



North Somerset Bat Survey Volunteer Newsletter #1

Welcome to the very first **North Somerset Bat Survey Volunteer Newsletter!**

What We've Been Up To

Despite a late start, the North Somerset Bat Survey (NSBS) has picked up some real pace. Thank you to all the volunteers that have already reserved their squares, booked equipment, and even uploaded recordings!

Already, 66 squares have been reserved across 47 volunteers, including one volunteer who is surveying 8 squares!

Since the start of the survey at the end of August, you have generated nearly 20,000 new bat species records for North Somerset - a huge achievement. The most common bat species, by a long shot, is the [common pipistrelle](#) with ~11K records, followed by (in a distant second and third) the [soprano pipistrelle](#) and [Nyctalus](#) species at ~4000 and ~1000 respectively. A lucky few of you picked up the greater horseshoe and barbastelle bats - two nationally rare species.

If you would like to share your survey experiences (good and bad) with your fellow volunteers, you can join our new [Facebook group!](#)

We will be also highlighting volunteers in our new feature below.



The common pipistrelle *Pipistrellus pipistrellus*. [It is often found roosting in buildings.](#)

Volunteer of the Week: Amanda



In each newsletter we will be highlighting the efforts of the fantastic volunteers that make the NSBS possible. If you would like to be featured, please email us for more details. Here is our very first "Bat Blog" from Amanda:

"It's not often that a small white plastic box holds so much promise. But that's what I felt when I picked up North Somerset's Bat Survey equipment from my local distribution centre. As a trustee of Long Ashton Nature, Community and Environment Trust (LANCE Trust), I understand how important it is to maintain and increase biodiversity within our parish and beyond. Collecting data on bat species is a great way of helping us achieve this aim. Our organisation doesn't have access to such specialist equipment or the expertise to use it but we know our local area and can guess the places that bats might favour. We also know most of the local landowners and can gain permission to survey their land. Though I'm not adept at downloading or uploading data or utilising different apps, the instructions provided by the University of Bath were straight forward and after some initial hesitation, I finally stepped away from the detector feeling very hopeful. Then came the most exciting time of all. The BTO survey results popped into my inbox fairly swiftly after the upload. Though I can't share the data, our first site has revealed a grand total of 13 bat species that is, amazingly, the same species count as the Knepp Castle Estate in West Sussex – well known for its astounding nature recovery programme. This is something to be truly proud of – and, hopefully, the powers-that-be will respect the biodiversity importance of results like this. And, who knows, maybe our next survey in this parish will beat this count. Our hopes are high."



Long Ashton Nature Community and Environment Trust | Community environment charity

Long Ashton Nature Community and Environment Trust (LANCE Trust) is dedicated to working with the community, to enrich the natural environment, protect and improve wildlife habitats, increase the biodiversity of plant and animal species and identify projects with landowners which volunteers can get involved in to preserve the environment, in Long Ashton and the surrounding areas.

Videos!

In case you don't already know, we have produced a suite of informative videos to complement the [Quick Start Guides](#) available in your detector kits. See below for some tips & tricks on how to place your detector in the field. The full playlist of videos can be found here: [Bat Conservation Research Lab - YouTube](#)

Video 4: Placing detector



Get in Touch



As always, please don't hesitate to get in touch if you have any questions.

Contact Us



UNIVERSITY OF
BATH



Share on social media



Visit our website [→](#)

This email was created with Wix. [Discover More](#)