

## Lesser Horseshoe bat surveying in the Forest of Dean – 13<sup>th</sup> August 2016

Natural England are leading on the Forest of Dean and Wye Valley Batscape Project (being delivered through the Foresters' Forest HLF Landscape Partnership Programme), working in close partnership with the Gloucestershire Bat Group and Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust. As part of this project a Lesser Horseshoe bat survey is being carried out on Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> August and volunteers are needed!

The project aims to understand more about the internationally important horseshoe bat populations in this area and take positive action to conserve them. This will include re-visiting historic roosts to carry out roost counts, identifying commuting routes that connect some of the major roosts to their foraging areas, identify secure locations for new artificial horseshoe bat roosts, and carrying out targeted conservation work (through agri-environment schemes as well as project-funded practical works) to improve the connectivity of the hedgerow and woodland network.

The bat survey will take place after dusk on Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> August, in the Tidenham area (but should the weather forecast be unfavourable on the 13<sup>th</sup> we have the 12<sup>th</sup> as a back-up date). It will enable us to understand more about how Lesser Horseshoe bats use the surrounding countryside. We will do this by marking out their flight-paths to and from their breeding roost, and noting down key feeding areas.

There is a training event on the evening of Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> August, near Tidenham, when training on the use of bat detectors will be provided. On the survey night, volunteers with less experience will be paired up with our more experienced bat surveys, so no previous experience is needed. Surveyors will need to walk to a fixed survey spot, and then record passing Lesser Horseshoe bats using a bat detector.

This is a fantastic opportunity to find out more about these fascinating creatures and gain some experience of bat detecting.

Please contact Forest Voluntary Action Forum (FVAF) for more details of how to get involved and to book a place: Tim Fretter or Deb Cook [contact@fvaf.org.uk](mailto:contact@fvaf.org.uk) or 01594 822073

For more information about the Foresters' Forest HLF Landscape Partnership Programme please visit [www.forestersforest.uk](http://www.forestersforest.uk)