



11TH IRISH BAT CONFERENCE

RIDDEL HALL
BELFAST
MARCH 21ST & 22ND 2026

CONFERENCE PROGRAMME



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Time	Presentation	Type
08:00-09:00	CONFERENCE REGISTRATION	
09:00-09.05	Welcome by Chair of Bat Conservation Ireland	
09.05-09.20	Opening Address by Joe Mahon	
09:20-10:00	<i>Keynote: Roosting in a Noisy World – Does Sound Matter? by Christina Stanley</i>	
10:00-10:10	Effects of LED Street Lighting on Aerial Hawking Bat Species in Ireland by Kevin O’Reilly and Niamh Roche	Standard
10:10-10:20	Investigating Temporal and Spatial Niche Partitioning Between Sympatric Bat Species in an Urban Landscape by Colm Breslin, Ramiro Crego et al.	Standard
10:20-10:25	Farmyard Biodiversity Enhancement through ACRES Landscape Action Rural Restorative Lighting by Petra Kock Appelgren, Liz Ryder et al.	Speed
10:25-10:35	Q&A	
10:35-11:05	Coffee Break & Chance to view Posters and Exhibitions	
11:05-11:15	Lesser Horseshoe Bat Species Action Plan 2022-2026 - The Final Year and the Future by Kate McAney & Ferdia Marnell	Standard
11:15-11:25	Using Species Distribution Models to Identify Potential New Roost Sites of the Lesser Horseshoe Bat in Ireland by Penelope Fialas and Niamh Roche	Standard
11:25-11:35	The Lesser Horseshoe Bat - Mapping Landscape Connectivity to Facilitate Species Recovery and Expansion in Ireland by Patrick Wright, Colin Guilfoyle et al.	Standard
11:35-11:45	A Case Study Showing the Importance of Technology in Completing Successful Surveys, Mitigation and Surveillance of Lesser Horseshoe Bat Roosts by Tina Aughney & Shaun Boyle	Standard
11:45-11:50	Long-Term Bat Conservation and Multi-Phase Mitigation at Menlo Castle (2019–2026) by Aoife Joyce, Claire Mifsud and Saoirse Fitzsimons	Speed
11:50-11:55	Are Lesser Horseshoe Bats Commuting Successfully Across Ireland’s only Green Bridge? Tina Aughney et al.	Speed
11:55-12:00	Expanding Bat Habitats in the ACRES Munster South Connacht (MSC) Zone by Keith Costello	Speed
12:00-12:05	Does Static Detector Setup Affect Detection Rates of Lesser Horseshoe Bats Across Habitat Type? by David Smyth, Heather Lally et al.	Speed
12:05-12:10	Optimising Bat Roosting Resources in Purpose-built Bat Houses by Tina Aughney & Shaun Boyle	Speed
12:10-12:25	Q&A	
12:25-12:55	Poster & Exhibitor Session	

12:55-14:25	LUNCH	
14:25-14:35	Different Bats, Different Agricultural Pests: Why Bats Species Diversity Matters? by Gwen Hurpy, Tina Aughney et al.	Standard
14:35-14:45	Do Christmas Calories Count? Investigating the Winter and Spring Diet of the Lesser Horseshoe Bat (<i>Rhinolophus hipposideros</i>) across its current distribution in Ireland by David Smyth, Heather Lally et al.	Standard
14:45-14:55	Estimating Age-related Differences in Reproduction in Greater Horseshoe Bats by Megan Power, Tadhg Lonergan et al.	Standard
14:55-15:05	Longitudinal Study of Wing Membrane Healing in Rescued Irish bats Reveals the Halting Effect of Winter by Sébastien Riquier, Gwen Hurpy et al.	Standard
15:05-15:15	Comparative Analysis of miRNAs and Their Role in Longevity of Bats by Marek Uvizl, Sébastien Riquier et al.	Standard
15:15-15:25	Q&A	
15:25-15:35	Education, Outreach, and Collaboration to Promote Bat Conservation on the Island of Ireland by Karen Healy, David Clarke and Niamh Roche	Standard
15:35-15:45	The UK's National Bat Monitoring Programme: Latest Developments and Opportunities for Improving Coverage in Northern Ireland by Philip Briggs	Standard
15:45-15:55	The All-Ireland Woodland Bat Monitoring Scheme: An introduction to a New Island-wide Bat Monitoring Scheme and a Summary of our Findings so far by David Clarke, Steve Langton and Niamh Roche	Standard
15:55-16:05	Q&A	
16:05-16:35	Tea & Coffee & Chance to view Posters and Exhibitions	
16:35-16:45	Making Bat Fatality Surveys More Robust: Measuring Detection Dog Team Efficiency, Carcass Persistence Bias, & Survey Design at Wind Turbines by Caroline Finlay, Demi Cummings et al.	Standard
16:45-16:50	Testing Conservation Detection Dogs in Bat and Bird Carcass Searches at Irish Wind Farms by Aoife Lyster, Dario Fernandez-Bellon et al.	Speed
16:50-16:55	Stacycation or Vacation? Looking for Signs of Migration in Leisler's Bats in Ireland by Paul Scott, Tina Aughney et al.	Speed
16:55-17:00	Exploring the potential for bat migration in Ireland in the context of offshore wind energy by Samantha Ball, Denise O'Meara et al.	Speed
17:00-17:40	Keynote: Bat migration and Offshore Renewable Energy in Northwestern Europe by Lothar Bach	
17:40-17:50	Q&A	
17:50-18:00	Prize Announcements	
18:00-20:00	WINE RECEPTION IN RIDDEL HALL	

Time	Workshop	Presenter
08:00-08:30	CONFERENCE REGISTRATION	
08:30-09:15	Enhancing Bat Ecology with Detection Dogs	Caroline Finlay & Cathal Bergin (Ecology Detection Dog Working Group of Britain and Ireland)
09:15-10:00	Thermal Imaging Drones for Roost Surveys	Giles Coe (Co-ecology)
10:00-10:45	Optimising the Value of Static Surveillance for Routine Bat Surveys	Tina Aughney (Bat Eco Services)
10:45-11:15	Tea & Coffee & Chance to view Posters and Exhibitions	
11:15-12:00	Ground Level Tree Assessment	David Clarke (Bat Conservation Ireland)
12:00-12:45	Dark Sky Friendly Lighting	Kerem Asfuroglu (Dark Source)
12:45-13:30	Wildlife Acoustics SM5 and SMART Technology, a curtailment system for wind turbines	Paul Howden Leach (Wildlife Acoustics)
13:30-14:45	LUNCH & CONFERENCE CLOSE	
14:45-15:30	Bat Conservation Ireland AGM all members welcome	

Art Exhibition on loan from Inis Artists, Co. Clare (www.inisartists.com)
'The Lesser Horseshoe Bat - A Creative Look at their Life and Environment'

**Bat Conservation Ireland would like to
thank all of our sponsors for their support**



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