



The National Trust
for Scotland

Bat Conservation and The National Trust for Scotland

The truth, the whole truth and nothing
but the truth!

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This talk will cover the following aspects:

- **Who are the National Trust for Scotland?**
- **What are the Trust doing to help bats?**
- **The future issues for bats within the NTS and other organisations.**

Who are the National Trust for Scotland?

- 270,000 members
- 127 properties
- 76,000 ha
- 16% of Munros
- 46 SSSIs
- Almost one fifth of UK breeding seabirds
- Biggest countryside ranger service in Scotland.....and
- A staggering number of potential bat roosts....over 1050 buildings (inc 25 great houses, 47 historic houses, 300 dwellings, etc.)

How many bats do we support?

- 2001 property census, then follow-up survey work in last 5 years.
- Just about half NTS properties* *known* to have bats present (63)
- 7 different bat species recorded (to date).



They're everywhere!!

- **NTS, Local Bat Groups, Consultants, volunteers have carried out over 80 bat 'surveys' on our properties between 2004-2006. (cf. 18 between 1999-2001)**
- **7 properties contribute to NBMPs**
- **BUT, still no bat survey information for 56 properties...includes 8 islands, 3 stones and 20 buildings not directly managed by NTS!**



Top of the Bats 2006 (2001)



Pip 55 – 24 (*unknown*)

Pip 45 – 21 (*unknown*)

(Pip? – 10) (24)

Long-eared bats – 20 (14)

Daubenton's – 11 (5)

Natterers' – 5 (3)

Noctules – 3 (3)

Whiskered – 1 (1?)



Top of the Properties

- Threave – 7 species.
- Culzean & Crathes – 5 species.
- 10 other properties had 3 species.



NTS Bat Conservation Work

- **Over a quarter of our properties have contact with local Bat Groups (where they exist!).**
- **Have had a Volunteer Bat Officer in West & South Regions for the last 3 yrs.**
- **NE Region has established a working group with building surveyors, SNH & NTS ranger staff and this is now being established in West & South Regions.**
- **The first ever Thistle Camp (NTS NE Region & BCT) took place in 2004 allowing volunteers to survey bats...now a regular event as very popular**

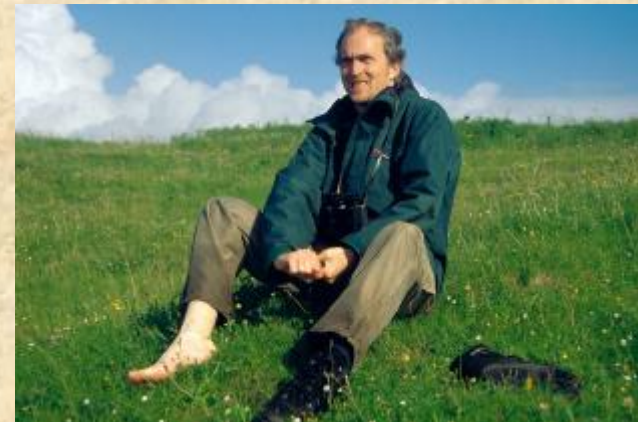
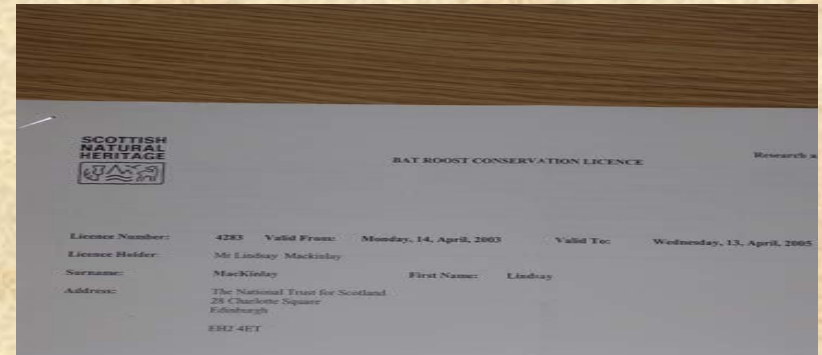
NTS Bat Conservation Work



- **Threave Bat Project (2006) – Trying to Avoid More Close Calls**
- **15 people; 100 structures; 14 roosts; 7 bat species found in 6 days....THEN still need close liaison with other Trust staff & tenants.**

NTS Bat Conservation Action Plan (2004-2008)

- **1). At least 3 staff in every one of our 4 regions will have a summer licence and at least 1 person will have a hibernacula licence by the end of 2006**
- **2). One person will act as lead contact for national bat issues.**



NTS Bat Conservation Action Plan

- **3). Each region should have at least 1 person who can carry out risk assessments for bats during tree work by the end of 2006**
- **4). A national bat database will be established by the end of 2004**



NTS Bat Conservation Action Plan

- **5). A rolling, prioritised survey programme to be established for each region. All properties to have had bat surveys by the end of 2006.**
- **6). A rolling, prioritised monitoring programme to be established for each region by end of 2006.**



NTS Bat Conservation Action Plan

- **7). All building and maintenance works to include a bat assessment during planning stages.**
- **8). Improve habitat management for bats & raising public awareness of bat conservation.**



A photograph of three people outdoors. On the left, a man in a blue jacket and cap looks at a small electronic device held by a woman in the center. On the right, another person in a blue jacket and a large black protective hood looks at the same device. The background is a grassy area with trees.

NTS Bat Conservation Action Plan

- **9). Increase links with local Bat Groups and SNH.**
- **10). Raise awareness of bat conservation within NTS staff. Produce induction pack by Feb 2005.**
- **11). Organise a national seminar for NTS staff to discuss bat issues by the end of 2006.**
- **12). Produce a report reviewing commitments before the end of 2008... watch this space!**

Issues

- **When do you stop surveying? How frequent is enough to comply with the law and ‘reasonableness’?**



The National Trust for Scotland

Issues

- **Cost of proper surveys high for small or charitable organisations - £40,000 ‘spent’ on bat surveys over last 3 yrs and cost increasing each year (£8,000 alone in West & South Regions in 2006).**
- **REMEMBER...NTS has over 1050 buildings, many needing regular maintenance. (Does not include bridges)**



A sunset over a body of water with mountains in the distance. The sun is low on the horizon, casting a golden glow across the sky and water. The mountains are silhouetted against the bright sky.

**Finally..a big thank you to all those who
have carried out bat work on NTS
properties:**

- NTS Rangers, Gardeners &
property staff**
- Local Bat Groups & Licensed Bat
Workers**
- Consultants**
- NTS Volunteers**
- Bat Conservation Trust**
- Scottish Natural Heritage**