

Bailiwick Bat Survey - Health and Safety Guidelines for Volunteers

In order to minimise risk, you are required to familiarise yourself with, and adopt, the Bailiwick Bat Survey's health and safety protocols while carrying out surveys on behalf of the project.

These include but are not limited to:

- You are under no obligation to carry out any survey for the Bailiwick Bat Survey project.
- You are responsible for your own health and safety.
- Do not put yourself or others in danger while surveying for the Bailiwick Bat Survey.
- You are not obliged to visit a site, even if a member of Bailiwick Bat Survey project team has requested it.
- If you have concerns cease surveying and contact the survey project co-ordinator.
- Always obtain permission to access privately owned land. The Bailiwick Bat Survey team may be able to assist you with this.
- Do not continue to visit a site if permission has been revoked.
- Place the detector somewhere unlikely to cause a public nuisance.
- Take caution against hammering the stake into the ground where underground services may be buried.
- Stay away from dangerous areas.
- Be aware of your own limitations and those of your accompanying surveyors.
- Familiarise yourself fully with your site(s) during daylight hours.
- Always bring a fully charged mobile phone on surveys with you even though network coverage may not always be available in remote or coastal areas.
- For off-road surveys wear footwear with suitable ankle support for walking on uneven surfaces.
- To prevent hypothermia, wear and/or carry warm and waterproof clothing and a hat.

Risk Assessment - *No specific risk assessment needed as the process is low risk however, please note the following:*

- Be aware of potential trip hazards such as rocks, uneven surfaces or vegetation that may increase the risk of falls occurring.
- Working At Night - Take a working torch for setting up equipment and to minimise risk.
- Working At Night - If your survey route includes a walk along a road or you are required to walk along a road to return to your car, wear a reflective jacket.
- Parking - When choosing where to park your car, consider access and safety. Do not block or obstruct access to any site, field, house or property. If parked along a road ensure that the car is not on a bend or in a location that could cause an accident.
- Working in remote areas, particularly on or near the cliffs, weather can be unpredictable (such as fog, wind and rain) and temperatures can drop significantly after dusk.
- Avoid or abandon the survey in bad weather – bats are much less likely to occur during temperatures <8°C, rain, high winds and fog anyway.
- Diseases - Lyme disease is carried by ticks. You are referred to the HSE website for further information on symptoms and diagnosis. <https://www.hse.ie/eng/health/az/L/Lyme-disease/> As a precaution against Lyme disease – cover skin as much as possible – wear brightly coloured clothing – tuck trousers into socks – check for ticks following surveys and remove them as guided – use insect repellent – monitor the site of tick bites for any signs of infection.
- Animals - Domestic and farm or even wild animals may present a risk to surveyors. Avoid areas with cattle, horses or other animals that may be aggressive.