



Advanced Bat Survey Techniques Training Course

Course Overview

This hands-on, field-based training course is tailored for experienced bat ecologists looking to progress towards Natural England's Level 3 (CL19) and Level 4 (CL20) Bat Survey Class Licences. It focuses on practical application of advanced survey tools and techniques, including mist-netting, harp-trapping, and the effective use of acoustic lures.

The training is ideal for those who already hold a Level 2 licence (CL18) and are looking to develop the specialist skills and field experience needed for more complex surveys and research work involving bat capture and handling.

What You'll Learn

Throughout the three days, you will explore advanced bat survey methods used in professional consultancy and research contexts. The course includes both theoretical sessions and intensive night-time fieldwork.

Topics covered include:

- Legal scope and permissions under CL19 and CL20 licences
- Selecting, setting up and operating mist nets and harp traps, including specialist configurations (e.g., triple-high, over-water, canopy nets)
- Safe and ethical use of acoustic lures
- Bat welfare considerations, including current biosecurity protocols
- Safe extraction techniques for captured bats
- In-hand species identification, sexing, ageing, reproductive assessment, and biometric data collection
- Practice session on bat ringing/banding using a model bat



Fieldwork and Species

Two nights of capture surveys will take place at proven bat sites, including a swarming location where species such as Bechstein's bat, greater and lesser horseshoe bats, brown long-eared bats, and various *Myotis* species are regularly recorded. Field sessions are led by licensed and experienced ecologists.

Assessment and Certification

To support your licence application, the course includes both written and practical assessments. A certificate of completion will be awarded to those who successfully demonstrate safe and effective use of the methods taught.

In addition to the certificate, we will provide signed logbook entries for the techniques undertaken during the course. Please note: participation alone may not be sufficient to apply for CL19/CL20 — additional experience will be needed as documented in your training log.

Full requirements for licence applications can be found at:

[References and experience needed to support your protected species application or registration - GOV.UK](#)

Who Should Attend

This course is aimed at ecologists who already have:

- A Level 2 (CL18) licence
- Competency in bat handling and basic species ID
- Rabies vaccination (proof required prior to attendance)

If you're unsure whether this course is suitable for you, please get in touch before booking.

Location

The course is delivered from our main office near Exeter, with local fieldwork locations selected based on bat activity and access permissions.

Questions?

For further information or to reserve your place, please contact us at:

office@richardgreenecology.co.uk



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