

# BATS & The Millennium Link

[www.batml.org.uk](http://www.batml.org.uk)

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## Thank You & Farewell

After 7 years of studying bats on the Union and Forth & Clyde Canals, the BATS & The Millennium Link project has finally come to a formal end of its activities.

BaTML has been a big part of many of our lives during these years, with friendships forged, lessons learned and lots of laughs. Who could possibly forget sitting on the canal towpath, in the dark (likely in the rain too) recording bat passes – all made worthwhile by the clicks coming from the bat detectors and those fleeting glimpses of Daubenton's bats flying by!

In this final newsletter, we would like to say a **huge big thank you** to all of our volunteers, too numerous to mention, who gave up their time and energy to take part in the project and who made it so rewarding for us all and for bat conservation.

Thank you also to all of our initial funders who allowed us to follow our ideas through to the end, and finally, a big thanks to Neil Middleton, who for so many of the project years, passed on his knowledge and enthusiasm for bats.

As the project draws to a close we may have some cash left in our bank account. Our intention is to donate any surplus funds to the BCT Scottish Bat Project, currently managed by Anne Youngman. You can also help bats by getting involved with your local bat group and joining the Bat Conservation Trust.

Cheers

Kirsty Morrison

## Potted History

BaTML was formally launched in 2000 with a view to studying the bats using the canal corridors within the Central Belt of Scotland. The initial study used a new survey method in order to track bats as they flew along the narrow canal corridors. The project was initially intended to last 5 seasons (up to 2005), however due to the amount of support we received a number of new projects were added to the original study and the project was extended to 2007.

These additional projects ranged from studying insect diversity (led by Craig Macadam) through to the foraging behaviour of Daubenton's bats (led by David Dodds). Latterly we also did a radio tracking survey in order to find new bat roosts (led by Neil Middleton and Natalie Taylor). All of these studies are still ongoing and at various stages of completion.

If you wish to contact any of the project leaders please feel free to do so, initially through contacting Kirsty: [kirstymorr@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:kirstymorr@yahoo.co.uk)

Full details of the project, along with many of the written up results are available on the BaTML website: [www.batml.org.uk](http://www.batml.org.uk)

## Achievements

- *BaTML Publications resource for completed outputs from the project, factsheets and a Newsletter Archive*
- *Over 140 volunteers carrying out more than 250 surveys, collecting almost 700 hours of data*
- *Newsletters promoting positive bat message circulated to over 360 recipients*
- *Monitoring bat populations and distribution (Daubenton's and pipistrelle species)*
- *Foraging Study: Daubenton's*
- *Insect Studies collecting 12 months data from canal bank*
- *Ringling programme at 2 key sites within the study area*
- *Radio Tracking helps to find a dozen new roost locations*
- *Supporting LBAPs*
- *Student projects sponsored at Duke of Edinburgh, BSc & MSc level*
- *Training courses delivered to 120 delegates*

## BaTML Online

As we are sure many of you are aware, the project was served very well by its website over the years. The website allowed us to keep our supporters aware of what was going on, as well as also providing a good resource of bat information. We regularly answered general bat queries from not the only UK, but many other countries around the world. Latterly the site also served as a vehicle upon which to publish our results through BaTML Publications.

We feel it is too early to close the site down as some people may still wish to find out what the project was all about and indeed it is still ongoing. Our plans over the coming months is to turn this resource into an historical account of the project, as well as an area where results and newsletters can be freely accessed. As such the site will remain online for at least 2 years and Echoes Ecology Ltd have agreed to sponsor the updates and pay for the ongoing running costs during this time. To find out more please visit: [www.batml.org.uk](http://www.batml.org.uk)

BATS & The Millennium Link was supported by the following organisations:

SCOTTISH NATURAL HERITAGE    British Waterways    FALKIRK ENVIRONMENT TRUST  
Central Scotland Bat Group    Clyde Bat Group    BTCV    Lothians Bat Group    The Bat Conservation Trust

## BaTML In Pictures



## Courses & Presentations

From 2004 onwards BaTML became self funded. We achieved this, in the main, through running our own course programme. These events became very highly thought of and a number of people involved with bats today began their bat experiences either as BaTML volunteers or course delegates to one of our events.

We also delivered numerous talks/training for other organisations, including BTCV, SWT, BCT and local bat groups. We were fortunate to be asked to deliver formal presentations on three occasions to the Scottish Bat Conference, whilst in 2004 we delivered a presentation to the BCT National Bat Conference (Reading).

### DATA PROTECTION ACT

Please note. If you are the direct recipient of this newsletter, then your name, address and other contact details are being retained on our database for use solely in connection with **BaTML**.

If you do not wish to be kept informed about our activities, please advise us accordingly and we will arrange for your details to be removed.

In addition if you have received this from us directly by email you can unsubscribe electronically via our website by accessing our "Contact Us" page and typing the words "unsubscribe me" in the Other Comments field.

### BaTML PROJECT TEAM Past & Present

David Dodds  
Chris Gould  
Craig Macadam  
Shoana MacKenzie  
Neil Middleton  
Kirsty Morrison  
Natalie Taylor

**Email Contact:**  
projectteam@batml.org.uk

## Support BCT & Your Local Bat Group

We feel it is important to stress the amount of support our project received over the years from the three local bat groups (Clyde, Central Scotland & Lothians) and The Bat Conservation Trust (both from London and locally through the Scottish Bat Project). All of these organisations make major contributions towards bat conservation and they are always seeking new members and volunteers to carry out practical work. Many of our project volunteers came into bats for the first time through their experiences with BaTML, we would now urge you all to continue your interest in these amazing mammals by joining your local bat group and BCT. To find out more visit the BCT website: [www.bats.org.uk](http://www.bats.org.uk)