

Tavistock Town Council National Bat Monitoring Programme Participation 2023

In 2022, Tavistock Town Council won a Heterodyne Bat Monitor and as a result sought to engage with local residents in using the monitor as part of the National Bat Monitoring Programme. Bat numbers in the UK have declined dramatically over the last century. The new monitor allows local residents to monitor nearby bats by taking part in surveys and observing these fascinating mammals in the Tavistock area. By monitoring bats volunteers can discover how bats are faring and the factors that are important for their survival. The National Bat Monitoring Programme has been running since 1996. It gives local people, and government, the information needed to help inform bat conservation.

To train volunteers and leaders, the Catholic church of Our Lady of Assumption and St Mary Magdalene was an ideal training ground with regular appearances of both soprano and common pipistrelles just after sunset. Fr. Cyriacus Uzochukwu graciously allowed the group to meet there over several weekends to recruit and train volunteers who responded to an article and request by the Works Manager in the Tavistock Times.



In the summer 2023, volunteers took part in 6 bat surveys, 3 field surveys in July and 3 waterway surveys in August.



Field Surveys

Field surveys involved designing and walking a triangular route in a 1km square allocated to three volunteers for two evenings in July. Volunteers recorded noctule, serotine, common and soprano pipistrelle bat activity.



Upper Whitchurch Common

Field Survey Counts for Site 120357: Tavistock										
Download counts										
Year: 2023 Observer: Ursula Mann										
Edit										
Count period	Status	Date	Detector	Temp °C	Cloud cover	Wind strength	Rainfall	Start time	End time	Duration (min)
	Survey completed	06/07/2023	Magenta Bat5	13.0	Patchy	Breezy	Dry	21:50	22:50	60
Species		Total Count								
Common pipistrelle		15								
Soprano pipistrelle		0								
Pipistrelle species		9								
Noctule		0								
Serotine		0								
Unsure (noctule/serotine)		0								
	Survey completed	21/07/2023	Magenta Bat5	13.0	Full	Calm	Dry	21:40	23:15	95
Species		Total Count								
Common pipistrelle		20								
Soprano pipistrelle		4								
Pipistrelle species		0								
Noctule		3								
Serotine		0								
Unsure (noctule/serotine)		1								

Lower Whitchurch Down

Field Survey Counts for Site 540388: Tavistock
[Download counts](#)

Year: 2023 Observer: Hilary Moie
[Edit](#)

Count period	Status	Date	Detector	Temp °C	Cloud cover	Wind strength	Rainfall	Start time	End time	Duration (min)
	Incomplete route or count	12/07/2023	Magenta Bat5	17.0	Full	Calm	Light Rain	21:46	23:20	94

Species	Total Count
Common pipistrelle	30
Soprano pipistrelle	3
Pipistrelle species	15
Noctule	5
Serotine	9
Unsure (noctule/serotine)	12

Count period	Status	Date	Detector	Temp °C	Cloud cover	Wind strength	Rainfall	Start time	End time	Duration (min)
	Incomplete route or count	26/07/2023	Magenta Bat5	15.0	Patchy	Calm	Light Rain	21:30	22:40	70

Species	Total Count
Common pipistrelle	25
Soprano pipistrelle	17
Pipistrelle species	5
Noctule	0
Serotine	0
Unsure (noctule/serotine)	20

Grenofen

NBMP Home > Surveys > My Field Survey Sites > Field Site History
[Field site history](#) [All field site counts](#)

Field Survey Counts for Site 540401: Grenofen
[Download counts](#)

Year: 2023 Observer: Paul Johnson
[Edit](#)

Count period	Status	Date	Detector	Temp °C	Cloud cover	Wind strength	Rainfall	Start time	End time	Duration (min)
	Survey completed	07/07/2023	Magenta Bat5	19.0	Patchy	Breezy	Dry	21:49	23:16	87

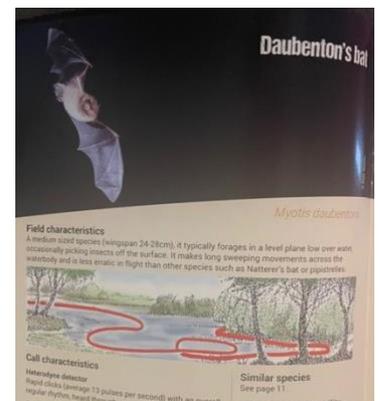
Species	Total Count
Common pipistrelle	6
Soprano pipistrelle	22
Pipistrelle species	0
Noctule	10
Serotine	5
Unsure (noctule/serotine)	0

Count period	Status	Date	Detector	Temp °C	Cloud cover	Wind strength	Rainfall	Start time	End time	Duration (min)
	Survey completed	24/07/2023	Magenta Bat5	13.0	Clear/low	Calm	Dry	21:35	23:05	90

Species	Total Count
Common pipistrelle	6
Soprano pipistrelle	19
Pipistrelle species	0
Noctule	16
Serotine	5
Unsure (noctule/serotine)	0

WATERWAY Survey

Three locations, two on the river Tavy and one on the Tavistock canal were completed to monitor activity of Daubenton's bats with a heterodyne bat detector and a torch. This revealed that Tavistock is home to a large number of this rare species of water bat. In fact, the Devon Bat Group also visited the Canal site separately to take infrared video and witness these bats along the canal.





Langham Wood – a repeat site on the River Tavy South West of town.

[NBMP Home](#) > [Surveys](#) > [My Waterway Survey Sites](#) > Waterway Site History

[Waterway site history](#) [All Waterway site counts](#)

Waterway Survey Counts for Site 110498: Langham Wood/River Tavy

[Download counts](#)

Year: 2023 Observer: Ursula Mann
 Tree shelter: >50% Smoothness: >50%
 Water width: 8.00 Spots clear view: 10

[Edit](#)

Count period	Status	Date	Detector	Temp °C	Cloud cover	Wind strength	Rainfall	Start time	End time	Duration (min)
	Survey completed	28/08/2023	Magenta Bat5	14.0	Patchy	Calm	Dry	20:51	22:12	81

Species	Total Count
Daubenton's bat	121
Unsure Daubenton's bat	3

Mount Kelly Path on the North Eastern River Tavy

Waterway Survey Counts for Site 530579: River Tavy Mount Kelly Path/River Tavy

[Download counts](#)

Year: 2023 Observer: Ursula Mann
 Tree shelter: >50% Smoothness: <50%
 Water width: 25.00 Spots clear view: 6

[Edit](#)

Count period	Status	Date	Detector	Temp °C	Cloud cover	Wind strength	Rainfall	Start time	End time	Duration (min)
	Survey completed	14/08/2023	Magenta Bat5	14.0	Clear/low	Calm	Dry	21:09	22:25	76

Species	Total Count
Daubenton's bat	136
Unsure Daubenton's bat	5

Count period	Status	Date	Detector	Temp °C	Cloud cover	Wind strength	Rainfall	Start time	End time	Duration (min)
	Survey completed	22/08/2023	Magenta Bat5	14.0	Patchy	Calm	Dry	21:02	22:17	75

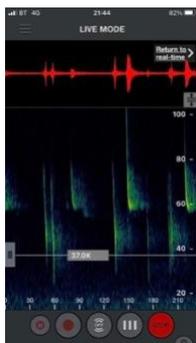
Species	Total Count
Daubenton's bat	101
Unsure Daubenton's bat	22

Tavistock Canal Path

Survey 1 (1st - 15th August)						Survey 2 (16th - 30th August)									
Edit						Edit									
Date	07/08/2023	Start Time (24h)	21:09	End Time (24h)	22:00	Date	29/08/2023	Start Time (24h)	20:49	End Time (24h)	22:10				
Cloud	Patchy	Wind	Calm	Rain	Dry	Temperature	14.0	Cloud	Patchy	Wind	Calm	Rain	Dry	Temperature	13.0
Bat detector model	Magenta Bat5					Bat detector model	Magenta Bat5								
Count Status	Survey completed					Count Status	Survey completed								
Spot	Bat Passes					Spot	Bat Passes								
	Daubenton's Bat	Unsure Daubenton's Bat	Not Surveyed				Daubenton's Bat	Unsure Daubenton's Bat	Not Surveyed						
1	10	0	<input type="checkbox"/>		1	2	0	<input type="checkbox"/>							
2	12	0	<input type="checkbox"/>		2	24	0	<input type="checkbox"/>							
3	4	0	<input type="checkbox"/>		3	21	0	<input type="checkbox"/>							
4	4	0	<input type="checkbox"/>		4	4	0	<input type="checkbox"/>							
5	6	0	<input type="checkbox"/>		5	11	0	<input type="checkbox"/>							
6	7	0	<input type="checkbox"/>		6	6	0	<input type="checkbox"/>							
7	8	0	<input type="checkbox"/>		7	6	0	<input type="checkbox"/>							
8	6	0	<input type="checkbox"/>		8	11	0	<input type="checkbox"/>							
9	2	0	<input type="checkbox"/>		9	3	1	<input type="checkbox"/>							
10	10	0	<input type="checkbox"/>		10	5	0	<input type="checkbox"/>							
Total	69	0			Total	93	1								

Establishing 'Wild Tavi'

Volunteers celebrated their late night work with a party at the start of October with pizza, wine, bat monitors and bat cupcakes. It was agreed amongst the group that repeating the surveys in subsequent years was a good goal, and upgrading the monitoring equipment to a full spectrum bat monitor to collect all bat calls in the areas of the surveys in future would also be welcomed.



Inspired by this project, the volunteers have adopted the name 'Wild Tavi' for the group in order to organise other wildlife surveys and actions to encourage and track biodiversity. Anyone wishing to volunteer with the group is welcome and may contact them through the Works Manager for Tavistock Town Council.

