

Bats in the landscape – update October 2014

The Devon Greater Horseshoe Bat project has come to East Devon AONB, greater horseshoe bats are very rare in north west Europe and Devon is their strong hold. It will focus on the area around the two maternity roosts in East Devon Branscombe and Southleigh so to find out more .

The Devon Greater Horseshoe Bat project has come to East Devon with a series of events and activities. Local volunteers have given up their time to put out bat detectors alongside hedgerows and woodland edges these record all bat echo-location calls. Each species of bat has a different frequency of call so from that we can tell which species are flying along which hedgerows. 47 detectors were put out by the volunteers and we are awaiting the results which are being analysed by Exeter University.

Meanwhile local farmers are invited to a special event at Farwood Barton hosted by Julien and Judith Hurford. Farmers who work the land in Branscombe, Southleigh, Northleigh and Farway are invited to attend where there will be talks on Greening and CAP reforms, parasite management and managing areas of the farm for the benefit of the bats there will also be a farm walk. Farmers will also be offered a free advisory visit by Chantal Brown a professional farm advisor working for the project.



Everything a greater horseshoe bat needs to survive

The project will also be working with local schools and other groups to help their pupils learn more about our internationally important bat species so if you are interested why not get in touch.

The Devon Greater Horseshoe Bat Project has been awarded an initial one year of funding by the Heritage Lottery Funded and during this year the 13 partner organisations delivering the project will be making the case for a further 5 years of funding so these rare and internationally important bats are conserved for future generations. To find out more about the project contact Ed Parr Ferris the project manager who is based at the Devon Wildlife Trust offices.



Still on the theme of bat conservation our Sustainable Development Fund has awarded a grant to the Devon Bat Conservation and Research Group to help them purchase bat tracking equipment. The group are learning more about how all species of bat use the landscape, they give bat walks and help provide valuable experience to people interested in becoming more actively involved in bat conservation.