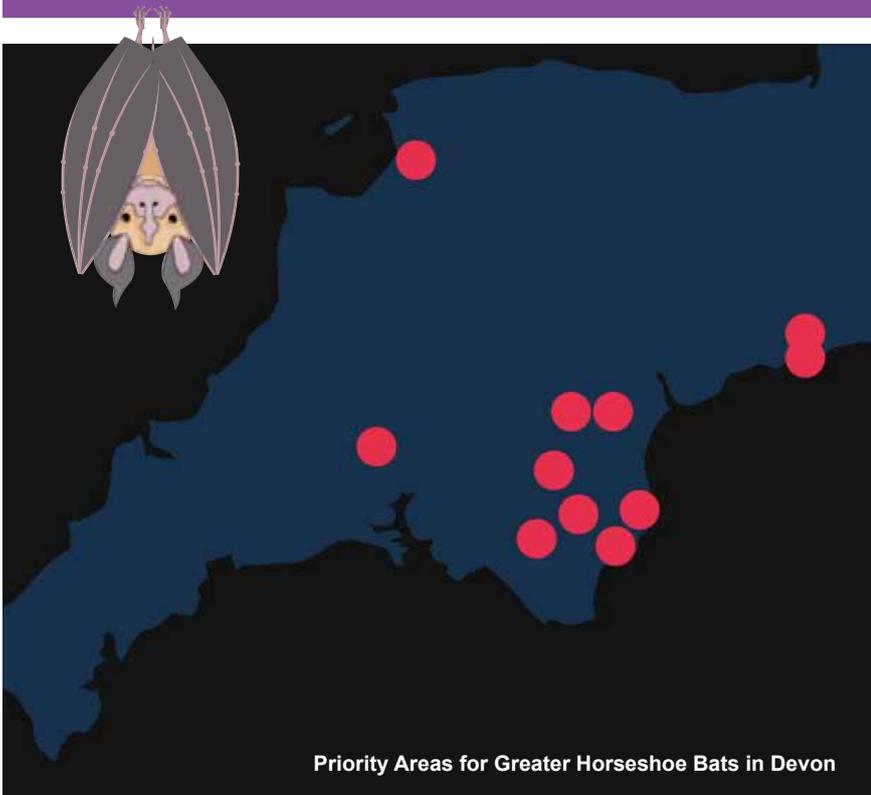




## BETTY'S BAT BULLETIN

The second year of the Devon Greater Horseshoe Bat Project built on the success of the first, thanks to support from the Heritage Lottery Fund and Disney Conservation Fund.



Working across Devon, the project is hoping to secure the future of greater horseshoe bats 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 the landscapes around them are where we focus our work, engaging 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.devonbatproject.org](http://www.devonbatproject.org) and sign up to our e-newsletter.

Greater horseshoe bat numbers have declined by 90% in the UK in the last century



**Devon**  
Wildlife Trust

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



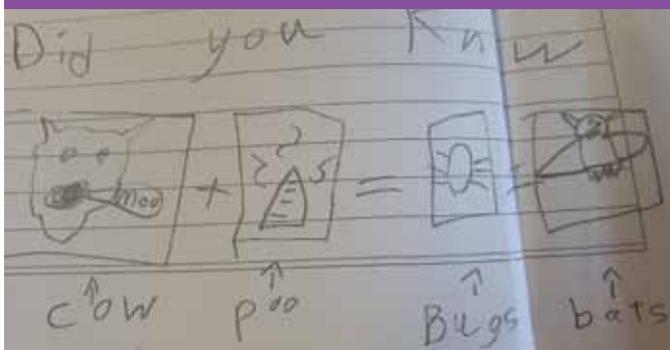
## Chudleigh Wild Bat Garden



### Bat Festival

Our second annual bat festival took place in September 2017 with events across the county and included walks in Braunton, Stover Country Park and at Berry Head National Nature Reserve, and a talk by the University of Exeter's Fiona Mathews. Over 1000 people got involved.

### Buckfastleigh Primary School



### Bat Trails

Partners and volunteers have been instrumental in helping us develop our series of 12 bat trails. These self-guided walks take you through some fabulous bat habitat, giving you information on where to look out for bats. Remember to take lots of care if you do these walks at dusk. Visit our website to find a walk near you.

### Website

We have added our fun, new 'bat games' to the website, and the live bat cam has proved popular again, allowing everyone to watch bats in their roost.

### Schools

Our school engagement work is going from strength to strength, with another 7 schools gaining bat buddy awards, this work has involved over 2000 children! We linked Buckfastleigh Primary School with nearby Pengelly Caves and a local farm taking them out of the school to visit some great bat spots.

### Films

Three films have been made for the project, and these are now available to view on our website - a great way to see what we've been up to!



*'This year's September bat festival is proving to be a real asset to the area' Toby Taylor, RSPB*

### Braunton Bat Viewing Platform

### Bat Friendly Communities

Year 2 of the project saw us strengthening links with communities in our project areas:

Chudleigh - the town council and Chudleigh Wild got together to create a wonderful bat friendly garden which aims to show people what they can do in their own gardens - complete with it's very own bespoke Bat Bench!

Bovey Tracey - the newly formed Bovey Bat Group aim to attend local events with a bat stand, as well as running bat walks throughout the summer.

Beer - local groups are joining forces in East Devon to create 'Bat Friendly Beer', including a competition to design their own logo.

Braunton - a brand new bat viewing platform has been designed, along with audio pen bat trails around Braunton to visit great bat habitats.



**Volunteers**

Have helped us to survey new areas of the county, run the Devon Bat Survey, manage habitat, led walks and given talks. Could you help too?

**Farm visits**

The project's land advisors have had a very busy year, visiting 220 farms and giving advice on how to consider bats within the farmed landscape. In addition to this they delivered 23 workshops on subjects ranging from parasite management to woodland management! Advice was given on how to improve habitat for greater horseshoe bats, and to date 425 ha of habitat has been secured in good management or restored to better habitat for bats.

County Wildlife Sites represent some of the best quality habitats in the county. Spaces like these are important for wildflower species, and for the insects, birds and small mammals (including bats) that rely on them to provide somewhere to live and food to eat. The team have found two new sites which are of County Wildlife Site standard, and we are hoping that they will get designated soon.



**Workshop on Dung and Parasites**



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

**Bat Survey**

708 people have taken part in the Devon Bat Survey, providing us with over 750,000 sound files to analyse! This is providing vital information on where greater horseshoe bats are found around the county and will allow us to target our advisory work. We will be running the survey again in summer 2018, so keep an eye on our website or sign up to our e-newsletter to find out when booking opens. We have also been carrying out targeted research with the University of Exeter, increasing knowledge of how greater horseshoe bats use the countryside.



*"I'm quite honoured that we have a rare species in our area, and if I can do anything I'll be keen to help them populate for many years to come" Local Landowner*

**Filming With a Local Landowner**



**Greater horseshoe bats eat a variety of large moths and beetles, but dung beetles are important food for the juvenile bats when they first start to fly!**

### BatWorks grants

The bat project is able to provide small grants towards works that help the greater horseshoe bat—these BatWorks grants can be used to: buy tools and equipment to help 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 2 over £16,000 was granted to 13 schemes, and more projects are lined up to be funded over the next 3 years. If you are within one of our target areas and have an idea that will benefit greater horseshoe bats, then please talk to us and see if we can help.



**Orchard Planting with Volunteers**

## BAT WATCHING



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

**Don't shine torches at bats**

**Avoid standing in their path**

### Targets update (yr 2 of 5)

|                            |                   |               |
|----------------------------|-------------------|---------------|
| Priority habitat secured:  | 425ha             | target 1494ha |
| Hedges improved:           | 72km              | target 230km  |
| River habitat secured:     | 22km              | target 175km  |
| Workshops delivered:       | 28                | target 31     |
| Advisory visits:           | 374               | target 950    |
| Events run/attended:       | 120               | target 170    |
| Schools accredited:        | 14                | target 31     |
| School sessions:           | 125               | target 250    |
| Festival activities:       | 35                | no target     |
| Research surveys:          | 14                | target 20     |
| New bat records:           | 75,843 bat passes | no target     |
| Greater horseshoe records: | 7019 bat passes   | no target     |

### Dung beetle



### BatWorks Case Study

#### Orchard Restoration in Gunnislake

A landowner in the Tamar Valley has received funding and volunteer help to restore an orchard close to a maternity roost of greater horseshoe bats. Traditionally managed orchards are important for the bats as they contain lots of insects as well as lots of navigational features (trees)!

None of this work would have been possible without the support of the 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, please contact us at [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 £2 from the Heritage Lottery Fund.