



“At least three species of bat are found around Whitby, but little is known about their roosts or which areas are used for foraging. Deer and badgers are seen regularly, and otters and mink have been reported on the Esk, but their extent is unknown. The equipment will form a lasting asset to the club and the wider community, with survey results used to inform conservation decisions and enhance local biodiversity.”

## Whitby Naturalists' Club

**Wendy English**  
Whitby Naturalists Club

### Project:

'Local Terrestrial Wild Mammal Study'

### Subject:

Environmental improvements  
Education, learning and skills improvement

### Location:

Whitby, North Yorkshire

### Overview:

As part of their ongoing research and conservation efforts, the Whitby Naturalists' Club undertake various projects to investigate where bats and other wild mammals occur in the Whitby area.

£2,600 was awarded to the club to assist with their efforts, and was used to purchase highly accurate bat recording equipment, which can be used overnight; small mammal live traps and survey equipment to identify which small mammals are using each area; and a trail camera to provide quality evidence of larger mammals that are using an area.

The project has also helped to generate education and public engagement. Initial surveys focussed on the Airey Hill School grounds, working with their nature group and working with the Hawk and Owl Trust on Fylingdales Moor. Club members have gained skills using equipment and handling small mammals, and the public have been encouraged to participate and gain survey skills. Local children are also able to see, hear and learn about mammals through the club's work with schools.

Once collected, survey results are sent to local and national conservation organisations, including the Hawk and Owl Trust, who will use Fylingdales Moor survey results to steer their conservation programme and enhance biodiversity.