



Cambridgeshire Mammal Group



Events and Projects - 2024

Here below is news of the Group's events and projects that are known to be happening and planned for 2024. Other events into 2024 and into 2025 are due for discussion and confirmation at future business meetings.

Known events for 2024:

Members will shortly be sent a spreadsheet showing all the events known so far for 2024 for which they can volunteer to help. These include particularly overnight small mammal trapping at several locations on the county, participation at public events (like the NatHistFest/Conversazione in the Zoology Department on 19 and 20 April, the RSPB's excellent Open Farm event in Knapwell on 9 June, and a BioBlitz along part of Hobson's Conduit in Cambridge on 15 June), and some general mammal surveying on various sites in the county. .

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 Below are the April through November events known about so far.

April

13-14th - Small Mammal Surveying as part of the Mammal Society Conference. Non-ticket holders can book tickets at www.tinyurl.com/msac2024workshops for £10 per person.

19th-20th – We will be at the NatHistFest at the Zoology Department in the New Museums Site off Downing Street in Cambridge. Come along to find out what we do or bring the kids along to make mammal bookmarks. Free entry.

May

31st- 1st June – Small Mammal Surveying at Wandlebury Country Park as part of the Cambridge Nature Festival. Booking available via Eventbrite: XXX

June

8th-9th – Small Mammal Surveying at the RSPB's Hope Farm, Knapwell as part of Open Farm Sunday. Find out more at <https://farmsunday.org> Free entry.

14th-15th – Small Mammal Surveying as part of a Hobson's Conduit Bioblitz. Find out more at <https://hobsonsconduittrust.org/> Free of charge.

September

29th – We will be at the Wild About Huntingdon Festival at Hinchingsbrooke Country Park. Come along to find out what we do or bring the kids along to make mammal bookmarks. Find out more at <https://www.facebook.com/WildAboutHuntingdon/>

October

26th - Harvest Mice Nest Surveying at Barton. Join us at 10am for an hour or two of searching for harvest mice nests. No experience needed. For more details please email Lorraine Jenkins at ljjobson@gmail.com

November

9th - Harvest Mice Nest Surveying at Warboys. Join us at 11am for an hour or two of searching for harvest mice nests. No experience needed. For more details please email Lorraine Jenkins at ljjobson@gmail.com

Three major ongoing exercises:

1 - The next edition of the Cambridgeshire Mammal Atlas - due 2026

Records are (still) being collected for the Atlas - the previous edition (the second) was published in 2016 and contained records collected during the period 2004 to 2014. Therefore the new edition will contain records collected during the period 2014 to 2024.

The end date for records to be added is 31 December 2024.

If you can add records they will be very welcome - iRecord is the place to enter them - details of our 'Activity' are below.

2 - Re-surveying of 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). Spring is THE time for this surveying!

3 - '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!

Later in 2024 and into 2025:

Events will include particularly harvest mouse nest surveying on several sites (an autumn/winter project which goes into early 2025). Anyone (member or not) wishing to get involved in that or any other of the Group's activities - 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.

Dated: 20 March 2024