



Education Officer and Manager of the All-Ireland Daubenton's bat Waterways Survey

Job Description

Job Title: Education Officer and Manager of the All-Ireland Daubenton's Bat Waterways Survey

Employer: Bat Conservation Ireland

Main Place of Work: From home

Hours: Part-time (20 hours per week), work from home, 6 months' probation contract renewable on a yearly basis or subject to funding.

Reporting to: BCI Chairperson and Council

Immediate Line Manager: Administration Manager

Duration: April 2022 to April 2023 subject to funding

Salary: Dependent on experience

Bat Conservation Ireland is seeking an enthusiastic and self-motivated person to join its team in the dual role of Education Officer and Manager of the All-Ireland Daubenton's Bat Waterways Survey. The successful candidate will have excellent management and communication skills, have the ability to think innovatively and work under pressure to meet deadlines. This will be a part-time position of 20 hours per week and will have the advantage of working from home. The successful candidate is required to have a strong scientific background and to be able to engage a wide range of people including partner organisations, volunteers and the general public. A track record of working as part of a team is also essential.

Background

The Irish Bat Monitoring Programme began in 2003 with the establishment of the Car-based Bat Monitoring Scheme, followed in 2006 by the All-Ireland Daubenton's Bat Waterways Survey and in 2007 by the Brown Long-eared Bat Roost Monitoring Scheme. These surveys are largely volunteer-led and track trends in five protected bat species. An additional scheme, Lesser Horseshoe Bat Roost Monitoring, is also managed by Bat Conservation Ireland and surveying for this bat species is mainly carried out by staff of the National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS). The four monitoring schemes are funded by the NPWS on a three or four year contractual basis and in Northern Ireland grant funding for the Daubenton's bat waterway's survey and car-based survey is provided by the Environment Fund. We are currently coming to the end of a four-year



term of monitoring and anticipate that a new tender for the continuation of the Irish Bat Monitoring Programme will be submitted to NPWS in late spring 2022, subject to RFT. Bat Conservation Ireland also regularly runs training courses and workshops on a fee-paying basis as the need arises and time allows. As well as its main website, Bat Conservation Ireland has also developed www.learnaboutbats.com which aims to educate primary school children and their teachers about Irish bats.

Description of the Role

The candidate will recruit, train and manage an island-wide network of volunteers in carrying out the Daubenton's bat waterways survey. They will coordinate survey returns and ensure prompt and accurate data entry for the project, ensure scientific integrity of the scheme and liaise with other stakeholders such as Bat Conservation Trust, funders and other relevant stakeholders. The Daubenton's bat waterways coordinator will work in close cooperation with other managers of Irish Bat Monitoring Programme schemes to achieve the objectives of the monitoring programme.

They will also oversee the development of a new strategy for education in Bat Conservation Ireland. The Education Officer would be expected to further develop and plan both in-person and online training and education courses and materials while maintaining and improving existing resources.

MAIN RESPONSIBILITIES

Manage and run the All Ireland Daubenton's Bat Waterways Survey, including:

- Recruit and train new volunteers, including coordinating the scheme's volunteer network;
- Undertake waterway surveys to ensure that a minimum number of waterway sites are surveyed to meet statistical and contractual requirements;
- Ensure high quality validated data is entered into the Daubenton's database and synchronised with the National Bat Database;
- Liaise with statistician to produce comprehensive data for reporting and as required;
- Complete reporting required for Irish Bat Monitoring Programme;
- Report to both the Council of BC Ireland and external funders, sharing yearly Daubenton's bat waterways survey data with other stakeholders such as BCT and CEDaR;
- Co-write scientific publications when the opportunity/need arises;
- Present data at conferences, seminars or other events as appropriate.

Identify educational priorities for the organisation and liaise with other BC Ireland staff & Council to plan and implement a programme of educational events, including:



- Lead the organisation in innovative ways to increase public interest in bats and participation in BCIreland monitoring schemes;
- Plan, coordinate and implement planned events and give educational talks to increase public interest;
- Plan, coordinate and implement training events and give training in coordination with other BCIreland staff;
- Provide educational content for Bat Conservation Ireland's main website and the 'Learn about bats' website, which is an educational resource for 6-12 year olds;
- Provide content for the Bat Conservation Ireland newsletters;
- Provide educational support for local bat groups and identify ways to increase the local bat group network.

PERSONAL SPECIFICATIONS

Qualifications & Experience

- Primary degree in Science-based course; level 8
- Record of producing and organising training courses
- 3+ years of working experience in a relevant field
- A track record of working with volunteers
- At least two years' experience carrying out bat surveys
- Proven understanding of Irish bat species and their ecology, as well as factors affecting their conservation status

Communication Skills

- Proven ability to communicate and negotiate effectively and efficiently with a wide range of audiences including funders, potential sponsors, local voluntary organisations, and the media.
- Possess good presentation and report writing skills.
- Track record in scientific publication is desirable

Teamwork

- Ability to develop, lead and support a volunteer network and create safe inspiring working conditions.
- Ability to work independently and as part of a team, and work with and report to BCIreland Chairperson and Council.
- Be understanding and responsive to the needs and wishes of individuals and community organisations.



Initiative and planning

- Can plan, manage time effectively and work flexible hours.
- Ability to prioritise, make decisions in complex areas with a restricted budget.
- Experience of leading staff and teams and setting priorities and work plans.
- Self-disciplined, motivated, organised, able to meet deadlines, work under pressure – shows real initiative.

IT Skills

- Very confident with a range of IT systems, software and equipment.

Personal skills

- Can think innovatively and identify inventive and creative solutions to a range of problems.
- Understands and can utilise effectively opportunities presented by new concepts and technologies.
- Inspire, encourage and enthuse audiences across the project.

Other

- Full, clean driving licence.

Desirable

- Experience of carrying out BC Ireland volunteer surveys