

# Bat Roost Visitor Licence

## Training Information Pack



produced by Dorset Bat Group

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### Supporting documents available via website

Bat-Roost Visitor Licence application form

Activity Recording Sheet

Bat workers' training syllabus (from Bat Workers' Manual Appendix 7)

Training checklist (from Bat Workers' Manual Appendix 7)

Bats and the Law (Bat Worker Quick Reference Guide 2008 BCT)

Bat and the Law (a basic introduction, BCT 2010)

Bats General Advice Leaflet (NET, Dorset 2011)

Bats of Dorset Leaflet 2007 (DBG)

Rabies advice (HPA)

Vaccination (BCT 2011)

Doctor's declaration (BCT 2011)

Bats and Human health (SNH)

### Essential reading

Bat Workers' Manual

(Downloadable pdf from [www.jncc.gov.uk](http://www.jncc.gov.uk) or hard-copy to purchase)

Licensed batworkers or members of local bat groups are eligible to purchase copies of the manual at a reduced price from the [Natural History Book Society](http://www.naturalhistorybook.com) .

The list price is £20, but through this link it can be purchased for £10. Volunteers have to mention in the comment box, if ordering online, that they have a bat workers license or are a member of Bat Group. They may order by post or email as well if they wish, so long as they mention somewhere that they are entitled to the half price offer.

Phil Richardson "Bats" book (Whittet Books ISBN 1 873580 50 9) – it provides all the basics on bat ecology in a simple and readable format and should be essential reading for trainees.

## **Introduction**

### **Who, Why and How?**

Anyone interested in bats and their protection is welcome to join the training programme, though under-16s will need to be accompanied by an adult.

Bats are protected by domestic legislation and international conventions. A Bat-roost Visitor (conservation) licence enables the holder to check known roosts for conservation purposes, and to respond to enquiries from the public to help identify and offer advice. This makes an enormous direct contribution to bat conservation.

Although Bat-roost Visitor training is very rewarding and enjoyable it does not aim to train people to provide consultancy advice. If you are seeking to acquire a bat licence in order to conduct consultancy work, a science and education bat licence is required. Those interested in obtaining a licence for consultancy purposes should in the first instance contact the Bat Conservation Trust or IEEM for information on appropriate training.

The training we offer consists of evening and weekend sessions on bat identification and ecology, roost and site visits, and use of bat detecting equipment. Practical handling of bats will also be covered as circumstances allow. DBG runs many events through the course of the year from bat box checks to surveys and public information activities, all of which count as experience for the licence.

A folder recording all activities attended and your reflections on them should be kept and provides evidence for your Trainer to check your progress. The licence is obtained from Natural England through an application form supported by your Trainer.

### **Time scale**

In general we would expect it to take between 18 months and 2 years to gain enough experience and knowledge for the Bat Licence Trainer to be confident in supporting your licence application. However, previous knowledge and experience should reduce the time taken; it is hoped we will be able to fast track suitable candidates within 6 months.

### **Membership**

Membership of the DBG is expected and can be obtained through the website.

### **Health**

Since the death of an unvaccinated bat handler in Scotland in 2002, the Department of Health has agreed that all individuals working with and handling bats (in a voluntary or professional capacity) should be vaccinated against rabies, and furthermore that these vaccinations should be offered free of charge to the individual.

There is further health and safety information, as well as letters to show to your GP in relation to getting vaccinated, in this pack.

We would expect participants to be vaccinated before being able to undertake practical elements of the training.