



Woodland for bats:

increasing the value of a key habitat for conservation

FIELD ASSISTANT REQUIRED

Many bat species in Europe have undergone large population declines during the 20th century; one of the driving causes of these declines is believed to be the loss of habitat through agricultural intensification.

Agri-environment (AE) schemes have been introduced as an attempt to counteract the negative effects of modern agriculture on farmland biodiversity by providing financial incentives for farmers to adopt environmentally-friendly agricultural practices.

Woodland patches are being created on farmland and managed according to AE schemes to increase its quality for sustaining biodiversity. Woodland maintains high bat activity levels and is a key habitat for bat conservation, but information about how woodland character influences bat populations is scarce.

This project will assess the use of woodland patches by bats and examine the relationship between bat abundance, invertebrate abundance and bat foraging activity within woodland patches of different sizes, isolation and structural complexity.

Field work involves day-time vegetation surveys and night-time surveys to quantify bat activity levels (using ultrasonic bat detectors) and abundance (using mist nets and harp traps) and nocturnal insect availability (using a suction trap and portable heath traps). This involves walking over difficult terrain and carrying heavy equipment so it is essential that applicants are fit, enthusiastic and reliable. Get the experience to watch bats in their natural environment, learn about sampling and identification techniques and ecological project planning.



Pay: £200 per week

Closing date: March 15th

Approximate duration: 15th May – 26th June (6 weeks)

Own car required (petrol expenses covered)

To apply please email your CV to: ef12@stir.ac.uk

For further information on the project please contact Elisa Fuentes-Montemayor or visit:
<http://www.sbes.stir.ac.uk/people/postgrads/fuentes-montemayor.html>