

## Nightsniffing Documentation brief

17 August 2020

Nightsniffing is a practice-based research project that reimagines urban bat walking as a way to collectively investigate the systems that shape London and other UK cities. The project uses methods from critical making, mobile sonic art and walking art to engage people with bat ecology, digital systems and planning procedures in novel ways. It explores the complex relations bats have with cities, including how they inhabit the built environment, their status as a protected species and their role in community alliances against development and demolitions. The Nightsniffing walks employ custom devices alongside bat detectors to allow people to explore the ecology and decision-making structures of their area through lively sonic, interpersonal and interspecies engagements.

**Further info:** <http://cliffhammett.com/nightsniffing>

### Objectives

To video record the evening walking event, involving two facilitators and six participants. The group will explore the route using bat detectors and two custom made devices called London Development Datasniffers. The Datasniffers are percussive sound devices that alert participants of nearby planning applications, while the bat detectors make the sounds of bat echolocation audible. The activity will last about two hours, with the walk lasting approximately an hour and ending with an outdoor discussion session post the walk and subject to weather conditions.

The purposes of this documentation are as follows:

- evidence the research and provide documentation of the event to PhD examiners and to other researchers;
- provide insights into the responses and feedback from participants to the devices, and on their exploration of the environment and experience of the walk;
- for reflection and consideration by the artist researcher to evaluate the activity;
- provide material for a short video about the project online and for future use in applications or publicity.

### Location, Times and Duration

The event will be held on Thursday 3rd September, meeting at 7.30pm for a 7.45pm start. It will be a round route to and from the Remakery, 51 Lilford Road, SE5 9HY.

As the event will start at dusk (sunset), the recording will take place in low light levels. Due to the sensitivities of bats, no artificial lights should be used in recording. The videographer will be required:

- to obtain good quality recording of the event as unobtrusively as possible, with particular focus on participant's use of the Datasniffer devices, encounters with bats, and conversations sparked by the activity;

- to follow health and safety procedures to minimise risk of COVID-19 spread;
- to provide the footage to the artist researcher by a specified date (TBC) after appointment of this brief.

**Cancellation**

In the event that the walk has to be cancelled e.g. subject to bad weather, the activity will be rescheduled to the same day the following week (i.e. Thursday 10th September) with a slightly earlier start. Please take this second date into account when considering this brief.

**Output / Format**

Unedited film documentation to be received as .mp4 files to the following spec or the most optimum for use as online upload.

Resolution & Aspect Ratio 1280 x 720 (High Definition 16:9 widescreen)

Frames per second: 24 fps

Codec: H.264

Channels: Stereo or Stereo + 5.1 Sample rate 96 khz or 48 khz

**Fee**

The fee for this work is £150 and will be paid through the University of Sussex. It will be necessary to complete a Right to Work check prior to the event to ensure payment.

**If you are interested in this brief please get in touch and let me know if you have had experience of filming activities at night. Please feel free to send us links to your work. I will get back in touch to arrange a zoom meeting to meet with you before making a decision.**

**Contact**

**Cliff Hammett**

[c.hammett@sussex.ac.uk](mailto:c.hammett@sussex.ac.uk)