



BAT CONSERVATION IRELAND



*An Roinn
Ealaíon, Oidhreachta agus Gaeltachta*
**Department of
Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht**



Department of
**Agriculture, Environment
and Rural Affairs**
www.daera-ni.gov.uk

Bat Conservation Ireland BATLAS 2020

Surveying on islands

This document is a supplement to the [main volunteer manual](#) and only applies to islands. Please ensure you have familiarised yourself with the protocols in the main manual before surveying. Note the 10km² survey square(s) that correspond to your island, there is a list in the table below. Please register your square(s) on the [website](#) first before surveying.

Bat Conservation Ireland proposes to survey twenty one off shore islands as part of BATLAS 2020. The selection processes for these islands were as follows:

- >404 hectares in size
- accessible via a seasonal ferry
- populated

Therefore the list of off-shore islands proposed to be surveyed is as follows and this set of off-shore islands cover 33 10 km squares:

Name	County	Connection to mainland	Squares
Great Island	Cork	Rail and road bridges; car ferry to Passage West	W76, W86
Clear Island	Cork	Passenger ferries (Baltimore; Schull, seasonal)	V91, V92
Sherkin Island	Cork	Passenger ferry from Baltimore	W02
Whiddy Island	Cork	Seasonal passenger ferry to Bantry	V94, V95
Bere Island	Cork	Car ferries from Castletownbere and Beal Lough	V64, V74
Dursey Island	Cork	Aerial tramway	V43, V44
Valentia Island	Kerry	Road bridge, and ferry	V37, V47
Great Blasket Island	Kerry	Accessible	V29
Inisheer or Inishere	Galway	Air from Inverin; passenger ferries from Rossaveal, and seasonally from Galway and Roadford near Doolin	L90
Inishmaan	Galway	Air from Inverin; passenger ferries from Rossaveal, and seasonally from Galway and Roadford near Doolin	L90
Inishmore	Galway	Air from Inverin; passenger ferries from Rossaveal, and seasonally from Galway and Roadford near Doolin	L71, L80, L81
Lettermore	Galway	Road bridge via Annaghvaan	L82, L92
Gorumna	Galway	Road bridge via Lettermore	L82
Inishbofin	Galway	Passenger ferry from Cleggan	L56
Inishturk	Mayo	Passenger ferry from Roonah Quay, beyond Louisburgh	L57, L67
Clare Island	Mayo	Passenger ferry from Roonah Quay, beyond Louisburgh	L68, L78
Achill Island	Mayo	Road bridge (Michael Davitt Bridge)	L69, L79, F50, F60, F70
Arranmore or Aran Island	Donegal	Car ferry to Burtonport	B61
Tory Island	Donegal	Passenger ferries to Bunbeg and Meenlaragh near Falcarragh	B84
Inch Island	Donegal	Road causeways	C32
Rathlin Island	Antrim	Ferry - Ballycastle	D05, D14, D15

Orange – Partially surveyed in 2016; Purple – planned group survey in 2017.

- Rathlin Island Survey (18th – 20th August) will be with the Northern Ireland Bat Group. Email Simon at batlas@batconservationireland.org
- Clare Island Survey (25th -27th August) will be with Bat Conservation Ireland. Email Tina at info@batconservationireland.org

If you are heading out to one of the listed islands as part of a holiday excursion and are interested in collecting some bat data, please follow the procedure below:

After our experience with the Island BioBlitz in 2016, BCIreland consider that a slightly different methodology is needed to survey the islands. Selecting two points within each 5km square is not suitable but a walking transects actively looking for bat activity is more suitable for the islands. Therefore BCIreland recommend the following:

1. During the daytime, walk or cycle the island looking for safe and potentially suitable survey sites within each 5km quadrant.
2. Determine if there is a safely accessible survey transect of approximately 1km in length per each 5km quadrant. Transects by cross 5km quadrant boundaries, but please make an attempt to survey at least 1km within each quadrant.
3. Start walking transects across the island 40 minutes after sunset. Where bat activity is found, stand for 5 minutes and record information as required by the standard BATLAS 2020 form (make sure to make a record of the grid reference and time etc).
4. Continue until 1km transect is completed, following Step 3 every time bats are encountered along the 1km transect.
5. Complete all 1km transects (to complete the island you should have surveyed inside all the accessible 5km quadrants).
6. You have the option of surveying a second 1km transect within the same 5km quadrant if the first one does not yield any bat activity. This alternative transect can be prepared in case the first transect does not work out.

Static Detector

If you have a static recorder that can be left in the field, this can be placed out over night in areas of the island that are not safe to access at night-time (i.e. upland areas).

1. Find a safe and secure spot to locate static recorder. Take a grid reference and mark the survey spot in order to find post-surveying.
2. Set detector to record from sunset to sunrise.
3. Collect the following day and analyse recorded data. Fill in BATLAS 2020 survey form as required with the details of bats recorded, if any.
4. If you require any assistance with data analysis, please do not hesitate to contact Bat Conservation Ireland.

NOTE – BCIreland may have some spare static recorders for use. Do get in touch prior to your island excursion to see if a static recorder can be loaned out.

Should you have any queries please contact the BATLAS 2020 coordinator Simon Pickett – batlas@batconservationireland.org