Bats at Leather Lane, 2025-26 part 2



9-Aug-2026

Our second deployment of 3 detectors took place on 9 nights, 21-29 June 2026, during the second 'heatwave'. The temporary bat flightline had been removed, so no detector was placed at the corner of the copse. Others were positioned as shown above -

LL W On the S bank of Leather Lane, around 50m west of the west tie in for the new road. A similar deployment was made in 2025, some 5m further east, but that site has been covered in dead branches (by Bucks road maintenance ?) (Previously **LL 1**)

LL N On the N bank of the lane, facing the oaks, about 175m east of LL W. A compromise between being close to the trace, but not under the power lines.

LL-PR At the corner of LL and Potter Row. Less affected by construction works, and with a large bat population.

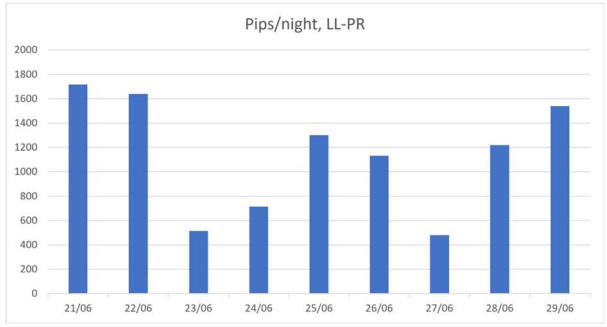
Site		Bbar	NSL	Paur	Ppip	Ppyg
LL-PR	Ranger 2	1.1	2.7	0.0	1139.2	8.3
LL W	Ranger 1	0.1	6.8	0.0	452.4	17.7
LL N [1]	Anabat	0.3	1.1	0.1	389.1	3.7

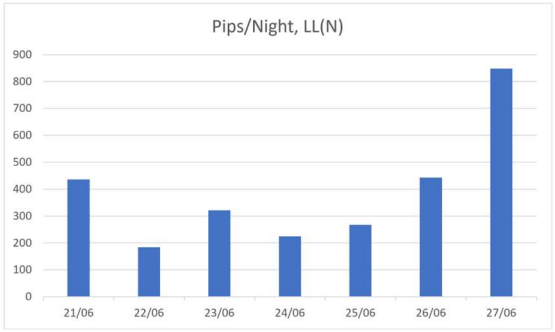
Bat passes/night

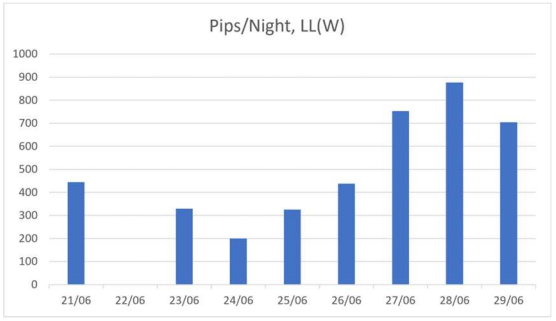
[1] Data from 7 nights only, as the SD card filled up (high noise)

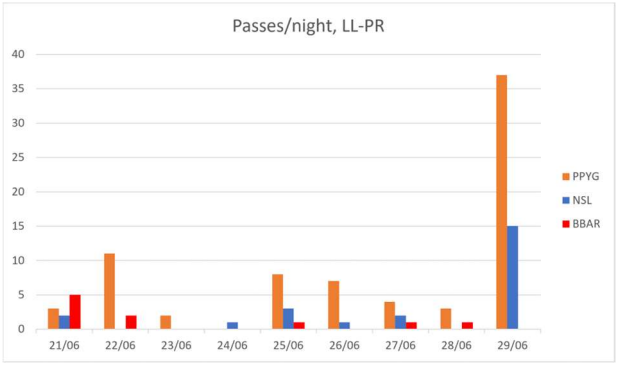
Bats were identified by Anabat Insight auto-id, with probability > 90%. LL-PR recorded 1/3rd of the pipistrelle passes/night as were observed in the May deployment, while LL W recorded a similar number. LL N recorded a similar number to LL W.

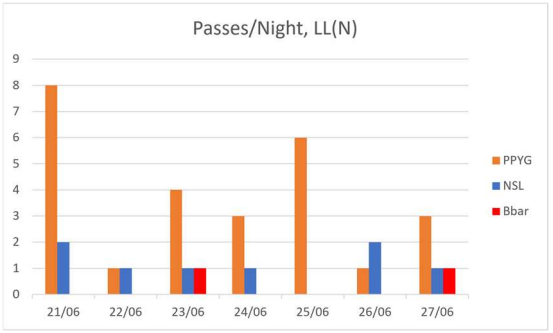
Bat Passes/Night

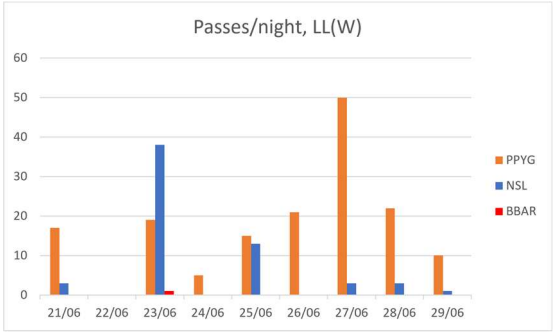












Pipistrelle passes/night for LL N & W show a similar pattern, which differs from LL-PR. LL(W) for 22-23/6 is anomalous; only 4 unidentified-noise signals. The log file indicates recording stopped at 05:14, with temperature and voltage measurements continuing throughout the night, so the device appears to have functioned normally.

9-Aug-2026

Barbastelle passes

File name	Date	Time	File Duration	Species	Bbar%	Ppip%
LL-PR 06-22_00-16-35	22/06/2026	00:16:36	2.022	**Bbar**	**98.46**	98.1055
LL-PR 06-22_00-17-16	22/06/2026	00:17:17	4.070	Bbar	91.1957	**97.9688**
LL-PR 06-22_00-17-28	22/06/2026	00:17:29	3.046	Bbar	97.0849	**98.0751**
LL-PR 06-22_00-19-22	22/06/2026	00:19:23	5.197	**Bbar**	**98.2332**	98.1455
LL-PR 06-22_00-19-29	22/06/2026	00:19:30	5.274	Bbar	94.7374	**97.9969**
LL-PR 06-22_22-35-56	22/06/2026	22:35:57	2.022	Bbar	94.2283	**97.9159**
LL-PR 06-22_22-49-46	22/06/2026	22:49:47	2.560	Bbar	90.2449	**96.383**
LL(W) 06-23_23-50-24	**23/06/2026**	**23:50:24**	2.022	**Bbar**	**98.8684**	0
LL(N) 06-23_23-51-24	**23/06/2026**	**23:51:24**	10.000	**Bbar**	**98.6422**	0
LL-PR 06-25_23-20-48	25/06/2026	23:20:49	2.022	Bbar	95.9087	**97.0978**
LL(N) 06-28_02-58-06	**28/06/2026**	**02:58:06**	10.000	Bbar	94.3335	**98.1715**
LL-PR 06-28_02-59-59	**28/06/2026**	**03:00:00**	3.200	**Bbar**	**98.8287**	97.8042
LL-PR 06-29_02-19-09	29/06/2026	02:19:10	5.658	**Bbar**	**97.8557**	97.8219

Auto-ID identified 13 passes as possible Barbastelle candidates; 7 of these had a higher probability of being Pipistrelles. Two passes on 23/06 at 23:50, :51 at LL(W), LL(N) have zero pipistrelle probability and could be the same bat ? Another pair occurs on 28/06 at 2:58, 3:00, detected at LL(N), LL-PR. These auto-IDs await expert confirmation.

Comparisons with previous years

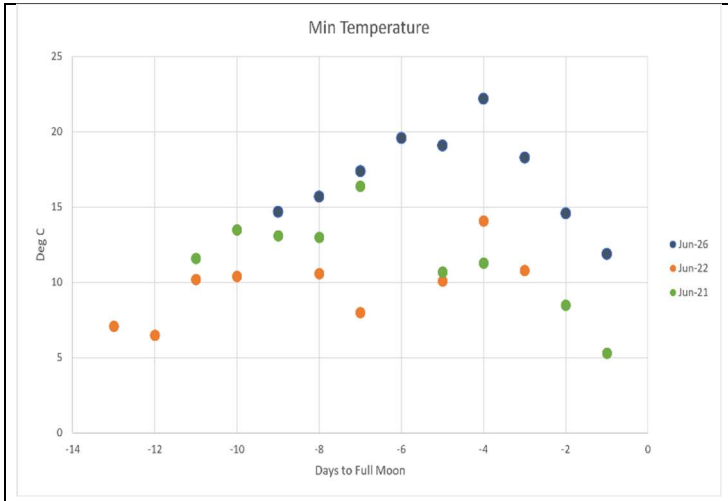
Measurements are available for 2021 and 2022, for LL(W) only. These were obtained with the Anabat detector in ZC mode (before upgrade), but were verified as part of the Bioscan report[1] into the Lane.

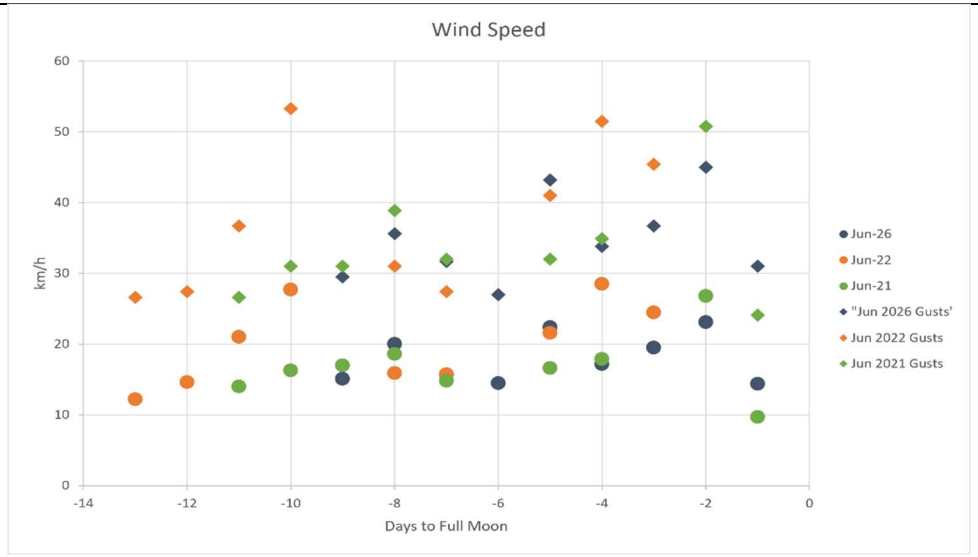
The 2026 data was acquired over 9 nights preceding the full moon on 30th June. For comparison, data from 13th to 23rd June 2021 were used, preceding the full moon on 24th June, and from 1st to 11th June 2022, preceding the full moon on 14th June. No data was available for 18th, 21st June 2021 or 5th,8th June 2022. Rain was recorded on these nights, so it is likely that no data was recorded.

Year		Bbar	Mytosis	NSL	Paur	Ppip	Ppyg	Temp	Wind	Gusts
2026	Ranger 1	0.1	0.0	6.8	0.0	452.4	17.7	17.1	18.0	34.8
2022	Anabat	0.0	0.9	0.0	0.0	435.0	12.5	9.8	20.2	37.8
2021	Anabat	1.1	1.7	1.2	0.2	221.3	2.2	11.5	16.9	33.5

Bat passes/night, weather.

[1] https://saveleatherlane-wp.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2024/01/E2047-LL-R1-Leather-Lane-Bats-issued-17.05.23.pdf





Weather from Open Meteo[2]

The LH chart shows the minimum daily temperature for the days on which data was collected. The RH chart shows maximum wind speed (circles) and gust speed (diamonds) for each date, but not necessarily at night. The last 3 columns in the table above give the average values over all data collection nights, for each year. There is no clear trend in wind speeds, although 6 of the highest gust speeds and lowest average temperature occurred in 2022, which also has few bat species other than Pipistrelles. There is insufficient data to investigate any correlation between bat passes and weather, particularly given the environmental changes due to construction activity, although the less favourable conditions in 2022 may account for the reduced activity.

[2] https://open-meteo.com/

Flightline



The Bridge looking north along the trace - Aug 2026

The old flightline which crossed the trace around 200m north of the bridge has been removed, and we understand that bats are now 'encouraged' to fly over the nearly completed structure. A recent photograph[3] shows some attempt to link the west (LH) end of the bridge with the remaining oaks beside the old lane, but no corresponding structure at the eastern end. Completion of the bridge is expected in November, at which point the flightline configuration for the 2027 bat season will need serious consideration.

[3] See also https://flic.kr/p/2sud6Xi

(Tentative) conclusions

While no Barbastelle candidates were observed on the lane in May, this deployment detected two – 23rd & 28th June, with two more possibles at the LL-PR detector. If the auto-ID results are confirmed, then the Barbastelles are still active in the area, but given the variations in activity between years, it is difficult to identify any trends.

Jim Conboy
9-Aug-26