

Matt's Radio Tracking adventure

He tagged 2 hogs (Hogs 1 and 2) in Mon's garden in Clos de Maupertuis St Clement and another 2, (Hogs 3 and 4) in Fernlea Avenue in Grouville, he is doing an MSc with JICAS and field work is part of his degree.



Hog 1



Hog 2



31.7.23

Hog 1 (who I have nicknamed Dorine) came in at about 10.15pm, and was tagged up by about 10.30pm, put a dollop of green nail varnish on her head as you will see in the picture, and put her back in the feed-box. She seemed a little shellshocked but eventually started to mess around with the box and eat some food! Initial weight was 913g.

Hog 2 (who I believe to be male, and which I have nicknamed Reg) came in at.. wait for it.. 1.41am – I think I may have had a cat issue for an hour or two as at about 1.30am I checked the hole where they come in to Mon's garden and I saw a couple of white paws peering the other side!! Reg was tagged up, with a dollop of pink nail varnish on his bum, and placed back in the feed-box by about 1.55am. By this time, Dorine had wandered off towards the compost bin – which I picked up on the receiver! Initial weight was 1013g.

At this point, my eyes were beginning to shut and thought I would call it an evening!

3.8.23 I tagged both Hog 3 and 4 by about 11.15pm, Pink head (Jean – Female) and Green Bum (Bryce – Female) – see pictures attached. Pink Head hog was 832g and Green Bum was 791g, so both decent sizes but both a lot lighter than Mon's ones.



As I had them tagged a lot earlier, I did do some radio tracking – keeping track on 1 is tricky, let alone 2! I followed Green Bum for about 2 hours, with some interesting results. She did end up heading towards the Golf Course, she was stationary in the Hedgerow of Chateau Royale for 15/20mins, and

then shot towards the Beach for about 1.30am – from which then it was tricky to track further – Although the receiver was telling me he was in the garden with a swimming pool.



It is fair to say last night was much more of a success. I followed both Hog 3 and 4 (Jill and Bryce respectively) between the hours of 10.00-2.00 with very contrasting results. Jill seems a lot more reserved than Bryce, and does a lot less moving around. Jill was located in and around the gardens of Fernlea Drive for much of the evening, not going very far from the release site at all. Bryce, however, went all over Grouville (ish)! She was spotted up in the grounds of Grouville school and the photos attached were taken along La Rue de la Haye des Puits. I did get a sighting of Jill as well but typically forgot to take a photo..! I am wondering if Bryce is in fact a male – I will re-sex when I de-tag.

4/8/23 Hog 1 (Green head/ Dorine) was first located initially at about 9.45pm in the treeline of the big farmers field between Rue de Maupertuis and Clos de Patelles. She made her way across the field and arrive at the release site at approximately 10.30pm – near to the time she was tagged!! She then made her way through the gardens of Le Clos de Maupertuis before heading back to the same treeline for approximately 2am. My suspicions are that she is nesting somewhere in the housing estate the other side of the fields.



Hog 2 (Pink Bum/Reg) however was very static all evening in the same garden, off the St Clement's coast road, the other side of FB fields, which initially did seem a bit odd. 'Reg' continued not to move the whole evening, at which point when I finished I feared the worst. I popped around to the house this morning to ask the house owners if I could have a look in their Garden, from which I found the tag, but no Reg... It was in a hedgehog nest, where I did find a hedgehog, but it didn't have pink nail varnish on it... On the flip side, at least we know he was there!

7/8/23 I have a good idea where both nest areas are, Hog 3 (Jill) appears to be nesting near the big garden, opposite Fernlea Avenue off La Grande Route des Sablons. Hog 4 (Bryce) appears to be nesting closer to the coast, possibly towards the end of La Rue de la Forge.

Jill followed a very similar path as Survey 1. She made her way through the gardens of Fernlea Drive and Fernlea Avenue and then into the early hours of the morning she made her way towards the Golf Course, and settled for a bit in the Gardens of the Chateau Royale apartments. I will attempt to locate and de-tag her this afternoon. (which he did)

Bryce, however, took a very different approach to Survey 1. After coming up from the coast, she arrived at the release site at about 11pm to feed, and stayed there for some 20 minutes. She then made her way into Grouville Park road, and through the grounds of the Pembrokeshire pub. Thereafter, she made her way across the golf course, and settled in a big bush of gorse just off the main road. De-tagging of Bryce was successful and she was let free in the location I picked her up from.

Photos of Bryce on the golf course and de-tagged are below.



Matt will of course write a formal report for his dissertation but I thought these informal diary entries would be of interest!