legacies

Dr. Joyce Andrews
Brian and Kathleen Gregory
Mr Arthur Roy Mayes

Auditor

HW Fisher LLP agreed to continue as the charitable company's auditor during the year.

The report of the Trustees has been prepared in accordance with the special provisions applicable to companies subject to the small companies' regime.

Approved by the Trustees on 17 August 2021 and signed on their behalf by



Kirsty Park
Chair

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of The Bat Conservation Trust (the 'charity') for the year ended 31 March 2021 which comprise the Statement of Financial Activities, the Balance Sheet, the Statement of Cash Flows and the notes to the financial statements, including significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including FRS 102 The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

In our opinion, the financial statements:

- Give a true and fair view of the state of the charitable company's affairs as at 31 March 2021 and of its incoming resources and application of resources, for the year then ended;
- Have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006, the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005 and regulation 8 of the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006 as amended).

Basis for opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAs (UK)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of our report. We are independent of the Charity in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in the UK, including the FRC's Ethical Standard, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Conclusions relating to going concern

In auditing the financial statements, we have concluded that the trustees' use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is appropriate.

Based on the work we have performed, we have not identified any material uncertainties relating to events or conditions that, individually or collectively, may cast significant doubt on the charity's ability to continue as a going concern for a period of at least twelve months from when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

Our responsibilities and the responsibilities of the trustees with respect to going concern are described in the relevant sections of this report.

Other information

The other information comprises the information included in the annual report, other than the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. The Trustees are responsible for the other information. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and, except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated in our report, we do not express any form of assurance

conclusion thereon. Our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the course of the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether this gives rise to a material misstatement in the financial statements themselves. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact.

We have nothing to report in this regard.

Opinions on other matters prescribed by the Companies Act 2006

In our opinion, based on the work undertaken in the course of our audit:

- The information given in the Trustees' Report, which includes the Directors' Report prepared for the purposes of company law, for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements; and
- the directors' report included within the Trustees' report has been prepared in accordance with applicable legal requirements.

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

In the light of the knowledge and understanding of the charity and its environment obtained in the course of the audit, we have not identified material misstatements in the Directors' Report included within the Trustees' Report.

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters in relation to which the Companies Act 2006 and the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006 (as amended) require us to report to you if, in our opinion:

- Adequate and proper accounting records have not been kept, or returns adequate for our audit have not been received from branches not visited by us; or
- The financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records and returns; or
- Certain disclosures of trustees' remuneration specified by law are not made; or
- We have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit; or
- The trustees were not entitled to prepare the financial statements in accordance with the small companies regime and take advantage of the small companies' exemptions in preparing the trustees' annual report and from the requirement to prepare a strategic report.

Responsibilities of Trustees

As explained more fully in the Statement of Responsibilities of the Trustees', the Trustees, who are also the Directors of the Charity for the purpose of company law, are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the directors determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error. In preparing the financial statements, the Trustees are responsible for assessing the Charity's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going

concern basis of accounting unless the trustees either intend to liquidate the company or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

We have been appointed as auditor under section 44(1)(c) of the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005 and under the Companies Act 2006 and report in accordance with the Acts and relevant regulations made or having effect thereunder.

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (UK) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

Irregularities, including fraud, are instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations. We design procedures in line with our responsibilities, outlined above, to detect material misstatements in respect of irregularities, including fraud. The extent to which our procedures are capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud, is detailed below.

As part of our planning process:

- We enquired of management the systems and controls the charity has in place, the areas of the financial statements that are most susceptible to the risk of irregularities and fraud, and whether there was any known, suspected or alleged fraud. The charity did not inform us of any known, suspected or alleged fraud.
- We obtained an understanding of the legal and regulatory frameworks applicable to the company. We determined that the following were most relevant: the Charity SORP, FRS 102, Charities Act 2011, Companies Act 2006, the Charities and Trustees (Scotland) Act 2005 and the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006 (as amended).
- We considered the incentives and opportunities that exist in the charity, including the extent of management bias, which present a potential for irregularities and fraud to be perpetuated, and tailored our risk assessment accordingly.
- Using our knowledge of the charity, together with the discussions held with the charity at the planning stage, we formed a conclusion on the risk of misstatement due to irregularities including fraud and tailored our procedures according to this risk assessment.

The key procedures we undertook to detect irregularities including fraud during the course of the audit included:

- Identifying and testing journal entries and the overall accounting records, in particular those that were significant and unusual.
- Reviewing the financial statement disclosures and determining whether accounting policies have been appropriately applied.
- Assessing the extent of compliance, or lack of, with the relevant laws and regulations.
- Testing key income lines, in particular cut-off, for evidence of management bias.

- Assessing the validity of the classification of income, expenditure, assets and liabilities between unrestricted, designated and restricted funds.

Owing to the inherent limitations of an audit, there is an unavoidable risk that we may not have detected some material misstatements in the financial statements even though we have properly planned and performed our audit in accordance with auditing standards. The primary responsibility for the prevention and detection of irregularities and fraud rests with the trustees of the charity.

A further description of our responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements is located on the Financial Reporting Council's website at: http://www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities. This description forms part of our auditor's report.

Use of our report

This report is made solely to the charitable company's members, as a body, in accordance with Chapter 3 of Part 16 of the Companies Act 2006 and section 44 (1)(c) of the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the charitable company's members and trustees those matters we are required to state to them in an auditors' report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the charitable company, the charitable company's members as a body, and the charitable company's trustees as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

Sailesh Mehta (Senior Statutory Auditor)
for and on behalf of HW Fisher LLP

Chartered Accountants
Statutory Auditor
Acre House
11-15 William Road
London
United Kingdom
NW1 3ER

Date: 8 September 2021

The Bat Conservation Trust

Statement of financial activities *(incorporating an income and expenditure account)*

For the year ended 31 March 2021

	Note	Endowment £	Restricted £	Unrestricted £	**2021 Total £**	2020 Total £
Income						
Income from generated funds						
Donations and legacies	2	-	66,752	334,228	**400,980**	279,307
Investment income		-	-	43,685	**43,685**	59,228
Income from charitable activities						
Conferences		-	-	62,744	**62,744**	100,602
Training courses and meetings		-	-	37,347	**37,347**	64,691
Projects and research	3	-	479,513	497,282	**976,795**	708,816
Other activities		-	-	46,666	**46,666**	54,558
Total income		**-**	**546,265**	**1,021,952**	**1,568,217**	1,267,202
Expenditure						
Expenditure on raising funds						
Membership support	5	-	-	67,118	**67,118**	52,940
Costs of raising funds		13,640	-	106,619	**120,259**	139,438
Expenditure on charitable activities						
Conferences		-	-	17,493	**17,493**	91,607
Biodiversity training courses		-	-	63,479	**63,479**	75,165
Project and research costs	4	-	400,413	743,812	**1,144,225**	1,243,757
Total expenditure	5	**13,640**	**400,413**	**998,521**	**1,412,574**	1,602,907
Net expenditure before net gains/(losses) on investments		**(13,640)**	**145,852**	**23,431**	**155,643**	(335,705)
Net gains/(losses) on investments		442,665	-	40,900	483,565	(118,383)
Net income expenditure for the year		**429,025**	**145,852**	**64,331**	**639,208**	(454,088)
Net movement in funds		**429,025**	**145,852**	**64,331**	**639,208**	(454,088)
Reconciliation of funds						
Total funds brought forward		1,996,710	94,104	588,963	**2,679,777**	3,133,865
Total funds carried forward	16	**2,425,735**	**239,956**	**653,294**	**3,318,985**	2,679,777

All of the above results are derived from continuing activities. There were no other recognised gains or losses other than those stated above. Movements in funds are disclosed in Note 16 to the financial statements.

The Bat Conservation Trust
Company number: 02712823
Balance sheet

As at 31 March 2021

	Note	2021 £	2021 £	2020 £	2020 £
Fixed assets - Equipment					
Tangible assets	9		**5,724**		4,396
Intangible assets	10		**100,318**		121,122
Investments	11		**2,603,514**		2,181,194
Non-Current Assets			**2,709,556**		2,306,712
Current assets					
Assets held for Sale		**155,000**		155,000	
Debtors	12	**149,586**		156,319	
Short term deposit		**100,123**		91,092	
Cash at bank and in hand		**369,751**		80,386	
		774,460		482,797	
Creditors: amounts due within one year	13	**(165,031)**		(109,732)	
Net current assets			**609,429**		373,065
Net assets	15		**3,318,985**		2,679,777
Reserves					
Endowment funds	16		**2,425,735**		1,996,710
Restricted funds	16		**239,956**		94,104
Unrestricted funds					
General funds		**463,977**		453,303	
Designated funds		**189,317**		135,660	
			653,294		558,693
Total funds	**16**		**3,318,985**		2,679,777

Approved by the trustees on 17 August 2021

Signed on their behalf by:



Kirsty Park, Chair

The Bat Conservation Trust

Statement of Cash Flows

For the year ended 31 March 2021

	2021		*2020*	
	£	**£**	*£*	*£*
Cash flows from operating activities:				
Net income/(expenditure) for the year	**639,208**		(454,088)	
Adjustments for:				
Depreciation charges	**26,277**		920	
Dividends and interest	**(43,685)**		(59,228)	
Net (gain)/loss/ on revaluation	**(483,565)**		118,383	
Decrease/(Increase) in debtors	**6,733**		(32,002)	
Increase/(decrease) in creditors	**55,299**		(36,281)	
Net cash provided by (used in) operating activities		**200,267**		(462,296)
Cash flows from investing activities:				
Dividends and interest	**43,685**		59,228	
Purchase of property, plant and equipment	**(3,001)**		(4,090)	
Purchase of intangible asset	**(3,800)**		(22,262)	
Increase in cash held as part of investment portfolio	**1,937**		1,483	
Proceeds from sale of investments	**410,413**		947,155	
Purchase of investments	**(351,105)**		(502,174)	
Net cash provided by investing activities		**98,129**		479,340
Change in cash and cash equivalents in the year		**298,396**		17,044
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the year		**171,478**		154,434
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the year		**469,874**		171,478

Analysis of cash and cash equivalents

	At 1 April 2020	Cash flows	At 31 March 2021
	£	£	£
Cash at bank and in hand	80,386	289,365	369,751
Short term deposit	91,092	9,031	100,123
	171,478	298,396	469,874

Analysis of change in net debt

The charity had no net debt during the year

1. Accounting policies

Status

The organisation is a charitable company limited by guarantee, incorporated on 7 May 1992 and registered as a charity on 29 June 1992.

The registered office is Quadrant House, 250 Kennington Lane London SE11 5RD

a) The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with FRS102 "The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland" ("FRS102"), the Companies Act 2006, the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005, the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006 (as amended) and "Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102)" (effective 1 January 2019). The charity is a Public Benefit Entity as defined by FRS 102.

Assets and liabilities are initially recognised at historical cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policy note(s).

The functional currency of the financial statements is Sterling.

b) The trustees have assessed whether the use of the going concern basis is appropriate and have considered possible events or conditions that might cast significant doubt on the ability of the charity to continue as a going concern. The trustees have made this assessment for a period of at least one year from the date of approval of the financial statements. In particular the trustees have considered the charity's forecasts and projections and have taken account of pressures on donation and investment income.

BCT is in a good position to deal with the uncertainty and disruption caused by Coronavirus. We have a long-established remote working practice, good relationships with partners, funders and supporters, and a culture of risk assessment, risk planning and risk management. This has enabled us to adapt our delivery models, so that the majority of our usual activities are now being carried out remotely, and we are making the most of new opportunities that have presented themselves.

The senior management team has been doing, and will continue to do, a lot of planning around different scenarios. They have put various contingency measures and plans in place to make sure the charity remains as functional as possible, considering factors such as funding termination/suspension, different durations of physical distancing, and the loss of key staff to illness. Project teams are doing this work with external partners too, to make sure that delivery can continue. All this thinking and planning means we feel confident about maintaining the delivery of our current contracts and grants.

BCT has been focussing on wellbeing and team building since staff started working from home due to Covid-19, and have put substantial efforts into healthy and safe working from home, and into wellbeing initiatives for staff. BCT is continuing with on-boarding new recruits while working remotely to ensure the that we are maximising our ability to fundraise and take opportunities presented by the current situation. We believe that our strong team will be able to continue over the next 12 months.

The Trustees have a reasonable expectation that the Charity has adequate resources to continue in operation for the foreseeable future. The charity therefore continues to adopt the going concern basis in preparing its financial statements.

c) Income received by way of donations and member subscriptions is included in full in the statement of financial activities when receipt is probable.

Gifts in kind comprise meeting rooms and catering provided free of charge for trustee and other meetings where material. Gifts in kind are included in income and expenditure at a reasonable estimate of their value to the charity, which is the price that would have had to be paid if hiring a room and paying for catering on the open market. Volunteer time is not included in the financial statements.

Legacy income is accounted for on a receivable basis. A legacy is considered receivable when the charity is legally entitled to the income and the amount can be quantified with reasonable accuracy. Entitlement is the earlier of the charity being notified of an impending distribution or the legacy being received.
Investment income represents bank interest and dividend income, included in full in the statement of financial activities when receivable.

d) Revenue grants are credited to the statement of financial activities when the charity is legally entitled to the amounts, any performance conditions have been met, the amounts can be measured reliably and it is probable that the income will be received.

Where unconditional entitlement to grants receivable is dependent upon fulfilment of conditions within the charity's control, the incoming resources are recognised when there is sufficient evidence that conditions will be met. Where there is uncertainty as to whether the charity can meet such conditions the incoming resource is deferred.

e) Grants for the purchase of fixed assets are credited to restricted income when probable. Depreciation of fixed assets purchased with such grants is charged against the restricted fund. Where a fixed asset is donated to the charity for its own use, it is treated in a similar way to a restricted grant.

f) Fees for training courses and the annual conference are recognised in the financial statements during the year in which the conference or training course to which they relate occurred. Research contracts are recognised in the financial statements as entitlement is earned through completion of the contract.

g) The expendable endowment funds are funds whereby the capital sum is invested, and interest earned is used to contribute to core costs. The capital element may also be spent should sufficient need arise.

The permanent endowment funds are funds whereby the capital sum is invested, and interest earned is used to contribute to core costs. The capital element is to be retained to generate future income for the work of BCT.

h) Restricted funds are to be used for specific purposes as laid down by the donor. Expenditure which meets these criteria is charged to the fund together with a fair allocation of management and support costs.

i) Unrestricted funds are donations and other income receivable or generated for the objects of the charity.

j) Designated funds are unrestricted funds earmarked by the trustees for particular purposes.

k) Expenditure is recognised in the period in which it is incurred. Expenditure includes attributable VAT which cannot be recovered.

Expenditure is allocated to the particular activity where the cost relates directly to that activity. However, the cost of overall direction and administration of each activity, comprising the salary and overhead costs of the central function, is apportioned on the following basis which are an estimate, based on staff time, of the amount attributable to each activity; Raising funds, Conferences, Biodiversity training courses and Project costs.

l) Depreciation is provided at rates calculated to write down the cost of each asset to its estimated residual value over its expected useful life. The depreciation rates in use are as follows:
Computer equipment - 33% per annum on a straight line basis.
Field equipment - 25% per annum on a straight line basis.
Furniture and fittings - 20% per annum on a straight line basis.

Items of equipment are capitalised where the purchase price exceeds £500. Depreciation costs are allocated to activities on the basis of the use of the related assets in those activities. Assets are reviewed for impairment if circumstances indicate their carrying value may exceed their net realisable value and value in use.

m) Intangible assets are recognised at cost and amortised over the assets' expected useful life. The amortisation rate in use is as follows:
Database - 20% per annum on a straight line basis.
Amortisation costs are allocated to activities on the basis of the use of the related assets in those activities.

n) The costs of generating funds relate to the costs incurred by the charitable company in raising funds for the charitable work. Fundraising costs associated with raising funds for a specific charitable activity are allocated to that activity.

o) Rentals payable under operating leases, where substantially all the risks and rewards of ownership remain with the lessor, are charged to the statement of financial activities in the year in which they fall due.

p) The charity operates a defined contribution pension scheme. The assets of the scheme are held separately from those of the charity in an independently administered fund. The pension cost charge represents contributions payable under the scheme by the charity to the fund. The charity has no liability under the scheme other than for the payment of those contributions.

q) Transfers are made to and from designated funds at the discretion of the trustees. Transfers are made from general to restricted funds where a particular restricted fund is overspent. Transfers are made between restricted funds or from restricted funds to general funds only if agreement has been obtained from the donor.

r) Transactions denominated in foreign currencies are translated into sterling at the exchange rate ruling at the date of the transaction. Assets and liabilities in foreign currencies are translated into sterling at the rates of exchange ruling at the end of the financial year. All exchange differences are written off to the Statement of Financial Activities.

s) Investments are stated at mid-market value at the balance sheet date. The gain or loss for the period is taken to the statement of financial activities. All movements in value arising from investment changes or revaluations are shown in the statement of financial activities.

t) BCT has elected to apply the provisions of Section 11 'Basic Financial Instruments' and Section 12 'Other Financial Instruments Issues' of FRS 102 to all of its financial instruments. Financial instruments are recognised in the balance sheet when the company becomes party to the contractual provisions of the instrument. Financial assets and liabilities are offset, with the net amounts presented in the financial statements, when there is a legally enforceable right to set off the recognised amounts and there is an intention to settle on a net basis or to realise the asset and settle the liability simultaneously.

2. Donation and legacy income

Current Year	Restricted	Unrestricted	**2021 Total**
	£	£	**£**
Membership subscriptions	-	158,684	**158,684**
Members' & other donations	66,752	119,906	**186,658**
Legacies	-	55,638	**55,638**
	66,752	334,228	**400,980**

Prior Year	*Restricted*	*Unrestricted*	*2020 Total*
	£	*£*	*£*
Membership subscriptions	*-*	*146,533*	*146,533*
Members' & other donations	*34,918*	*90,430*	*125,348*
Legacies	*-*	*7,426*	*7,426*
	34,918	*244,389*	*279,307*

3. Project income

Current Year	Restricted	Unrestricted	**2021 Total**
	£	£	**£**
Government grants & contracts	262,283	457,278	**719,561**
Grants & contracts from other charitable bodies	217,230	40,004	**257,234**
	479,513	497,282	**976,795**

Project income - grants, contracts and donations

Project income was received in the year from the following organisations and donors:

	Restricted	Unrestricted	**2021 Total**
	£	£	**£**
Natural England	111,655	277,924	**389,579**
Joint Nature Conservation Committee	-	148,060	**148,060**
National Lottery Heritage Fund - Back from the Brink	65,980	-	**65,980**
National Lottery Heritage Fund - Bats in Churches	73,571		**73,571**
National Lottery Heritage Fund - Species on the Edge	26,239	-	**26,239**
NatureScot	29,963	-	**29,963**
Natural Resources Wales	5,667	-	**5,667**
Government of Jersey	-	6,645	**6,645**
Animal and Plant Health Agency	8,000	-	**8,000**
Forestry Commission	14,779	-	**14,779**
The Rufford Foundation	10,000	-	**10,000**
Esmée Fairbairn Charitable Trust	124,000	-	**124,000**
Edith Murphy Foundation	2,000	-	**2,000**
Historic England	-	10,170	**10,170**
Fidra	-	25,000	**25,000**
David Webster Charitable Trust	2,000		**2,000**
British Ecological Society	1,998		**1,998**
Government Furlough grant	-	20,544	**20,544**
Other Grants and Contracts	3,661	8,939	**12,600**
	479,513	497,282	**976,795**

3. Project income (continued)

Prior Year	*Restricted*	*Unrestricted*	*2020 Total*
	£	*£*	*£*
Government grants & contracts	*116,063*	*361,102*	*477,165*
Grants from other charitable bodies	*214,294*	*17,357*	*231,651*
	330,357	*378,459*	*708,816*

Project income - grants, contracts and donations

Project income was received in the year from the following organisations and donors:

	£	*£*	*£*
Natural England	*50,000*	*247,622*	*297,622*
Joint Nature Conservation Council	*-*	*113,480*	*113,480*
National Lottery Heritage Fund - Back from the Brink	*49,484*	*-*	*49,484*
National Lottery Heritage Fund - Bats in Churches	*122,810*		*122,810*
Scottish Natural Heritage	*35,916*	*-*	*35,916*
Natural Resources Wales	*13,851*	*-*	*13,851*
Animal and Plant Health Agency	*8,000*	*-*	*8,000*
Forestry Commission	*8,296*	*-*	*8,296*
Pilkington General Charitable Fund	*2,000*	*-*	*2,000*
The Cambridge Chrysalis Trust	*10,000*	*-*	*10,000*
Cecil Pilkington Charitable Trust	*3,000*	*-*	*3,000*
Chapman Charitable Trust	*2,000*	*-*	*2,000*
Ernest Kleinwort Charitable Trust	*12,500*	*-*	*12,500*
National Trust	*-*	*4,697*	*4,697*
The Royal Parks	*-*	*2,210*	*2,210*
Animal Friends	*10,000*	*-*	*10,000*
Other Grants and Contracts	*2,500*	*10,450*	*12,950*
	330,357	*378,459*	*708,816*

4. Project costs

Current Year	Restricted	Unrestricted	**2021 Total**
	£	£	**£**
Biodiversity Projects	300,906	476,746	**777,652**
National Bat Monitoring Programme	22,667	146,278	**168,945**
Research projects	21,788	12,013	**33,801**
Bat Groups Support & Public Education	22,366	46,903	**69,269**
International Projects	421	(634)	**(213)**
Scottish Bat Project	30,983	25,386	**56,369**
Wales Bat Project	1,282	37,120	**38,402**
	400,413	743,812	**1,144,225**

Prior Year	*Restricted*	*Unrestricted*	*2020 Total*
	£	*£*	*£*
Biodiversity Projects	*413,196*	*455,953*	*869,149*
National Bat Monitoring Programme	*27,838*	*131,293*	*159,131*
Research projects	*8,363*	*16,193*	*24,556*
Bat Groups Support & Public Education	*17,388*	*49,590*	*66,978*
International Projects	*969*	*-*	*969*
Scottish Bat Project	*37,403*	*30,315*	*67,718*
Wales Bat Project	*10,375*	*44,881*	*55,256*
	515,532	*728,225*	*1,243,757*

5. Total Expenditure

	Raising funds	Membership support	Conferences	Biodiversity training courses	Projects and research	Governance	Other support costs		2021 Total
Current Year	£	£	£	£	£	£	£		**£**
Salaries & temporary staff (note 7)	72,120	33,570	8,039	34,652	800,312	5,777	61,449	*	**1,015,919**
Travel & training	313	239	-	846	18,696	72	11,173		**31,339**
Advice & other project costs	11,011	10,434	-	14,233	56,425	6,000	13,977		**112,080**
Publications & events	1,292	6,905	460	5,389	4,352	-	-		**18,398**
Premises	-	-	-	-	2,121	-	61,512		**63,633**
Other costs	15,254	8,709	6,910	369	14,798	-	125,165		**171,205**
	99,990	59,857	15,409	55,489	896,704	11,849	273,276		**1,412,574**
Support costs allocated to activities	19,427	6,959	1,997	7,658	237,235	-	(273,276)		**-**
Governance costs allocated to activities	842	302	87	332	10,286	(11,849)	-		**-**
Total	**120,259**	**67,118**	**17,493**	**63,479**	**1,144,225**	**-**	**-**		**1,412,574**

* Salaries allocated to other support costs in the year ended 31 March 2021 include core staff salaries which were previously included as direct costs of charitable activities. This difference is presentation has led to an apparent increase in support costs but there has been no change to the underlying support activities of the charity.

	Raising funds	*Membership support*	*Conferences*	*Biodiversity training courses*	*Projects and research*	*Governance*	*Other Support costs*	***2020 Total***
Prior Year	*£*	£	*£*	*£*	*£*	*£*	*£*	***£***
Salaries & temporary staff (note 7)	*73,323*	*23,856*	*16,107*	*35,207*	*835,824*	*5,793*	*8,384*	*998,494*
Travel & training	*428*	*916*	*1,160*	*1,383*	*48,912*	*5,037*	*15,660*	*73,496*
Advice & other project costs	*18,618*	*9,635*	*-*	*5,655*	*101,368*	*6,000*	*16,338*	*157,614*
Grants to Partner Organisations	*-*	*-*	*-*	*-*	*3,710*	*-*	*-*	*3,710*
Publications & events	*3,649*	*7,029*	*67,531*	*23,542*	*22,875*	*-*	*1,345*	*125,971*
Premises	*-*	*-*	*-*	*-*	*2,706*	*-*	*67,788*	*70,494*
Other costs	*15,674*	*6,087*	*3,661*	*1,226*	*13,852*	*-*	*132,628*	*173,128*
	111,692	*47,523*	*88,459*	*67,013*	*1,029,247*	*16,830*	*242,143*	*1,602,907*
Support costs allocated to activities	*25,943*	*5,065*	*2,943*	*7,622*	*200,570*	*-*	*(242,143)*	*-*
Governance costs allocated to activities	*1,803*	*352*	*205*	*530*	*13,940*	*(16,830)*	*-*	*-*
Total	*139,438*	*52,940*	*91,607*	*75,165*	*1,243,757*	*-*	*-*	*1,602,907*

5. Total Expenditure (continued)

Grants to partner organisations

Institutional grants were made to the following organisations in furtherance of joint projects:

	2021	*2020*
	£	*£*
Butterfly Conservation	**-**	*2,810*
Other grants under £2,000	**-**	*900*
	-	*3,710*

	2021	*2020*
	£	*£*
Analysis of support costs:		
Salaries	**60,699**	*8,384*
Non salary staff costs	**11,957**	*17,985*
Conference costs	**-**	*2,645*
Membership costs	**697**	*1,290*
Property	**61,512**	*67,788*
IT costs	**14,807**	*22,958*
Office running costs	**24,949**	*34,517*
Insurance	**19,099**	*18,744*
Legal fees	**-**	*750*
Depreciation	**26,278**	*920*
Outsourced finance & payroll	**35,230**	*35,582*
Irrecoverable VAT	**12,980**	*21,952*
Bank charges	**5,068**	*8,628*
	273,276	*242,143*
Analysis of governance costs:		
Governance staff costs	**5,777**	*5,793*
Audit Fee	**6,000**	*6,000*
Trustee expenses and meeting costs	**72**	*5,037*
	11,849	*16,830*

6. Net income/(expenditure) for the year

	2021	*2020*
	£	*£*
This is stated after charging:		
Depreciation and amortisation	**26,277**	*920*
Operating lease costs	**47,811**	*54,516*
Trustees' expenses	**72**	*5,037*
Trustee indemnity insurance	**1,320**	*810*
Auditors' remuneration:	**6,000**	*6,000*

Expenses reimbursed to trustees relate to travel and subsistence costs relating to both attendance at trustees' meetings and other operational work carried out in furtherance of the Trust's objects. No trustees were reimbursed for their services during the year (2020: no trustees reimbursed).

7. Staff numbers and costs

The aggregate payroll cost of these persons was as follows:

	2021	*2020*
	£	*£*
Wages and salaries	**910,640**	*892,654*
Social security costs	**77,175**	*77,745*
Employer's pension contributions	**28,104**	*28,095*
	1,015,919	*998,494*

Included in staff costs above are redundancy costs of £nil (2020: £nil)

The average number of employees (head count based on number of staff employed and excluding trustees who are all non executive) during the year were as follows:

	Number of employees	
	2021	2020
	No.	No.
Support and governance	**3.0**	3.0
Other charitable activities	**32.6**	31.4
	35.6	34.4

No employees earned more than £60,000 during the year (2020: No employees earned more than £60,000 during the year).

The key management personnel of the Charity comprise the trustees and the Senior Management Team, the total employee benefits of the key management personnel of the Charity were £144,038. (2020: £149,253).

8. Taxation

The charitable company is exempt from corporation tax as all its income is charitable and is applied for charitable purposes.

9. Fixed assets

	Furniture and Fittings	Computers	Field equipment	**Total**
Cost	£	£	£	**£**
At the start of the year	70,794	11,006	14,598	**96,398**
Additions during the year	-	3,001	-	**3,001**
At the end of the year	**70,794**	**14,007**	**14,598**	**99,399**
Depreciation				
At the start of the year	68,342	9,062	14,598	**92,002**
Charge for the year	490	1,183	**-**	**1,673**
At the end of the year	**68,832**	**10,245**	**14,598**	**93,675**
Net book value at the end of the year	**1,962**	**3,762**	**-**	**5,724**
Net book value at the start of the year	2,452	1,944	-	4,396

10. Intangible assets

	Database	**Total**
Cost	£	**£**
Cost at the start of the year	121,122	**121,122**
Additions during the year	3,800	**3,800**
Cost at the end of the year	124,922	**124,922**
Amortisation		
Amortisation at the start of the year	-	-
Charge for the year	24,604	**24,604**
Amortisation at the end of the year	24,604	**24,604**
Net book value at the end of the year	**100,318**	**100,318**
Net book value at the start of the year	121,122	121,122

11. Investments

	2021	2020
Listed Investments	**£**	£
Market value at the start of the year	**2,181,194**	2,746,041
Additions at cost	**351,105**	502,174
Less disposals at carrying value	**(410,413)**	(947,155)
Net investment in cash funds	**(1,937)**	(1,483)
Net gain / (loss) on revaluation	**483,565**	(118,383)
At 31 March	**2,603,514**	2,181,194
Listed on a recognised stock exchange	**2,546,534**	2,122,277
Cash as part of the portfolios	**56,980**	58,917
	2,603,514	2,181,194
Historical cost of listed investments at the year end	**2,089,994**	2,067,597

11. Investments (continued)

	2021	2020
Listed Investments comprise:	**£**	£
UK Corporate Bonds	**1,003,530**	930,133
UK Equity Growth	**545,306**	385,135
UK Equity Income	**367,814**	280,900
International Equity	**379,031**	317,068
Emerging Markets Equity	**250,853**	209,041
Cash	**56,980**	58,917
	2,603,514	2,181,194

The investments listed on a recognised stock exchange comprise the amounts held at fair value through profit or loss.

12. Assets held for Sale

Current assets held for sale	2021	2020
	£	£
Value at the start and end of the year	**155,000**	155,000
At 31 March 2021	**155,000**	155,000

Assets held for sale represent a property bequeathed to Bat Conservation Trust. Negotiations for the sale were ongoing at 31 March 2021.

13. Debtors: amounts falling due within one year

	2021	2020
	£	£
Trade debtors	**30,661**	6,710
Other debtors	**5,026**	5,865
Accrued income	**73,032**	98,757
Prepayments	**40,867**	44,987
	149,586	156,319

14. Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2021	2020
	£	£
Trade creditors	**48,683**	18,044
Other taxes and social security	**45,672**	17,061
Accruals	**36,746**	28,873
Deferred course and event income	**20,794**	32,374
Other creditors	**13,136**	13,380
	165,031	109,732

14. Creditors: amounts falling due within one year (continued)

Deferred income comprises course and event income paid in advance.

	2021	2020
	£	£
Balance at the beginning of the year	**32,374**	27,181
Amount released to income in the year	**(32,374)**	(27,181)
Amount deferred in the year	**20,794**	32,374
	20,794	32,374

15. Operating lease commitments

The charity had commitments at the year end under operating leases expiring as follows:

	2021	2020
Land & buildings	**£**	£
- Less than one year	**17,250**	27,436
Other		
- Less than one year	**3,486**	3,486
- Two to five years	**8,134**	11,620

16. Analysis of net assets between funds

Current Year	Endowment funds	Restricted funds	Unrestricted funds	**2021 Total funds**
	£	£	£	**£**
Fixed asset	-	-	106,042	**106,042**
Investments	2,425,735	-	177,779	**2,603,514**
Net current assets	-	239,956	369,473	**609,429**
Net assets at the end of the year	**2,425,735**	**239,956**	**653,294**	**3,318,985**

Prior Year	*Endowment funds*	*Restricted funds*	Unrestricted funds	*2020 Total funds*
	£	*£*	*£*	*£*
Fixed asset	-	-	125,518	**125,518**
Investments	1,996,710	-	184,484	**2,181,194**
Net current assets	-	94,104	278,961	**373,065**
Net assets at the end of the year	**1,996,710**	**94,104**	**588,963**	**2,679,777**

17. Movements in funds

Current Year	At 1 April 2020	Income	Expenditure	Gains on investments	Transfers between funds	**At 31 March 2021**
	£	£	£	£	£	**£**
Vincent Weir endowment funds:						
Expendable Endowment Fund	1,716,532	-	11,720	380,550	-	**2,085,362**
Permanent endowment fund	280,178	-	1,920	62,115	-	**340,373**
Total endowment funds	1,996,710	-	13,640	442,665	-	**2,425,735**
Restricted funds:						
Esmée Fairbairn Foundation - Planning	16,175	-	6,175	-	-	**10,000**
Esmée Fairbairn Foundation - Bearing Witness for Wildlife	6,480	-	6,480	-	-	**-**
Esmée Fairbairn Foundation - Nightwatch	-	124,000	12,517	-	-	**111,483**
Natural England - Biodiversity	-	61,655	51,655	-	-	**10,000**
Natural England - Monitoring	-	25,000	15,000	-	-	**10,000**
Natural England - Partnerships	-	25,000	15,000	-	-	**10,000**
Natural Resources Wales - NBMP MoA	-	5,667	5,667	-	-	**-**
NatureScot - Scottish Bat Project	-	29,963	29,963	-	-	**-**
National Lottery Heritage Fund - Species on the Edge	-	26,239	26,239	-	-	**-**
National Lottery Heritage Fund - Back from the Brink	-	65,980	65,980	-	-	**-**
National Lottery Heritage Fund - Bats in	-	73,571	73,571	-	-	**-**
Forestry Commission - Woodland Bats	-	2,700	-	-	-	**2,700**
Ernest Kleinwort - Woodland Bats	10,000	-	5,205	-	-	**4,795**
Edith Murphy Foundation - Woodland	-	2,000	-	-	-	**2,000**
Forestry England	-	12,079	3,477	-	-	**8,602**
Animal and Plant Health Agency - BCT Helpline	-	8,000	8,000	-	-	**-**
Rufford Foundation - Helpline	-	3,200	800	-	-	**2,400**
Other trusts and donations - BCT Helpline	-	57,862	47,566	-	-	**10,296**
Small Trusts - Training the Next Generation	-	-	-	-	-	**-**
Kate Barlow Research Award	30,543	-	5,794	-	-	**24,749**
Bat Group appeals	-	4,960	4,960	-	-	**-**
British Ecological Society - Bats in Churches	-	1,998	92	-	-	**1,906**
David Webster Charitable Trust - Bats and	-	2,000	2,000	-	-	**-**
Rufford Foundation - International	-	5,900	-	-	-	**5,900**
Anonymous donation	2,031	-	421	-	-	**1,610**
Other restricted project income	28,875	8,491	13,851	-	-	**23,515**
Total restricted funds	94,104	546,265	400,413	-	-	**239,956**

17. Movements in funds (continued)

Unrestricted funds:						
Designated funds:						
BCT Bat Box Partnership	13,578	-	3,350	-	-	**10,228**
Database Project	121,122	-	24,604	-	3,800	**100,318**
JNCC - NBMP	960	-	960	-	-	**-**
Natural England - Earned Recognition	-	-	-	-	15,000	**-**
Druid project	-	-	-	-	1,099	**-**
JNCC - Nightwatch	-	-	-	-	8,255	**8,255**
Natural England - Helpline	-	-	-	-	11,000	**11,000**
Capacity building - Fidra	-	-	-	-	10,417	**10,417**
Capacity and support - science and monitoring	-	-	-	-	13,000	**13,000**
Bellway Homes - Wildlife Crime	-	-	-	-	20,000	**20,000**
	135,660	-	28,914	-	82,571	**189,317**
General funds	453,303	1,021,952	969,607	40,900	(82,571)	**463,977**
Total unrestricted funds	588,963	1,001,952	998,521	40,900	-	**653,294**
Total funds	**2,679,777**	**1,568,217**	**1,412,574**	**483,565**	-	**3,318,985**

17. Movements in funds (continued)

Prior Year	*At 1 April 2019*	*Income*	*Expenditure*	*Losses on investments*	*Transfers between funds*	*At 31 March 2020*
	£	*£*	*£*	*£*	*£*	*£*
Vincent Weir endowment funds:						
Expendable Endowment Fund	1,804,584	-	10,256	(77,796)	-	**1,716,532**
Permanent endowment fund	294,561	-	1,684	(12,699)	-	**280,178**
Total endowment funds	2,099,145	-	11,940	(90,495)	-	**1,996,710**
Restricted funds:						
Esmée Fairbairn Foundation - Planning	121,903	-	105,728	-	-	**16,175**
Esmée Fairbairn Foundation - Bearing Witness for Wildlife	61,961	-	55,481	-	-	**6,480**
Natural England - Biodiversity	4,000	20,000	24,000	-	-	**-**
Natural England - Monitoring	-	15,000	15,000	-	-	**-**
Natural England - Partnerships	-	15,000	15,000	-	-	**-**
Natural Resources Wales - Wales Bat Project	-	8,851	8,851	-	-	**-**
Natural Resources Wales - NBMP MoA Contribution	-	5,000	5,000	-	-	**-**
Scottish Natural Heritage - Scottish Bat Project	-	35,916	35,916	-	-	**-**
National Lottery Heritage Fund - Back from the Brink	-	49,484	49,484	-	-	**-**
National Lottery Heritage Fund - Bats in	-	122,810	122,810	-	-	**-**
Forestry Commission - Woodland Bats	-	8,296	8,296	-	-	**-**
Ernest Kleinwort - Woodland Bats	-	10,000	-	-	-	**10,000**
Mapping Woodland Bats	8,628	-	8,628	-	-	**-**
Animal and Plant Health Agency - BCT Helpline	-	8,000	8,000	-	-	**-**
Animal Friends - BCT helpline	-	10,000	10,000	-	-	**-**
Cecil Pilkington Charitable Trust - BCT Helpline	-	3,000	3,000	-	-	**-**
Other trusts and donations - BCT Helpline	2,500	3,591	6,091	-	-	**-**
Small Trusts - Training the Next Generation	1,222	-	1,222	-	-	**-**
Kate Barlow Research Award	36,055	875	8,362	-	1,975	**30,543**
Bat group appeals - Ringing project	-	23,803	2,388	-	-	**21,415**
Bat Groups - Nathusius' Pipistrelle Project	4,617	-	4,617	-	-	**-**
Cambridge Chrysalis Trust - Bats and buildings	-	10,000	10,000	-	-	**-**
Anonymous donation	1,500	1,500	969	-	-	**2,031**
Other restricted project income	-	14,148	6,688	-	-	**7,460**
Total restricted funds	242,386	365,274	515,531	-	1,975	**94,104**
Unrestricted funds:						
Designated funds:						
BCT Bat Box Partnership	23,578	-	10,000	-	-	13,578
Database Project	98,860	-	-	-	22,262	121,122
Fundraising Consultancy	10,800	-	10,800	-	-	-
JNCC - NBMP	-	-	-	-	960	960
	133,238	-	20,800	-	23,222	**135,660**
General funds	659,096	901,927	1,054,635	(27,888)	(25,197)	**453,303**
Total unrestricted funds	792,334	901,927	1,075,435	(27,888)	(1,975)	**588,963**
Total funds	**3,133,865**	**1,267,202**	**1,602,907**	**(118,383)**	-	**2,679,777**

17. Movements in funds (continued)

Purposes of expendable endowment funds
The funds were donated by Vincent Weir to be invested to generate income for use to support core costs.

Purposes of permanent endowment funds
The Bat Conservation Trust Fund was established by trust deed dated 31 October 2006, so that the income only may be used to advance the charitable purposes of BCT.
Under a charity commission scheme dated 31 March 2010 the funds are treated as forming part of BCT for the purposes of registration and accounting.

Purposes of restricted funds

Esmée Fairbairn Foundation – Planning	Raising the profile of biodiversity in the planning system – a multi-species partnership project.
Esmée Fairbairn Foundation – Bearing Witness for Wildlife	A project working to ensure that wildlife crime prevention and mitigation improve conservation action for bats and those acting to protect them.
Esmée Fairbairn Foundation – Nightwatch	To develop an inclusive, engagement-focused community science bat survey.
Natural England – Biodiversity	To contribute towards our work leading on species conservation plans for six species of bat.
Natural England – Monitoring	To contribute towards site condition monitoring through the National Bat Monitoring Programme.
Natural England – Partnerships	To contribute towards employing a Partnerships Officer who provides support to local bat groups.
Natural Resources Wales - Wales Bat Project	To contribute towards developing and carrying out our conservation and partnership work in Wales.
NRW – NBMP MoA contribution	A contribution towards the JNCC funded National Bat Monitoring Programme to bolster delivery in Wales.
NatureScot - Scottish Bat Project	To contribute towards developing and carry out our conservation and partnership work in Scotland.
National Lottery Heritage Fund – Species on the Edge	Species on the Edge funding from NHLF is for the development year and new collaborative project with seven other conservation organisations, led by NatureScot.
National Lottery Heritage Fund - Back from the Brink	To undertake development work for Back from the Brink, a collaborative project to save England's most threatened species.
National Lottery Heritage Fund - Bats in Churches	Partnership project put in place to provide solutions to issues with bats in churches in England.
Forestry Commission - Woodland	To support work with Woodland bats.
Ernest Kleinwort - Woodland	To support work with Woodland bats.
Edith Murphy - Woodland	To support work with Woodland bats.
Mapping Woodland Bats	To fund the Woodland Officer's work in the South East of England.
Forestry England	Funding for the Forestry England Bat Survey
Animal and Plant Health Agency - BCT helpline	To contribute towards rabies surveillance work and risk management.
Rufford Foundation - BCT helpline	Contribution to BCT staff time in supporting Malawian bat helpline.
Other trusts and donations - BCT Helpline	Donations to contribute towards the running of BCT's Helpline.
Small Trusts - Training the Next Generation	This project will train students in the skills needed to identify bats in the field based on the bats' echolocation calls and visual clues.

17. Movements in funds (continued)
Purposes of restricted funds (continued)

Kate Barlow Research Award	Award granted to a postgraduate student to conduct a substantive bat research project and to honour the late Dr Kate Barlow's contribution to bat conservation.
Bat Group Appeals	Towards conservation and monitoring work in England and Scotland.
Bat Group Appeals - Ringing project	Ringing the changes – a project to implement a centralised national database of records and produce a set of best practice guidelines for bat ringing in the UK.
Bat Groups - Nathusius Pipistrelle Project	To contribute towards improving our understanding of the ecology, current status and conservation threats for Nathusius' pipistrelles in Great Britain.
Cambridge Chrysallis Trust - Bats and buildings	Improve monitoring and roost creation outcomes for bats through the development of novel technology in an industry partnership project.
British Ecological Society - Bats in Churches	Ecological outreach with the aim of educating non-scientific audiences, primarily a church audience, about bats.
David Webster Charitable Trust - Bats and Buildings	Contributes towards the development of best practice lighting guidance for industry.
Rufford Foundation - International	Contribution to training, development and salaries of staff on Malawian bat helpline.
Anonymous donation	Contribute towards surveying for bats in Suffolk.
Other restricted project income	Amalgamated small donations restricted to particular projects.

Purposes of designated funds

BCT Bat Box Partnership	To contribute towards bat box monitoring projects.
Joint Nature Conservation Committee - NBMP	For work on the National Bat Monitoring Programme.
Natural England - Earned Recognition	Streamlining the bat mitigation licensing system, raising professional standards and improving outcomes for bats.
Database project	A fund set aside for our current website and customer relationship management (CRM) system. The website will be updated and make it more effective and accessible, and the new CRM system will make our fundraising more efficient and improve the way we engage with members, donors and supporters.
Druid project	To advise a NERC funded project to understand and predict the cross-ecosystem impacts of insect decline on ecosystem services and natural capital.
JNCC - Nightwatch	Contributes to develop an inclusive, engagement-focused community science bat survey.
Natural England - Helpline	Contribution towards Natural England Bat Advice Service health and safety review.
Capacity building - Fidra	Contribution to maintaining core operations of the Bat Conservation Trust
Capacity and support - science and monitoring	To assist with delivery of BCT's Science and Monitoring strategies.
Bellway Homes – Wildlife Crime	Providing support to the police, Crown Prosecution Service, ecologists and the public in bat crime cases.
Fundraising Consultancy	To address the lack of fundraising capacity, we worked with a fundraising consultancy.

18. Related party transactions

During the year aggregate donations from related parties totalled £26,279.
There were no other related party transactions outside the normal course of business in the current or preceding year.

19. Prior year statement of financial activities

Statement of financial activities *(incorporating an income and expenditure account)*
For the year ended 31 March 2020

	Note	Endowment £	Restricted £	Unrestricted £	**2020 Total £**	2019 Total £
Income						
Income from generated funds						
Donations and legacies	2	-	34,918	244,389	**279,307**	225,845
Investment income		-	-	59,228	**59,228**	65,424
Income from charitable activities						
Conferences		-	-	100,602	**100,602**	99,744
Training courses and meetings		-	-	64,691	**64,691**	60,039
Projects and research	3	-	330,357	378,459	**708,816**	718,022
Other activities		-	-	54,558	**54,558**	59,434
Total income		**-**	**365,275**	**901,927**	**1,267,202**	1,228,508
Expenditure						
Expenditure on raising funds						
Membership support	5	-	-	52,940	**52,940**	60,807
Costs of raising funds		11,940	-	127,498	**139,438**	105,135
		11,940	**-**	**180,438**	**192,378**	165,942
Expenditure on charitable activities						
Conferences		-	-	91,607	**91,607**	91,776
Biodiversity training courses		-	-	75,165	**75,165**	71,914
Project and research costs	4	-	515,532	728,225	**1,243,757**	1,181,246
Total expenditure	5	**11,940**	**515,532**	**1,075,435**	**1,602,907**	1,510,878
Net expenditure before net (losses)/gains on investments		**(11,940)**	**(150,257)**	**(173,508)**	**(335,705)**	(282,370)
Net (losses)/gains on investments		(90,495)	-	(27,888)	(118,383)	66,195
Net income expenditure for the year		**(102,435)**	**(150,257)**	**(201,396)**	**(454,088)**	(216,175)
Transfers between funds		-	1,975	(1,975)	**-**	-
Net movement in funds		**(102,435)**	**(148,282)**	**(203,371)**	**(454,088)**	(216,175)
Reconciliation of funds						
Total funds brought forward		2,099,145	242,386	792,334	**3,133,865**	3,350,040
Total funds carried forward	16	**1,996,710**	**94,104**	**588,963**	**2,679,777**	3,133,865

All of the above results are derived from continuing activities. There were no other recognised gains or losses other than those stated above. Movements in funds are disclosed in Note 16 to the financial statements.