

Threats To Our Mammals

All the mammal species in the county are under a range of threats from many sources. Cambridgeshire is the fastest growing county population-wise, so the consequent increase in housing brings loss of habitat for our mammals and fragmentation of the remaining habitat. Mink continue to be a serious threat to the water voles in the county - over 95% of our water voles have been removed by mink and habitat loss over the last 25 years or so, though some recovery is evident in a few Traffic in the county is steadily increasing – the number of mammals killed on the roads is going up all the time, and of course new roads are always a possibility. There is still some wildlife crime in the county - this is occasionally a major problem.

Who We Are

The Group is made up entirely of volunteers who give their time freely for the benefit of Cambridgeshire's mammals.

To join contact us at:

cambsmammal@gmail.com

Our website is at:

www.cambsmammalgroup.org.uk

What We Do

We promote the study, conservation and protection of local mammals.

We inform the public and stimulate their interest in mammals.

We train members (and anyone else interested) in mammal identification and surveying.

We monitor and record mammal sightings to look for changes in their populations over time.

We advise members of the public on mammal-related matters in their gardens (e.g. badger proofing).

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Wildlife Crime

We investigate sites (particularly badger setts) when we receive a report from a member of the public where there may be evidence of a crime. Our information is passed to the relevant authorities for possible action.

Mammal Recording

We are interested in sightings of live mammals, of mammal signs and of dead mammals, but we do not collect any bodies.

The Group supplies data concerning badgers and otters to local authorities, conservation bodies and environmental consultants for planning purposes.

Please report them via the website:

www.cambsmammalgroup.org.uk



Other Events

Talks

Field trips – monitoring edible dormice

Bioblitzes

Christmas Party

"We have a wide range of mammal monitoring projects, to which all members are welcome to come."

On-going Projects

Small mammal monitoring.

Otter monitoring.

Badger sett monitoring.

Water vole site monitoring.





Mammals

We are particularly interested in badgers, water voles, otters, harvest mice and hedgehogs, but we look after all the wild mammals in the county – whatever their size, shape and habitat!

There are 42 mammal species recorded in the county – that number includes 11 species of bats, and common seal – a surprise to most people as the county has no coastline. This species is fairly regularly seen around the edge of Peterborough and not far from St Ives. Most of the other species are quite well distributed throughout the county, except for hazel dormouse (only one site), red deer, sika and a couple of the bat species. Evidence of otters can be found all over the county but it is probably the least observed species apart from the bats.

Details of the distribution of mammal species in Cambridgeshire can be found in the Cambridgeshire Mammal Atlas – see the website for how to obtain a copy.