



States of  
Guernsey



**La Société**  
For nature, history and  
science in Guernsey



## MEDIA RELEASE

# The Bailiwick Bat Survey

First year of a four-year survey discovers five new species of bat for the Bailiwick of Guernsey

**The most extensive bat survey carried out by citizen scientists in the Bailiwick of Guernsey using remote automated recorders has found several new species of bat and a new species of bush-cricket for the islands of Alderney, Guernsey, Herm and Sark, as well as collecting almost three-quarters of a million sound recordings of bats, small terrestrial mammals, bush-crickets and audible moth species.**

Bats are an important but poorly understood component of the Bailiwick of Guernsey's fauna, despite making up more than half of the terrestrial mammal species. With the States of Alderney's Island Strategic Plan setting out the aim of protecting and developing the unique natural environment for its biodiversity and community; the importance of learning more about the numbers and species of bats locally comes into sharp focus, especially as bats are a key species for monitoring the health of Alderney's environment.

Working with the project lead, the States of Guernsey's Agriculture, Countryside and Lands Management Services (ACLMS), La Société, the British Trust for Ornithology (BTO) and Guernsey Biological Record Centre, the Alderney Wildlife Trust (AWT) led the study on Alderney, enabling the surveying of 48 (500 m<sup>2</sup>) study squares across the island. This took place with the help of 21 local citizen scientist volunteers, who borrowed bat detectors for periods of 4-6 nights. 294 complete nights of recording effort were achieved across the 48 different locations on Alderney to add to the 1,927 nights of survey across the whole of the Bailiwick, providing the first extensive baseline data for bats for the island.

In total, 543,657 sound recording files were collected by the citizen scientists who took part. These were initially fed into the BTO's Acoustic Pipeline, where they were automatically identified to species using machine learning. Following an additional process of manual verification, over half were identified as an animal species (277,841).

As of 2019, eight species of bat had been recorded on Alderney. Thanks to the Bailiwick Bat Survey two additional species have now also been confirmed, the Serotine and the Kuhl's Pipistrelle. In addition, the survey provided vastly more information on the island's Grey Long-eared and Brown Long-eared bats, building on the very limited records, many of which related to injured individuals, and expanding this to give a full picture of their presence across the island in 2021. The Bailiwick Bat Survey not only helps build high-quality scientific knowledge but influences our conservation actions, especially where they affect the island's designated reserves. For example, recordings of Natterer's Bat, which was already known to the island but was focused on a few sporadic records,

were found to be concentrated in the Alderney Community Woodland (ACW) in 2021. Prior to that, the ACW, established by the AWT in 2010 as the largest community tree planting project in the Bailiwick at the time, was thought to only have populations of only limited bat species. This new information will be used to help create new management plans with species-specific actions.

The detectors also recorded other animal species, including: the Greater White-toothed Shrew, Brown Rat, five bush cricket species and one audible moth. The bush-cricket Large Conehead was recorded on Alderney, as well as on Guernsey and Lihou, making it the first time on the Channel Islands this species had been documented.

This effort wouldn't have been possible without the help and enthusiasm of our volunteers and the partnership which established and drove the project forward

We look forward to the next three years of the project and continuing to work with all the volunteers who make it possible. You, too, can sign up for the project later this year and help us learn even more about Alderney's bat species!

[Click here](#) to read the full report.

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