

Bats in Beckford Nature Reserve

Bat Walk 21st August 2015

- On a warm summer Friday evening we strolled around Beckford Nature Reserve with torches and a bat detector to find out which bats live in the reserve. The woodland and lake provide ideal foraging habitat for bats and the lack of street lighting in Beckford makes it a more 'bat friendly' village, as most bats tend to avoid areas brightly illuminated.
- While looking out from the bird hide we saw common pipistrelle and soprano pipistrelle bats foraging in the trees and over the lake. These were identified by using the detector to hear their high frequency calls at 45 kHz and 50 kHz respectively. They also have characteristic shape and flight patterns. We also picked up the rarer lesser horseshoe bat with its agile flight and very high frequency call of 110kHz. Faint calls of the quiet brown-long eared bat were also picked up in the orchard, at 43kHz. These two bat species are known to roost in Beckford are pictured to the right.
- *Surveyors: Elizabeth, Madeline, Sally and Geoff.*

