

Nottinghamshire Bat Group

EchoLocation Location

echolocationlocation@nottsbatgroup.org.uk

Project update 23 July 2015

This is the first of what will be a regular update on the progress of our *EchoLocation Location* National Lottery funded project. It will keep you updated on survey progress and advertise all the events associated with the project. Events will also be advertised on our website, Facebook page and regular emails to the mailing list.

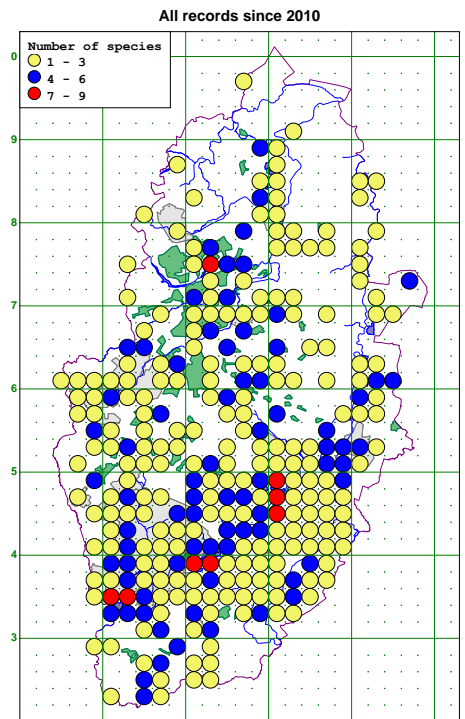
The project is now well under way and we have started to acquire the equipment and resources that will be needed to make the project a success. Our main objective is to record as much of the county as possible to find out which species are where and to help us identify the really important areas. Our main tool will be several Anabat



Anabat Express deployed in a garden

Express detectors which will record remotely but can also be used for walked, driven or cycled transects. We have several deployed at the moment and during the next few weeks more will be set up. Gardens can be extremely important for bats, especially in urban areas, and can provide some of the richest foraging habitat. Many gardens will be in areas where we have little or no knowledge of bats at all so a detector installed for a couple of nights could provide some extremely important information.

You can request a detector via our website by filling in the form @ nottsbatgroup.org.uk/ell.html. We are still working out how we will distribute the detectors so please be patient if we haven't got back to you yet if you have already submitted the form.



We will use all the records collected over the next three years to add to our current database to produce a bat distribution atlas in 2018. Our provisional atlas will be updated regularly and made available on our website

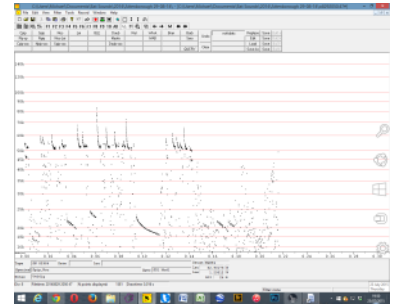
We are also asking for help to survey unrecorded tetrads (an area on a map 2km x 2km) to fill in some of the gaps in our records. Full details can be found on our website using the link above and our current distribution atlas is also available from this page. One visit to a tetrad could provide us with records of several species. Detectors are available to borrow so please contact us to book one. 46 tetrads have been allocated to volunteers so far and new data has begun to be added to our database. You will be provided with a map of your allocated tetrad and full recording instructions. The north of the county is very thinly recorded and is a priority area for us so please let us know if you are willing to travel or if you live in that area.

Events and Training

Several training workshops have been arranged to help with equipping people with the skills needed for this project. Other events will be advertised in future updates

Analook bat call analysis

The Anabat Express detectors will collect a very large quantity of data which will all need to be looked at to identify the bat species recorded. Two workshops have been arranged in Nottingham, a refresher course for those who have used the program before but need reminding about some of the features, and a beginners course for those new to it. Both sessions will be held at the Nottinghamshire Wildlife Trust office in Sneinton (next to Victoria Baths). Booking essential via the echolocation@ address. Please bring a laptop with you or let us know if you don't have one.



Analook refresher - Tuesday 28th July 7.00pm until 9.00pm
Analook beginners - Saturday 15th August 9.30am - 1.00pm

Heterodyne bat detector training

Many people struggle to identify bats using a basic bat detector such as the Magenga 4 or the BatBox 3D. These sessions out in the field will help you to use one correctly and show how you can use an inexpensive bat detector (Magenta 4s are about £60) to become a valuable bat surveyor. A detector will be provided but please bring a pair of simple headphones (ipod ear bud type are perfect). Limited to 12 people for each session. Booking essential via the echolocation@ address.

Colwick Country Park - Tuesday 4th August, 8.30pm until 10.00pm approximately
TBC but will be Mansfield area - Monday 10th August, 8.30pm until 10.00pm approximately

Harp trapping and radio tracking sessions

The group are involved in two projects which involve the use of trapping techniques to catch bats. One is the BCT National Nathusius project which is in it's second year, the other is a new Nottinghamshire project focusing on our search for the elusive barbastelle bat. Both are operated under Natural England licence. For details about any of these sessions please contact Matt Cook @ mattcook@hotmail.co.uk. Spaces are limited for practical reasons and to avoid disturbance but there will be opportunities for new people to get involved.

Locations vary and may change at short notice but confirmed dates so far are 25, 26, 31 July and 1,6,7,8,9,10 August. The 6-10 August dates may involve radio tracking if we catch a female Nathusius' Pipistrelle

Bat group indoor meetings

We have a regular indoor meeting every two months to discuss all things bat related in the county. There will be a project update at each meeting. Details of the meeting location can be found on our website on the events page.

Monday 14th September 2015 (**please note the change of date from 7th**)
Monday 2nd November 2015

For more details on these events please visit our website events page nottsbatgroup.org.uk/events.html
If you have any questions or suggestions about the project please contact Michael Walker @ echolocationlocation@nottsbatgroup.org.uk