

10th Irish Bat Conference

11 & 12 March 2023

ATHLONE SPRINGS HOTEL



CONFERENCE PROGRAMME



BAT CONSERVATION
IRELAND

SATURDAY 11 MARCH 2023

08.00 Conference Registration

09.00 Welcoming Address: Minister Malcolm Noonan TD

09.15 Keynote Presentation by Fiona Mathews

A global update on wind energy development and the latest research on its impacts on bats

09.55 N Roche An update on the Irish Bat Monitoring programme

10.07 F Touzalin Monitoring of *Myotis myotis* populations in Brittany (+1min re Art project)

10.20 C Liu/Cavan Bat Group An investigation into the distribution of Nathusius' pipistrelle on lakes in County Cavan using Audio Moths

***10:32** C Breslin Living in the city: relationship between urban bat activity and community composition with land cover and environmental variables

10:44 Q&A



10:55 Morning coffee & chance to view sales stands and posters

11.20 E Teeling TBC

***11.32** S Carthy On long non-coding RNAs in ageing *Myotis myotis* bats

11.44 M Power Good beginnings or untimely ends? Life-cycle telomere variation in a long-lived mammal, the greater horseshoe bat (*Rhinolophus ferrumequinum*)

***11.56** T Lonergan Age-related telomere dynamics in short- vs long-lived bats

***12.08** D Alcock Does the association between lifespan and stress resistance capability expand to diverse bat species? An in vitro scientific study on fibroblasts and their resistance to toxic stressors for *Molossus molossus*, *Rousettus aegyptiacus* and *Myotis myotis*.

12:20 Q&A

12:30 Lunch & chance to view sales stands and posters

14:00 Keynote Presentation by Enda Mullen

Title TBC

14.40 K McAney Building roosts for the lesser horseshoe bat in east Limerick – a partnership project

14.52 T Aughney An investigation into the internal temperature of a building purpose-renovated in County Galway for Lesser Horseshoe Bats *Rhinolophus hipposideros*

15.04 R Hanniffy Studying how lesser horseshoe bats *Rhinolophus hipposideros* use agricultural landscapes on the edge of the Burren

15.16 P Sleeman Use by Soprano Pipistrelle *Pipistrellus pygmaeus* of a roost in a sea cave

15:28 Q&A

15.40 Afternoon coffee & chance to view sales stands and posters

16.15 J Nolan Bats and Bugs – A Citizen Approach

***16.27** G Hurpy The ecosystem services provided by Irish bats

***16.39** T Curran DNA-based approaches to reveal the diet of the lesser horseshoe bat (*Rhinolophus hipposideros*) and monitor Irish mosquito populations

16:51 Keynote Presentation by Hugo Rebelo

Bats and climate change: what do we know and what can we do about it?

17:30 Q&A

17:40 The Vincent Weir Student Presentation Award

17:50 End of Saturday Oral Presentations

20:00 Wine Reception

**Presentations eligible for consideration for the Vincent Weir Student Presentation Award*

SUNDAY 12 MARCH 2023**08.00 Conference Registration****9:00 Workshop 1: Wind Farm Bat Monitoring and Mitigation Pre and Post Construction****Presented by: Fiona Mathews, University of Sussex and John Curtin, Bat Conservation Ireland**

This workshop will examine the 'how to' of pre-construction and post-construction bat surveys at wind farms and will include topics such as buffer areas, temporal variability in bat activity, carcass observation error, and the importance of good data interpretation. Appropriate mitigation strategies such as feathering and proactive curtailment will also be discussed. The workshop aims to provide both ecologists, and other stakeholders such as planners and engineers, with solid scientific approaches to addressing the problem of bat fatalities at wind turbines.

10.30 Morning coffee & chance to view sales stands and posters**11:00 Workshop 2: Bats and Street Lighting****Presented by: Alex Naper Sabre Lighting and Dr Tina Aughney, Bat Conservation Ireland**

Sabre Electrical Services, in conjunction with Bat Conservation Ireland will present an introduction to Street Lighting. The presentation will include basic design principles for public lighting, lighting technologies and standards as required by local authorities. The aim is to create an awareness of what lighting designers do, best practice design philosophy and tools available so that the best possible lighting solution is achieved for all, including bats. The presentation will include a demonstration of luminaires with LEDs of different Kelvin values (colour temperature); shields/louvres will also be demonstrated so that ecologists, planners, architects and other interested stakeholders can see what options can be used to help reduce impacts on biodiversity while still meeting EN standards.

12:00 Option to attend either Workshop 3 or 4 which will run concurrently**12:00 Workshop 3
Bats and Heritage Structures****Presented by Drs. Caroline Shiel, Bat Conservation Ireland
Room TBC**

This workshop is aimed at those involved in the maintenance and restoration of heritage structures. This workshop will help make it easier for those working with the custodians of heritage sites to carry out works and still comply with the law to protect natural heritage. We will explain the importance of heritage structures for bats and describe some of the processes of bat survey and mitigation with real life examples of successful outcomes for both built and natural heritage. This workshop is aimed at architects, planners and engineers and will also be of interest to ecologists involved in projects in heritage structures.

**12:00 Workshop 4
Using Imaging Technology for Bat Surveys****Presented by Dr Tina Aughney, Bat Conservation Ireland
Room TBC**

This workshop is aimed at ecologists who carry out bat surveys and who would like to expand the range of tools they use to enable more accurate survey results. The technology will include thermal and infra red imaging systems and their supporting infrastructure for night-time surveys. We will also demonstrate the value of using endoscopes and mirrors for daytime assessment of structures. During the workshop we will examine the pros and cons of different methods for different survey conditions, costs of different systems, analysis of results and reporting guidelines.

SUNDAY 12 MARCH 2023

13:00 Lunch & last chance to view sales stands and posters

14:00 Workshop 5 Running a Bat Walk or Talk

This workshop is open for all to attend, however those considering putting themselves forward to run bats talks and walks should have very good knowledge of Irish bats and their ecology. This session is aimed at recruiting a panel of Bat Group members and ecologists across the island to take on Bat Walks and Talks on behalf of Bat Conservation Ireland in their own region during the summer months. The following topics will be covered:

- How to run a bat walk/talk (**Andrew Fenner, Midland Bat Group**)
- Bat walk Health and Safety (**Tanya Slattery, Bat Conservation Ireland Council Member and Limerick Bat Group**)
- Managing bat walk data (**Mary Roberts, Mayo Bat Group**)

16:00 Bat Groups

This session is aimed at Bat Group members who want assistance in efficiently running a volunteer group

- Refresher on group admin – Marketing/Accounts/Best Practice, etc. (**Dawn Quinn Bat Conservation Ireland**)
- Key bat group tasks and roles (TBC)

17:00 Conference Close

The 10th Irish Bat Conference is kindly supported with Grant aid from NPWS



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