



Cambridgeshire Mammal Group



Projects and events - late 2023 and into 2024

Here are the Group projects and events that are known to be happening and planned for late 2023/early 2024. Other events into 2024 are due for discussion and confirmation at our next business meeting.

Completed previously:

Firstly - the '6th National Otter Survey of England'. Members of the Group were involved in the survey - recently-completed after co-ordination by the Mammal Society with funding/support from the EA, NE, and four water authorities). The results should be published soon. For more information on what's been taking place see:

<https://www.mammal.org.uk/national-otter-survey/?hilite=otter+survey>

Secondly - more otter surveying. In January/February 2022 the latest quinquennial county-wide survey for signs of otters (using the same 265 sites as have been surveyed every five years since 1992) took place. This was a joint exercise with the county Wildlife Trust, and showed quite conclusively that otters are 'holding their own' as far as signs of their activities go - the percentage of positive sites has now remained constant for some ten years. The survey results are now on-line at:

<https://www.wildlifebcn.org/news/cambridgeshire-otter-survey-results-2022>

and have recently been published in 'Nature in Cambridgeshire', No 65, 2023. See:

<https://www.natureincambridgeshire.org.uk/index.html>

Known events for late 2023:

Members have been sent a spreadsheet showing all the events for the remainder of 2023 for which they can volunteer to lead or just help. These included particularly overnight small mammal trapping, participation at public events (like the RSPB's Open Farm event in Knapwell in mid-June, a BioBlitz in Wicken Fen, and two events run by the New Life on the Old West project - in Haddenham in late June and in Cottenham in mid-August), and some general mammal surveying on various sites in the county (including particularly at Paxton Pits).

If you are not a member and would like a 'trial run' at an event before joining - e-mail the Group at:

cambsmammal@gmail.com

Two major ongoing exercises:

1 - Re-surveying of the badger setts throughout the county as recorded in the Group's database, with the incidental recording of setts not already in that database. Members who would like to be involved - contact us asap via the Group's e-mail address (on the front page of this website).

2 - 'CambsMammalSpot' continues. This is part of a joint project with the county Wildlife Trust and is based on 'MammalWeb' - see: <https://www.mammalweb.org/en/project-list> The local project is in that project list. Our Group is extending the recording of mammals in Cambridgeshire beyond the scope of MammalWeb (which is based solely on trail cam records) to include records (**however obtained**) of all the species of wild mammals (alive or dead, native and non-native) in the county. Records can be of sightings, tracks, other field signs, etc. - not just trail cam photos. Records can be put into the **MammalMapper** or **iRecord** apps - no paperwork involved! And no particular expertise - in both cases the records will be verified after entry on the app.

An 'Activity' has been set up on iRecord - go to: <https://www.brc.ac.uk/irecord/> To add a record you can simply add a record without 'Registering' at all or even finding the 'Activity'. However, we hope you will 'Register' and look under 'Browse all activities' to find '**CambsMammalSpot**' (it's on page 7 of the Activities at the time of writing). Click on the 'gold star' button (on the right in the 'Actions' column) to add it to your Activities - next time you log in you'll be able to click on 'Activities' and you'll go straight to CambsMammalSpot! If you want it, training is available on the site itself. **Everyone** (be they a member of the Group or a member of the public) is welcome to join in with CambsMammalSpot - contact us via our e-mail address on the front page of the website, or just start recording!

Late 2023 and into 2024:

Events should include particularly harvest mouse nest surveying on several sites (an autumn/winter project which goes into early 2024). Anyone (member or not) wishing to get involved - please contact us via our e-mail address on the front page of the website. Other events will be published on the website when dates and places are finalised.

8 September 2023