



Bat Group Mingle 29th July 2021

This bat group mingle was held in the evening of the 29th July 2021, with 11 attendees from bat groups across England and Scotland. It was a free event with some choosing to make donations to BCT with their booking. We trialled a format of 3 set rooms for three topics: records, committee motivation and events and activities.

Records

- Not many groups had a set structure for what to do with their records, and unsure how other groups dealt with theirs.
- Thoughts shared on charging for data, both understanding it as a source of income but also wanting to share information to benefit analysis and conservation.
- Consideration of time and resources to deal with data requests within the bat group, some choosing to direct enquiries to LERC.
- Lots of differences in practices between councils within the same county, so bat groups dealing with multiple viewpoints.
- Potential for bat care records perhaps not fully realised currently.

Committee motivation

- Concerns that relaxing restrictions after Covid-19 might have changed people's priorities, and perhaps bat group work may have gone down the list.
- Perhaps do what you can and do it well, rather than taking on too much. Both with regards to the group activities as a whole and committee tasks.
- The need to differentiate between "members" and social media "followers".

Events and activities

- Interest both from members and organisers in survey type meets, for example NBMP surveys and the Nathusius' pip project.
- Don't forget the newbies, regular entry level/the basics talks/events.
- Potential importance of social media, for gaining members and for event turnout.
- Due to covid restrictions, perhaps there'll be more interest in winter work such as hibernation surveys or winter talk series, as there has been less chance to get out the last two summers.
- Chance to be involved in technical work such as trapping.
- Suggestion of group crafty activities.

At the end, when the breakout rooms joined together, there was a call for more large scale in person active events. Utilising the capabilities of a large group to complete a bioblitz or bat camp like gatherings.

The bat group mingle event has a dedicated webpage under the 'resources for bat groups' area of the BCT website, containing details of the next event when available, and previous meetings.