

Company number: 2712823  
Charity number: 1012361  
OSCR number: SC040116

# The Bat Conservation Trust

Report and financial statements  
For the year ended 31 March 2020

# The Bat Conservation Trust

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### For the year ended 31 March 2020

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<b>Status</b>	The organisation is a charitable company limited by guarantee, incorporated on 7 May 1992 and registered as a charity on 29 June 1992.	
<b>Governing document</b>	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.	
<b>Company number</b>	2712823	
<b>Charity number England and Wales</b>	1012361	
<b>Charity number Scotland</b>	SC040116	
<b>Registered office and operational address</b>	Quadrant House, 250 Kennington Lane London SE11 5RD	
<b>Trustees</b>	Dr David Gibbons, Chair (resigned Sept 2019) Dr Abigail Entwistle (Vice Chair, then Chair from Sept 2019) Professor Kirsty Park (Vice Chair from Sept 2019) Tom Andrews, Treasurer (resigned Sept 2019) Steve Markham (Hon Secretary, then Treasurer from Sept 2019) Bob Cornes (Hon Secretary from Sept 2019) Annika Binet Stuart Brittenden (from Sept 2019) Rupert Lancaster Jean Matthews Roger Mortlock Lord John Randall (co-opted May 2020) Steven Roe Dr Ruth Waters (from Sept 2019)	
<b>President</b>	Chris Packham CBE	
<b>Vice Presidents</b>	Professor Paul Racey John Burton Dr Robert Stebbings	
<b>Patron</b>	David Gower OBE	
<b>Honorary roles</b>	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
<b>Staff</b>	<u>Senior Management Team</u> Chief Executive	Kit Stoner

## The Bat Conservation Trust

For the year ended 31 March 2020

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Director of Conservation  
Director of Communications &  
Fundraising

Dr Carol Williams (part time)  
Dr Joe Nunez-Mino

### Science Team

Head of Science & Monitoring  
Monitoring Manager  
NBMP Survey Co-ordinator  
NBMP Survey Assistant  
NBMP Project Assistant  
NBMP Interns

Dr Katherine Boughey (part time)  
Philip Briggs  
David Williamson  
Victoria Mercier (Apr-Jun) (part time)  
Penelope Fialas (Jan-Mar) (part time)  
Lauren Stark, Sophie Tudge (Apr-Jun),  
Ellysia Letwin (Sep-Dec) (part time)  
Ella Browning (Oct-Dec)

Science Intern

### Conservation team

#### *Biodiversity:*

Head of Biodiversity  
Built Environment Manager  
Conservation Wildlife Crime Officer  
Planning Project Officer  
Woodland Officer  
Grey Long-Eared Bat Project Officer

Jan Collins (part time)  
Joanna Ferguson  
Peter Charleston (part time)  
Dr Rosalie Callway (part time)  
Sonia Reveley  
Craig Dunton (part time)

#### *Conservation services:*

Head of Conservation Services  
Training & Conferences Manager  
Conference Admin Assistant  
Scottish Officer  
Wales Officer/Species Legislation  
& Policy Specialist  
Bat Groups Officer  
Bats in Churches Training & Survey  
Officer

Lisa Worledge  
Naomi Webster  
Marette Hickford (Aug-Sept)  
Elisabeth Ferrell  
Steve Lucas

Colin Morris  
Claire Boothby

#### *Helpline:*

Helpline Managers

Hannah Van Hesteren  
Rebecca Wilson

Senior Bat Advisors

Laura Brown  
Grace Johnson (to Aug)  
Jennifer Pope (part time)  
Tristan Evans

Bat Advisors

Eleanor Johnstone  
Marie Canny  
Hannah Bottomley (May-Oct)  
Sarah Hartley (May-Oct)  
Peter Selway (May-Jan) (part  
time)

Helpline Support Officer

Imogen Chase (Aug-Sep) (part  
time)

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	<u>Communications/Fundraising team</u>	
	Senior Engagement & Fundraising Officer	Andreia Correia da Costa
	Fundraising & Development Officer	Nicola Quinn
	<u>Finance &amp; 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
<b>Bankers</b>	The Co-operative Bank plc Kings Valley Yew Street Stockport SK4 2JU	
<b>Health and Safety</b>	JEM Safety Management Ltd 190 Moor Lane Upminster Essex RM14 1HG	
<b>Insurance brokers</b>	First Insurance Solutions Ltd First Insurance Solutions House Centre 3000, St. Leonards Road Maidstone, Kent ME16 0LS	
<b>Financial advisors</b>	Coloma Wealth Management LLP 5th Floor, Pinnacle House 23-26 St Dunstan's Hill London EC3R 8HN	
<b>Employment advisors</b>	Ellis Whittam Ltd Woodhouse, Church Lane Aldford, Chester CH3 6JD	
<b>Solicitors</b>	Aaron & Partners LLP Grosvenor Court, Foregate Street Chester CH1 1HG	
<b>Auditor</b>	HW Fisher Acre House, 11-15 William Road London NW1 3ER	

## **The President's Message**

This has been another difficult year for charities, but the Bat Conservation Trust has enjoyed strong support from its members and its ever growing number of followers across social media.

A significant impact on everyone came toward the end of last year with Covid-19. This virus has seen massive changes to people's activities and bat work has been no exception. But it has been important, that while our primary concern is the health and safety of our families, friends and communities that we continue to work for the protection of our precious wildlife wherever possible.

Bat workers are a dedicated community and have been ready to continue with research, project work and bat care as permitted. Some activities will need to be changed; for example some surveys have been postponed while a limited number can be conducted safely from home. But some efforts have been possible during the crisis. Working with the National Bat Helpline, bat carers have found cautious and effective ways to support members of the public finding injured and grounded bats and get bats into care as needed. Opportunities to monitor bats in your garden or local spaces have continued.

Of course there has been more need than ever to challenge misinformation with blame for diseases falling at bats' upside-down feet. While wildlife can carry viruses, they are not to blame for this disease. However wildlife markets do create a risk to human health and compromise animal welfare and I undersigned a letter to the WHO in support of their closure.

BCT has been providing clear information on this issue through their website, via traditional media, social media channels and of course through the hard working Helpline staff. The team on the National Bat Helpline has continued taking a lot of calls during this emergency, all while planning for another active summer season with new seasonal staff and a network of dedicated volunteers on the Out-of-Hours service. This is a great opportunity for members of the public to get involved in bat conservation by giving up their precious evenings and weekends to support members of the public finding grounded bats and putting them in touch with those in the local area best placed to help – dedicated bat carers.

One bat carer we recently met on our 'Self Isolating Bird Club' live-stream is Gail Armstrong who introduced us to some of the bats in her care. Gail was the winner of 2019's Pete Guest Award for her tireless duty to bat care and her skill as a trainer and wildlife communicator.

If there is one positive from the current situation, perhaps it has given some the opportunity to look more carefully at the wildlife in their own garden or local area. Many people have taken to gardening and those fortunate to have the space can do a lot by creating wildlife friendly gardens. The right plants will encourage insects that attract a range of animals including bats that you can enjoy watching. Gail also gave advice on putting up bat boxes to give bats more options for roosts and further information has been provided by BCT in its useful literature.

With everything BCT does, all the work done by volunteers and bat workers, and the support provided by the public, there is an ever growing support for bats that we must do all we can to sustain.

Chris Packham



President, Bat Conservation Trust

## **Review by the Chair and Chief Executive**

As we write this review, we are living in uncertain and worrying times, and we thank you all for your support. With your support, the Bat Conservation Trust (BCT) will continue its work for bats and bat conservation, building on the achievements achieved during the 2019/20 review period.

In the past year, influencing policy makers has continued to be a key focus for BCT. We need a strong and ambitious Environment Act to protect our wildlife for generations to come, and with that in mind we asked our supporters to encourage their MPs to speak up for bats and nature in the Environment Bill debate. More than 50 BCT supporters wrote to their MPs and our Species Champion for the common pipistrelle, Helen Hayes, spoke in the debate.

Helen was awarded ‘Best Parliamentary Champion’ at the English Species Champion Awards held in October 2019 and she also hosted the launch of the new Wildlife Assessment Check in the House of Commons in July. This is a tool which allows householders and small developers to check whether they are likely to require professional ecological input for their project. Considering local ecology before applying for planning permission can prevent projects incurring delays and unexpected costs. The tool also aims to support local planning authorities in meeting their statutory duty regarding biodiversity, especially if they lack in-house ecological capacity.

Our advocacy and policy work will continue to be a high priority as we move through 2020, with crucial decisions about how we best restore and enhance our wildlife still to be made, including ensuring that our bat species are taken into account under new land management schemes and Biodiversity Net Gain (which is an approach to development that aims to leave biodiversity in a better state than before).

The latest National Bat Monitoring Programme (NBMP) Annual Report shows that some of our bat species are showing some early signs of recovery following significant historic declines. The recent positive and stable trends suggest that current legislation and conservation action to protect and conserve bats is being successful, and it is important that this continues. As well as enabling us to publish annual trends for 11 species, NBMP data have contributed to two Defra indicators, the State of Nature report, the Office of National Statistics Natural Capital Accounts and several research projects and published papers.

We have continued to develop the British Bat Survey (BBats), an innovative new citizen science survey, which will use the latest technology to calculate population trends for more bat species than is currently possible. The new survey will also enable us to engage a wider range of volunteers. BCT recognises that we need to work harder to make conservation more inclusive and encourage a far wider section of society to take part. As well as considering our own practices and how we can improve them, we will continue to work with the new Wildlife and Countryside Link ‘Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Group’, which aims to work towards improving equality, diversity and inclusion within the sector.

The coming year is going to be a very challenging one for BCT. We have taken the decision to strategically invest some of our limited resources to increase our fundraising and communication

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**Review by the Chair and Chief Executive**

**For the year ended 31 March 2020**

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capacity in order to be in the best possible place to face the testing times ahead and reduce our budget deficit. Your continued support makes a positive difference to bat conservation and will be more vital than ever over the next few years.



Abigail Entwistle, Chair



Kit Stoner, Chief Executive



## The Bat Conservation Trust

### Trustees' annual report

#### For the year ended 31 March 2020

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The Trustees present their report and the audited financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2020.

Reference and administrative information set out on page 2 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 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 over 25 years and the places they need to survive.

***Our vital stats: We spend just 15p on fundraising per £1 raised***

***Around 185,000 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.

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### Trustees' annual report

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#### 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, Northern Ireland Environment Agency, and Scottish Natural Heritage.

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 2019 a total of 2,021 sites were surveyed by 1,032 volunteers, which is more than double the 1997 figure. We also ran 21 bat detector or sound analysis workshops which provided training for over 320 volunteer surveyors. Eighty-seven percent of volunteers are now using our online recording portal to return their survey data. A new project “Training the Next Generation” is providing free training in bat field ID skills to students at colleges and universities; to date training has been delivered at four universities and we are currently fundraising to roll this project out more widely across the UK.

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### Trustees' annual report

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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 2020.

### British Bat Survey

The British Bat Survey (BBatS) is a new citizen science survey employing remote bat detectors and automated call identification software in an innovative system for the acoustic monitoring of bat populations at national scales. It will enable us to calculate population trends for more bat species than is currently possible and engage a wider range of volunteers than ever before. Between 2017 and 2018, the National Environment Research Council provided funding to develop BBatS in collaboration with researchers from UCL, University of Oxford and the BTO (Fairbrass et al. 2018). In 2019, BCT piloted BBatS in South West GB. The aims of the pilot were to 1) find out how many nights of AudioMoth surveys are required to collect enough data to estimate population trends for our rarer bat species, and 2) test the system we will be using to classify AudioMoth recordings to species or genus level. The pilot ran between 1 July and 11 August 2019, and 163 surveys were undertaken at 28 sites. In parallel to this pilot we also undertook monitoring across 18 sites on the Public Forest Estate, in collaboration with Forestry England. In total across the two projects we collected over 11TB of data, from which we identified over two million individual bat calls. Calls were classified using automated algorithms developed by researchers at UCL (Mac Aodha et al. 2018). We are now working with JNCC and the BTO to analyse the pilot data and refine the survey protocol. We intend to trial the amended survey protocol in summer 2020.

Fairbrass, A.J., Boughey, K.L., Brostow, G.J., Browning, E., Hawkins, C., Mac Aodha, O., Newson, S., Rogers, A., Turmukhambetov, D. & Jones, K.E., 2018. A Plan for the British Bat Survey. Unpublished  
Mac Aodha O., Gibb R., Barlow K.E., Browning E., Firman M., Harder, B., Kinsey, L., Mead, G.R., Newson, S.E., Pandourski, I., Parsons, S., Russ, J., Szodoray-Paradi, A., Szodoray-Paradi, F., Tilova, E., Girolami, M., Brostow, G., Jones, K.E., 2018. Bat detective-Deep learning tools for bat acoustic signal detection. *PLOS Computational Biology* 14(3): e1005995. <https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pcbi.1005995>

### Research

BCT collaborates on a range of research that addresses our priority evidence needs. Data from the National Bat Monitoring Programme (NBMP) are used to calculate two UK biodiversity indicators: C8 Mammals of the Wider Countryside (bats) and C4 Status of UK Priority Species (Defra, 2018). This year NBMP data also contributed to the Office of National Statistics Natural Capital Accounts; the 2019 State of Nature report (Hayhow et al., 2019); and research projects investigating the impact of climate change on bats (Università degli Studi di Napoli, with participants from 60 other organisations across Europe); the effect of weir removal on bats (Environment Agency), methods for estimating multispecies biodiversity indices (UK Centre for Ecology and Hydrology - CEH), and strategic planning for biodiversity (University of West England).

Analysis of data from the National Nathusius' Pipistrelle Project confirmed for the first time that Nathusius' pipistrelles migrate from Eastern Europe to the UK, and that there is also a resident population in the UK. This project, undertaken by an MRes student at University College London (UCL), also collated data on Nathusius' pipistrelle roosts and found that 81% of roosts were shared with another species, most frequently soprano pipistrelle. We subsequently hosted a PhD student, also

## **The Bat Conservation Trust**

### **Trustees' annual report**

#### **For the year ended 31 March 2020**

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from UCL, investigating the effect of season, sex and age on *Nathusius' pipistrelle* movements across the UK. This research is currently being prepared for publication.

BCT is a co-supervisor of two PhDs investigating sources of bias in NBMP data. The first, hosted at CEH, looks at discrepancies between Roost Count and Field Survey indices. This research suggests Roost Count indices are negatively biased due to the interaction between low site fidelity in some species and the tendency of observers to cease monitoring if bats abandon their roosts. Further research is needed to understand the most appropriate way to correct this. This study also investigated 'regression to the mean' bias, which occurs when large colonies tend to decrease because they are at the peak of their population cycle, and small colonies tend to increase because they are at the bottom of their population cycle. This study found that of the colonies monitored by the NBMP, large colonies are likely to remain large and small colonies remain small, and therefore 'regression to the mean' bias is unlikely to impact Roost Count trends.

The nature of the NBMP as a citizen science programme means there is greater survey coverage in certain habitats and in areas of greater population density. The second PhD, hosted at UCL, investigates the impact of this spatial autocorrelation on Field Survey indices. This study confirms that the reported population trends are broadly robust to spatial bias, although some changes are observed when this bias is controlled, and these are being investigated further.

NBMP staff co-authored two papers published this year: Managing hedgerows for nocturnal wildlife: do bats and their insect prey benefit from targeted agri-environment schemes (*Journal of Applied Ecology*), and A sequential multi-level framework to improve habitat suitability modelling (*Landscape Ecology*).

Defra, 2018. UK Biodiversity Indicators 2018. DEFRA Publications

Hayhow D.B., Eaton M.A., Stanbury A.J., Burns F., Kirby W.B., Bailey N., Beckmann B., Bedford J., Boersch-Supan P.H., Coomber F., Dennis E.B., Dolman S.J., Dunn E., Hall J., Harrower C., Hatfield J.H., Hawley J., Haysom K., Hughes J., Johns D.G., Mathews F., McQuatters-Gollop A., Noble D.G., Outhwaite C.L., Pearce-Higgins J.W., Pescott O.L., Powney G.D. and Symes N., 2019. The State of Nature 2019. The State of Nature partnership.

### **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. Dr Patrick Wright (University of Exeter, in collaboration with the Vincent Wildlife Trust) won the award in 2019 for his work in developing and applying cutting edge molecular approaches to significantly advance bat monitoring techniques. His PhD research demonstrated that *Bechstein's* bats in the UK are less inbred than feared, but he did identify a colony with much lower diversity than is the norm in Britain. He also pioneered a new method for assessing the age of bats.

### **Kate Barlow Award**

The Kate Barlow Award was set up in honour of the late Dr Kate Barlow, who worked for BCT from 2008 to 2015. Kate made an outstanding contribution to bat conservation in her personal and professional life. The award was set up to encourage the next generation of bat researchers by supporting a postgraduate student to conduct a substantive bat research project. The award is open

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to students anywhere in the world conducting research which has a direct relevance for bat conservation. We received 16 applications for the 2019 award, and once again the standard of applications was very high. The winner of the 2019 Award was PhD student Benneth Obitte of Texas Tech University, for his project 'Why hunt: assessing drivers and sustainability of intense Egyptian Fruit bat hunting to guide conservation intervention'. Benneth's research investigates the drivers of bat hunting and meat consumption in southern Nigeria, particularly of the Egyptian fruit bat (*Rousettus aegyptiacus*) which is a target of widespread hunting. A survey conducted in 2016 reported that offtake levels reached over 1,500 individuals per day from a single cave. This high offtake could cause local extinctions and the breakdown of bat-plant ecological networks. Benneth's research will help to shape conservation plans, and engage stakeholders on the importance of cave roost protection.

The Kate Barlow Award supported our two previous winners, Kristen Lear (2017) and Laura Pulscher (2018) to visit the UK in September. As part of this trip they presented at BCT's National Bat Conference and to research groups at the University of Stirling and UCL.

Fundraising for the Kate Barlow Award continues. We are grateful for the support of all those who donated to the Award in 2019/20.

## **ACT – taking action on the ground in partnership with volunteers, professionals and government**

### **Biodiversity**

#### **Professional guidelines**

'Bat Surveys for Professional Ecologists: Good Practice Guidelines (3rd edition)' continues to have a far reach. We have contacted the Technical Review Board and initiated a consultation to update the guidelines and publish a 4th edition in spring 2021. BCT has contributed to a paper on bat survey methodologies, which will soon be published in *Animal Conservation* and will contribute evidence supporting recommendations in the guidelines.

BCT contributed to Thermal Imaging Survey Guidelines published in September 2019, this is a standalone technical guide for ecological consultants and will be signposted from the 4th edition of Bat Surveys for Professional Ecologists: Good Practice Guidelines.

BCT contributed to bats and wind farm guidance published in early 2019 as part of a group led by Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH) – BCT responds to queries on this guidance and will contribute to a review that is expected to start in 2020. BCT continues to sit on the Eurobats Intersessional Working Group on bats and wind turbines.

BCT sits on the Advisory Group for the production of an update of the Bat Mitigation Guidelines alongside a variety of stakeholders including the Statutory Nature Conservation Bodies.

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BCT is working with the Environment Agency to collect data on the impact of weir removal on bats and the occurrence of bat roosts in culverts. Data collected on culvert use by bats is enabling the framework of guidance to be produced, which will soon be published on the BCT website.

### **Professional standards**

Up until autumn 2019, BCT was working with Natural England (NE) and the Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management (CIEEM) developing Earned Recognition for professional ecologists who work with bats. The aim of the project is to reform the licensing system and raise professional standards. Although NE resources have been diverted temporarily away from this project, BCT and CIEEM continue to work together to emphasise the strategic importance of this project and lobby for it to be realised.

BCT is in the process of completing an update to the Professional Training Standards – an interim version will be published in 2020 with a view to a final version being published in summer 2021, directly aligned with the 4th edition of Bat Surveys for Professional Ecologists Good Practice Guidelines.

### **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 (Statutory Nature Conservation Bodies (SNCBs), Joint Nature Conservancy Council, Forestry Commission, National Trust, Vincent Wildlife Trust, Environment Agency (EA), Woodland Trust and Historic England). The 2019 meeting explored new technologies and their use in bat surveillance and monitoring and the 2020 meeting will be on Bats and Climate Change. Outcomes are always linked to other work areas.

### **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.

### **Bats and farming**

The Grey Long-eared Bat Project, as part of 'Back from the Brink', is working with landowners to improve foraging and connectivity around the most isolated maternity roosts for this species. The project is now in its final year and has already involved 188 landowners. In the last year we have detected an increasing passion amongst the general public for environmentally sustainable food products, and farmers and food producers are aware of this and are keen to engage with positive measures – not only because of their own passion for wildlife but also their customers'. Working with landowners has resulted in nearly 60 hectares of land actively in the process of being restored to unimproved grassland without input from the countryside stewardship scheme and is instead due to the willingness of landowners to make beneficial changes. Including measures under the countryside stewardship scheme this makes the total increase to over 250 hectares under positive management

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for the grey long-eared bat. A focus on unimproved grassland, which is a rare habitat, has benefits for a host of other biodiversity.

Land management advice has also been given to landowners to benefit bats under the Cotswolds Grassland project which is also part of 'Back from the Brink'. This has been mostly relating to greater horseshoe bats. Two workshops for landowners have been held in the last year with two more planned for the coming year. We will also be making farm visits to key landowners.

BCT is a partner to the Devon Greater Horseshoe Bat Project, the Farm Wildlife website and Nature Friendly Farming Network.

### **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. The general election in December 2019 heralded a big change in the political arithmetic that meant that United Kingdom did eventually leave the European Union on 31 January 2020. Because biodiversity is devolved to each of Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales, much of our work in 2019 has focused on the likely impacts of Brexit and the proposals contained within the (Westminster) Environment Bill and ensuring that each of the three countries and the United Kingdom as a whole, maintain the high environmental standards that the EU has set. We also inputted into the 25 Year Environment Plan and the proposed legislation to enshrine some of the Plan's key features into law.

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 carried out through our Species Champion MPs (England – 3 Species Champions, Wales – 2 Species Champions, Scotland – 7 Species Champions).

### **The Partnership for Biodiversity in Planning (PBP)**

This last year of the Partnership for Biodiversity in Planning Project has been focused on outreach and, towards the end of 2019 and in early 2020, assessing the impact of the project for reporting back to our funder.

The PBP website includes the Wildlife Assessment Check tool (which has been updated during the last year according to feedback), news items on biodiversity policy, good practice case studies and various useful links, as well as two publications: RTPI Biodiversity in Planning practice advice note for planners and a guide on Background Data Searches for consultant ecologists.

All 410 UK Local Planning Authorities (LPAs) have now been contacted (except English County Councils who are generally not responsible for housing-related planning applications), either via email, phone and / or post, to raise awareness about the Wildlife Assessment Check (WAC) and Royal Town Planning Institute (RTPI) Biodiversity in Planning guidance.

We have had over 14,000 hits to the partnership website. The national Planning Portal has promoted the tool from April 2019 and reported receiving over 5,500 hits on the WAC information page in the

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first four months after putting the link up. The PBP website has been promoted via Linked-in, news articles (e.g. the Planning Advisory Service) and Twitter (@BiodiversityPs), which has over 800 followers. We have promoted the PBP and WAC at a wide range of stakeholder events (some examples include events run by the Federation of Master Builders, RTPI, Local Government Association and our launch in the House of Commons in summer 2019) and we held a live webinar with our Wildlife Trust and Association of Local Environmental Records Centres partners, in the final week of the project to target local planning authorities who have requested additional guidance and training regarding Biodiversity in Planning.

Our Esmée Fairbairn Foundation funding for the Partnership for Biodiversity in Planning Project has now come to an end and our Project Officer's post finished on 31 March 2020. Partners on the project have committed time to keep the Wildlife Assessment Checklist (WAC) up-to-date and IT support and promotion of the WAC will be ongoing. However, our ability to respond to queries, offer talks or provide news items will be reduced moving forwards.

### **Bearing Witness for Wildlife – conservation crime investigations**

This project was funded by the Esmée Fairbairn Foundation until November 2020, and encompassed two work areas, conservation wildlife crime and bat roost mitigation. The conservation wildlife crime project expanded the work of our Conservation Wildlife Crime Officer to include other species of conservation concern such as great crested newts (GCNs).

During the period covered by this review our Conservation Wildlife Crime Officer considered 160 allegations of bat crime with 135 referrals subsequently made to the Police. Of those 135, eight led to offenders being cautioned, subjected to community resolution measures or warned, 20 remain under investigation.

There have been five prosecutions for bat crime during the past 12 months. One case resulted in a Proceeds of Crime Act confiscation order, another case has been referred to the Crown Court for sentencing and consideration of a similar order but has yet to be heard. A further case saw a development company fined £18K. Conversely two defendants who pleaded guilty to roost destruction were given conditional discharges.

In addition to these allegations of bat crime we recorded 11 allegations of crime against other species, with cases having been reported to the police. All bar two cases relate to amphibians and reptiles. One case, which involved an otter being shot resulted in a man being sentenced to two months imprisonment. Another resulted in restorative justice measures; a number of other investigations have yet to be completed.

The past 12 months has, once again, seen a number of cases where a minority of Police forces seem unable or unwilling to undertake effective investigations into bat crime. Undoubtedly this is a sign of the resource and financial pressures they face. Trying to ensure that effective investigations are undertaken will continue to be our greatest challenge. This rather sombre picture can be relieved to some extent by the knowledge that most referrals to the Police are still dealt with adequately, and in some instances exceptionally, with many examples of good crime prevention work occurring.



## **The Bat Conservation Trust**

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Bearing Witness for Wildlife (BWW) also involves us raising awareness of wildlife crime and the provision of training to investigators and field workers. To this end, during the past 12 months we have provided input to police training courses nationally regionally and to individual forces. We have also presented at a number of conferences. Our Conservation Wildlife Crime Officer is chair of Wildlife and Countryside Link's (WCL) wildlife crime and trade group. In that role he has been influential in the production of the third annual wildlife crime report published in November.

### **Bearing Witness for Wildlife – bat roost mitigation**

This part of the project funds important work to improve evidence of what works in bat roost mitigation. We carried out fieldwork in the summers of 2017 and 2018 to assess the implementation and effectiveness of bat roost mitigation measures applied at 71 development sites in England and Wales. During the last year of the project in 2019 we have been working on our final mitigation project report, a summary report with recommendations and a paper, which was submitted to the journal Conservation Evidence (CE) in early November. We anticipate (following revisions in early 2020) that the CE paper, full report and summary (these last two on the BCT website) will all be published by mid-2020. The results increase our understanding of how to improve efficacy for bat lofts, bat boxes and roost access points; this will improve practice moving forwards.

Following on from this work is an exciting new project to develop a bat box sensor that BCT are running with our partners at Arup and for which the Built Environment Manager's initial year's input was funded by the Cambridge Chrysalis Trust. The project involves using novel technology to improve the uptake of monitoring after bat roost mitigation measures have been put in place. The first phase of field testing started in summer 2019 with the fitting of six types of sensor in seven bat boxes at our test site in Hampshire. The second phase of the project starting in Spring 2020 will look to refine the sensor design based on data analysed from the sensors ground-truthed against footage from pinhole cameras fitted in the boxes. 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 – we aim to have initial results to share in 2020.

BCT's Head of Biodiversity (HoB) sits on the Advisory Board for the new Bat Mitigation Guidelines (that CIEEM initiated an update of in late 2017) alongside the Statutory Nature Conservation Bodies and a group of experienced consultants. The results of our mitigation project will be fed into the new guidelines, alongside knowledge gained from our Bats in Churches project, through the Advisory Board. When published these 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, which will run on both days in 2020.

Our new Roost website is now up and running. We have copied over case studies from the old website and recruited case studies from this project to populate the new website. A soft launch went ahead in March 2020. After further testing we will launch the website more widely and publicise the opening of the Roost Awards, winners of which will be announced (alongside showcasing this projects outcomes) at a bat mitigation symposium planned for early 2021. The Habibat bat box partnership scheme has been adapted to include a greater variety of bat box manufacturers and bat access products and is now the Roost Partnership. A proportion of the profits from bat box and access product sales from partnership companies will be reinvested into the Roost scheme, with the long-term aim of improving bat roosting habitat using feedback from monitoring. This unique partnership initiative will be re-launched and widely promoted to tie into the Roost website update.

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The Earned Recognition Project is a partnership of BCT, NE and CIEEM working together to streamline the mitigation licensing process and raise standards in the ecological consultancy profession. Through our Bearing Witness for Wildlife mitigation work we identified that issues with data collection, reporting and storage prevents the Statutory Nature Conservation Bodies (SNCBs) understanding the outcomes from the bat licensing process. Identifying this issue and raising this with SNCBs led to NE developing a monitoring project to rectify this situation for European Protected Species (including bats). Limited capacity at NE has slowed this project but BCT and CIEEM continue to lobby for NE resources to enable this work to proceed.

### **Built environment**

BCT continues to work to improve awareness, knowledge and action for bat conservation with the built environment sector. For example, this year has seen significant promotion of best practice guidance in relation to the impacts of artificial lighting and bats. One collaborative document involving BCT's Built Environment Manager and the Institution of Lighting Professionals (guidance note 08/18 'Bats and Artificial Lighting in the UK') has been showcased widely to a range of stakeholders (ecologists, lighting engineers, bat workers, highways engineers, lighting designers etc.) with presentations, seminars and workshops throughout 2019 including at the National Bat Conference. This focus of this work for 2019 was a built environment symposium on Bats and Artificial Lighting on 21 May co-hosted with our partners at Arup and bringing together a cross-section of industry for a day of discussion including from academics, lighting engineers, bat workers, ecologists and NGOs. A proceedings document of the abstracts from the day and results from live polling at the event will be available on the BCT website in Spring 2020. After this, work will begin to update the guidance note as there have been new lighting research studies published. In addition, there will be data from low impact lighting trials, which BCT has been involved in alongside Signify, and their Clearfield red light will be released.

In 2019 the built environment training schedule included a new bespoke course on ecological survey best practice for MoD land managers and a course on bats and building awareness to a new sector, university building and land managers. Both were well received, with recommendations to other partners in the sector and a subsequent further training course to MoD land managers. In 2020 the first bespoke training course for pest controllers is planned, the culmination of relationship building with industry organisations and face-to-face discussions with practitioners at both PestTech (November 2020) and Professional Pest Control Live (March 2020) where the Built Environment Manager presented on how to consider bats during the pest control process.

There were a number of repeat requests to run training or carry out presentations, including lecturing to Masters students at Reading University on bat conservation for the third year running and undertaking the second bats and buildings awareness course in partnership with Place Services and Essex County Council for local ecologists, planners, bat workers and developers. Looking forward, in 2020 the Built Environment Manager will be looking to run these two courses / lectures again alongside a repeat training to a housing association.

BCT was asked back for the fourth year in a row to speak at the Listed Property Owners Club (LPOC) show in February 2020 on the importance of buildings to bats; a topic we were also asked to speak on at the National Self Build and Renovation Centre (NSBRC) show in January 2020. We also have permanent stand at the NSBRC to promote awareness of bat conservation, training courses and the

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bat box scheme, which was updated with the new Roost logo in early 2020. Interest in the presentation topic and for including provision for bats in new builds using bat boxes from the BCT scheme was clearly evident at the trade shows at the LPOC and NSBRC attended by the Built Environment Manager.

### Bats and woodland

Throughout 2019/20, BCT continued to raise awareness and provide information about bats' use of woodlands through various partnership projects.

During the third year of the 'Back from the Brink' (BftB) project, BCT's Woodland Officer continued to work with the Roots of Rockingham, Ancients of the Future and Adding Diversity to Dorset Heaths integrated projects. For the Rockingham project, six new woodland sites were surveyed. Further passive acoustic monitoring of two hedgerows linking key woodland sites contributed to the Bedfordshire, Cambridgeshire and Northamptonshire Wildlife Trust Bat Pathfinder project. For the Ancients of the Future project, passive acoustic monitoring of seven sites, (some never surveyed before), were carried out with help from volunteers. Habitat management work at Knepp Estate started over the winter. This included the planting of trees and a variety of nectar-rich shrubs along the River Adur corridor, to further improve the Bechstein's bat key foraging grounds. Three Bats and Arboriculture courses were delivered to partners and arborists at Windsor Great Park, Knepp Estate and Lanhydrock. Radiotracking of Bechstein's bats in Dorset Heath continued in July. Both 2018 and 2019 data will be analysed during spring 2020 and will feed into specific guidance for local landowners. This will be completed by June 2020. BCT's Woodland Officer also continued to provide volunteer training and participate in landowner workshops.

2019 saw the launch of the [Woodland Wildlife Toolkit](#), an online toolkit where advice and guidance on managing woodlands for wildlife, (in particular rare and declining species that are dependent on woodland habitats) can be found. The toolkit was developed by the following partners: Bat Conservation Trust, Butterfly Conservation, Forestry Commission, Natural England, Plantlife, RSPB, Sylva Foundation and the Woodland Trust.

BCT's Woodland Officer also worked with the NBMP team and Forestry England to undertake a 'proof-of-concept' study in the South-West. This provided an opportunity to explore the ability of passive acoustic bat surveys to inform natural capital accounting and woodland condition monitoring. The summary report is due to go public during 2020.

After the 'Putting UK Woodland Bats on the Map' project finished in 2018, a peer-reviewed paper covering the habitat suitability models methodology titled "[A sequential multi-level framework to improve habitat suitability modelling](#)" was submitted and was recently accepted by Landscape Ecology.

Suitable training for woodland managers and arborists to ensure compliance with good practice continued during 2019/20. BCT participated in the delivery of two European Protected Species (EPS) training in the South West for the Forestry Commission, covering the legislation and the habitat requirements of key woodland EPS species. Further EPS training in the Midlands is planned for autumn 2020. In addition, BCT's Woodland Officer provided an overview of the requirements for a bat survey for non-specialists, to members of the Confederation of Forest Industries during a Marches regional

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event in May. She also continued to deliver Bats and Arborists courses for the BCT's training programme.

And lastly, BCT's second [Woodland Symposium](#), a one-day event aimed at bat workers, landowners, ecologists and the woodland/forestry industry has been rescheduled to the 20 November 2020.

### Bats in churches

The delivery phase of the Bats in Churches project began in December 2018, starting a five year project for BCT and partners (Church of England, Historic England, Natural England and Churches Conservation Trust), with funding from the National Lottery Heritage Fund. BCT is hosting the project's Training and Survey Officer, who has lead on the development of two citizen science surveys, the National Bats in Churches Study which was piloted July-August 2019, and the Church Bat Detectives, which will be widely promoted from April 2020. The pilot year saw 47 churches surveyed and a contribution of over 300 volunteer hours. These surveys will run over the next three summers until 2022. Together the surveys will look at how bats use churches in England, the impact bats may have, and the attitude of the congregation to the bats. The Training and Survey Officer has worked with the project team to develop a suite of training courses to support the project. The first year saw the first two training sessions for the citizen science survey and the creation of online training videos. It also saw the first two cleaning workshops, to help support churches with cleaning bat droppings and urine in these historic buildings. Work is underway to create church specific training for Volunteer Bat Roost Visitors, with two training sessions due to take place in June 2020, and a Train the Trainers session for monitoring church roosts with the NBMP Roost Count, which is scheduled for August 2020.

## 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 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 13,309 enquiries (calls, emails and letters) in 2019-20;

- 10,964 were dealt with by Helpline staff.
- 2,345 came through the Out of Hours volunteer service.
- These figures do not include switchboard enquiries that were forwarded on to other BCT staff, but do include the planning and development queries that are directed to the website.

In 2019-20, we organised 950 roost visits (7.1% of all Helpline enquiries) on behalf of Natural England. We also advised on a further 2,351 Natural England enquiries (17.7% of all Helpline enquiries) over the phone 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 of their Volunteer Bat Roost Visitors. The help and advice given by those who take part in this service is extremely valuable and we

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at BCT believe the system is vital to the conservation of bats in the UK. We will continue this coming year to update our advice and resources as new building practices evolve.

The Helpline also provides immediate welfare advice to those who have found grounded, injured and orphaned bats. We put callers into contact with over 250 local volunteer bat care experts and regional helplines who comprise the UK Bat Care Network, which is co-ordinated by the Helpline. In 2019-20 we carried out a re-registration exercise, designed to ensure all volunteers on the Network are aware of BCT procedures and processes.

In 2019-20, 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.

As ever, we received some calls about bats being found in unusual places – including a bat that was found at the bottom of a roller coaster in Wales, and another found by someone out rescuing toads from road traffic.

Helpline had another very busy year and as always, the feedback we received about our Natural England casework was positive. For example, 94% of Natural England free bat advice service users rated the helpfulness and politeness of Helpline positively. One respondent to our feedback form said, “Just what a great help you guys were. We love the bats and your advice is really appreciated so we can live together.” while another commented, “Excellent service. Roost visitor went above and beyond”. 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. It gives us great confidence that in the year ahead we will be able to continue providing front line advice to people contacting the Helpline.

### **Training and conferences**

BCT delivered 28 training courses in 2019-20 for a combined audience of 400 people; this is a larger audience than in 2018-19 when we ran 29 courses for 341 people. Seventeen courses were openly advertised, two were for volunteer groups and nine were in-house training courses for various professional audiences including local councils, Aspire and the University of Exeter.

This year we offered several new courses: ‘Thermal aided bat surveys’, ‘Bats for Planners’ and ‘QGIS for Bat Groups’. With the instigation of social distancing in March, we adapted and ran our Wildlife Acoustics Kaleidoscope Pro course online for the first time. All received positive feedback.

The National Bat Conference took place at the University of Nottingham and was attended by 330 people. The keynote talk was given by Dr Emma Teeling from University College Dublin and the programme included a diverse range of talks, workshops and networking opportunities. The feedback from participants was positive and in 2020 the National Bat Conference is planned to take place at University of Warwick. We also ran a one day Conservation and Technology Conference the day before which was attended by 120 people and explored a wide variety of technologies including drones, satellite monitoring, open-source technologies and blockchain.

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The regional bat conferences continued with the North of England taking place in Lancaster, but the Midlands Bat Conference had to be postponed due to the coronavirus outbreak and will hopefully take place later in 2020 instead.

### **Membership**

Bat Conservation Trust continues to promote its range of memberships (and the benefits that go with it) as a way for people to support our work to protect bats and to find out more about them. 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.

Keeping our members engaged is also a priority for BCT and we do this by producing our membership exclusive magazines Bat News and The Young Batworker; we do our best to create interesting content about bat conservation both in the UK and abroad and take into account members feedback. We also share calls to action with our members (e.g. writing to their MPs regarding the Environment Bill), further engaging and including our members in the bat conservation movement in the UK.

This year we have implemented the new membership fees for most of the memberships (which were approved in the 2018 AGM). Possibly to take advantage of the old fee 10 Life members joined this year (nine of whom joined before the new fees were implemented).

We have also launched the new database which will create a better experience for users (both for prospective members and current members) and streamline BCT's processes for managing relationships with donors/members.

The Adopt a Bat scheme continues to be a popular option with 50 new subscribers joining the scheme in the first three weeks of December leading up to Christmas (compared to 34 for the same period the previous year) and 29 new subscribers in the weeks leading up to Valentine's Day (compared to 15 for the same period last year).

Looking ahead we will monitor how membership and Adopt a Bat income will be affected given the current COVID-19 situation. We are also aiming to run a member survey to better understand their motivations for supporting BCT, to generally assess their satisfaction with what their membership currently offers and how we can do better in engaging with them.

### **Championing bats**

Bat Conservation Trust's presence in social media which continues to grow across all platforms. We believe each of the platforms we use are crucial to spread the word about our internal and collaborative projects, to engage and enthuse with supporters, raising awareness of bats and raising funds. At the end of the financial year the Bat Conservation Trust had:

- Over 115,000 likes on Facebook
- Over 46,000 followers on twitter
- Just over 4,500 followers on LinkedIn
- Over 17,500 followers on Instagram

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We also continue to engage with mainstream media outlets to make sure our messages reach as wide an audience as possible. This year we also launched a podcast (BatChat) with the help of BCT's Trustee Steve Roe. The first season of the podcast had 12 episodes and at the end of the year our episodes were downloaded over 7,000 times by over 550 listeners from the UK and abroad.

Last year we posted 31 news stories directly onto the BCT website and nine blogs from a range of bat enthusiasts. We continue to send both our Bat and Corporate e-Bulletins to over 2,000 contacts which has included a call to action for supporters to write to their MPs regarding the Environment Bill.

We have encouraged everyone to celebrate bats and support Bat Conservation Trust during International Bat Night and Halloween 2019. We also have increased the Communication and Fundraising team's capacity by hiring a Communications and Press Officer and an Engagement and Fundraising Assistant in the process of exploring new collaborations to celebrate those dates in 2019 with the aim to raise awareness of bats and the work BCT does.

### **Education**

Education at all levels continues to be at the core of all BCT's initiatives. Reaching young people is at is a very important part of this. Our main avenue for connecting with younger audiences continues to be our family membership, Young Batworker membership and teacher/youth leader membership. All three receive Young Batworker magazine three times a year. The magazine is packed with both engaging and educational content.

We have a range of freely downloadable resources from the website including a bilingual educational pack (Welsh/English) which continues to be very popular.

### **BCT works for bats around the UK and internationally**

Our work across the UK is outlined throughout this review, but here we highlight some of our national and international projects.

### **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 85 groups (70 Partner Groups and 15 Network Groups). We were delighted to welcome Colin Morris to BCT, at the beginning of April 2019, as our new Bat Groups Officer. Colin, along with Elisabeth Ferrell (Scottish Bat Officer) and Steve Lucas (Wales 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 with financially through the Partner Group Support Fund (with awards for this year totalling £1,500 for bat group projects and £501 to support attendance the National Bat Conference 2019) as well as with 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, which was held on the Friday night of the National Bat Conference.

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Looking ahead, we are working on how we can better support bat groups through online training and the provision of new resources. We would also like to develop more collaborative projects that engage with the bat groups, as well as finding new ways of showcasing the wonderful work being done locally throughout the British Islands. The 2020 annual Bat Workers' Forum will be held on Friday 4 September at the University of Warwick.

### **BCT in Wales**

The rich Welsh landscape provides a diverse range of habitats for 15 British bat species. With the support of Natural Resources Wales, BCT runs the Wales Bat Project. 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 Weekend & Field Workshops took place at Wrexham Glyndwr University over the weekend of 11-12 May 2019. The theme of the weekend was on new emerging technologies and an element of this was put to good use for the Saturday evening field work surveying for Nathusius' pipistrelle at seven different locations across Clwyd.
- Six NBMP bat detector workshops were run, providing training to 85 attendees.

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. Much of our work in 2019 has focused on the likely impacts of Brexit and the proposals in the (Westminster) Environment Bill particularly around proposals for replacing the governance structures and principles and this is going to continue in 2020.

### **BCT in Scotland**

With the support of Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH), BCT runs the Scottish Bat Project which engages people in bat recording, conservation and education activities. The project currently works with 101 National Bat Monitoring Programme volunteers, as well as 10 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 covers public engagement and advocacy. Our advocacy is focused around 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 100 delegates attended our 2019 conference held at SNH Battleby, Perth. This day delivered a wide range of workshops and talks covering the latest research, technology and bat news.



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- The Scottish Officer and three National Bat Monitoring Programme (NBMP) trainers delivered a total of nine workshops at various locations around Scotland. Over 40 new volunteers signed up to take part in the NBMP.
- We have inputted into the Scottish Government's draft Animal and Wildlife Bill where BCT is calling for increased penalties for bat wildlife crime offences. The draft bill currently includes increased fines and prison sentences in the lower and upper Scottish courts.

Through 2020 into 2021 we will continue our work to increase our knowledge of the status of bat populations in Scotland, with an increased focus on Scotland's coastline. The Rethink Nature Partnership, of which BCT is a part of, has been successful in gaining development year funding from National Lottery Heritage Fund for our 'Species on the Edge' Project. Working across species groups the partnership aims to safeguard a suite of our most vulnerable species in need of urgent conservation action. This funded development year will put in the ground work with the aim of achieving funding for a five year project covering seven landscape areas along Scotland's coastline and on our islands. There is work to develop a bat focussed project on the Isle of Skye.

### **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 six bat workers (including a joint nomination) were nominated in 2019 and we received over 230 votes. The 2019 winner was Gail Armstrong of North Lancashire Bat Group. Gail's utter commitment to bat conservation, her tireless duty to bat care, and her skill as a trainer and wildlife communicator 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. BCT's CEO attended the Advisory Committee of Eurobats in April 2019. BCT staff have contributed to Intersessional Working Groups on Monitoring and Indicators, Light Pollution, Wind Turbines and Bat Populations, Communication, Bat Conservation and Public Health, Bats and Building Insulation, Rescue and Rehabilitation, and Quality of Assessments and Experience and Skills of Experts. We additionally signed up to contribute to additional groups in the coming year: Evaluation criteria for Assessment Reports Concerning Bats, Insect Decline as a Threat to Bat Populations in Europe and Bats and Climate Change.

BCT staff have provided ad hoc support and advice to various international organisations and individuals, including individuals in Poland and the US, the Gibraltar National Museum and Murciélagos Argentinos.

At the end of 2019/20 we have begun work with international colleagues on coronavirus disease (COVID-19) guidance and information for the public, including participation in the new Global Union of Bat Diversity Networks (GBatNet).

## **Bats and disease**

Through key staff at BCT, including the National Bat Helpline, 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.

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 updated guidance on rabies disease risk management for bat groups and bat carers, white-nose syndrome/*Pseudogymnoascus destructans* guidance for hibernation surveyors and bat carers, and as the year ended, we were working on guidance for bat workers around coronavirus disease (COVID-19) as well as publishing information aimed at the public via a set of Frequently Asked Questions on our website. We continue to work closely 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.

We are delighted to have two BCT co-authors on a new paper in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences *Environmental reservoir dynamics predict global infection patterns and population impacts for the fungal disease white-nose syndrome* based on research we contributed to across two hibernation seasons (2016/17 and 2017/18). A huge thank you to the NBMP volunteers who helped with this research (who were also acknowledged in the paper).

Looking ahead, we need to find alternative sources of funding for our disease risk management work; only our activities supporting the APHA rabies passive surveillance programme are directly funded (with a contract in place through to the end of 2020/21). 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 is a priority during a rapidly changing situation.

## **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. BatLife Europe is now a Stichting in the Netherlands, and has a bank account there. BatLife Europe has chosen a new Bat of the Year for 2020/21 – the barbastelle – and has prepared a fact sheet and infographics to raise awareness. These are currently being translated into a number of different languages.

## **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 2. 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.

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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 2020 was 11 (2019: 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) 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 to work due to COVID-19. BCT moved ahead of government guidance to prepare our staff and systems for remote working. Some staff have been furloughed for short periods where their work has been significantly affected by the situation. There has been an impact on fundraising work and limitations placed on the work of the helpline. We will continue to regularly review the impact on our finances.

### **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 following annual appraisals.

## **Statement of Responsibilities of the Trustees**

The Trustees (who are also directors of The Bat Conservation Trust) are responsible for preparing the report of the Trustees 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.

In so far as the Trustees are aware:

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

And

- The Trustees have taken all steps that they ought to have taken to make themselves aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the auditors are aware of that information.

The Trustees are responsible for the maintenance and integrity of the corporate and financial information included on the charitable company's website. Legislation in the United Kingdom governing the preparation and dissemination of the financial statements may differ from legislation in other jurisdictions.

## **Treasurer's report**

These are still very challenging times for the charity sector, even without the added pressures of COVID-19 and this is reflected in BCT's accounts.

Statutory funding has reduced in the last year, and although some other income sources have remained stable or increased, there is a mismatch between income and expenditure, which has led to a deficit. The deficit has been exacerbated by losses to our investment. BCT will need careful control of expenditure and diversification of our income streams to mitigate expected reduction in income in the coming year.

For the year ended 31 March 2020, income was £1,267,202 (2019: £1,228,508) and expenditure was £1,602,907 (2019: £1,510,878), leading to net deficit for the year of £335,705 (2019: net deficit of £282,370). Taking into account losses on investments of £118,383 (2019: gains of £66,195), the net movement in funds for the year was a decrease of £454,088 (2019: a decrease of £216,175).

## **Investment policy**

Investments total £2,181,194 (2019: £2,746,041) at 31 March 2020. 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. It was an unpredictable year for investments and global stock markets were severely impacted by the Covid-19 pandemic, investments have however recovered to a degree in the start of the next financial year. 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 2019/20 financial year our total reserves stand at £2,679,777 (2019: £3,133,865). Of this, £1,996,710 (2019: £2,099,145) are endowment funds and £94,104 (2019: £242,386) are restricted funds for projects. This leaves unrestricted funds of £588,963 (2019: £792,334) of which £135,660 (2019: £133,238) have been designated to key programmes of work in the next financial year (see notes to the accounts for details). This leaves us with £454,303 (2019: £659,096) as unrestricted, unallocated funds.

The trustees' policy is to work towards holding six months operating costs, approximately £540,000, 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 Markham, 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	Lincolnshire Bat Group
Ayrshire Bat Group	Loch Lomond Bat Group
Bedfordshire Bat Group	London Bat Group
Berkshire & South Bucks Bat Group	Lothians Bat Group
Birmingham & Black Country Bat Group	Manx Bat Group
Borders Bat Group	Merseyside & West Lancs Bat Group
Cambridgeshire Bat Group	Mid Anglian Bat Group
Cardiff Bat Group	Montgomeryshire Bat Group
Central Scotland Bat Group	Norfolk Barbastelle Research Group
Cheshire Bat Group	North Bucks Bat Group
Clwyd Bat Group	North Ceredigion Bat Group
Clyde Bat Group	North East Scotland Bat Group
Cornwall Bat Group	North Highland Bat Group
Derbyshire Bat Conservation Group	North Lancashire Bat Group
Devon Bat Group	North Wales Mammal Group
Dorset Bat Group	Northern Ireland Bat Group
Dumfries & Galloway Bat Group	Northumberland Bat Group
Durham Bat Group	Norwich Bat Group
East Lancashire Bat Group	Nottinghamshire Bat Group
East Yorkshire Bat Group	Oxfordshire Bat Group
Essex Bat Group	Pembrokeshire Bat Group
Fife & Kinross Bat Group	Shropshire Bat Group
Glamorgan Bat Group	Somerset Bat Group
Gloucestershire Bat Group	South Cumbria Bat Group
Guernsey Bat Group	South Lancashire Bat Group
Gwynedd Bat Group	South Yorkshire Bat Group
Hampshire Bat Group	Staffordshire Bat Group
Herefordshire Mammal Group	Surrey Bat Group
Herts & Middlesex Bat Group	Sussex Bat Group
Inverness Bat Group	Tayside Bat Group
Isle of Wight Bat Group	Vale of Glamorgan & Bridgend Bat Group
Isles of Scilly Bat Group	Valleys Bat Group
Jersey Bat Group	Warwickshire Bat Group
Kent Bat Group	West Yorkshire Bat Group
Leicestershire & Rutland Bat Group	Worcestershire Bat Group

### **Charitable Trusts, Statutory Bodies and Other Organisations**

Animal and Plant Health Agency	Chapman Charitable Trust
Animal Friends	Ecclesiastical Insurance
Cecil Pilkington Charitable Trust	Ernest Kleinwort Charitable Trust

## The Bat Conservation Trust

### Trustees' annual report

For the year ended 31 March 2020

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Forestry England  
National Lottery Heritage Fund  
Joint Nature Conservation Committee  
National Trust  
Natural England  
Natural Resources Wales  
Pillar Charitable Trust  
Pilkington General Charitable Fund  
Seven Pillars of Wisdom Charitable Trust  
Scottish Natural Heritage  
The Cambridge Chrysalis Trust  
The Ian Askew Charitable Trust

The Marjorie Coote Animal Charity Trust  
The Marsh Christian Trust  
The Matilda Ellis Charitable Trust  
The Pilkington Family Trust  
The Royal Parks  
The Walker 597 Trust  
The William Dean Countryside and Educational Trust

### Sponsors (Sponsorships of £100 or more)

BatAbility Courses & Tuition  
Highland Titles  
Mountfield Ecology

The Cambridge Chrysalis Trust  
Wildlife Acoustics, Inc.

### Corporate Members (as at 1 April 2020)

Arbtech Consulting Ltd  
Asw Ecology  
Barn Hill Ecology  
Batability Courses & Tuition  
Batbox Ltd  
Big Domain  
Bramley and Teal  
C J Wildbird Foods Ltd  
Canine Cottages  
Cleankill Environmental Services Ltd  
Continental Landscapes Ltd  
Denbies Wine Estate Limited  
Echoes Ecology Ltd  
Ecological Survey & Assessment Ltd  
English Heritage Trust  
Green & Blue  
Ground Control Ltd  
Highland Titles  
Hipper.com  
Historic England  
Holidaycottages.co.uk

Ingencia  
Just Mammals Consultancy LLP  
Kates Clothing Ltd  
Marquis & Lord Ltd  
Mka Ecology  
Original Cottages  
Peersonic Ltd  
Serenata Flowers  
Stay In Cornwall  
Stay in Devon  
Tamworth Property Services  
The Nestbox Company Ltd  
Titley Scientific  
Treework Ltd  
United Environmental Services Ltd  
Whitcher Wildlife Ltd  
Wilby Tree Surgeons  
Wildcare  
Wildlife Acoustics  
Wold Ecology Ltd

### Donations from Bat Groups (of £100 or more as of 1st April 2020)

Berks & South Bucks Bat Group  
Derbyshire Bat Group

Devon Bat Group  
Fife and Kinross Bat Group



## The Bat Conservation Trust

### Trustees' annual report

For the year ended 31 March 2020

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Jersey Bat Group  
Kent Bat Group  
London Bat Group  
Manx Bat Group  
Merseyside & West Lancashire Bat Group  
Northumberland Bat Group  
North Bucks Bat Group  
North Yorkshire Bat Group

Oxfordshire Bat Group  
Somerset Bat Group  
South Yorkshire Bat Group  
Tayside Bat Group  
Warwickshire Bat Group  
West Yorkshire Bat Group  
Wiltshire Bat Group  
Worcestershire Bat Group

### Legacies

Mr Arthur Roy Mayes  
Mr J W Webber

### Auditor

HW Fisher were 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 on 22 June 2020 and signed on their behalf by



Abigail Entwistle  
Chair

## **Opinion**

We have audited the accounts of The Bat Conservation Trust (the 'Charity') for the year ended 31 March 2020 which comprise the Statement of Financial Activities, the Balance Sheet, the Statement of Cash Flows and the notes to the accounts, including a summary of significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including Financial Reporting Standard 102 the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

In our opinion, the accounts:

- Give a true and fair view of the state of the charitable company's affairs as at 31 March 2020 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 accounts section of our report. We are independent of the Charity in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the accounts 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**

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters in relation to which the ISAs (UK) require us to report to you where:

- The Trustees' use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the accounts is not appropriate; or
- The trustees have not disclosed in the accounts any identified material uncertainties that may cast significant doubt about the Charity's ability to continue to adopt the going concern basis of accounting for a period of at least twelve months from the date when the accounts are authorised for issue.

## **Other information**

The other information comprises the information included in the annual report, other than the accounts and our auditor's report thereon. The Trustees are responsible for the other information. Our opinion on the accounts 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.

In connection with our audit of the accounts, our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the accounts or our knowledge obtained in the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated.

## **The Bat Conservation Trust**

### **Independent Auditor's Report to the Members of the Bat Conservation Trust**

**For the year ended 31 March 2020**

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If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether there is a material misstatement in the accounts 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' Report, which includes the Directors' Report prepared for the purposes of company law, for the financial year for which the accounts are prepared is consistent with the accounts; and
- 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 accounts 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 Trustees' Responsibilities, the Trustees, who are also the Directors of the Charity for the purpose of company law, are responsible for the preparation of the accounts 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 accounts that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the accounts, 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 accounts**

We have been appointed as Auditors 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.

## The Bat Conservation Trust

### Independent Auditor's Report to the Members of the Bat Conservation Trust

For the year ended 31 March 2020

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Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the accounts 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 accounts.

A further description of our responsibilities for the audit of the accounts 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 with section 44 (1)(c) of the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005 and 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 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 and the charitable company's members 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  
Chartered Accountants  
Statutory Auditor  
Acre House  
11-15 William Road  
London  
United Kingdom  
NW1 3ER

Date: .....

## The Bat Conservation Trust

### 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 £
<b>Income</b>						
<i>Income from generated funds</i>						
Donations and legacies	2	-	34,918	244,389	<b>279,307</b>	225,845
Investment income		-	-	59,228	<b>59,228</b>	65,424
<i>Income from charitable activities</i>						
Conferences		-	-	100,602	<b>100,602</b>	99,744
Training courses and meetings		-	-	64,691	<b>64,691</b>	60,039
Projects and research	3	-	330,357	378,459	<b>708,816</b>	718,022
Other activities		-	-	54,558	<b>54,558</b>	59,434
<b>Total income</b>		-	<b>365,275</b>	<b>901,927</b>	<b>1,267,202</b>	1,228,508
<b>Expenditure</b>						
<i>Expenditure on raising funds</i>						
Membership support	5	-	-	52,940	<b>52,940</b>	60,807
Costs of raising funds		11,940	-	127,498	<b>139,438</b>	105,135
		<b>11,940</b>	-	<b>180,438</b>	<b>192,378</b>	165,942
<i>Expenditure on charitable activities</i>						
Conferences		-	-	91,607	<b>91,607</b>	91,776
Biodiversity training courses		-	-	75,165	<b>75,165</b>	71,914
Project and research costs	4	-	515,532	728,225	<b>1,243,757</b>	1,181,246
<b>Total expenditure</b>	5	<b>11,940</b>	<b>515,532</b>	<b>1,075,435</b>	<b>1,602,907</b>	1,510,878
<b>Net expenditure before net (losses)/gains on investments</b>		<b>(11,940)</b>	<b>(150,257)</b>	<b>(173,508)</b>	<b>(335,705)</b>	(282,370)
Net (losses)/gains on investments		(90,495)	-	(27,888)	(118,383)	66,195
<b>Net income expenditure for the year</b>		<b>(102,435)</b>	<b>(150,257)</b>	<b>(201,396)</b>	<b>(454,088)</b>	(216,175)
Transfers between funds		-	1,975	(1,975)	-	-
<b>Net movement in funds</b>		<b>(102,435)</b>	<b>(148,282)</b>	<b>(203,371)</b>	<b>(454,088)</b>	(216,175)
<b>Reconciliation of funds</b>						
<b>Total funds brought forward</b>		2,099,145	242,386	792,334	<b>3,133,865</b>	3,350,040
<b>Total funds carried forward</b>	16	<b>1,996,710</b>	<b>94,104</b>	<b>588,963</b>	<b>2,679,777</b>	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.

# The Bat Conservation Trust

## Balance sheet

As at 31 March 2020

	Note	2020		2019	
		£	£	£	£
<b>Fixed assets - Equipment</b>					
Tangible assets	9		4,396		1,226
Intangible assets	10		121,122		98,860
<b>Investments</b>	<b>11</b>		<u>2,181,194</u>		<u>2,746,041</u>
<b>Non-Current Assets</b>			<b>2,306,712</b>		<b>2,846,127</b>
<b>Current assets</b>					
Assets held for Sale		155,000		155,000	
Debtors	12	156,319		124,317	
Short term deposit		91,092		60,016	
Cash at bank and in hand		<u>80,386</u>		<u>94,418</u>	
		<b>482,797</b>		<b>433,751</b>	
<b>Creditors: amounts due within one year</b>	<b>13</b>	<u>(109,732)</u>		<u>(146,013)</u>	
<b>Net current assets</b>			<u><b>373,065</b></u>		<u><b>287,738</b></u>
<b>Net assets</b>	<b>15</b>		<u><u><b>2,679,777</b></u></u>		<u><u><b>3,133,865</b></u></u>
<b>Reserves</b>					
Endowment funds	16	1,996,710		2,099,145	
Restricted funds	16	94,104		242,386	
<b>Unrestricted funds</b>					
General funds		453,303		659,096	
Designated funds		135,660		133,238	
<b>Total funds</b>	<b>16</b>		<u><u><b>2,679,777</b></u></u>		<u><u><b>3,133,865</b></u></u>

Included in the reserves above are unrealised losses of £252,145 (2019: gains of £264,119).

Approved by the trustees on

Signed on their behalf by:



Abigail Entwistle, Chair

## The Bat Conservation Trust

### Statement of Cash Flows

For the year ended 31 March 2020

	2020		2019	
	£	£	£	£
<b>Cash flows from operating activities:</b>				
Net income/(expenditure) for the year	(454,088)		(216,175)	
Adjustments for:				
Depreciation charges	920		919	
Dividends and interest	(59,228)		(65,424)	
Loss on disposal of fixed assets	-		-	
(Increase)/decrease in stocks	-		-	
(Increase)/decrease in debtors	(32,002)		42,708	
Increase/(decrease) in creditors	(36,281)		36,777	
(Gains)/Losses on investments	118,383		(66,195)	
<b>Net cash provided by (used in) operating activities</b>		<b>(462,296)</b>		<b>(267,390)</b>
<b>Cash flows from investing activities:</b>				
Dividends and interest	59,228		65,424	
Purchase of property, plant and equipment	(4,090)		-	
Purchase of intangible asset	(22,262)		(14,376)	
Increase/(decrease) in cash held as part of investment portfolio	1,483		-	
Proceeds from sale of investments	947,155		413,766	
Purchase of investments	(502,174)		(332,389)	
<b>Net cash provided by (used in) investing activities</b>		<b>479,340</b>		<b>132,425</b>
<b>Change in cash and cash equivalents in the year</b>		<b>17,044</b>		<b>(134,965)</b>
<b>Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the year</b>		<b>154,434</b>		<b>289,399</b>
<b>Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the year</b>		<b>171,478</b>		<b>154,434</b>
<b>Analysis of cash and cash equivalents</b>				
	At 1 April		Cash flows	At 31 March
	2019			2020
	£		£	£
Cash at bank and in hand	94,418		(14,032)	80,386
Short term deposit	60,016		31,076	91,092
	154,434		17,044	171,478

## **1. Accounting policies**

- a) The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the company's Memorandum & Articles of Association, the Companies Act 2006, regulation 8 of the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006 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 (FRS102)". The company is a Public Benefit Entity as defined by FRS 102.

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.

As stated in note 17, the Trustees have considered the effect of the Covid-19 outbreak. The Trustees consider that the outbreak is likely to cause a significant disruption to the Charity's business. However, the Trustees are confident that the Charity can continue as a going concern for a period of at least twelve months from the date of approval of these financial statements. 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.

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 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.

- b) 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 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.

- c) 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.

- d) 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.
- e) 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.
- f) 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.

- g) 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.
- h) Unrestricted funds are donations and other income receivable or generated for the objects of the charity.
- i) Designated funds are unrestricted funds earmarked by the trustees for particular purposes.
- j) 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.

- k) 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.

- l) 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.
- m) 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.
- n) 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.
- o) 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.
- p) 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.
- q) 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.
- r) 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.

**The Bat Conservation Trust**  
**Notes to the financial statements**  
**For the year ended 31 March 2020**

**2. Donation and legacy income**

			<b>2020</b>
<b>Current Year</b>	Restricted	Unrestricted	<b>Total</b>
	£	£	£
Membership subscriptions	-	146,533	<b>146,533</b>
Members' & other donations	34,918	90,430	<b>125,348</b>
Legacies	-	7,426	<b>7,426</b>
	<u>34,918</u>	<u>244,389</u>	<u><b>279,307</b></u>
			<i>2019</i>
<b>Prior Year</b>	<i>Restricted</i>	<i>Unrestricted</i>	<i>Total</i>
	£	£	£
<i>Membership subscriptions</i>	-	136,885	136,885
<i>Members' &amp; other donations</i>	34,546	46,807	81,353
<i>Legacies</i>	-	7,606	7,606
	<u>34,546</u>	<u>191,299</u>	<u>225,845</u>

**3. Project income**

			<b>2020</b>
<b>Current Year</b>	Restricted	Unrestricted	<b>Total</b>
	£	£	£
Government grants & contracts	116,063	361,102	<b>477,165</b>
Grants & contracts from other charitable bodies	214,294	17,357	<b>231,651</b>
	<u>330,357</u>	<u>378,459</u>	<u><b>708,816</b></u>

**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	<b>297,622</b>
Joint Nature Conservation Council	-	113,480	<b>113,480</b>
National Lottery Heritage Fund - Back from the Brink	49,484	-	<b>49,484</b>
National Lottery Heritage Fund - Bats in Churches	122,810	-	<b>122,810</b>
Scottish Natural Heritage	35,916	-	<b>35,916</b>
Natural Resources Wales	13,851	-	<b>13,851</b>
Animal and Plant Health Agency	8,000	-	<b>8,000</b>
Forestry England	8,296	-	<b>8,296</b>
Pilkington General Charitable Fund	2,000	-	<b>2,000</b>
The Cambridge Chrysalis Trust	10,000	-	<b>10,000</b>
Cecil Pilkington Charitable Trust	3,000	-	<b>3,000</b>
Chapman Charitable Trust	2,000	-	<b>2,000</b>
Ernest Kleinwort Charitable Trust	12,500	-	<b>12,500</b>
National Trust	-	4,697	<b>4,697</b>
The Royal Parks	-	2,210	<b>2,210</b>
Animal Friends	10,000	-	<b>10,000</b>
Other Grants and Contracts	2,500	10,450	<b>12,950</b>
	<u>330,357</u>	<u>378,459</u>	<u><b>708,816</b></u>

**The Bat Conservation Trust**  
**Notes to the financial statements**  
**For the year ended 31 March 2020**

**3. Project income (continued)**

<i>Prior Year</i>			2019
	<i>Restricted</i>	<i>Unrestricted</i>	<i>Total</i>
	£	£	£
<i>Government grants &amp; contracts</i>	189,304	399,385	588,689
<i>Grants from other charitable bodies</i>	115,339	13,993	129,332
	<u>304,644</u>	<u>413,378</u>	<u>718,022</u>

*Project income - grants, contracts and donations*

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

	£	£	£
<i>Natural England</i>	61,000	250,000	311,000
<i>Joint Nature Conservation Council</i>	-	105,306	105,306
<i>Esmée Fairbairn Foundation</i>	62,736	-	62,736
<i>Heritage Fund - Back from the Brink</i>	57,362	-	57,362
<i>Defra</i>	-	44,079	44,079
<i>Heritage Fund - Bats in Churches</i>	38,810	-	38,810
<i>Scottish Natural Heritage</i>	34,377	-	34,377
<i>Natural Resources Wales</i>	28,565	-	28,565
<i>Animal Health and Veterinary Laboratories Agency</i>	8,000	-	8,000
<i>J Patson Charitable Trust</i>	3,000	-	3,000
<i>The Daniell Trust</i>	2,500	-	2,500
<i>John S Cohen Foundation</i>	2,000	-	2,000
<i>Heritage Fund - Swanton Novers</i>	1,593	-	1,593
<i>Other Grants and Contracts</i>	4,700	13,993	18,693
	<u>304,644</u>	<u>413,378</u>	<u>718,022</u>

**4. Project costs**

<b>Current Year</b>			2020
	<i>Restricted</i>	<i>Unrestricted</i>	<i>Total</i>
	£	£	£
Biodiversity Projects	413,196	455,953	<b>869,149</b>
National Bat Monitoring Programme	27,838	131,293	<b>159,131</b>
Research projects	8,363	16,193	<b>24,556</b>
Bat Groups Support & Public Education	17,388	49,590	<b>66,978</b>
International Projects	969	-	<b>969</b>
Scottish Bat Project	37,403	30,315	<b>67,718</b>
Wales Bat Project	10,375	44,881	<b>55,256</b>
	<u>515,532</u>	<u>728,225</u>	<u><b>1,243,757</b></u>

<i>Prior Year</i>			2019
	<i>Restricted</i>	<i>Unrestricted</i>	<i>Total</i>
	£	£	£
<i>Biodiversity Projects</i>	364,712	469,955	834,667
<i>National Bat Monitoring Programme</i>	29,964	115,380	145,344
<i>Research projects</i>	4,819	27,487	32,306
<i>Bat Groups Support &amp; Public Education</i>	20,805	21,853	42,658
<i>International Projects</i>	-	(1,394)	(1,394)
<i>Scottish Bat Project</i>	34,377	34,151	68,528
<i>Wales Bat Project</i>	22,495	36,642	59,137
	<u>477,172</u>	<u>704,074</u>	<u>1,181,246</u>

**The Bat Conservation Trust**  
**Notes to the financial statements**  
**For the year ended 31 March 2020**

**5. Total Expenditure**

	Raising funds	Membership support	Conferences	Biodiversity training courses	Projects and research	Governance	Other support costs	2020 Total
<b>Current Year</b>	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Salaries & temporary staff (note 7)	73,323	23,856	16,107	35,207	835,824	5,793	8,384	<b>998,494</b>
Travel & training	428	916	1,160	1,383	48,912	5,037	15,660	<b>73,496</b>
Advice & other project costs	18,618	9,635	-	5,655	101,368	6,000	16,338	<b>157,614</b>
Grants to partner organisations	-	-	-	-	3,710	-	-	<b>3,710</b>
Publications & events	3,649	7,029	67,531	23,542	22,875	-	1,345	<b>125,971</b>
Premises	-	-	-	-	2,706	-	67,788	<b>70,494</b>
Other costs	15,674	6,087	3,661	1,226	13,852	-	132,628	<b>173,128</b>
	<b>111,692</b>	<b>47,523</b>	<b>88,459</b>	<b>67,013</b>	<b>1,029,248</b>	<b>16,830</b>	<b>242,143</b>	<b>1,602,907</b>
Support costs allocated to activities	25,943	5,065	2,943	7,622	200,569	-	(242,143)	-
Governance costs allocated to activities	1,803	352	205	530	13,941	(16,830)	-	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>139,438</b>	<b>52,940</b>	<b>91,607</b>	<b>75,165</b>	<b>1,243,757</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>1,602,907</b>

  

	Raising funds	Membership support	Conferences	Biodiversity training courses	Projects and research	Governance	Other Support costs	2019 Total
<b>Prior Year</b>	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Salaries & temporary staff (note 7)	47,794	25,353	18,158	37,155	784,103	2,296	30,670	<b>945,528</b>
Travel & training	331	1,318	308	1,283	47,781	4,903	17,373	<b>73,299</b>
Advice & other project costs	14,340	10,175	-	-	97,853	8,000	17,646	<b>148,014</b>
Grants to Partner Organisations	-	-	-	-	13,702	-	-	<b>13,702</b>
Publications & events	788	11,027	54,829	37,698	18,162	-	1,576	<b>124,080</b>
Premises	-	-	-	-	2,916	-	60,524	<b>63,440</b>
Other costs	16,753	5,467	498	289	8,233	-	111,574	<b>142,814</b>
	<b>80,006</b>	<b>53,340</b>	<b>73,793</b>	<b>76,425</b>	<b>972,750</b>	<b>15,200</b>	<b>239,363</b>	<b>1,510,878</b>
Support costs allocated to activities	23,629	7,021	3,824	8,843	196,047	-	(239,363)	-
Governance costs allocated to activities	1,500	446	243	562	12,449	(15,200)	-	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>105,135</b>	<b>60,807</b>	<b>77,860</b>	<b>85,830</b>	<b>1,181,246</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>1,510,878</b>

**5. Total Expenditure (continued)**

**Grants to partner organisations**

Institutional grants were made to the following organisations in furtherance of joint projects:

	<b>2020</b>	2019
	<b>£</b>	£
Amphibian and Reptile Conservation	-	5,119
RSPB	-	2,176
Plantlife	-	5,519
Butterfly Conservation	<b>2,810</b>	-
Other grants under £2,000	<b>900</b>	888
	<b><u>3,710</u></b>	<b><u>13,702</u></b>

	<b>2020</b>	2019
	<b>£</b>	£
<i>Analysis of support costs:</i>		
Salaries	<b>8,384</b>	30,670
Non salary staff costs	<b>17,985</b>	22,469
Conference costs	<b>2,645</b>	1,576
Membership costs	<b>1,290</b>	1,020
Property	<b>67,788</b>	60,524
IT costs	<b>22,958</b>	15,022
Office running costs	<b>34,517</b>	36,893
Insurance	<b>18,744</b>	17,507
Legal fees	<b>750</b>	755
Depreciation	<b>920</b>	919
Outsourced finance & payroll	<b>35,582</b>	33,796
Irrecoverable VAT	<b>21,952</b>	9,748
Bank charges	<b>8,628</b>	8,464
	<b><u>242,143</u></b>	<b><u>239,363</u></b>
<i>Analysis of governance costs:</i>		
Governance staff costs	<b>5,793</b>	2,296
Audit Fee	<b>6,000</b>	8,000
Trustee expenses and meeting costs	<b>5,037</b>	4,903
	<b><u>16,830</u></b>	<b><u>15,200</u></b>

**6. Net income/(expenditure) for the year**

	<b>2020</b>	2019
	<b>£</b>	£
<i>This is stated after charging:</i>		
Depreciation	<b>920</b>	919
Operating lease costs	<b>54,516</b>	47,005
Trustees' expenses	<b>5,037</b>	4,903
Trustee indemnity insurance	<b>810</b>	1,036
Auditors' remuneration:	<b>6,000</b>	8,000

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 (2019: no trustees reimbursed).

**7. Staff numbers and costs**

The aggregate payroll costs of these persons was as follows:

	<b>2020</b>	2019
	£	£
Wages and salaries	<b>892,654</b>	845,859
Social security costs	<b>77,745</b>	70,574
Employer's pension contributions	<b>28,095</b>	29,095
	<u><b>998,494</b></u>	<u>945,528</u>

Included in staff costs above are redundancy costs of £nil (2019: £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	
	<b>2020</b>	2019
	No.	No.
Support and governance	<b>3.0</b>	3.0
Other charitable activities	<b>31.4</b>	31.0
	<u><b>34.4</b></u>	<u>34.0</u>

No employees earned between £60,001 and £70,000 during the year (2019: No employees earned between £60,001 and £70,000 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 £149,253. (2019: £158,425).

**8. Taxation**

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

**The Bat Conservation Trust**  
**Notes to the financial statements**  
**For the year ended 31 March 2020**

**9. Fixed assets**

	Furniture and Fittings	Computers	Field equipment	Total
Cost	£	£	£	£
At the start of the year	68,342	9,368	14,598	<b>92,308</b>
Additions during the year	2,452	1,638	-	<b>4,090</b>
At the end of the year	<b>70,794</b>	<b>11,006</b>	<b>14,598</b>	<b>96,398</b>
<b>Depreciation</b>				
At the start of the year	68,342	8,142	14,598	<b>91,082</b>
Charge for the year	-	920	-	<b>920</b>
At the end of the year	<b>68,342</b>	<b>9,062</b>	<b>14,598</b>	<b>92,002</b>
<b>Net book value at the end of the year</b>	<b>2,452</b>	<b>1,944</b>	-	<b>4,396</b>
Net book value at the start of the year	-	1,226	-	1,226

**10. Intangible assets**

	Database	Total
Cost	£	£
Net book value at the start of the year	98,860	<b>98,860</b>
Additions during the year	22,262	<b>22,262</b>
<b>Net book value at the end of the year</b>	<b>121,122</b>	<b>121,122</b>

**11. Investments**

	2020	2019
	£	£
<i>Listed Investments</i>		
Market value at the start of the year	<b>2,746,041</b>	2,761,224
Additions at cost	<b>502,174</b>	332,389
Less disposals at carrying value	<b>(947,155)</b>	(413,836)
Net investment in cash funds	<b>(1,483)</b>	3,290
Net gain / (loss) on revaluation	<b>(118,383)</b>	62,976
At 31 March 2020	<b>2,181,194</b>	2,746,041
Listed on a recognised stock exchange	<b>2,122,278</b>	2,685,641
Cash as part of the portfolios	<b>58,917</b>	60,400
	<b>2,181,194</b>	2,746,041
Historical cost of listed investments at the year end	<b>2,067,597</b>	2,421,522



**The Bat Conservation Trust**  
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**11. Investments (continued)**

	2020	2019
	£	£
<i>Listed Investments comprise:</i>		
UK Corporate Bonds	930,133	808,383
UK Equity Growth	385,135	537,153
UK Equity Income	280,900	402,765
International Equity	317,068	300,910
Emerging Markets Equity	209,042	266,724
Non Modelled Funds	-	369,706
Cash	58,917	60,400
	<u>2,181,194</u>	<u>2,746,041</u>

*Current assets investments held for sale*

	2020	2019
	£	£
Value at the start and end of the year	<u>155,000</u>	155,000
At 31 March 2020	<u>155,000</u>	<u>155,000</u>

Investment assets held for sale represent a property bequeathed to Bat Conservation Trust. Negotiations for the sale were ongoing at 31 March 2020.

**12. Debtors: amounts falling due within one year**

	2020	2019
	£	£
Trade debtors	6,710	10,796
Other debtors	5,865	6,926
Accrued income	98,757	69,157
Prepayments	44,987	37,437
	<u>156,319</u>	<u>124,317</u>

**13. Creditors: amounts falling due within one year**

	2020	2019
	£	£
Trade creditors	18,044	47,170
Other taxes and social security	17,061	27,646
Accruals	28,873	32,793
Deferred course and event income	32,374	27,181
Other creditors	13,380	11,223
	<u>109,732</u>	<u>146,013</u>

**The Bat Conservation Trust**  
**Notes to the financial statements**  
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**14. Operating lease commitments**

The charity had commitments at the year end under operating leases expiring as follows:

	<b>2020</b>	2019
	<b>£</b>	£
Land & buildings		
- Less than one year	<b>27,436</b>	37,176
- Two to five years	<u>-</u>	<u>27,436</u>
Other		
- Less than one year	<b>3,486</b>	1,411
- Two to five years	<u><b>11,620</b></u>	<u>-</u>

**15. Analysis of net assets between funds**

	Endowment funds	Restricted funds	Unrestricted funds	<b>2020 Total funds</b>
	£	£	£	£
<b>Current Year</b>				
Fixed asset	-	-	125,518	<b>125,518</b>
Investments	1,996,710	-	184,484	<b>2,181,194</b>
Net current assets	-	94,104	278,961	<b>373,065</b>
<b>Net assets at the end of the year</b>	<u><b>1,996,710</b></u>	<u><b>94,104</b></u>	<u><b>588,963</b></u>	<u><b>2,679,777</b></u>
<b>Prior Year</b>	<i>Endowment funds</i>	<i>Restricted funds</i>	Unrestricted funds	<i>2019 Total funds</i>
	£	£	£	£
<i>Tangible fixed assets</i>	-	-	100,086	100,086
<i>Investments</i>	2,099,145	-	646,896	2,746,041
<i>Net current assets</i>	-	242,386	45,352	287,738
<i>Net assets at the end of the year</i>	<u>2,099,145</u>	<u>242,386</u>	<u>792,334</u>	<u>3,133,865</u>

**The Bat Conservation Trust**  
**Notes to the financial statements**  
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**16. Movements in funds**

<b>Current Year</b>	<b>At 1 April 2019</b>	<b>Income</b>	<b>Expenditure</b>	<b>Losses on investments</b>	<b>Transfers between funds</b>	<b>At 31 March 2020</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
<b>Vincent Weir endowment funds:</b>						
Expendable Endowment Fund	1,804,584	-	10,256	(77,796)	-	<b>1,716,532</b>
Permanent endowment fund	294,561	-	1,685	(12,699)	-	<b>280,177</b>
<b>Total endowment funds</b>	<b>2,099,145</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>11,941</b>	<b>(90,495)</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>1,996,709</b>
<b>Restricted funds:</b>						
Esmée Fairbairn Foundation - Planning	121,903	-	105,728	-	-	<b>16,175</b>
Esmée Fairbairn Foundation - Bearing Witness for Wildlife	61,961	-	55,481	-	-	<b>6,480</b>
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	-	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 Churches	-	122,810	122,810	-	-	-
Forestry England - Woodland Bats	-	8,296	8,296	-	-	-
Ernest Kleinwort - Woodland Bats	-	10,000	-	-	-	<b>10,000</b>
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	1,221	-	1,221	-	-	-
Kate Barlow Research Award	36,055	875	8,362	-	1,975	<b>30,543</b>
Bat group appeals - Ringing project	-	23,803	2,388	-	-	<b>21,415</b>
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	-	-	<b>2,031</b>
Other restricted project income	-	14,148	6,688	-	-	<b>7,460</b>
<b>Total restricted funds</b>	<b>242,386</b>	<b>365,274</b>	<b>515,531</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>1,975</b>	<b>94,104</b>
<b>Unrestricted funds:</b>						
<b>Designated funds:</b>						
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	-	-	-	-	960	960
	<b>133,238</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>20,800</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>23,222</b>	<b>135,660</b>
<b>General funds</b>	<b>659,096</b>	<b>901,928</b>	<b>1,054,635</b>	<b>(27,888)</b>	<b>(25,197)</b>	<b>453,304</b>
<b>Total unrestricted funds</b>	<b>792,334</b>	<b>901,928</b>	<b>1,075,435</b>	<b>(27,888)</b>	<b>(1,975)</b>	<b>588,964</b>
<b>Total funds</b>	<b>3,133,865</b>	<b>1,267,202</b>	<b>1,602,907</b>	<b>(118,383)</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>2,679,777</b>

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**16. Movements in funds (continued)**

<i>Prior Year</i>	<i>At 1 April 2018</i>	<i>Income</i>	<i>Expenditure</i>	<i>Gains on investments</i>	<i>Transfers between funds</i>	<i>At 31 March 2019</i>
	£	£	£	£	£	£
<b>Vincent Weir endowment funds:</b>						
Expendable Endowment Fund	1,768,860	-	10,718	42,405	4,037	<b>1,804,584</b>
Permanent endowment fund	291,810	-	4,245	6,996	-	<b>294,561</b>
<b>Total endowment funds</b>	<b>2,060,670</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>14,963</b>	<b>49,401</b>	<b>4,037</b>	<b>2,099,145</b>
<b>Restricted funds:</b>						
Esmée Fairbairn Foundation - Planning	221,743	-	99,840	-	-	<b>121,903</b>
Esmée Fairbairn Foundation - Bearing Witness for Wildlife	95,561	62,736	96,336	-	-	<b>61,961</b>
Natural England - Biodiversity	-	31,000	27,000	-	-	<b>4,000</b>
Natural England - Monitoring	-	15,000	15,000	-	-	-
Natural England - Partnerships	-	15,000	15,000	-	-	-
Natural Resources Wales - Wales Bat Project	-	22,495	22,495	-	-	-
Natural Resources Wales - NBMP MoA Contribution	-	6,070	6,070	-	-	-
Scottish Natural Heritage - Scottish Bat Project	-	34,377	34,377	-	-	-
National Lottery Heritage Fund - Back from the Brink	-	57,362	46,911	-	(10,452)	-
National Lottery Heritage Fund - Swanton Novers	1,657	1,593	3,250	-	-	-
National Lottery Heritage Fund - Bats in Churches	-	38,810	38,810	-	-	-
Mapping Woodland Bats	18,252	2,500	12,124	-	-	<b>8,628</b>
Animal and Plant Health Agency - BCT helpline	-	8,000	8,000	-	-	-
Other trusts and donations - BCT Helpline	-	23,593	21,093	-	-	<b>2,500</b>
Small Trusts - Training the Next Generation	8,910	-	7,689	-	-	<b>1,221</b>
Kate Barlow Research award	34,461	-	4,819	-	6,415	<b>36,057</b>
Bat Group Appeals	-	1,805	1,805	-	-	-
Bat Groups - Nathusius Pipistrelle Project	3,822	2,000	1,205	-	-	<b>4,617</b>
Small Trusts and Foundations	-	5,200	5,200	-	-	-
Anonymous donation	-	1,500	-	-	-	<b>1,500</b>
Other restricted project income	-	10,149	10,149	-	-	-
<b>Total restricted funds</b>	<b>384,406</b>	<b>339,190</b>	<b>477,173</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>(4,037)</b>	<b>242,386</b>
<b>Unrestricted funds:</b>						
<b>Designated funds:</b>						
BCT Bat Box Partnership	12,108	-	-	-	11,470	23,578
Individual donors - Adopt a bat	4,802	-	3,305	-	(1,497)	-
Database Project	90,000	-	-	-	8,860	98,860
Bat Swarming Projects	1,200	-	1,200	-	-	-
Fundraising Consultancy	-	-	-	-	10,800	10,800
	<b>108,110</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>4,505</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>29,633</b>	<b>133,238</b>
<b>General funds</b>	<b>796,854</b>	<b>889,318</b>	<b>1,014,237</b>	<b>16,794</b>	<b>(29,633)</b>	<b>659,096</b>
<b>Total funds</b>	<b>3,350,040</b>	<b>1,228,508</b>	<b>1,510,878</b>	<b>66,195</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>3,133,865</b>

**16. 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.
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.
Scottish Natural Heritage - Scottish Bat Project	To contribute towards developing and carry out our conservation and partnership work in Scotland.
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 - Swanton Novers	Working with volunteers to discover the connection between natural heritage and cultural influence on Swanton Novers woodland.
National Lottery Heritage Fund - Bats in Churches	Partnership project put in place to provide solutions to issues with bats in churches in England
Forestry England - Woodland Bats	To support work with Woodland bats
Ernest Kleinwort - Woodland Bats	To support work with Woodland bats
Mapping Woodland Bats	To fund the Woodland Officer's work in the South East of England.
Animal and Plant Health Agency - BCT helpline	To contribute towards rabies surveillance work and risk management.
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
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.

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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 Chrysalis Trust - Bats and buildings	Improve monitoring and roost creation outcomes for bats through the development of novel technology in an industry partnership project.
Anonymous donation	Contribute towards monitoring a bat roost in France
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 - National Bat Monitoring Project	For work on the National Bat Monitoring Programme
Individual Donors - Adopt a Bat Database project	For creating and purchasing a new adopt-a-bat toy and pack. 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.
Bat Swarming Projects Fund	To fund BCT's bat swarming projects, carried out in partnership with regional bat groups.
Fundraising Consultancy	To address the lack of fundraising capacity, we worked with a fundraising consultancy

**17. Post balance sheet events**

The Trustees have considered the effect of the Covid-19 outbreak that has been spreading throughout the world in early 2020 on the Charity's activities. This outbreak is likely to cause a significant disruption to the Charity's business but at the date of approval of these financial statements, the extent and quantum of the disruption remains uncertain.

Our communications with current and potential funders around the current circumstances have been very positive, with funders showing an understanding of the challenges, a willingness to be flexible, including an offer to pay invoices ahead of the normal schedule to help manage cashflow.