

Media Release from Alderney Wildlife Trust

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Groundbreaking Bailiwick Bat Survey returns for its last year

The Bailiwick Bat Survey (BBS) has returned for its last year and volunteers are being urged to book out bat detectors to discover nocturnal wildlife in their part of Alderney.

Over the last three years, the BBS has helped us to understand the status, distribution and timing of movements of bats in the Bailiwick of Guernsey. In Alderney, records from the BBS have confirmed two new bat species for the island and added substantially to our understanding of the island's nocturnal species.

Matt Lewis, an Ecologist for the Alderney Wildlife Trust (AWT), said "In the last year alone, resident citizen scientists collected almost 50 thousand identifiable recordings, including the only recordings of Soprano Pipistrelle in the Bailiwick. This data is key to better understanding our bats, and anyone can help to collect it."

It's not only bats that are recorded as part of the survey, with ultrasonic calls from bush-crickets, small terrestrial mammals and moths also picked up by the detectors. These included the only records of Large Conehead bush-crickets in the Bailiwick in 2023.

To take part, volunteers can reserve one, or more, of 48 grid squares across the island to survey for a four-day period from April to mid-July, and again from mid-July to October. The bat detectors are automatic and are left out for four nights, with the recordings then passed through the British Trust for Ornithology (BTO)'s Acoustic Pipeline to be analysed. The pipeline, which identifies what species are present using machine learning, provides volunteers with their own report detailing what they have discovered. All the equipment and instructions can be booked to be collected from the AWT Information Centre on Victoria Street. No expertise is needed and AWT staff are happy to help anyone who wants to take part.

Coinciding with the launch of the BBS in 2024, the AWT and Alderney Animal Welfare Society (AAWS) are jointly hosting an evening of three talks on Alderney's bats. These free talks will be hosted at the Alderney Museum on the 24th of April at 7pm, and will discuss Alderney's bats and their ecology, welfare and rehabilitating bats, and the results of last year's Bailiwick Bat Survey. Booking desired by email to Matt Lewis (ecologist@alderneywildlife.org) or in person at the AWT Information Centre.

To reserve a study square for the Bailiwick Bat Survey, click [here](#).

The published Bailiwick Bat Survey 2023 report can be accessed [here](#).

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Background

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

About the Bailiwick Bat Survey

The Bailiwick Bat Survey is a partnership project which aims to improve understanding of local bat distribution and activity. The survey is a citizen science project which offers anyone in the Bailiwick of Guernsey the opportunity to borrow automated equipment to record our local bats using methods devised by the British Trust for Ornithology (BTO). The survey has been commissioned by Agriculture, Countryside and Land Management Services as part of the implementation of the Strategy for Nature, the BTO is providing the technical know how and La Société, Alderney Wildlife Trust and La Société Sercquaise are helping to co-ordinate the project.

Notes to Media

For further information, please contact:

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