

Project update 31 August 2015

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The first thing you may notice about this update is that we have new group and project logos produced for us by *Sunday* the company designing our new website. One of the aims of the project is to develop our promotional materials to enable us to spread the word about bat conservation in the county so the new website, which will be online in the next couple of weeks, will be a great help with this.

Since the project began on June 6th we have received records from 220 tetrads (a tetrad is one dot on the map opposite and covers an area 2km x 2km). There are also quite a number of recordings awaiting analysis which will soon be added but even without these records we have recorded nearly 35% of the county. When added to all our records since 2010 we have covered 60% of the county which makes our aim to produce an up to data atlas on bat distribution towards the end of the project well on target. Thank you to everyone who has been involved so far. There is still time to get involved with surveys this year so please let us know if you would like a tetrad allocated to you or would like to use one of the project's detectors.

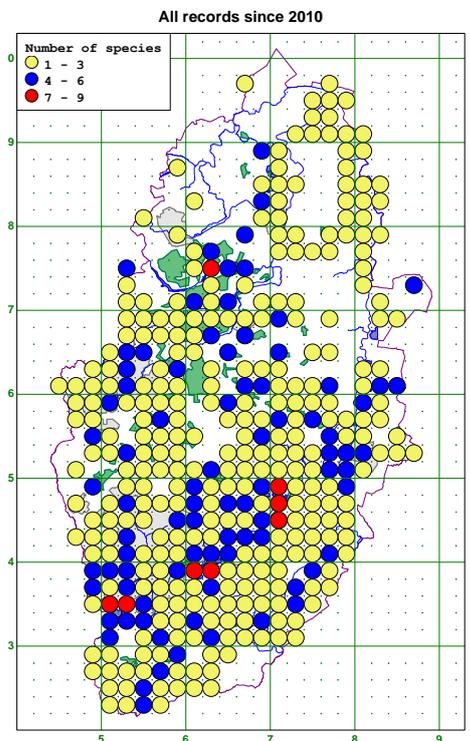
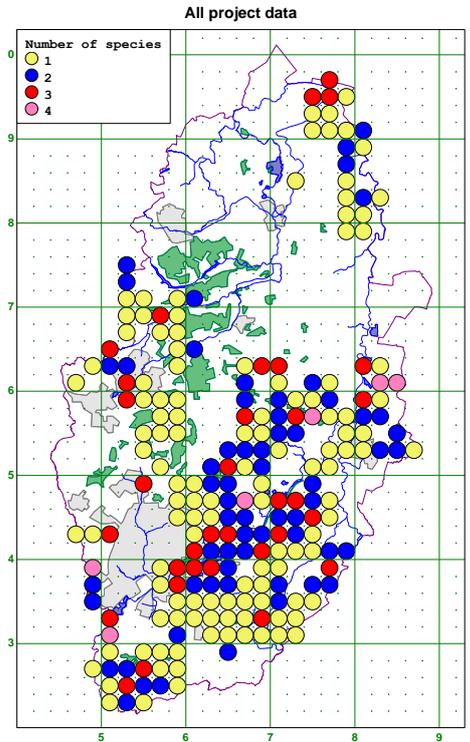
Analook Training

We held a refresher course on the analook bat call analysis software in July and a beginners course in August to give people the skills to go through the vast amount of data that is being generated for the project. 31 people attended the training and many have now begun to analyse calls. A few people have contacted me to say that they couldn't make either of the previous sessions but would be interested if others were planned. It may be possible to run another evening session towards the end of September so please let me know if you are interested.



Lorna Griffiths

We also held the first of our basic bat detector training sessions at Colwick Park in August and are planning more of these next year and perhaps one more this year if possible.



Surveys using harp traps and mist nets

The project has also enabled the group to expand its trapping program which helps us to more fully understand which species are in an area. We took part in the BCT Pilot Nathusius' pipistrelle project last year using two harp traps supplied by BCT and shared with our colleagues in Derbyshire Bat Group. This project continues this year but we now have more flexibility on when we trap as we now have our own harp trap and acoustic lure.

This year the Nathusius' project was expanded to include radio tracking but no equipment was available to loan for this. The project has funded a set of tracking kit for the group so we are now ready if we manage to catch a female Nathusius' pipistrelle. If one is caught she will be fitted with a tiny radio transmitter (it's glued on with special adhesive and is eventually groomed off by the bat) allowing us to locate her roost location. The hope is that this will lead us to find the first nursery roost for this species in the county. So far only males have been trapped but there is still another month to go. Any Nathusius' caught are also fitted with a small metal ring with a unique reference number which will identify the individual bat if it is ever caught again. Last year seven were ringed in Nottinghamshire and so far this year six more have been processed.



We also have a project of our own 'The Nottinghamshire Barbastelle Project' which will be targeting areas close to barbastelle populations on the county boundary or in habitat which has all the features preferred by this species. There are only a few records from Nottinghamshire, all of them bat detector records since 2011. There is a good population just over the county boundary in Lincolnshire so suitable woodland close by has been one of the target areas. So far none have been caught

in our home county but the picture opposite shows three of our very close neighbours. Both projects are coordinated by Matt Cook so please contact him at mattcook@hotmail.co.uk if you would like to get involved

Bats in your garden

Static bat detectors have now been deployed in gardens in various locations in the county and are all adding to our knowledge of bat distribution. In these early stages of the project we have been distributing them via bat group members but for next year we will have distribution focused on areas of the county to enable us to get them out to as many locations as possible.

Events

We will be attending the Idle Valley Nature Reserve Bat Weekend on 4th - 6th September www.nottinghamshirewildlife.org/events/category/idle-valley/ and the Skylarks Heritage Festival at Holme Pierrepont on 12th September www.nottinghamshirewildlife.org/events/2015/09/12/. We will also be attending the Southwell Ploughing Match at Oxton on 26th September www.southwellploughingmatch.co.uk/

Indoor meetings

Please note the change of date for our September meeting. It's now on **Monday 14th September** at 7.30pm at Main Street Methodist Church Hall, Carlton, Nottingham, NG4 1EE

We have a guest speaker at our **2nd November** meeting (same time and venue as above).

Dr. Danielle Linton will be speaking to us about the Oxford University Wytham Woods Bat Project. You can see a short video about this project here www.ox.ac.uk/content/discresearchbats

Our meetings are open to members or anyone who is thinking of joining us.