

Norfolk Bat Survey (NBS)



British Trust for Ornithology (BTO)
The Nunnery
Thetford
Norfolk IP24 2PU
Tel: 01842 750050
Web: www.batsurvey.org

Norfolk Biodiversity Information Service (NBIS)
Room 301
Environment Transport and Development
County Hall
Martineau Lane
Norwich
NR1 2DH
www.nbis@norfolk.gov.uk

Letter of Introduction

Dear Sir/Madam,

The BTO and NBIS are trialing a novel approach for improving our understanding of large-scale patterns in bat distribution in Norfolk.

With recent advances in bat detector technology and digital signal processing, it is now possible to collect acoustic monitoring data, to analyse these data using automated computer classification algorithms to separate species, and so provide a representative assessment of species. However the cost of the equipment remains fairly high, so is largely restricted to use by environmental consultants or University research groups.

The aim of this project is to pilot a novel approach (at a county-scale) that would allow this technology to be available to the wider public. By doing so, we hope to facilitate an improvement in the ability of biological surveillance data for bats to provide information on the status of species and over time a representative and robust measure of change.

This survey requires the volunteer to set up a detector which is left outside to automatically trigger and record bats through the night. Detectors are normally put out in an evening and picked up the following day. The survey comprises three visits (three nights of recordings) to three different points within a site (1-km square).

Any help you can give the bearer of this letter in allowing access to privately owned land would be very much appreciated.

Please do not hesitate to telephone or email if you would like more information on the survey, or visit the Norfolk Bat Survey website for more information.

Many thanks for your help

BTO contact:
Dr Stuart Newson
norwichbatsurvey@gmail.com