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Bat Week on the Isle of Axholme

September 2018

A decorative graphic of reeds or grasses in shades of blue and grey, located in the bottom left corner of the page.

Joanne Meays

ISLE OF AXHOLME & HATFIELD CHASE LANDSCAPE PARTNERSHIP



Let's go Batty – Bat Week on the Isle of Axholme 2018

Dates of Walks

Eastoft on 19th September

Crowle on 23rd September

Owston Ferry on 24th September

Owston Ferry on 25th September

Owston Ferry on 26th September

Amcotts on 28th September

Belton on 29th September

Overview

What a fantastic week with 206 people enjoying an evening out listening and looking for bats. We heard and saw bats on every walk, although some were better than others. However, it has given us a clearer idea on the spread of bats across the Isle of Axholme. Most sightings were common pipistrelles, with the occasional brown long eared bats and a daubenton.

Thank you to our partners for hosting a start/finish point – Eastoft Gardening Club/Village Hall; Smithy & Heritage Centre, Owston Ferry and Belton Church, Reverend Cliff and his wife Jane.

We followed up this bat week with some bat box building sessions in the winter months so we can provide more summer roosts for bats when they emerge from hibernation in spring.

Walk Details

Eastoft on 19th September

Weather – had been raining earlier in the day and very windy, however turned into a nice evening with a mild wind. We started at the village hall to discuss bats and how to use detectors. We headed for bird/bat boxes on Washinghall Lane where we heard our first 2 pipistrelles. A brisk walk back to Hall Farm picked up 2 further pipistrelles. Back through the village we visited a property off the high street that has been converting barns (that has had a bat survey done). Here we picked up 3 more pipistrelles; 1 daubenton (neighbours lake nearby); 2 brown long eared. A walk back to the village hall picked up another pipistrelle.

Crowle on 23rd September

Weather – had been cloudy earlier but turned into clear, calm evening. Meeting in the car park we discussed bats and how to use the detectors. Sadly only 2 pipistrelles picked up on whole event, where LWT reserve opens up to fields. The route took us across council land, through Lincs Wildlife Trust reserve and onto Natural England's Thorne Moor to the first lake where we have previously picked up daubentons.

Owston Ferry castle site on 24th September

Weather – clear and calm. Set off from the Smithy & Heritage Centre. First pipistrelle picked up in churchyard. Another pipistrelle on top of the castle site. A brown long eared bat was picked up on our return past the church and further pipistrelles along Church Street.

Owston Ferry on 25th September

Weather – a little cloudy but not windy. First pipistrelle not picked up until on castle site with first group. Second group picked up 2 pipistrelles around the churchyard and another at the archway to the church.

Owston Ferry on 26th September

Weather – clear and calm. Set off from the Smithy & Heritage Centre and picked up first pipistrelle as entering churchyard. A further 3 picked up around the churchyard as walked around the other side of the church. No brown long eared bats this time.

Amcotts on 28th September

Weather – clear but breezy. Starting from the church we talked about bats and how to use the bat detectors. This is where we picked up the first pipistrelle. We then proceeded to the farm on the edge of the village on the B1392. We picked up a further 3 pipistrelles there. We walked back into the village to stop where bat boxes have been installed along Church Street but didn't pick up any bats on this occasion. We headed for the River Trent to see if could pick up daubentons but the tide had turned so the water was fast flowing so not ideal for bats. We walked along Trent Side a little way and picked up another pipistrelle. On return to the church to finish we picked up a faint brown long eared bat.

Belton on 29th September

Weather – clear and calm. We started in the community centre where we discussed bats and how to use the detectors. A brief walk up to the church discovered the first pipistrelle of the evening. We walked around the church and picked up the second pipistrelle, and down the path to the vicarage (no bats) and out onto the High Street. We picked up another pipistrelle near to some old barns, then walked along a footpath to join the back of the churchyard/Crown Inn. We picked up a fourth pipistrelle along the path through the churchyard. Two brown long eared bats were picked up either side of the church before returning to the community centre for refreshments and judging the children's' bat boy/girl competition.

Conclusion

It was an unusual week as I would have expected more bat sightings/hearings than we had. Particularly at Crowle as the previous year had been very good. Maybe this year's exceptional temperatures have had an effect on bats?

A bat survey pack was put together for people to look out for bats in their own back gardens. These packs were handed out at the bat walks and could be downloaded from our website.

Results in Total + grid references; recorder for all - Jo Meays

Location	Date	Bat species					
		Common pipistrelle		Brown long eared		Daubenton	
Eastoft	19/09/18	8	SE 80658 15970	2	SE 80646 16300	1	SE 80621 16338
			SE 80586 16113		SE 80553 16319		
			SE 80397 16291				
			SE 80456 16340				
			SE 80567 16313				
			SE 80627 16336				
			SE 80648 16316				
			SE 80622 16487				
Crowle	23/09/18	2	SE 74527 14657	-		-	
			SE 74546 15000				
Owston Ferry	24/09/18	3	SE 80523 00289	1	SE 80461 00292	-	
			SE 80441 00225				
			SE 80826 00326				
Owston Ferry	25/09/18	4	SE 80525 00225	-		-	
			SE 80434 00262				
			SE 80504 00317				
			SE 80614 00307				
Owston Ferry	26/09/18	4	SE 80537 00289	-		-	
			SE 80473 00268				
			SE 80461 00292				
			SE 80509 00320				
Amcotts	28/09/18	5	SE 85518 14118	1	SE 85508 14123	-	
			SE 85425 14128				
			SE 85353 14073				
			SE 85389 14087				
			SE 85906 14104				
Belton	29/09/18	4	SE 78294 06325	2	SE 78285 06347	-	
			SE 78304 06371		SE 78284 06321		
			SE 78414 06477				
			SE 78262 06403				