



Dorset Council



Silverlake Conservation and Community Fund

INTERIM REPORT

Please find a framework for a brief report to the panel on your projects progress below. If you have any images of the work completed to date then please do include them at the end of the form or attached to an email and send to Caroline.J.Kelly@dorsetcouncil.org.uk

Please enter the title and who s delivering the project immediately below:

Project Title: Marley Wood Bat Box Project

Lead for delivery: Liz Watkinson, Dorset Bat Group

1. Project Progress

Please use a RAG rating on the following:

Overall – Amber

Funding has been received with the Dorset Bat Group.

The original quote from the supplier has expired and costs have increased so we will have to assess and reduce our order accordingly. Unfortunately most boxes are now showing out of stock without further supplies due until the middle of the year, therefore alternative suppliers are being investigated.

Dorset Bat Group is holding the funding with a slight delay due to the Treasurer stepping down in April. A new Treasurer has been appointed so hopefully this will resolve things once a hand over has taken place.

Positive Note: Additional boxes will be provided by the Dorset Bat Group and Lulworth Estate to cover any shortfall if deemed necessary.

Aim-

Objective 1- Purchase Boxes – Amber, see above.

Objective 2- Install Boxes – Amber, some already see below.

Objective 3 etc. Monthly monitoring. Green, planned checks will go ahead.

R=RED project delivery not on time/planned/delay/overbudget. Requires a meeting with fund co-ordinator to discuss, A=AMBER project has slight delays/changes required. Project lead should be able to resolve without assistance. G=GREEN project running according to plan

1. Activities delivered to date:

Completed-

Lulworth Estate have provided their twelve boxes. These have successfully been installed on 10 different trees so the project has commenced albeit in the early stages. Please see photo attached.



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Not yet Complete-

Remainder of the boxes are to be purchased when the new Treasurer is fully in post and stock has been located.

Activities planned next month/quarter/6 month-

Continued purchase and installation of the remaining boxes as and when sourced.

First bat box check is planned for May 27th and we will erect any other boxes if delivered by this date.

All bat box monthly check dates for the 2023 season have been reserved with the volunteers and will be weather dependant – details from each check will be collated for the next report and records submitted to DERC and to the Lulworth Estate/Silverlake Conservation Fund accordingly.

Sustainability planned-

Once a season of bat box checks have been completed the volunteers hope to be able to identify some early indications of bat population and species.

These results, together with static recordings, taken during the peak season will allow a preliminary assessment to be formulated as to how the woodland is being used. It is hoped that the bat box occupation will increase once bats have found the boxes, it may take a season or two for the boxes to lose their ‘newness’ smell and bat evidence may not be instant.

It is also hoped that favoured trees will become evident by any records obtained which will help with further bat box deployments or repositioning.

1. Risks, Issues and Changes

Please detail any identified risks and issues since the start of the project as well as detail of required changes for the project to be effectively delivered.

None identified at this time.

Interestingly this tree has a crack in the trunk and when inspected with torch there are bat droppings in the hole
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