

## Media Release from Alderney Wildlife Trust

Date: 31<sup>st</sup> March 2023

### The Bailiwick Bat Survey has returned for 2023 and last year's results confirmed thirteen bat species for the Bailiwick!

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This year will be the third year of the four-year project, studying bat species within the Bailiwick of Guernsey to help us understand their status, distribution and timing of movements. Using remote automated records, the Bailiwick Bat Survey (BBS) is the most extensive bat survey carried out by citizen scientists in the Bailiwick! On Alderney, following a successful pilot year, in 2022 an additional two species were confirmed for the island. This has brought the island's number of bat species up to eleven!

The project started in 2021 and is led by The States of Guernsey's Agriculture, Countryside and Land Management Services (ACLMS) with technical expertise from The British Trust for Ornithology (BTO) and supported by La Société and Guernsey Biological Record Centre (GBRC). The Alderney Wildlife Trust (AWT) is the coordinating bat centre for Alderney, with 48 study squares (500m<sup>2</sup>) across the island and Burhou to be covered. It is with the help of resident citizen scientists who borrow and set up bat detectors in their gardens (or adjacent land) that we can contribute a high set of data to the project.

On Alderney in 2022, with the help of twenty volunteer citizen scientists, there was a total of 284 complete nights of recording efforts. This contributed to 3.4 million acoustic recordings across the Bailiwick. These files were fed into the BTO's Acoustic Pipeline, which identifies species using machine learning and any results are verified manually. From this, last year there were 872,126 recordings of bats, 8,587 from small mammals and over two million from bush-crickets and audible moths. This confirmed thirteen species of bat present in the Bailiwick of Guernsey, two of which are new species for Alderney: the Common Noctule and the Soprano Pipistrelle.

The Common Noctule (*Nyctalus noctule*) was recorded for the first time on Alderney on the 11<sup>th</sup> of August 2023 in a wooded area near Newtown. There were further recordings in the same location the following night and another three recordings in Val du Saou in October. While the Soprano Pipistrelle (*Pipistrellus pygmaeus*) had previously been documented on Alderney, 2022 was the first time it had been picked up by the project. In total, there were ten recordings caught from the species that all occurred within June at the same location (in St. Anne's). Alderney was the only island to have either of these species recorded for the whole Bailiwick in 2022.

The AWT are still looking for volunteer citizen scientists on the island to participate in the BBS this year! All it requires is to reserve your study square (one of 48 on Alderney with a size of 500 m<sup>2</sup>) which can be in your garden or adjacent land, then visit our Wildlife Information Centre to collect the bat detector and kit. We ask for the detectors to be put up for four nights before the end of July and once again for four nights before the study ends in October. The data can then be uploaded to Acoustic Pipeline and you can discover which bat species are flying over your head at night!

We cannot wait to see what 2023's results will reveal for our island's and the wider Bailiwick's wildlife and future conservation efforts. We would also like to thank all the volunteers who have helped with this study so far with their enthusiasm and to our partner organisations for their ongoing support!

To reserve your study square, [click here](#).

To read the full BBS 2022 report, [click here](#).

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## Background

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### **About the Alderney Wildlife Trust**

The Alderney Wildlife Trust is one of the 46 Wildlife Trusts working across the British Isles. We are the youngest of the Wildlife Trust, forming 21 years ago and since then the AWT has received incredible support from a dedicated team of wildlife enthusiasts, what we like to think of as the 'TeamWilder'. This team isn't just limited to residents and AWT members, it includes people from all walks of life who have an interest in our island's wildlife, as well as supporters and organizations from around the world. We work with the local community to engage them with their natural environment in order to protect Alderney's wildlife for the future.

[Our mission is to study, protect and champion Alderney's wildlife. We wish to see a thriving natural island where wildlife and natural habitats play a valued role in addressing our island's future and the climate and ecological emergencies that face us.](#)

***Alderney is a very special place and by helping the work of the Alderney Wildlife Trust you can make a difference. After all, if you love where you live, you'll want to look after it - Dr. George McGavin, Patron AWT***

## Notes to Media

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