

Welcome to the South Gloucestershire  
**BAT AUDIO TRAILS**

Hanham • Warmley • Wick • Willsbridge Valley





# Bat Audio Trails

## Pack contents



This specially designed pack should contain the following items:

- A spiral bound information pack which includes information about the 4 bat trails, how to use the bat detector and tips for bat detecting.
- Field Studies Council bat field guide (removable insert in the back of the spiral bound pack.)
- Tactile and large print diagram of a bat by the RNIB.
- Bat detector (boxed with battery included).
- 5 x Audio CDs to guide you around the trails, providing further information about the bats and other wildlife to be found at each of the 4 trail sites:
  - Avon Valley Woodlands, Hanham
  - Warmley Forest Park, Warmley
  - Wick Golden Valley, Wick
  - Willsbridge Valley, Willsbridge
  - Bonus CD – Bat Conservation Trust leaflets

# Pack Introduction

This Bat Audio Trail pack has been produced to enable you to discover areas of South Gloucestershire that are rich in local heritage and wildlife, especially bats.

The South Gloucestershire Council's Environmental Projects team has co-ordinated the development of the trails and this pack with the generous involvement of many local partners as detailed on the final page of this pack. These projects have been funded thanks to the Big Lottery Fund, the Access to Nature Fund and the Heritage Lottery Fund.

This pack provides information on all 4 waymarked bat trails which are found at the following locations;

- Avon Valley Woodlands, Hanham  
(Grid reference ST 628722)
- Warmley Forest Park, Warmley  
(Grid reference ST 672736)
- Wick Golden Valley, Wick.  
(Grid reference ST 703728)
- Willsbridge Valley, Willsbridge  
(Grid reference ST 664707)

These trails are waymarked with oak posts, locally sourced from the Tortworth Estate. The posts incorporate a large tactile waymarking disc, which glows at dusk.



The numbered posts identify points of interest along each trail including the different bat species which are likely to be found. The locations of these posts and trail routes are identified on the site maps in this pack along with information about parking, access and facilities.

To access the information available at each trail point, please listen to the relevant site CD audio guide which guides you around the trail. The tracks on each CD include details of its location, where to start, what bats you are likely to discover on your walk and the site's history. There is also a useful section on how to use a bat detector and the different bat calls you are likely to hear.

A map showing the location of the four sites and detailed large print maps of each trail are included in this pack.

So you can learn more about British bats a number of other resources have been included:

- Large print and tactile diagram of a bat produced by the RNIB
- What bat is that? Leaflet written by the Bat Conservation Trust
- Audio CD of other leaflets made by the Bat Conservation Trust
- An illustrated Guide to British bats produced by the Field Studies Council

We hope you enjoy listening to the audio CDs and discover more about our rich local heritage and wildlife. By following the detecting tips below we hope you will encounter bats and other wildlife whilst out on the trails.

# Bat Audio Trails



## Tips for bat detecting

Follow these tips to increase your chances of detecting bats and to ensure you have a safe and enjoyable visit:

- Familiarise yourself with the site and the bats you are likely to detect by listening to the audio CDs before you visit the site
- The best times for detecting bats are from dusk between May and September
- Go with a sighted guide if you are Blind or Partially Sighted.
- Take the site map, bat detector and other information with you
- Tell someone where you are going and when you are expected back
- Wear suitable footwear and be aware that there might be unexpected branches or trip hazards.
- Carry a torch, but try not to use it as some bats are put off by white light.
- Wear warm outdoor clothing as temperatures can drop rapidly at dusk

### Useful websites:

Avon Bat Group - [www.avonbatgroup.org.uk](http://www.avonbatgroup.org.uk)

Bat Conservation Trust - [www.bats.org.uk](http://www.bats.org.uk)

South Gloucestershire Council - [www.southglos.gov.uk](http://www.southglos.gov.uk)

Avon Wildlife Trust - [www.avonwildlifetrust.org.uk](http://www.avonwildlifetrust.org.uk)

If you find an injured bat, please call the Bat Conservation Trust helpline 0845 1300 22

# How to use the bat detector



In order to find their way around and locate small insect prey in the dark, bats use a system called echolocation. As the bat flaps its wings it shouts a short high-pitched call, then listens for the echo of the call to rebound off nearby objects. These calls are too high-pitched for us to hear but the bat detector converts the calls to a lower frequency within the range of our hearing.

## Controls

The bat detector has two dials on the front. On the left is the 'Gain' dial which is turned clockwise to switch the detector on and also to increase the volume. On the right is the 'Frequency' dial which is used to tune into the bat calls. We have placed a small plastic 'bumpon' on the edge of the 'Frequency' dial and three further bumpons at different frequency setting points commonly used in bat detecting, to make it simpler to use in the dark.

Internally the bat detector has a microphone at the far end and a speaker in the centre below the two dials. There is also a 3mm socket for using headphones at the far end.

## Battery

The bat detector uses a 9 Volt PP3 or MN1604 battery which can be bought in most shops or supermarkets selling batteries. To replace the battery first make sure the detector is switched off, then open the small panel at the back of the detector, swap the old battery with the new and replace the panel. **Please disconnect the battery when not in use.**

## To Check the Bat Detector is Working

To check that the battery is connected in the detector, turn the 'Gain' dial clockwise about half way round, then turn the frequency dial clockwise until the bumpon on the dial is lined up with the 2<sup>nd</sup> frequency bumpons which is placed at around 45KHz. Gently rub your fingers together about an inch away from the internal microphone at the far end of the detector and you will hear the sound amplified...

**Frequency (kHz) | British Bats**

20 – 25	Noctule
25	Leisler's
27	Serotine
32	Barbastelle
39	Nathusius's pipistrelle
45	Pipistrelle (45)
45	Daubenton's
45	Whiskered
45	Brandt's
45 – 50	Brown long-eared
45 – 50	Grey long-eared
50	Natterer's
50	Bechstein's
55	Pipistrelle (55)
80	Greater horseshoe
102	Lesser horseshoe



## Do your bit for bats

Why not sign up for the National Bat Monitoring Programme (NBMP)? The NBMP enables us to track changes in bat populations across a range of habitats. You don't need to be a bat expert either, anyone can take part.

For more information on the NBMP visit [www.bats.org.uk](http://www.bats.org.uk) email [nbmp@bats.org.uk](mailto:nbmp@bats.org.uk) or call the bat helpline on 0845 1300 228.

The NBMP is core-funded by the Joint Nature Conservation Committee (JNCC).

## Join us

The Bat Conservation Trust (BCT) wants a future where everyone, everywhere can enjoy seeing and hearing bats as a natural part of their environment. Join BCT today and help us ensure that bats and their habitats are around for future generations to enjoy.

To find out more about the bats in your area why not join your local bat group? There are nearly one hundred bat groups around the UK. Call the Bat Helpline or visit the BCT website for contact details of your nearest group.



Supported by the  
**Heritage Lottery Fund**

This leaflet has been  
produced for the Count  
Bat project.

**Bat Conservation Trust, 15 Cloisters House,  
8 Battersea Park Road, London SW8 4BG.**

**Call the Bat Helpline today on 0845 1300 228 or visit  
[www.bats.org.uk](http://www.bats.org.uk) Email [enquiries@bats.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@bats.org.uk)**

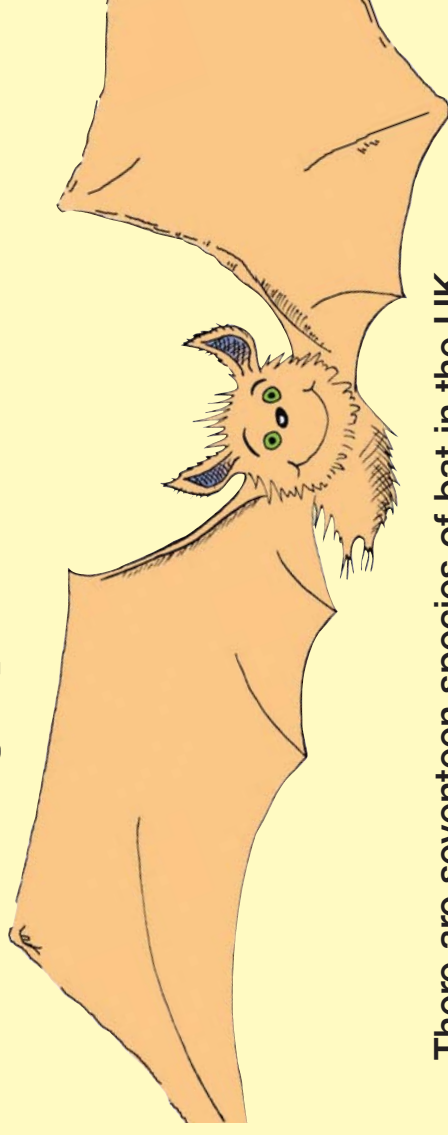
The Bat Conservation Trust is a registered charity (number 1012361) and a company limited by guarantee (registered in England, number 2712823)



**Bat Conservation Trust**

# What bat is that?

## Large print version



There are seventeen species of bat in the UK, but there are four that you're most likely to see when you're out on a bat walk.

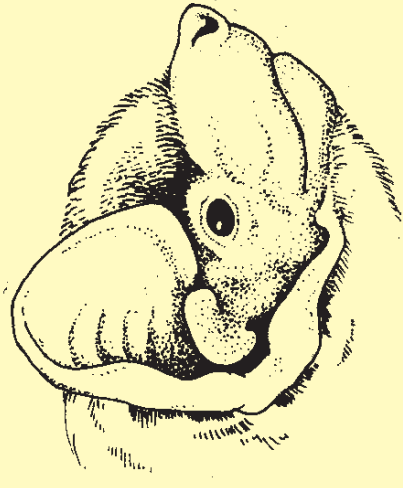
Here's a handy guide to telling the difference between them, whether you're using your eyes or a bat detector!

## Using a bat detector to identify bats

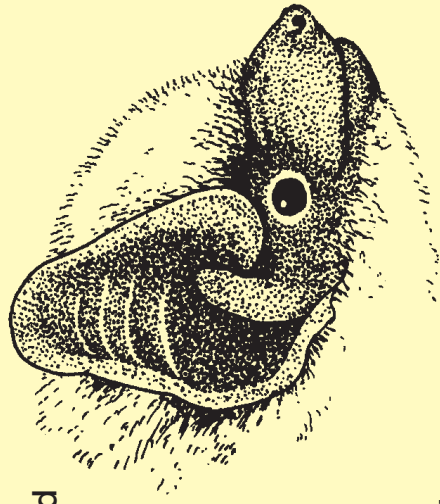
Bats use high frequency calls, normally beyond the range of human hearing, to build up a sound picture of their surroundings. This system, called echolocation, enables them to wing their way through the night and hunt down even the tiniest of insects. Humans can usually hear echolocation calls only by using a device called a bat detector, which makes the bats' echolocation sounds audible to humans. Different species echolocate at different frequencies, and can sound completely different as well.

Species	Best listening frequency	Call repetition rate	Sounds like
Common pipistrelle	46kHz	Medium	'smack'
Soprano pipistrelle	55kHz	Medium	'smack'
Brown long-eared	45kHz-50kHz	Very fast	'chip'
Daubenton's	45kHz	Fast	'tik-ke'
Noctule	20kHz-25kHz	Very slow	'chip-chop'

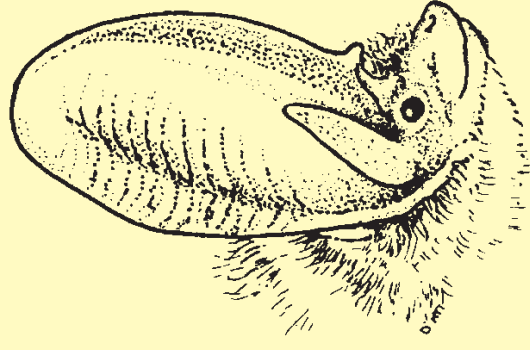
The **Daubenton's** bat flies very low over water, skimming the surface like a mini hovercraft to catch insects with its big hairy feet! Head and body length 4.5 – 5.5cm. Wingspan 24 – 27.5cm



The **noctule** is one of our biggest bats; noctules emerge early in the evening. They tend to fly high overhead in straight lines. The noctule is about the size of a starling and has distinctive narrow wings. Head and body length 6 – 8.2cm Wingspan 33 – 45cm



**Pipistrelles** emerge around sunset, and these are the bats that you are most likely to spot. They have an erratic flight – twisting and turning around buildings, streetlights, trees and hedges. There are three species of pipistrelle that look very similar: the common pipistrelle, the soprano pipistrelle and the rarer Nathusius' pipistrelle. Head and body length 3.3 – 4.8cm Wingspan 18 – 25cm



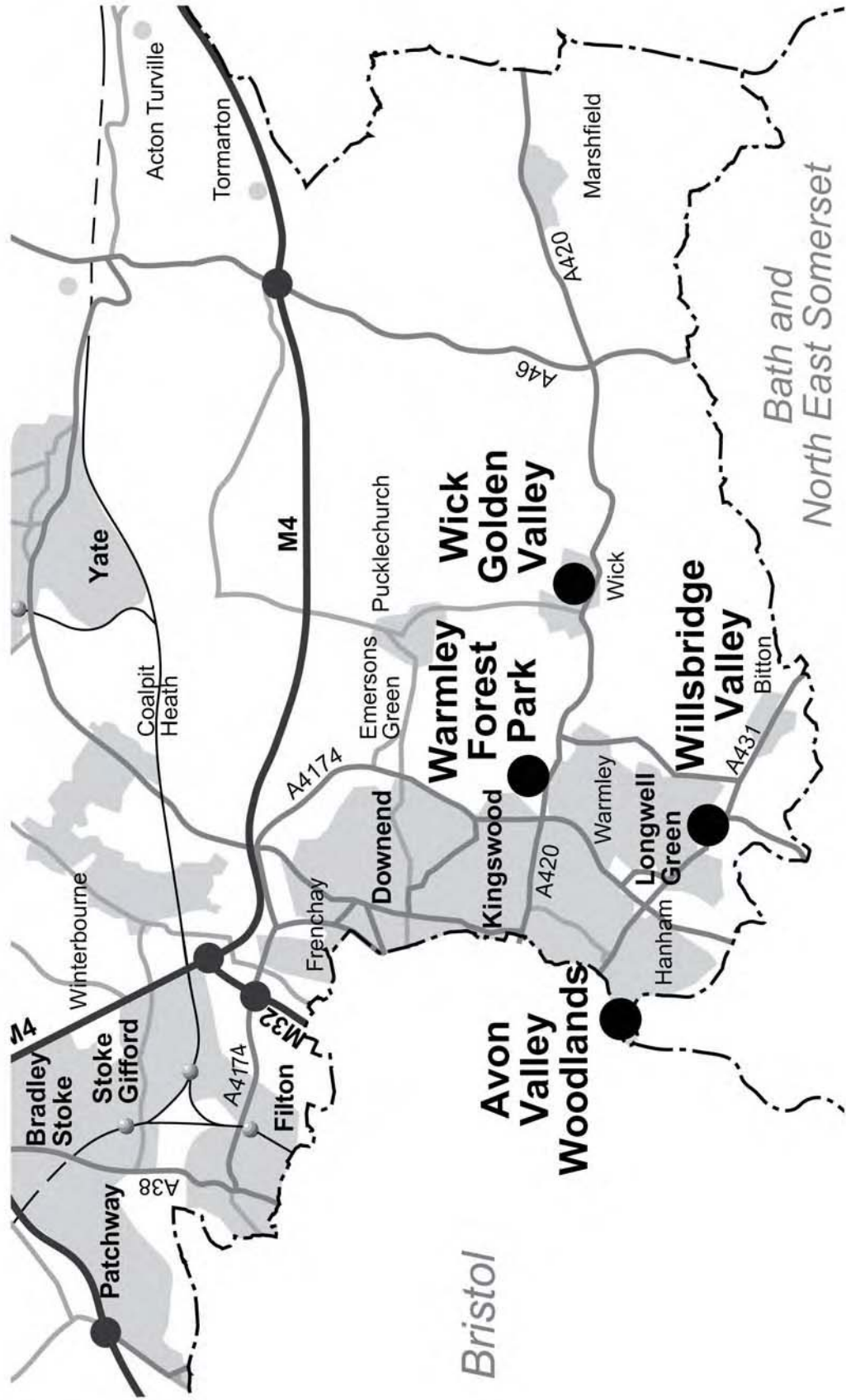
The **brown long-eared bat** usually flies very close to trees. Its flight is slow and hovering, a bit like that of a butterfly. Head and body length 3.7 – 5.2cm Wingspan 23 – 28.5cm

# Bat Audio Trails



## Site Locations

**Avon Valley Woodlands, Hanham**  
**Warmley Forest Park, Warmley**  
**Wick Golden Valley, Wick**  
**Willsbridge Valley, Willsbridge**



# Site Information

## **Avon Valley Woodlands, Conham**

Avon Valley Woodlands is a 31 hectare Local Nature Reserve along the River Avon. Historically, 12 quarries operated in this area of woodland extracting pennant sandstone and coal which was transported by barge along the river. The maturing broadleaved woodlands of this beautiful valley are now home to a wide variety of wildlife. Bat species found at this site include Common and Soprano Pipistrelle, Daubenton's and Noctule bats. There is also a ferry crossing to Breese's Tea Gardens in the summer though check for opening times. Trail length is 0.75 miles/1.2km.

## **Wick Golden Valley, Wick**

The former ochre factory on this site was once world renowned and extracted and processed naturally occurring red pigment for paint and other products. The factory was closed and demolished in the 1960s and was then left for nature to reclaim. The site is now a Local Nature Reserve and managed by South Gloucestershire Council in close partnership with the local community. The reserve contains a number of habitats along the slopes and bottom of the valley, including a river corridor, woodland and grassland. The River Boyd, a tributary of the River Avon, runs through the site. There are some large species of trees which indicate ancient woodland. Bat species found at this reserve can include Common and Soprano Pipistrelle, Serotins, Daubenton's and Horseshoe bats. Trail length is 1.6km/1 mile.

## **Warmley Forest Park, Warmley**

The growing native mix of woodland planted here by local people and the Forest of Avon in the 1980s has created a beautiful new forest park for the community of Warmley and Siston to enjoy and a haven for wildlife. Other habitats along the trail include rough grassland, a brookside walk and several ponds making this a great site to find bat species including Common and Soprano Pipistrelle, Noctule and Daubenton's bats. The forest park was created on the former site of Warmley Clay Works which produced clay pipes from the thick clay soils close to the factory. They were then transported to nearby cities and the wider country using the railway station at Warmley, now on the Bristol to Bath Railway path. Look out for coots, herons and moorhens on the lake, sticklebacks in Siston Brook and sparrowhawks flying through the hedgerows. Path length is 1.6km/1 mile.

## **Willsbridge Valley, Willsbridge**

Willsbridge Valley is home to Avon Wildlife Trust's education centre, Willsbridge Mill and is an important site for wildlife, education and recreation. The valley contains a number of habitats including Siston Brook, several ponds, meadow and mature woodland – some of which once formed part of the old Kingswood Forest. Bat species found here include Common Pipistrelle, Dabentons, Noctule and Horseshoe bats. The site is also highly valuable for a wide range of birds, mammals, invertebrates, reptiles and amphibians. The walk is a circular route of just under a mile (987m/0.61 miles) with eight sites of interest marked along the way.



# **Avon Valley Woodlands, Hanham Bat Audio Trail**

## **Audio CD contents**

Track 1 - contents

Track 2 - project information

Track 3 - site introduction

Track 4 - trail point 1 - Entrance

Track 5 - trail point 2 - Parkland

Track 6 - trail point 3 - Ferry Lane

Track 7 - trail point 4 - Ferry Crossing

Track 8 - trail point 5 - Railway Arches

Track 9 - trail point 6 - Fishing stand and finish

Track 10 - appendix 1 - car park information

Track 11 - appendix 2 - site history

Track 12 - appendix 3 - how to use a bat detector

Track 13 - appendix 4 - bat calls 1

(noctule, serotine & pipistrelle bats)

Track 14 - appendix 5 - bat calls 2

(brown long-eared, daubenton's & horseshoe bats)

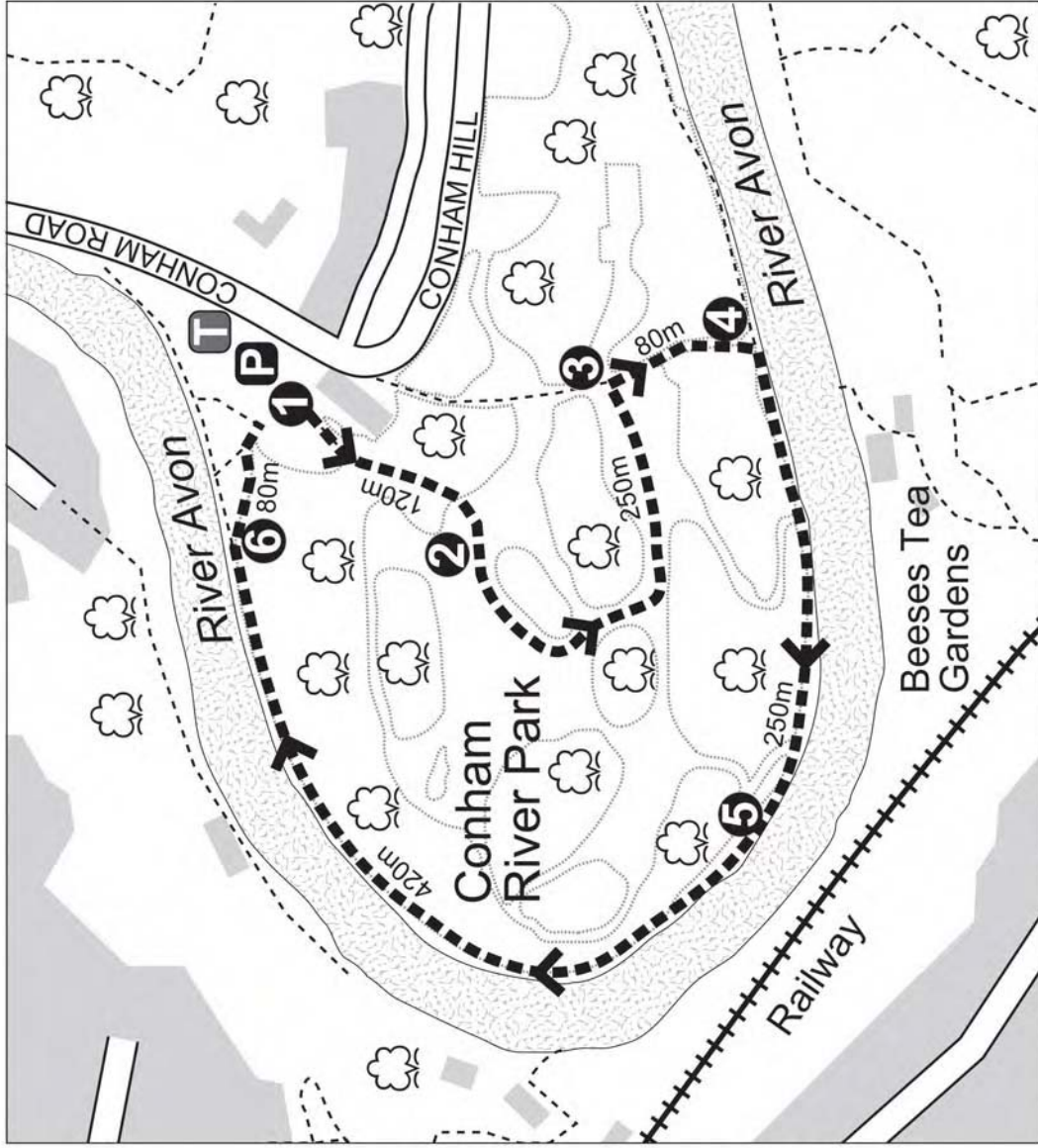
Track 15 - appendix 6 - questions about bats

Track 16 - appendix 7 - project credits

# Avon Valley Woodlands Bat Audio Trail



- P** Accessible Car Parking
- T** Toilets
- Route of Trail
- Footpath
- ① Entrance
- ② Parkland
- ③ Ferry Lane
- ④ Ferry Crossing
- ⑤ Railway Arches
- ⑥ Fishing Stand & Finish





# Warmley Forest Park, Warmley

## Bat Audio Trail

### Audio CD contents

Track 1 - contents

Track 2 - project information

Track 3 - site introduction

Track 4 - trail point 1 - Entrance

Track 5 - trail point 2 - Brook

Track 6 - trail point 3 - Lake

Track 7 - trail point 4 - Woodland

Track 8 - trail point 5 - Grassland

Track 9 - trail point 6 - Dramway

Track 10 - trail point 7 - Finish

Track 11 - appendix 1 - car park information

Track 12 - appendix 2 - site history

Track 13 - appendix 3 - how to use a bat detector

Track 14 - appendix 4 - bat calls 1

(noctule, serotine & pipistrelle bats)

Track 15 - appendix 5 - bat calls 2

(brown long-eared, daubenton's & horseshoe bats)

Track 16 - appendix 6 - questions about bats

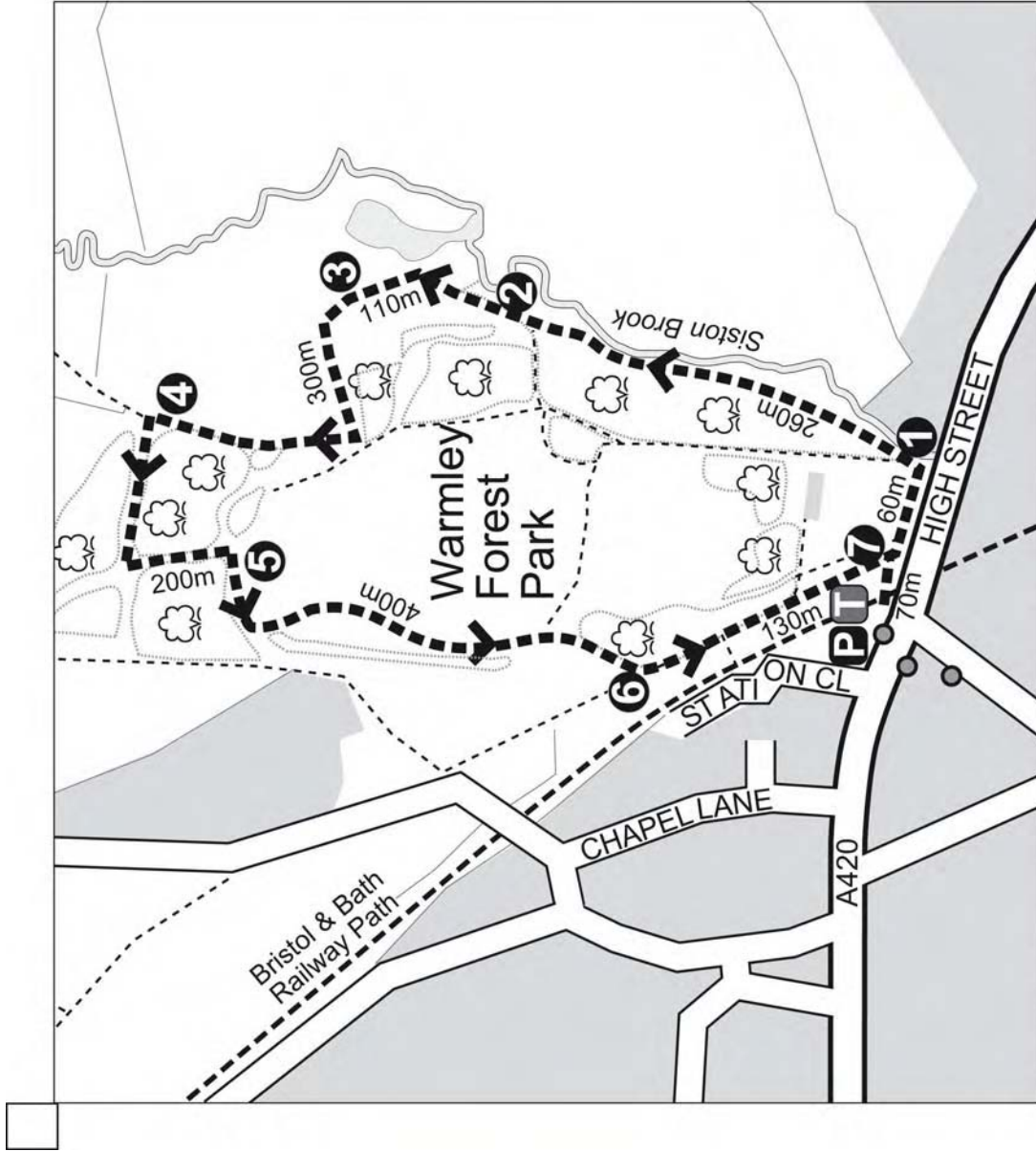
Track 17 - appendix 7 - project credits



# Warmley Forest Park Bat Audio Trail



- P** Accessible Car Parking
- T** Toilets
- Bus Stops
- Route of Trail
- - - Footpath
- 1** Entrance
- 2** Brook
- 3** Lake
- 4** Woodland
- 5** Grassland
- 6** Dramway
- 7** Finish



# Wick Golden Valley, Wick Bat Audio Trail



## Audio CD contents

Track 1 - contents

Track 2 - project information

Track 3 - site introduction

Track 4 - trail point 1 - Entrance

Track 5 - trail point 2 - Parkland

Track 6 - trail point 3 - Bridge

Track 7 - trail point 4 - Weir

Track 8 - trail point 5 - Ochre bin

Track 9 - trail point 6 - Outdoor classroom

Track 10 - trail point 7 - Finish

Track 11 - appendix 1 - car park information

Track 12 - appendix 2 - site history

Track 13 - appendix 3 - how to use a bat detector

Track 14 - appendix 4 - bat calls 1

(noctule, serotine & pipistrelle bats)

Track 15 - appendix 5 - bat calls 2

(brown long-eared, daubenton's & horseshoe bats)

Track 16 - appendix 6 - questions about bats

Track 17 - appendix 7 - project credits

# Wick Golden Valley Bat Audio Trail



**P** Accessible Car Parking

**T** Toilets

● Bus Stops

--- Route of Trail

- - - Footpath

**1** Entrance

**2** Parkland

**3** Bridge

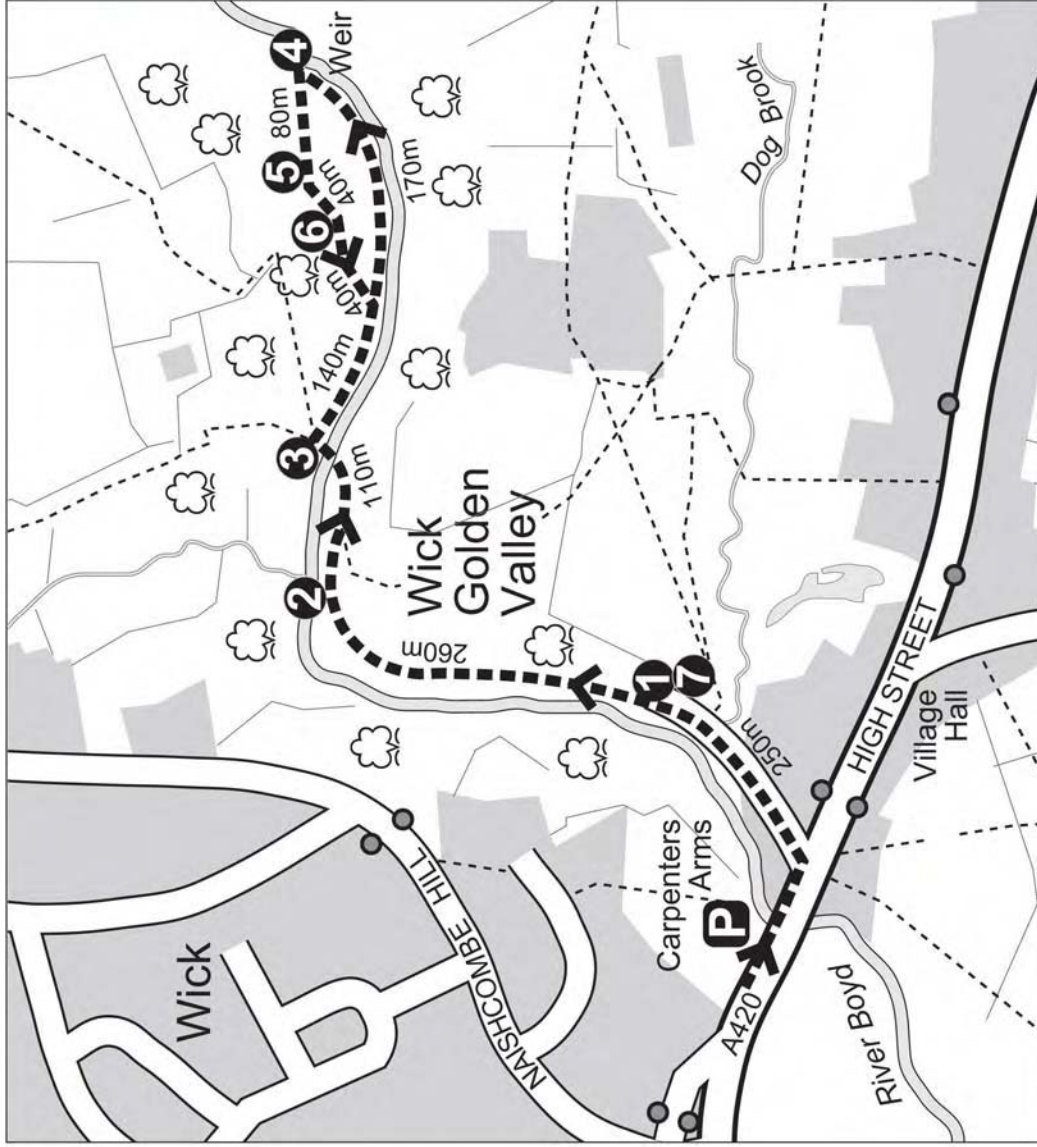
**4** Weir

**5** Ochre Bin

**6** Outdoor Classroom

**7** Finish

Additional parking at Village Hall  
Nearest toilets at Warmley



# Willsbridge Valley, Willsbridge Bat Audio Trail



## Audio CD contents



Track 1 - contents

Track 2 - project information

Track 3 - site introduction

Track 4 - trail point 1 - Entrance

Track 5 - trail point 2 – Catscliffe Wood

Track 6 - trail point 3 - Quarry

Track 7 - trail point 4 – California Incline Bridge

Track 8 - trail point 5 - Dramway

Track 9 - trail point 6 - Sculpture

Track 10 - trail point 7 – Small Cliff meadow

Track 11 – trail point 8 – Finish

Track 12 – appendix 1 - car park information

Track 13 - appendix 2 - how to use a bat detector

Track 14 - appendix 3 - bat calls 1

(noctule, serotine & pipistrelle bats)

Track 15 - appendix 4 - bat calls 2

(brown long-eared, daubenton's & horseshoe bats)

Track 16 - appendix 5 - questions about bats

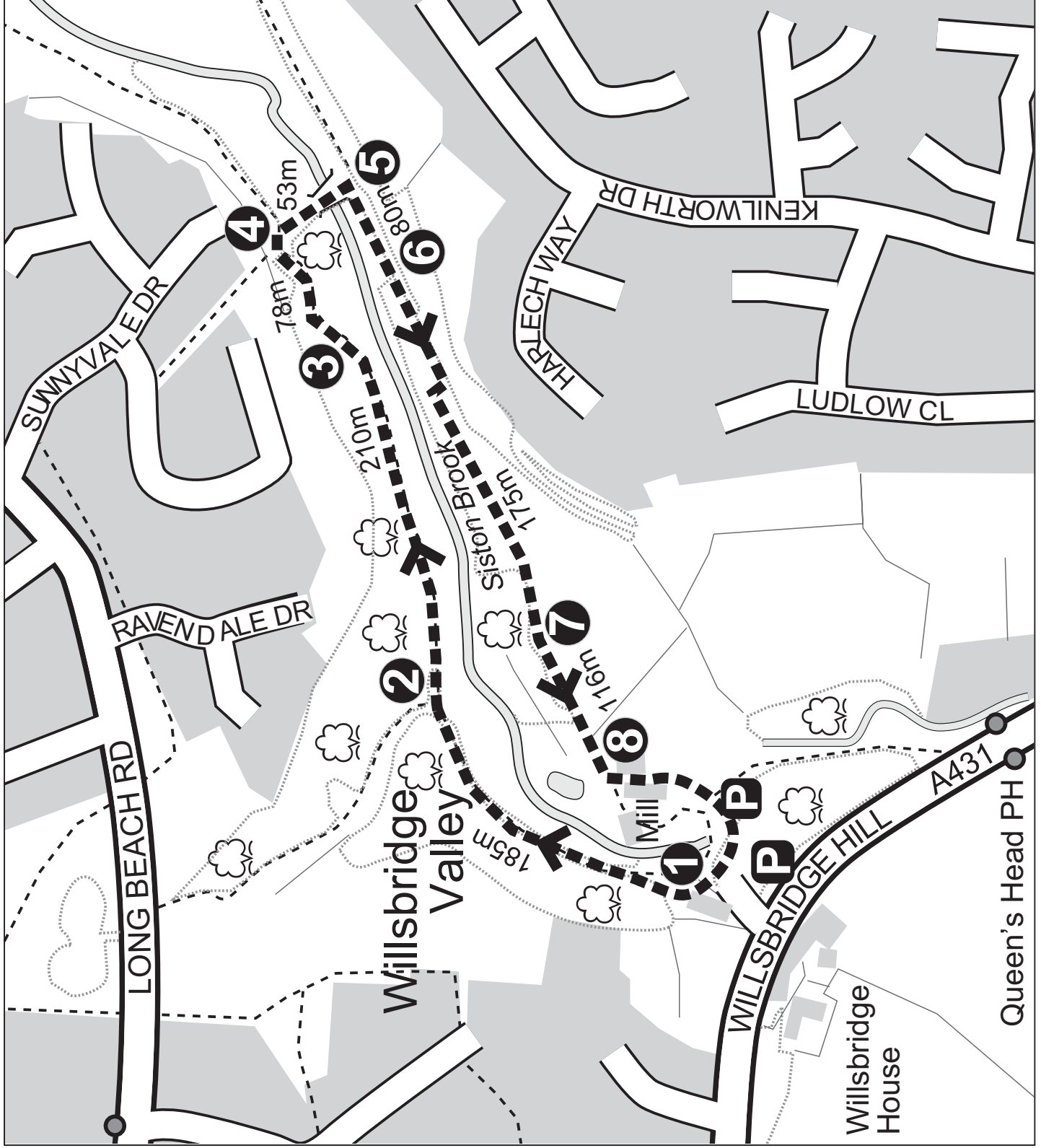
Track 17 - appendix 6 - project credits



# Willsbridge Valley Bat Audio Trail



- P** Car Parking
- Bus Stops
- Route of Trail
- - - Footpath
- 1** Entrance
- 2** Catscliffe Wood
- 3** Quarry
- 4** Incline Bridge
- 5** Dramway
- 6** Sculpture
- 7** Meadow
- 8** Finish



# Bat Audio Trails

## Further Information and Feedback



We are very interested to hear about your experiences of using the Bat Audio Trails and this pack. To help us improve the trails please get in touch with us. You can respond by contacting us at:

Address: Audio Bat Trails  
South Gloucestershire Council  
PO Box 2081  
South Gloucestershire  
BS35 9BP

Email: [naturalenvironment@southglos.gov.uk](mailto:naturalenvironment@southglos.gov.uk)  
Web: [www.southglos.gov.uk/bataudiotrail](http://www.southglos.gov.uk/bataudiotrail)  
Phone: 01454 863592

Here are a number of questions you might like to respond to:

1. Did you find it easy getting hold of this pack?
2. Was the pack easy to use?
3. Did you find the information relevant and interesting?
4. Which trail did you visit and did you detect any bats?
5. How could we improve the pack and its contents?
6. Tell us a bit about yourself...where do you live, do you consider yourself as being disabled, what is your age, how often do you visit the countryside, did you learn something new about our local heritage, etc?

Thank you

## Credits:

In helping to produce this pack and the trails we thank members of the South Gloucestershire Disability Action Group including Mark Austen; Ken Anstey and Sonia Realli of Avon Bat Group; Fiona Gilmour and Ruth Worsley of Avon Wildlife Trust; the South Gloucestershire Breakthrough project; Dan Merret from the Bat Conservation Trust; Kayto Sound and The South Gloucestershire library service. We thank members of the site Friends Groups who were involved in the development of the trails and who generously contribute ongoing invaluable work to ensure these sites and trails remain in good condition and can be enjoyed by all.

The Wildways project team would also like to express our thanks to the legacy of the Wild Roots project (co-ordinated by John Morris) who pioneered and developed the first generation of these trails leading to a Special Innovation award for this work.

We are grateful for the funding and support provided for this project by the Big Lottery, Access to Nature Fund, Natural England, Heritage Lottery, South Gloucestershire Environment Body and South Gloucestershire Council.

