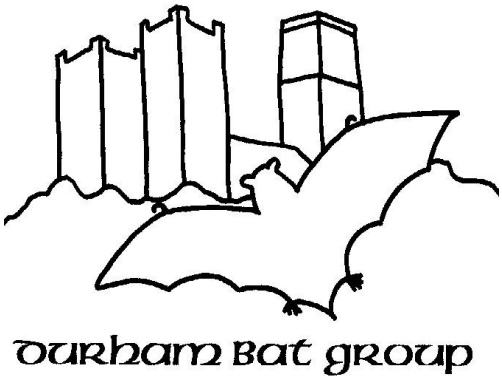


A Charitable Incorporated Organisation
Registered Charity No 1170672

Durham Bat Group

Registered Charity No. 1170672

Trustees' Annual Report 2025

Durham Bat Group Trustees

Trustee Name	Committee Position	Dates serving as a trustee in 2024
Claire Dewson	Chair	01/01/2025 – 31/12/2025
Clare Rawcliffe	Treasurer / Trainer	01/01/2025 – 31/12/2025
Jodie Morgan	Events Coordinator	01/01/2025 – 31/12/2025
Debbie Goldsmith	Recorder	01/01/2025 – 31/12/2025
Ian Bond	Secretary	01/01/2025 – 31/12/2025
Melissa Young	Website and email manager	01/01/2025 – 31/12/2025
Julie Dyson		01/01/2025 – 31/12/2025
Lauren Gibson	Bat Care Co-ordinator	01/01/2025 – 31/12/2025
Craig Basford		01/01/2025 – 31/12/2025
Tina Wiffen		20/02/2025 - 31/12/2025

Non-Trustee Committee Members

Name	Committee Position	Dates serving as a committee member in 2023
David Sowerbutts	Advisor	01/01/2025 – 31/12/2025
Alistair Lockett	Advisor	01/01/2025 – 31/12/2025

Trustees

The Trustees have acted with due regard to the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit with respect to Durham Bat Group's charitable activity, and in particular to Public Benefit Guides PB1, PB2 and PB3. This report is prepared in accordance with the Charities SORP (FRS 102).

Signed on behalf of the Trustees:



Ian Bond (secretary)

Governing Document

The constitution of Durham Bat Group was adopted on 20 October 2016, and is based on the Charity Commission's model 'Association' constitution for Charitable Incorporated Organisations.

The group is further governed by byelaws adopted on 20 February 2018 which define criteria for membership, the structure of the governing committee, and group policies on bat work training, partnerships with other organisations, providing advice to the public, group meetings, data and financial management, and insurance.

Objectives and Activities

The objectives of the Durham Bat Group (DBG) are promotion of the conservation and welfare of bats, primarily within the geographic area between the rivers Tees and Tyne, but also including parts of Durham south of the Tees and excluding parts of Northumberland south of the Tyne. This includes the provision of practical advice and help to any individual or organisation with regard to bats, education of the public about bats by means of public talks, bat walks, talks to school groups etc., and encouragement of community participation in bat related activities. It also includes the study of bats to further understanding of their biology and ecology and working with other organisations sharing similar aims.

DBG is the umbrella body for bat workers within its area of activity. It holds indoor meetings during the winter months and field activities at all times of the year but focusing on the main period of bat activity from May to October.

DBG maintains a database of bat records within its area of activity. The group provides records, via an agreement with ERIC NE (the local records centre), to further the understanding of bats and to ecological consultants carrying out records searches.

The group has a network of bat carers who rehabilitate sick and injured bats found by the public for release back into the wild where possible. Bat carers must receive training from group members experienced in bat care before carrying out any bat rehabilitation independently. DBG works closely with Durham Cathedral to care for grounded bats found regularly in the Cloisters, primarily in late summer / early autumn.

DBG maintains and monitors bat box schemes in the county, undertakes surveys and runs bat walks for the public. It also works with other groups and organisations to provide educational talks and bat walks and benefits the public through bat conservation activities.

Occasional financial donations to bat-related scientific or charitable work by outside individuals or bodies are assessed on their merits and voted on by members during group meetings. Grants may be provided to groups or individuals whose activities are considered to provide added value for bat conservation to those of Durham Bat Group.

The membership of Durham Bat Group stands at 133 as of 31 December 2025.

2025 Meetings

2025 Meetings of the Board of Trustees
The Trustees met on 16 January 2025 and 22 October 2025 to facilitate the running of the Group.

A subgroup of the Trustees met on 20 November 2025 to discuss the potential for arranging a screening of 'The Invisible Mammal'.

2025 AGM
The 2025 AGM was held on 20 Feb 2025. 23 members attended. The AGM was followed by talks from Abby Packham, the Bat Conservation Trust's bat groups officer, on the "Diversity of bats" and Lauren Gibson on bat care.

Group activities

Surveys
The following surveys were undertaken:

NBMP Roost count Long Newton	June	7 attendees
NBMP Field survey Cockerton	July	5 attendees
NBMP Waterways survey South Park	August	4 attendees
Bat survey Elm Ridge Church	14 June	5 attendees

Bat talks and walks for the public and groups

Bat walk Blanchland	9 August	23 attendees
Bat walk for the National Bat Conference	5 September	50 attendees
Bat walk Ushaw College	1 October	24 attendees
Bat walk for cubs group South Park	5 October	20 attendees
Bat box checks WWT	9 November 2025	10 attendees
Bat talk to Sacriston men's group	21 October	20 attendees
Bat talk at Cowshill	November	20 attendees
Bat talk for Cleveland Naturalists	17 November	15 attendees
Bat walk Hebburn	18th September	25 attendees

Other meetings
Social event and Xmas card mail out to bat roost owners 3 December 6 attendees

Training

Three training sessions on bat care were run during the year. These were led by Durham Bat Group but were run in conjunction with Northumberland Bat Group and Cleveland Bat Group.

Wallington	12/04/2025	24 attendees
Gibside	27/04/2025	28 attendees
Gibside	25/10/2025	14 attendees

Projects

Durham Cathedral

Jodie Morgan alongside Melissa Young managed the Cathedral's bat patrol rota which is aimed at collecting and providing first aid to grounded bats in the Cathedral cloisters during the summer period. As part of the bat patrols, the group collects valuable data on groundings as part of a project to investigate the groundings and the health of overall population which roost here. Volunteers and Cathedral staff are trained, during organised sessions, in basic bat care by lead volunteer and Trustee Jodie Morgan in a safe environment. Volunteers contributed to a daily bat patrol on rota and an 'on call' basis to recover and rehabilitate grounded bats. As per the guidance in regards to bat handling, volunteers wear appropriate PPE to handle.

In 2025, 45 bats were attended to, of which 25 (55.56%) were released alive and 20 (44.44%) were confirmed dead. Of the bats released alive, 9 (36%) were subsequently re-caught.

Washington Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust

A survey was carried out on 25 April with four attendees.

A bat box check was carried out on 9 November with 13 attendees.

National Bat Helpline Support

Durham Bat Group Members assisted with calls received by National Bat Helpline run by the Bat Conservation Trust in 2024. The call types received included:

- Natural England roost-related enquiries which required a roost visit and were referred to licenced Volunteer Bat Roost Visitors (VBRVs).
- Roost-related enquiries which did not require a visit, and
- Bat care related calls to advise and assist with grounded and injured bats.

A total of seven VBRV visits were undertaken across the DBG area in 2025. On some of these the licensed bat worker was accompanied by trainee or prospective VBRVs.

Donations

The group gave £535 for the purchase of bat boxes to be installed at Durham Botanic Gardens.

The group gave £500 for the purchase of bat boxes to be installed at RSPB Saltholme.

Bat Care

In addition to the work undertaken at Durham Cathedral, 21 members were actively involved with caring for injured or sick bats. A total of 114 bats from seven different species were attended to in the course of the year, of which 85 were adults and 29 were young. Of these 51 were released and a further two pups re-united with their mother. A total of 29 bats were dead or subsequently died and a further 17 had to be euthanised. Of the remaining bats a number are still in care pending future release with the outcome of the others currently unknown.

Financial summary

	2025		2024
Receipts			
Data searches	4695.00		7303.24
Donation - bat care / talks / general	10.00		70.00
Income sub Total for year	4705.00		7373.24
Payments			
Room hire & Refreshments	110.00		0.00
Printing, Postage & Stationary	788.00		748.25
Insurance	100.00		100.00
Bat Care - consumables and expenses	660.00		455.93
ICT Expenditure	132.00		293.44
Equipment	1581.00		157.10
Bat flight cage (materials and labour)			0.00
BCT Donation			1025.00
General expenses			
Expenditure total for year	3371.00		2779.72
Income minus expenditure	1334.00		4593.52
Balance brought forward from previous year	23376.10		18782.58
End of year balance	24710.10		23376.10

CHARITY COMMISSION FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Charity Name	No (if any)
Durham Bat Group	1170672

Receipts and payments accounts

CC16a

For the period from	Period start date 01/01/2025	To	Period end date 31/12/2025

Section A Receipts and payments

	Unrestricted funds to the nearest £	Restricted funds to the nearest £	Endowment funds to the nearest £	Total funds to the nearest £	Last year to the nearest £
A1 Receipts					
Fees for bat data searches	4,695	-	-	4,695	7,303
Donations from the public	10	-	-	10	70
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total *(Gross income for AR)*	4,705	-	-	4,705	7,373
A2 Asset and investment sales, (see table).					
	-	-	-	-	
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total receipts	4,705	-	-	4,705	7,373
A3 Payments					
Room Hire & Refreshments	110	-	-	110	-
Printing, postage & stationary	788	-	-	788	748
Insurance	100	-	-	100	100
IT Related Expenditure	132	-	-	132	456
Equipment	1,581	-	-	1,581	293
Bat Care Expenses	660	-	-	660	157
General Expenses	-	-	-	-	-
Donation to Bat Conservation Trust Appeal		-	-	-	1,025
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	3,371	-	-	3,371	2,779
A4 Asset and investment purchases, (see table)					
	-	-	-	-	
	-	-	-	-	
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total payments	3,371	-	-	3,371	2,779
Net of receipts/(payments)	1,334	-	-	1,334	4,594
A5 Transfers between funds	-	-	-	-	-
A6 Cash funds last year end	23,377	-	-	23,377	
Cash funds this year end	24,711	-	-	24,711	4,594

Section B Statement of assets and liabilities at the end of the period

B1 Cash funds

Categories	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
		24,711	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
	Total cash funds	**24,711**	**-**	**-**
	(agree balances with receipts and payments account(s))	OK	OK	OK

B2 Other monetary assets

Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
	-	-	-
	-	-	-
	-	-	-
	-	-	-
	-	-	-
	-	-	-

B3 Investment assets

Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
		-	-
		-	-
		-	-
		-	-
		-	-

B4 Assets retained for the charity's own use

Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
2 x triple bank harp traps		-	-
Bat box checks equipment (hard hats, poles etc)		-	-
2 x acoustic lures + 4 x tablets to run acoustic lures (failing)		-	-
7 x heat mats & 2 x tanks		-	-
1 x Batlogger M Bat detector		-	-
4 x Anabat Express bat detector + 2 x Peersonic Bat detectors + data cables		-	-
16 x Magenta 5 bat detectors + 12 xFSC guides to British Bats		-	-
External Hard Drive to store bat data		-	-
2 x Nightfox Whisker Night Vision Binoculars + Tripods, SD cards		-	-

B5 Liabilities

Details	Fund to which liability relates	Amount due (optional)	When due (optional)
		-	
		-	
		-	
		-	
		-	

Signed by one or two trustees on behalf of all the trustees

Signature	Print Name	Date of approval
	Clare Rawcliffe	17/01/2026