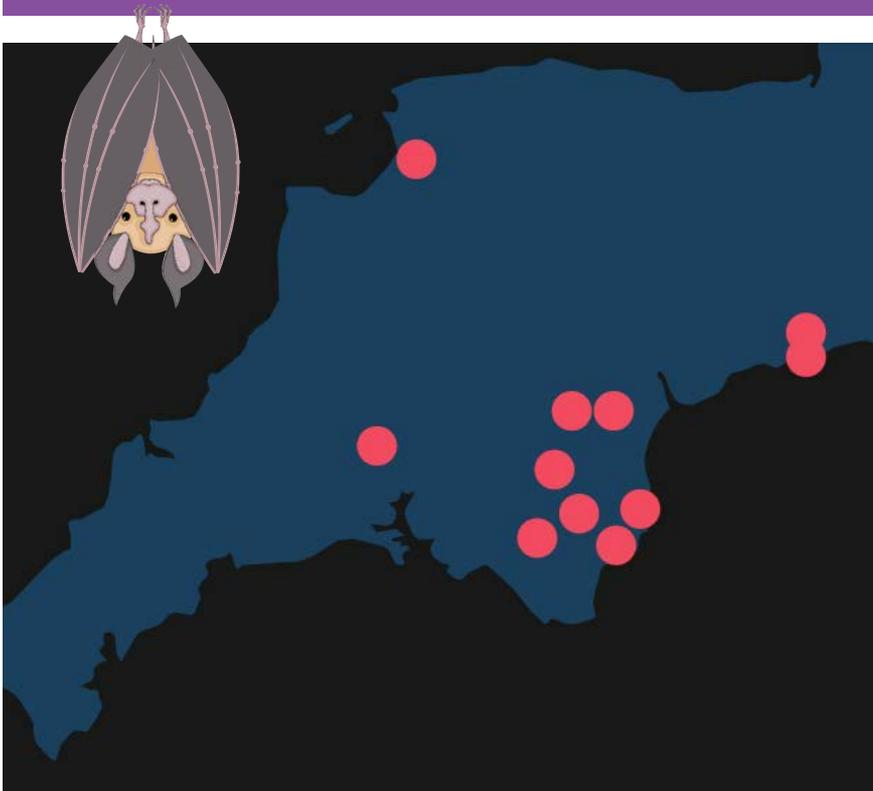




## BETTY'S BAT BULLETIN

The first year of the Devon Greater Horseshoe Bat Project has been a great success, thanks to support from the Heritage Lottery Fund.



Working across Devon, the project is hoping to secure the future of this bat in the county. We are ensuring the habitats needed are present, that our bat knowledge is better and that the people of Devon know about the species and are better able to look after it.

There are 11 maternity roosts in the county and these areas are where we focus our work, trying to engage the landowners and communities in protecting the landscape for this amazing bat.

To keep up to date with the project on a regular basis, visit [www.devonbats.org](http://www.devonbats.org) and sign up to our e-newsletter.

Greater horseshoes have been known to live for up to 30 years!



**Devon**  
Wildlife Trust

Funding raised by  
**The National Lottery**  
and awarded by the Heritage Lottery Fund



## Colyford Goose Fair



## Bat Festival

The first annual bat festival took place in September with 15 events across the county—including a Starry Night Swim at Buckfastleigh Open Air Pool and stands at Croyde Bioblitz and Colyford Goose Fair

## Donkey Sanctuary Bat beacon



## Bat Beacons

There are 2 fixed bat beacons in place at Berry Head NNR and at the Donkey Sanctuary in Sidmouth. These have a touch screen with lots of information on greater horseshoe bats, and big displays – why not have a go at one of the bat games? There are also 3 mobile bat beacons which are available to be set up at locations across the county. If you have an idea of where one could go, then please contact the team.

## Volunteers

At the volunteer forum in April, we engaged with lots of volunteers, informing them about the project and how they could help it succeed—there was even cake!

## Schools

The project team worked with 177 children across 81 school sessions, with 7 schools gaining bat buddy school awards for their work towards becoming bat friendly. We hope to sign up more schools next year, and that existing schools advance from bronze to silver or silver to gold!



*'I have been delighted with how the project has been received in East raising people's awareness of Devon as a stronghold for their conservation.'*  
Pete Youngman, East Devon AONB

## Volunteers

## Bat Friendly Communities

Our community engagement team have worked with a number of communities, and are encouraging them to become bat friendly. Chudleigh Town Council were successful in being awarded funding from BatWorks towards hay forks to allow them to manage road verges for wildflowers. This will improve the corridors along which the greater horseshoe bats travel, and will hopefully provide more insect prey into the future. If you think that your community could be a bat friendly one, then get in touch with the team for advice and encouragement!

## Guided walk

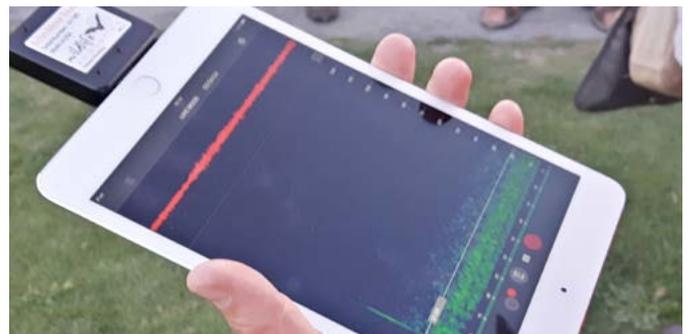


### Batty events

The team have run or attended lots of events this year, getting the greater horseshoe message out as wide as possible. These range from walks and talks, to practical events like hedgelaying, or attending large shows.

## Bat Survey

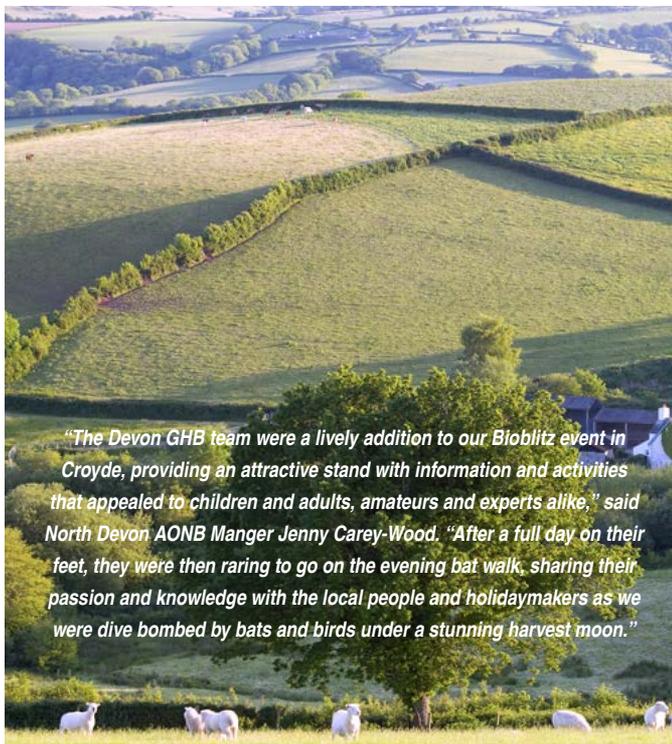
The Devon Bat Survey allowed 10 bat detectors to be loaned out to members of the public, allowing vast amounts of data on how bats use the landscape to be gathered. For year 2 of the project this will be extended to 20 detectors. 153 people took part in the survey this year, which is incredible considering it only ran for 11 weeks! A further 10 in-depth surveys took place with 100 volunteers helping to study flight paths in selected areas of the county.



Bat detector



Greater horseshoe bats are really sensitive to light, so having outside lights on near their commuting routes can be really bad and stop them passing.



*"The Devon GHB team were a lively addition to our Bioblitz event in Croyde, providing an attractive stand with information and activities that appealed to children and adults, amateurs and experts alike," said North Devon AONB Manger Jenny Carey-Wood. "After a full day on their feet, they were then raring to go on the evening bat walk, sharing their passion and knowledge with the local people and holidaymakers as we were dive bombed by bats and birds under a stunning harvest moon."*

Bat friendly farmland

## Farm visits

The projects land advisors were busy visiting farms within the roost zones, giving advice on how to consider bats within the farmed landscape. In total they visited 100 farms and delivered 9 workshops on subjects ranging from parasite management to wildflower harvesting. Advice was given on how to improve habitat for greater horseshoe bats, and so far 210 ha of habitat has been secured.

The team have also started to survey County Wildlife Sites to see how they are doing, and whether they could be given a helping hand to be better for bats and wildlife in general –if you think you have the skills to help us to survey even mores sites, then please get in touch.



**Greater horseshoe bats live in our landscapes, using linear features like hedges to navigate, feeding on dung beetles and roosting in old buildings and mines.**

### Bat Works grants

The bat project is able to provide small grants towards works that help the greater horseshoe bat—these BatWorks grants could be used to buy tools and equipment to better manage sites, for roost improvements, to improve land to make it more bat friendly or to raise awareness of the bats in the local community. In Year 1 of the project over £6000 was granted to 4 projects, and more projects are lined up to be funded over the next 4 years. If you have a project idea that will benefit greater horseshoe bats, then please talk to us and see if we can help.



Avon valley ponies grazing

## BAT WATCHING



**Stick to footpaths and do not enter private land**



**Don't use torches**



**Avoid standing in their path**

### Targets update

Priority habitat secured:	210ha	target 1494ha
Hedges improved:	24km	target 230km
River habitat secured:	8km	target 175km
Workshops delivered:	6	target 31
Advisory visits:	154	target 950
Events run/attended:	66	target 170
Schools accredited:	7	target 31
School sessions:	81	target 250
Festival activities:	15	no target
Research surveys:	10	target 20
New bat records:	75,843 bat passes	no target
Greater horseshoe records:	6,893 bat passes	no target

### Dung beetle



### Avon Valley Grazing

The Avon Valley Grazing Links project received funding to purchase electric fencing and a water bowser to allow otherwise inaccessible sites to be grazed. The first site now has ponies opening up the grassland, improving habitat for bats and providing a food source through increasing dung beetles on the site!

None of this work would have been possible without the support of Heritage Lottery Fund or our partners.

If you would like to know more about the work of the project, how to volunteer or get involved, or how the project can work with your school, community or farm, then please contact us via [www.devonbatproject.org](http://www.devonbatproject.org)

This is a partnership project consisting of; Bat Conservation Trust, Blackdown Hills Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, Clinton Devon Estates, Devon Bat Group, Devon Biodiversity Records Centre, Devon Communities Together, Devon County Council, Devon Wildlife Trust (Lead Partner), East Devon Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, Farming and Wildlife Advisory Group South West, Natural England, North Devon Coast Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty, North Devon Biosphere Reserve, South Devon Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, Tamar Valley Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, The Vincent Wildlife Trust, Torbay Coast And Countryside Trust, University of Exeter.

If you would like to help the project protect this iconic species of bat, then please consider making a donation on our website

<https://www.devonwildlifetrust.org/make-a-donation>.

Every pound you give helps us to unlock further funding from grant making bodies.