

## Expanded features

### **IoW Mammal Challenge** by *Jess Aldred and Adele Brand (Natural England)*

Back in May, we set ourselves the challenge of finding as many mammal species as possible on the Isle of Wight in 48hrs. Why you may ask?

For one, I live on the Island wanted to discover what species lived outside my front door. Secondly, my colleague Adele is very experienced with mammals and loves the Isle of Wight, so it was a no brainer for her! And finally, we wanted to highlight the problems these species are facing and what the public could do to help.

After several weeks of planning and organising, we set off into the undergrowth (literally) to put up trail cameras that would hopefully capture the nocturnal species, and search high and low for otters, harvest mice, stoats, weasels, hares and seals, rounding off the day by venturing once more into the undergrowth to set Longworth traps to catch small mammals such as mice and voles. The following and final day, we retrieved the Longworth traps, hunted for red squirrels, checked ink traps for dormice tracks, visited the Bat Hospital in Sandown to check on the residents and ended the day by tracking bats in the evening light. Safe to say we kept ourselves busy!

So, the results.....

Across the 2 days of this mammal challenge, we found an amazing **20** species! Our species list is as follows:

- Rabbit
- Badger
- Field vole (evidence)
- Bank vole (evidence)
- Harvest mouse (evidence)
- Grey seal
- Common seal
- Wood mouse
- Hare
- Red fox (evidence)
- House mouse
- Dormouse
- Bats – common pipistrelle, nathusius pipistrelle, serotine, noctule, grey long eared, Natterer’s bat, European free-tailed
- Red squirrel

We are in the process of producing a short video to document our efforts, and a series of social media posts featuring some of our finds to engage the public in conservation of these species. We would like to thank all parties that help us achieve this effort, with particular thanks to the National Trust, the IoW Bat Hospital, PTES, IWNHAS and Wight Nature Fund.

Grey Seal



Serotine Bat



Red Squirrel



Badger

