

BATS & "The Millennium Link" NEWSLETTER



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Issue 2 - October 2001

As promised.....

..... our second newsletter. It's hard to believe that October has arrived already. The first season of bat surveys is complete, despite the rain trying its best to ruin our plans, even when the morning forecasts assured us of dry weather. Thankfully only one survey had to be abandoned half-way through, whilst the use of freezer bags to keep bat detectors dry saved us on a number of occasions. At the other extreme we did have some good, dry nights when it would have been all too easy just to keep going on until dawn (perhaps next year!).

We have decided that a **Project Team** would be beneficial (there is just so much going on), and are pleased to announce that the following people have all agreed to contribute their skills and time in specific areas as required.

Chris Gould

Helen Lundie

Craig Macadam

Neil Middleton

Kirsty Morrison

Peter Rigby



BaTML Objectives

We are often asked about our key objectives, so here goes. Over the 5 year period of the project we will :-

- ✎ Produce distribution maps for the 3 main species of bat being studied.
- ✎ Establish benchmark data with regard to bat activity and monitor this thereafter.
- ✎ Gather information with regard to diet, foraging behaviour and habitat use.
- ✎ Contribute towards Local Biodiversity Action Plan objectives.
- ✎ Improve the image of bats locally through raising public awareness.

We have specific projects in place or being developed that cater for all of the above. Summer 2001 saw the start of the mapping and monitoring surveys and these will continue until September 2005.

From 2002 three new surveys will start, covering a number of areas including insect availability, diet and habitat analysis.

All of the above is happening at a time when the canals are undergoing major changes.



What's Happening.....

- **20 Surveys at 18 Sites completed** collating some 60 hours of data.
 - **Special Interest Surveys** carried out at Falkirk Tunnel & Avon Aqueduct.
 - **2 Bat Walks held in August**, at Auchinstarry (Forth & Clyde) and Harrison Park (Union Canal).
 - **Autumn/Winter 2001** Analysis, review & detailed reports made available to project contributors and participants.
 - **Nov 2001 - Winter Surveys** to commence.
 - **Feb 2002 - Presentation** to SWT West Lothian.
 - **Spring 2002 - Insect and Habitat Surveys.**
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- **Newsletter Issue 3 due out April 2002.** Full results of first year made available.



Without You It Would Not Be Possible



In our first season we have been very pleased with the response from people wishing to get involved. We rely heavily on the good will of volunteer surveyors, without whom we would struggle and the evenings would certainly also be a lot less enjoyable.

We would just like to say a **BIG thanks** to all of you, hope you also enjoyed yourselves and we look forward to meeting up with you again in 2002.

Toby Clark Martin Collinson Ian Cornforth John Cruden Karen Dobbins
Pat Emslie Frank Fleming Christina Garrard Callum & Sarah Hollywood
Alan Jeffrey David Knox Graham MacDonald Catriona Morrison Des Norden
Alison Steel Alastair Stewart Sarah Watts Andrew White

BATS & "The Millennium Link" is supported by the following organisations :-

SCOTTISH NATURAL HERITAGE

British Waterways

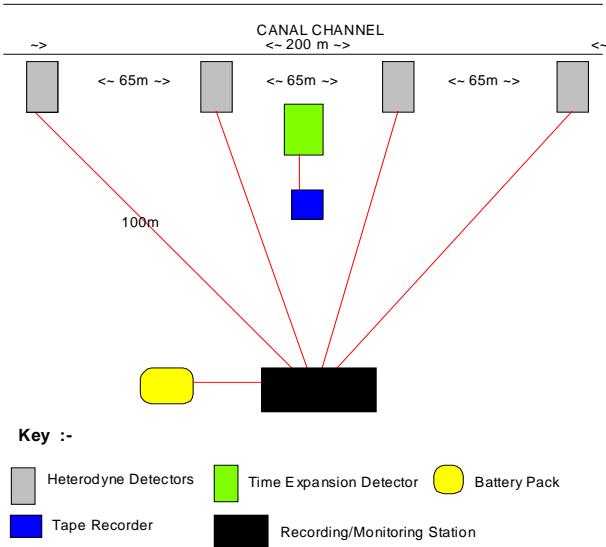
FALKIRK ENVIRONMENT TRUST

Clyde Bat Group

Central Scotland Bat Group

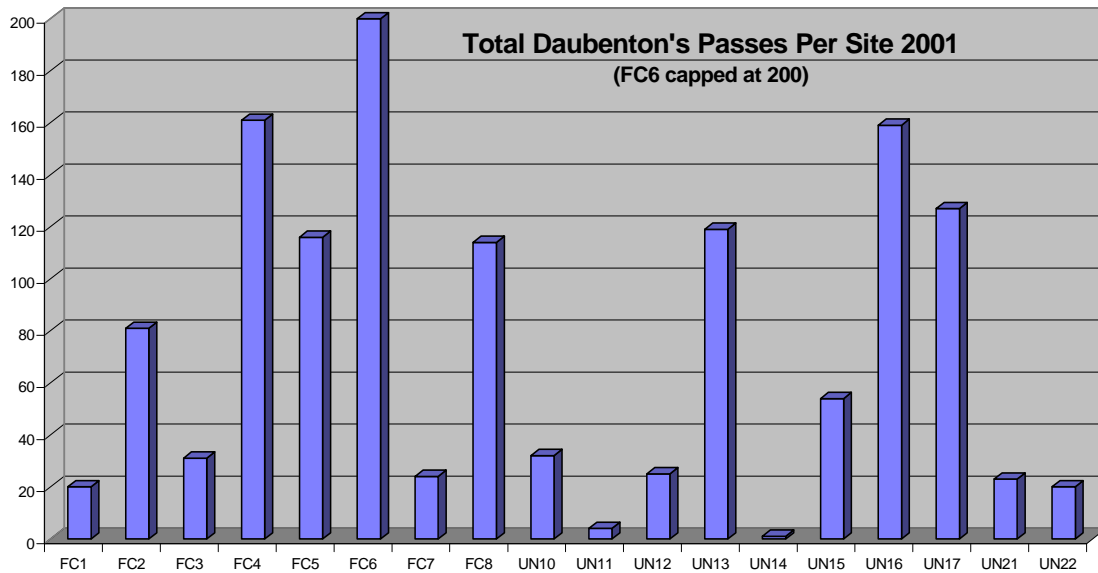
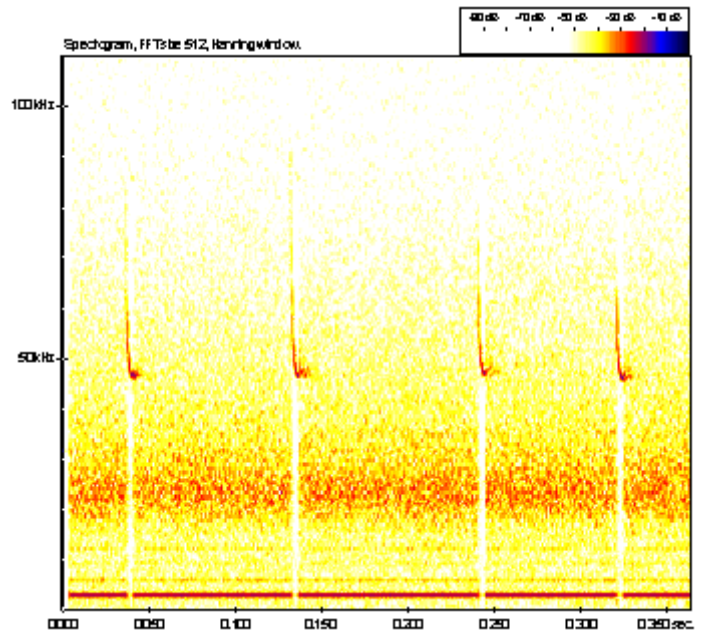
FIELD SURVEY MODEL

It looks simple on paper, but what you see below took six months to develop, the input of an electronics specialist and approximately 30 mins to set up each time we survey.



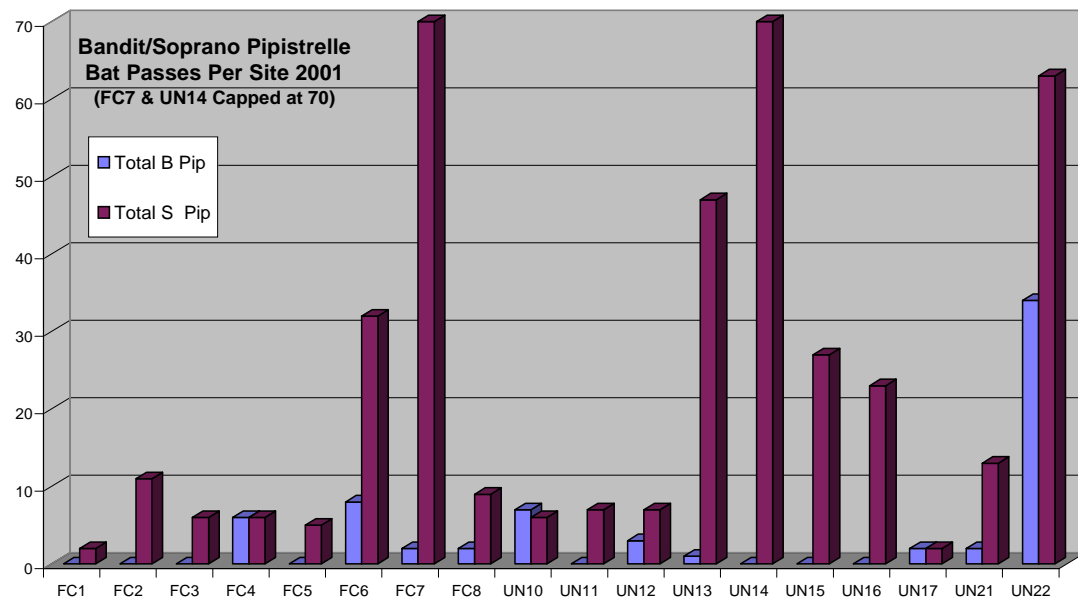
SONOGRAMS

We use Time Expansion recordings to assist us with identifying the 2 species of pipistrelle present in the area. Below is a sonogram of a call from a Bandit pipistrelle taken at Harrison Park (Union C.) in August 2001



Site Code Key:-

- FC1 - Netherton
- FC2 - Possil Loch
- FC3 - Jellyhill
- FC4 - Kirkintilloch
- FC5 - Tintock
- FC6 - Auhinstarry
- FC7 - Kelvinhead
- FC8 - Underwood E
- UN10 - Falkirk Tunnel
- UN11 - Purlichill
- UN12 - A801
- UN13 - Causewayend
- UN14 - Avontoun
- UN15 - Wilcoxholm
- UN16 - Fawnsparck
- UN17 - Winchburgh
- UN21 - Slateford
- UN22 - Harrison Park



DATA PROTECTION ACT

Please note, if you are the direct recipient of this newsletter, then your name, address and other contact details are being retained on our database for use solely in connection with [BaTML](#).

If you do not wish to be kept informed about our activities, please advise us accordingly and we will arrange for your details to be removed.