



### Are YOU interesting in volunteering?

You do not need to have any prior experience in bat detection to participate in this scheme. A heterodyne bat detector is required to undertake this survey and a limited number of detectors will be available through Bat Conservation Ireland for use for this survey.

A training session for those interested in participating in the scheme in Laois is being organised in conjunction with the Heritage Office of Laois County Council, starting at 8.30pm on Tuesday 10th July in the Parish Centre, Portlaoise. The training will involve a one hour presentation followed by discussion and practical session at a local river.

For more information on the training session, contact Catherine Casey, Heritage Officer, Laois County Council, phone 057-867 4348, e-mail [ccasey@laoiscoco.ie](mailto:ccasey@laoiscoco.ie).

If you are interested in being a volunteer, please register by sending the following details to [tinaaughney@eircom.net](mailto:tinaaughney@eircom.net): Name, Contact e mail, Contact phone number, Home address, Have you used a bat detector before? Do you have use of a bat detector? Details of bat detector experience

A funded partnership by the National Parks and Wildlife Service (Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government, Republic of Ireland), Environment and Heritage Service (Department of the Environment, Northern Ireland) and Waterways Ireland.



## Volunteers Wanted! All Ireland Daubenton's Bat Waterways Survey August 2007

### All Ireland Daubenton's Bat Waterways Survey

Bat Conservation Ireland  
needs you to survey your  
local waterway this  
summer

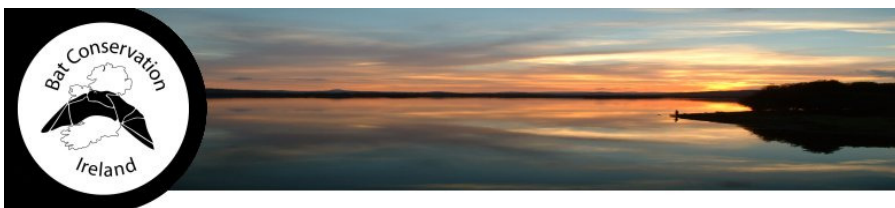


[www.batconservationireland.org](http://www.batconservationireland.org)

### Training Session for Laois Volunteers

Starting at 8.30 pm, Tuesday 10th July 2007

Parish Centre, Portlaoise



Bats constitute a large portion of the mammalian biodiversity in Ireland. Ten species of bat are known to occur in Ireland and form almost one third of Ireland's land mammal fauna. Due to their reliance on insect populations, specialist feeding behaviour and habitat requirements, they are considered as valuable environmental indicators of the wider countryside (Walsh et al. 2001). Monitoring protocols for bat populations is essential due to the paucity of information on the present distribution of many of Ireland's resident bat species.

The characteristic foraging style of Daubenton's bats makes it relatively easy to identify the species in the field and thus a suitable candidate for large scale volunteer-based surveys. Daubenton's bat is easy to see when foraging because it opportunistically feeds close to water. It forages typically within 30cm of the surface. Here it either trawls for insects from the surface of the water by gaffing them with its large feet or the tail membrane or takes them directly out of the air (aerial hawking). Daubenton's bats can be observed flying continuously back and forth along a regular flight path.

Bat Conservation Ireland is proposing to pilot the Daubenton's Bat Waterway Survey based on the BCT (UK) methodology in the Republic of Ireland and Northern Ireland in August 2007. Sampling locations for an All Ireland Daubenton's Bat Waterway Survey will correspond with sites already monitored by the EPA/EHS water quality programmes.

The survey methodology relies on the use of heterodyne bat detectors. Sampling the activity of Daubenton's bats along waterways

using a heterodyne bat detector is relatively straight forward. Identifying bats on field surveys with heterodyne bat detectors requires some training and practice. Therefore volunteers will be provided with training prior to surveying. A volunteer pack will provide potential volunteers with information on bats in Ireland, surveying techniques, bat detector usage and model descriptions, importance of monitoring protocols and potential use of information collated from such monitoring protocols.

Volunteers will then follow a prescribed methodology:

- Volunteers will be assigned a random 1km of waterway (existing EPA/EHS water quality monitoring site) that is within 10km of the surveyor's home address.
- Surveyors will undertake a day visit (with landowner's permission) to assess the site for safety. Ten points approximately 100m apart, are marked out along a 1km stretch.
- The surveyors will then revisit the site on two evenings in August. At each of the ten points, the surveyor records Daubenton's bat activity for four minutes with a heterodyne bat detector and torchlight.
- Bat passes are either identified as Daubenton's bat or 'Unsure' Daubenton's bat. Daubenton's bat passes are identified only if the bat is heard and seen skimming the water surface. Bat passes that are heard and sound like Daubenton's but not seen skimming the water may be another species. Therefore these heard but not seen bats are recorded as 'Unsure' Daubenton's bat passes.
- Volunteers will then fill out Survey Results Sheets and return, along with a map of their 1km transects, to BC Ireland for processing.

Volunteers will receive a report on how their participation contributed to this All Ireland monitoring protocol.