

Bat Surveyor Role

As part of our Dark Night Skies Festival, we're excited to offer a new bat survey role within the park. This is a fantastic opportunity to help gather important data on bat populations and enhance your bat identification skills using heterodyne detectors. The detectors are a straightforward way to identify bats, and we'll provide full training to ensure you feel confident using them. For this survey, we'll be working with established fixed transects, and we're confident there will be one located near to you.

This role is offered by the National Bat Monitoring Programme, with additional training and equipment provided the South Downs National Park. By volunteering, you'll be part of the South Downs National Park volunteer team and also support the Bat Conservation Trust.

Since 1996, over 3,000 volunteers have taken part in surveys across more than 5,800 sites nationwide. Bat monitoring is crucial, as bat populations have experienced significant declines over the past century.

What we need from you:

- One evening for training (dates below) at your local ranger office.
- One evening in early July for the first survey.
- One evening in late July for the second survey, completion date of these surveys is flexible.
- A friend or family member to join you on the survey.

What we'll provide:

- Evening training sessions at various locations before the survey season:
 - Western Ranger Area Office – Droxford – 27th May 2025.
 - Central Ranger Area Office – Singleton 28th May 2025.
 - Eastern Ranger Area Office – Stanmer 2nd June 2025
- A heterodyne bat detector, which should be returned at the end of the survey season.

If you're interested in this role and would like more details, please get in touch with us at:
volunteering@southdowns.gov.uk