Citizen Bat Project 2026 – Broad Results on Bat Presence

The Citizen Bat Project 2026 was led by the Hereford Mammal Group (HMG) and funded by a grant from the FCC Nature & Biodiversity Community Fund.

In excess of 350,000 triggered recordings (over 1.2 TB of data) have been processed from across the county and a summary of bat species identified as being present during the survey period at each location was prepared. A precautionary method was used in the analysis to ensure that only the most 'certain' results were considered - some 30,000 individual records.

For the Parish of Breinton, the results are grouped into **Lower Breinton Static** and **Lower Breinton Walks**. Despite being able to obtain monitoring equipment for loan only toward the tail-end of the monitoring season, we were still able to obtain useful information.

Lower Breinton Static Monitoring:

- Static Monitoring at Warham Farm House and Warham House over a 2-week period triggered 17597 recordings.

- Positively identified bat species were:
    - Serotine
    - Small Myotis - Whiskered or Brandt's
    - Large Myotis - Natterer's (likely) or Bechstein's (small possibility)
    - Daubentons
    - Noctules
    - Common Pipistrelle
    - Soprano Pipistrelle
    - Lesser Horseshoe

Lower Breinton Walks:

- Echo Touch mobile monitoring on 4 main walks: along the river Wye from Breinton Springs to Warham; around the National Trust orchard and past the Cider Museum Drovers' pond up to the Breinton Road junction and along to Little Breinton; around St Michael's churchyard and the medieval mound; and along the road from Lower Breinton to Warham Farmhouse. These walks triggered 735 recordings.

- Positively identified bat species were:
    - Myotis species - it was seemingly not possible for HMG to identify species, either as small and large groupings
    - Daubentons
    - Noctule
    - Common Pipistrelle
    - Soprano Pipistrelle

HMG is compiling a more detailed version of this 'presence summary' with more accurate location data. This will be submitted to HBRC to add to the county records - and it will feature in the Herefordshire Bat Atlas when it is next updated. We hope to be able to obtain access to the Lower Breinton component of that more detailed report as this would provide useful information for the Breinton Biodiversity Action Plan.

A number of additional points are noted in conjunction with the project findings:

- Results provide evidence of bat presence, not abundance (one bat many times – or many bats?)
- A wide range of bat species are abundant and widespread across the parish, including some rarer species
- Serotine are recorded to be moving north but were observed in Breinton
- Noctule also seem to be moving north with less regular records but were present in Breinton
- Bats can be found anywhere and in almost any location
- Bats are highly mobile in a changing climate

Endnote: HMG is hopeful that the bat recording can continue in some form in 2027. Hence, it would be particularly useful to have our own monitoring equipment so that we can collect recordings during the season of peak bat activity (May- August 2027). Unfortunately, our grant application for purchase of the equipment was turned down by Herefordshire Council, but the Parish Council is looking at alternative sources.