

# CityNet - The future for acoustic surveying of urban habitats

Alison Fairbrass  
University College London



November, 2017



University of Exeter

Professor Sir John Lawton - Making Space for  
Nature: more, bigger, better and joined up.

1 year ago

# Science





University of Exeter

Professor Sir John Lawton - Making Space for  
Nature: more, bigger, better and joined up.

1 year ago

# Science







University of Exeter

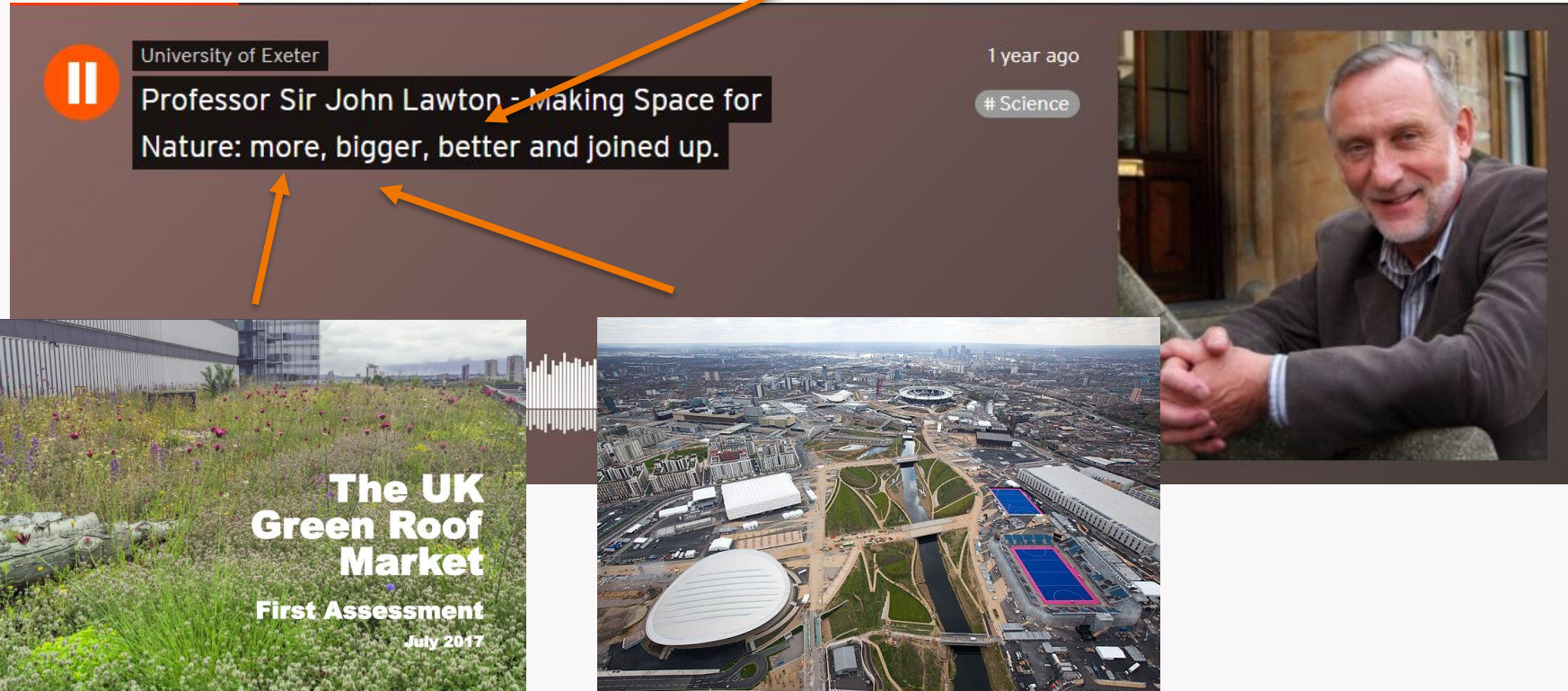
Professor Sir John Lawton - Making Space for Nature: more, bigger, better and joined up.

1 year ago

# Science



?



The collage consists of several elements:

- Video Player Interface:** A dark grey rectangular area at the top left. It features a white pause icon in a red circle on the left. To its right, the text "University of Exeter" is in a small white box. Below that, the title "Professor Sir John Lawton - Making Space for Nature: more, bigger, better and joined up." is displayed in large white font. To the right of the title, it says "1 year ago" and "# Science" in a smaller white font. Three orange arrows originate from the top right of the slide and point towards the video player: one points to the title, one points to the "1 year ago" text, and one points to the "# Science" tag.
- Portrait of Professor Sir John Lawton:** A photograph of a middle-aged man with grey hair and a beard, wearing a brown jacket over a blue and white striped shirt. He is smiling and has his hands clasped in front of him. The background is a blurred interior setting.
- The UK Green Roof Market First Assessment:** A photograph of a lush green roof with various wildflowers and plants. Overlaid on the image is the text "The UK Green Roof Market" in large white font, and "First Assessment" and "July 2017" in smaller white font below it.
- Aerial View of Urban Development:** A photograph showing a large-scale urban development project. It features a large, white, oval-shaped stadium, a blue sports field, and extensive green spaces and walkways integrated into the city fabric. The surrounding city skyline is visible in the background.

# Acoustic Tech

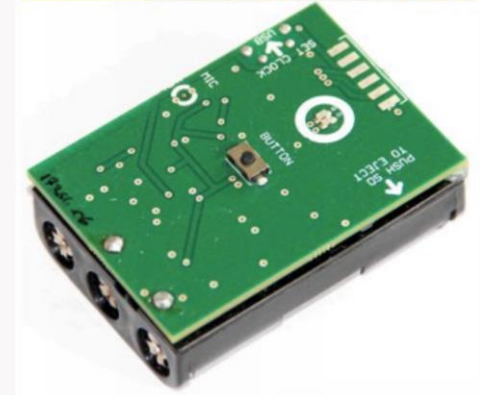
- Increasing accessibility of passive audio recording hardware

SM2 (Wildlife Acoustics)

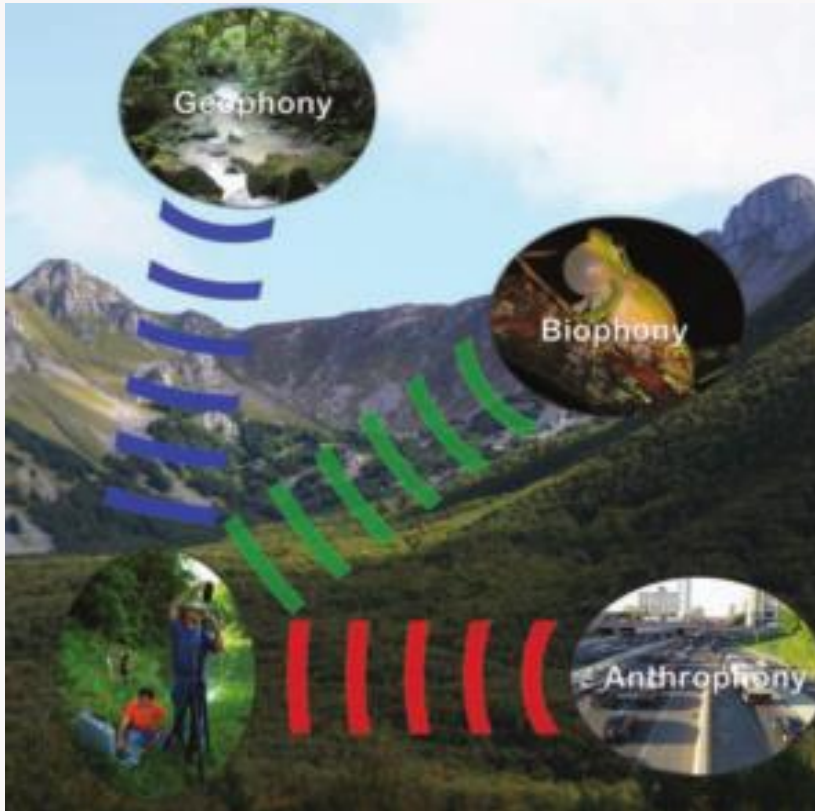


SM4 (Wildlife Acoustics)

AudioMoth  
([www.openacousticdevices.info](http://www.openacousticdevices.info))







Pijanowski et al. 2011 Bioscience

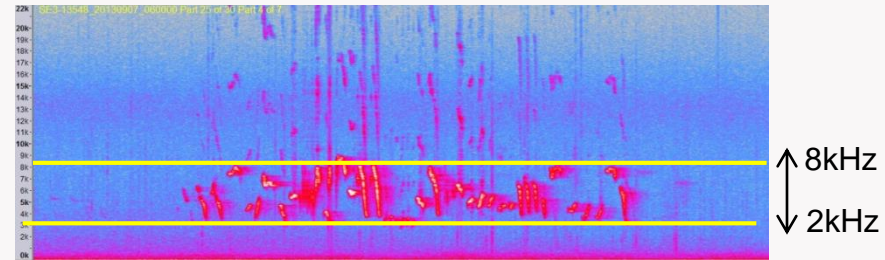
## What is ecoacoustics?

- The study of sound in order to tackle biodiversity and other ecological questions (Sueur & Farina, 2015, Biosemiotics).
- Biotic = sounds generated by non-human biotic organisms.
- Anthropogenic = sounds associated with human activities.
- Geophonic = non-biological ambient sounds e.g. wind and rain.

# Acoustic Indices – Ecoacoustic Algorithms to Measure Biodiversity Sound?

Simple algorithms that measure  
the biotic sound in large  
volumes of audio data.

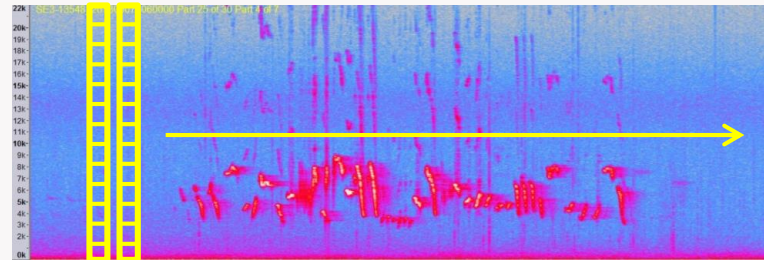
**BIOACOUSTIC INDEX** Boelman et al. (2007) Ecol. Appl.



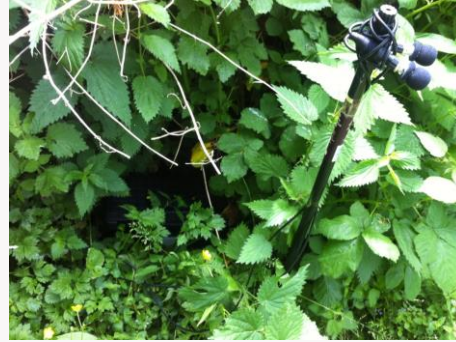
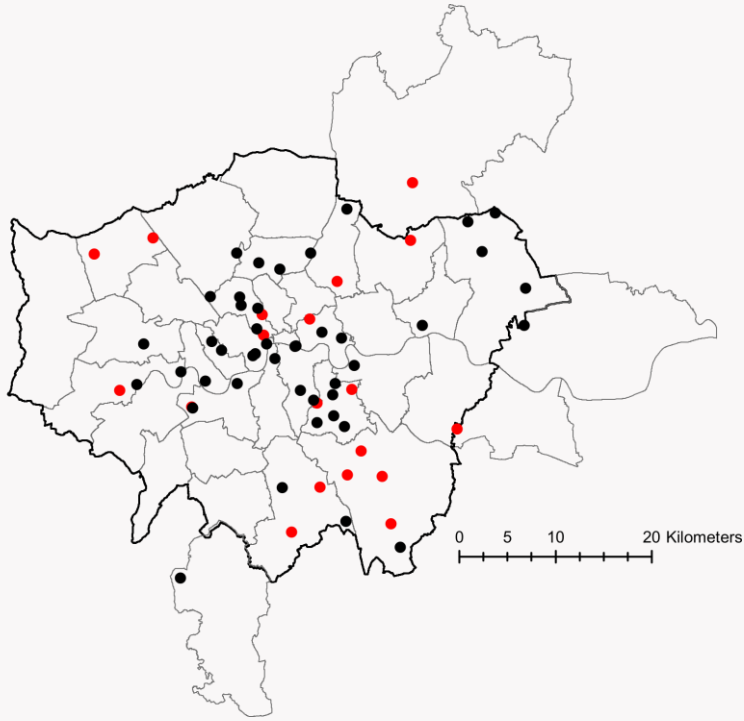
BI = signal power within 2-8Khz frequency bin

**ACOUSTIC COMPLEXITY INDEX**

Pieretti et al. (2011) Ecol. Indic.



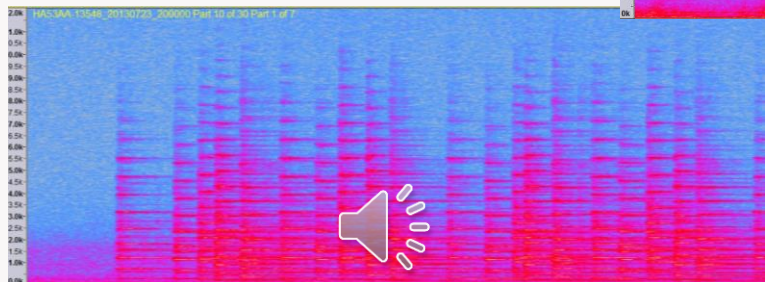
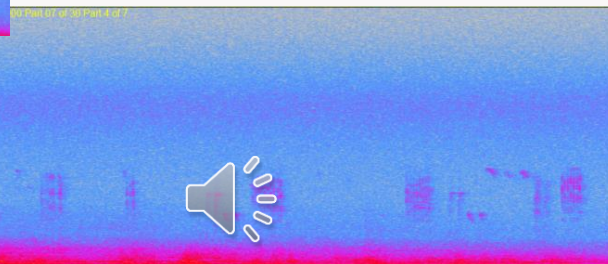
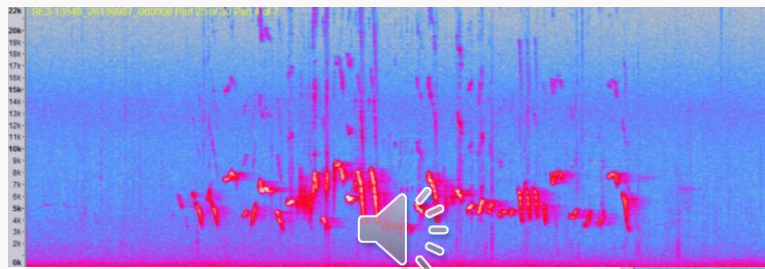




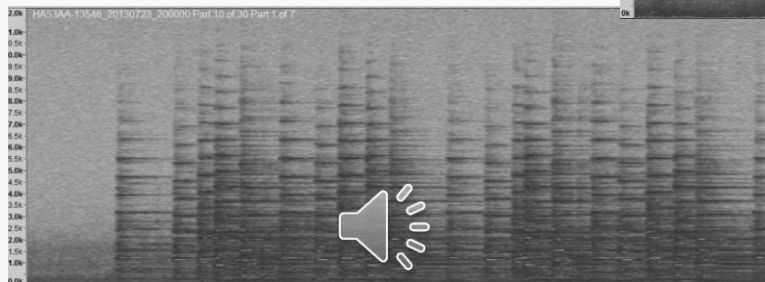
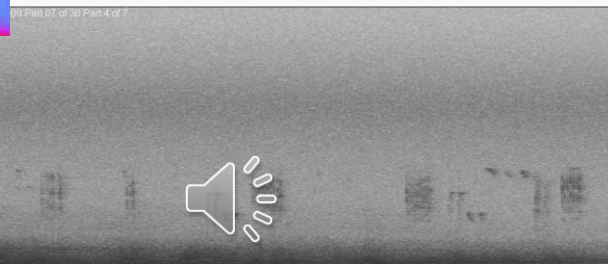
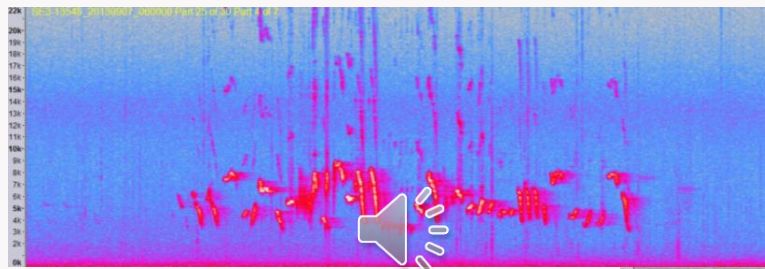
63 green infrastructure sites

7 days continuous recording

## Audible sounds

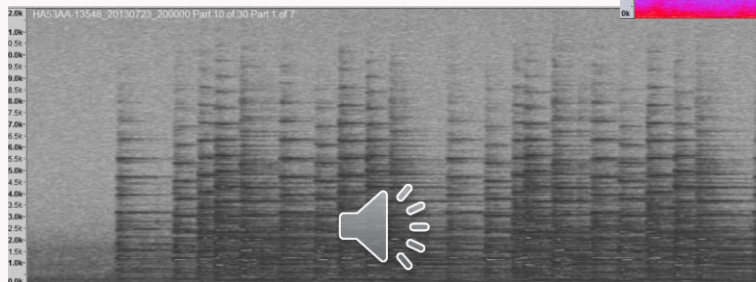
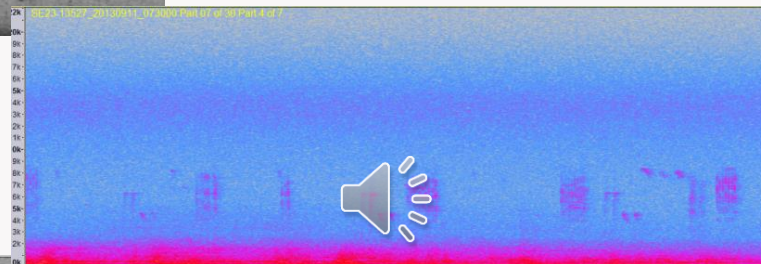
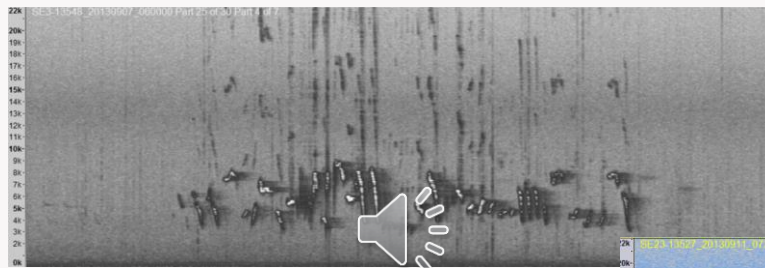


## Audible sounds

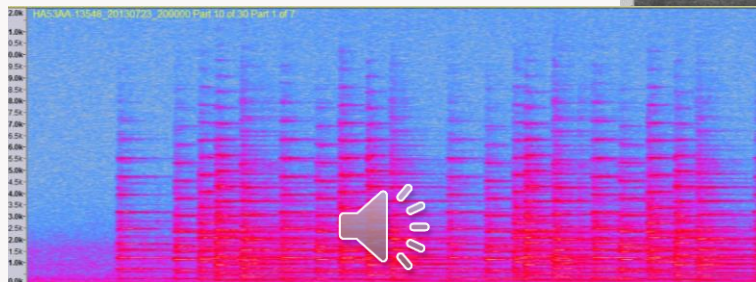
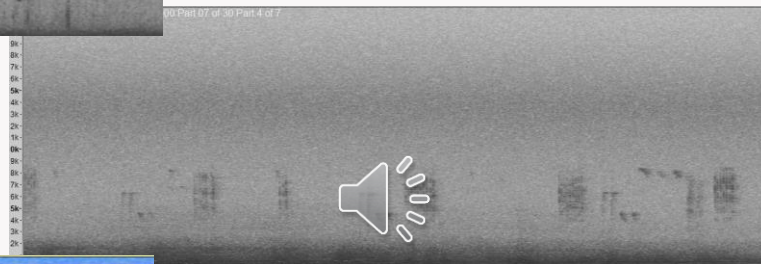
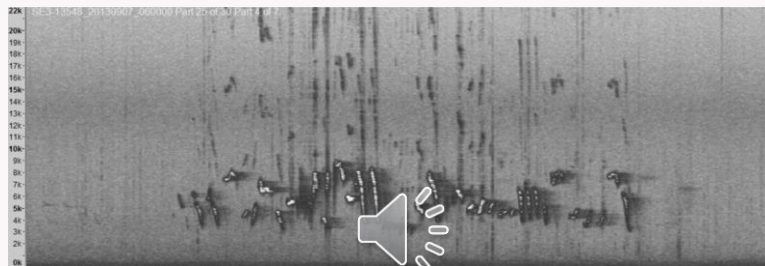




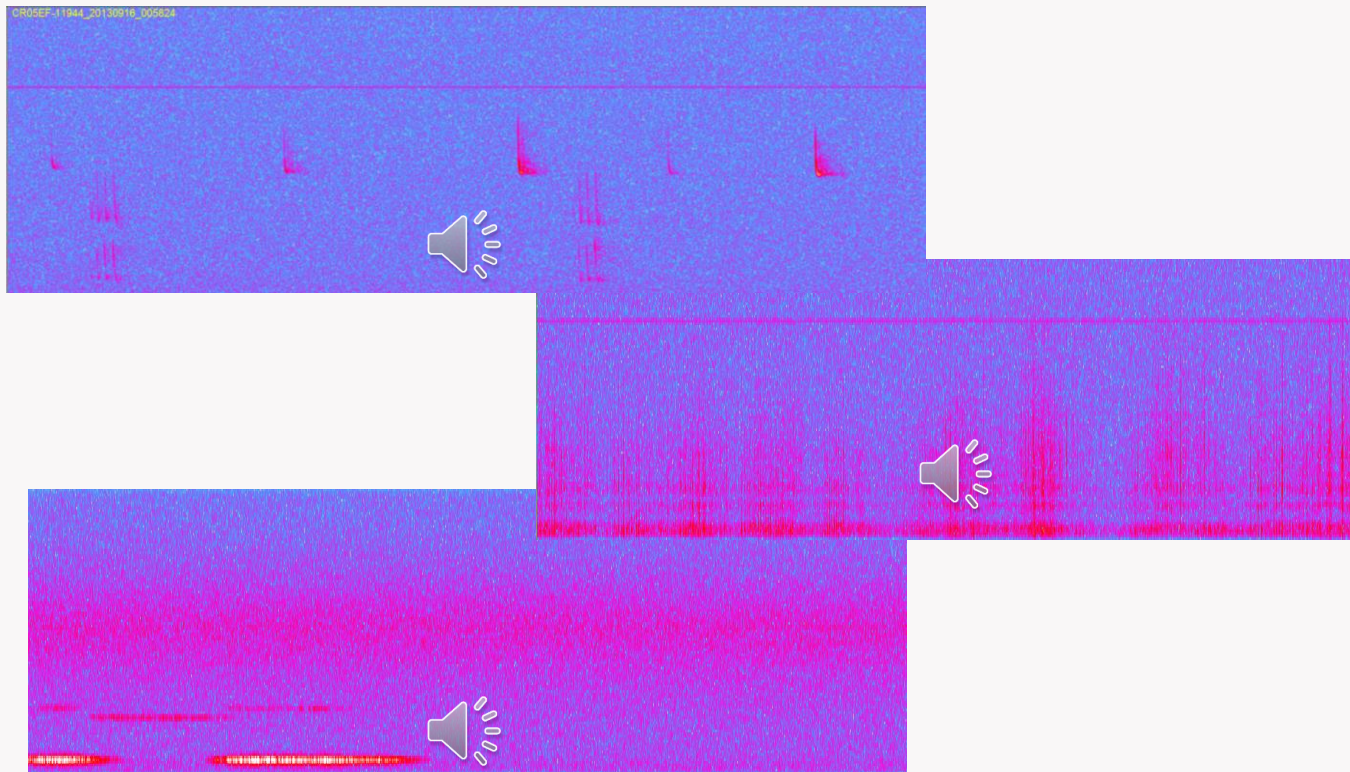
## Audible sounds



## Audible sounds

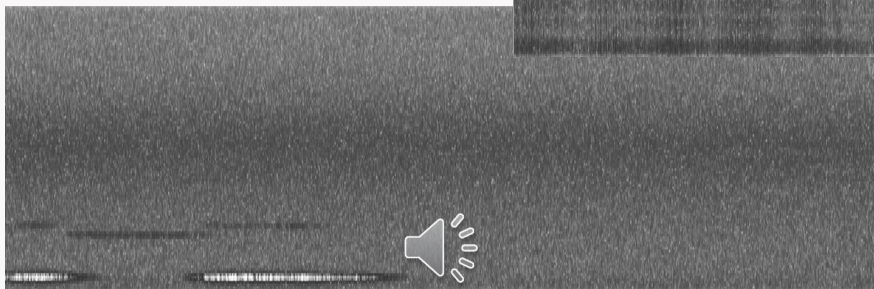
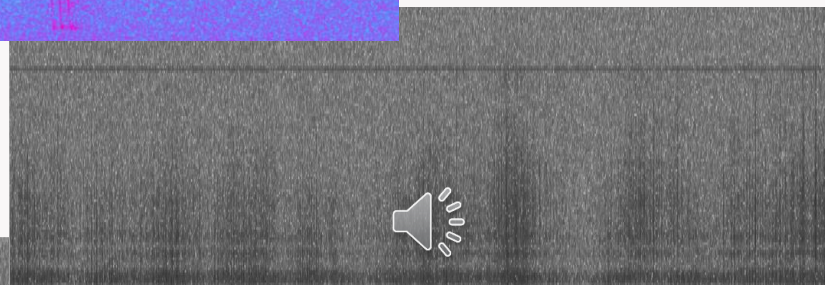
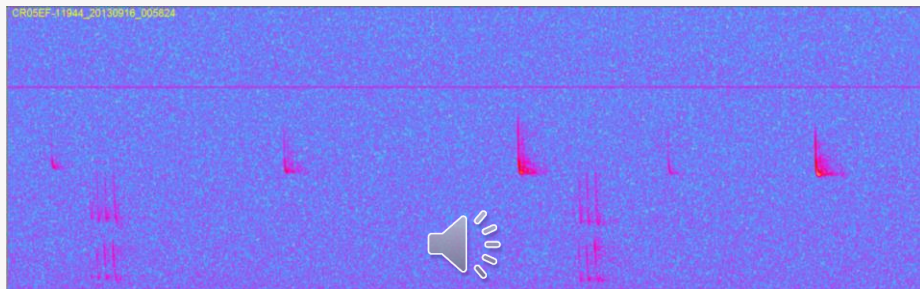


## Ultrasonic sounds

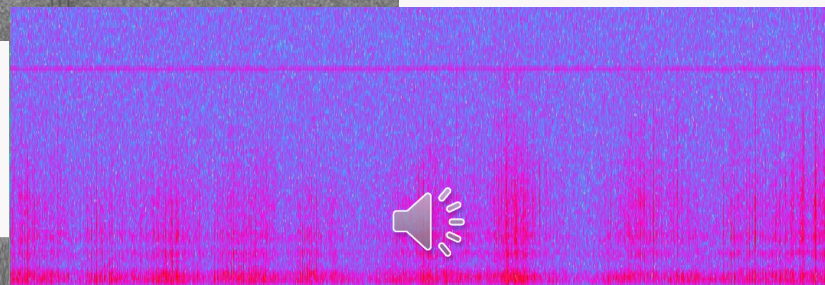
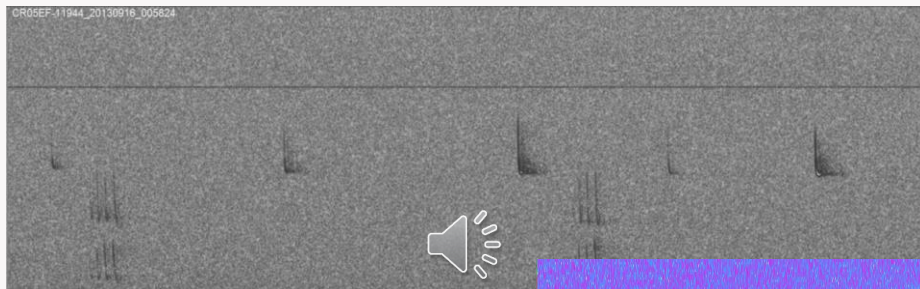




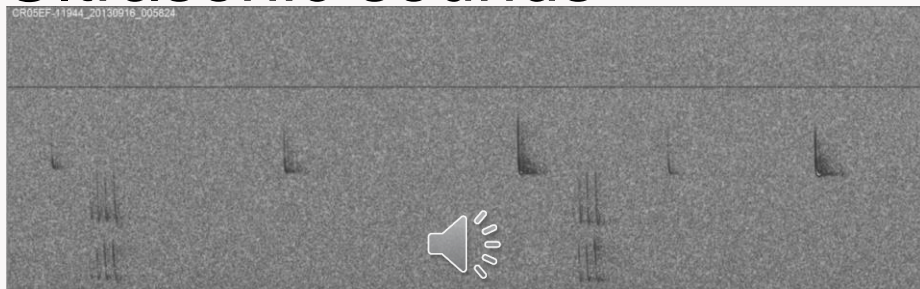
## Ultrasonic sounds



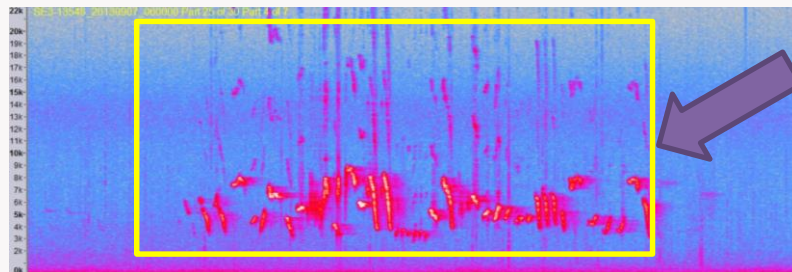
## Ultrasonic sounds



# Ultrasonic sounds



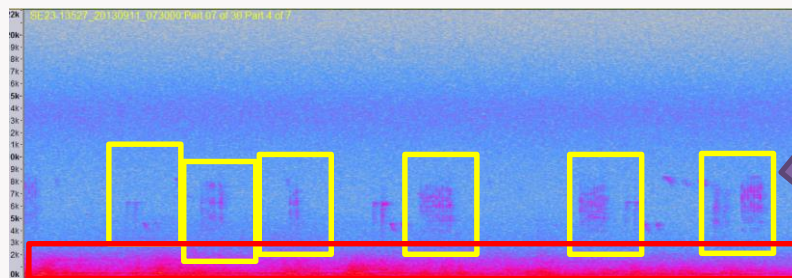
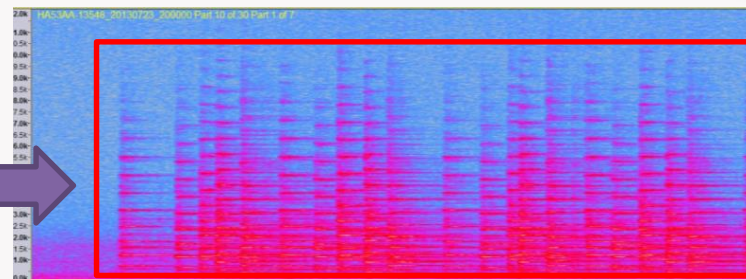
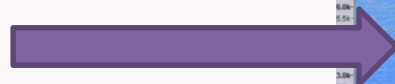




Bird



Bells



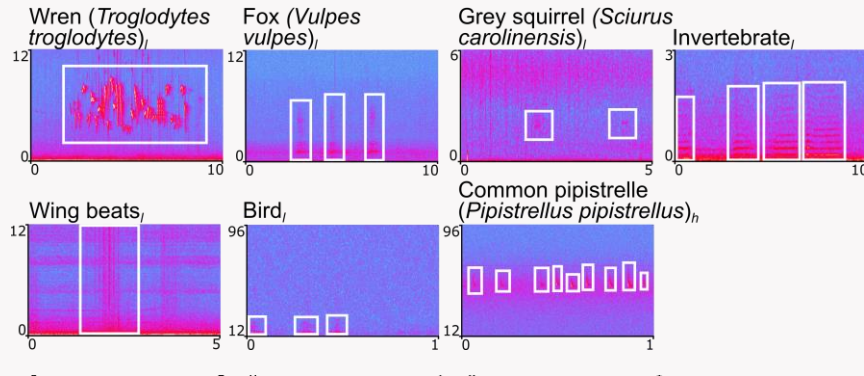
Bird

Airplane

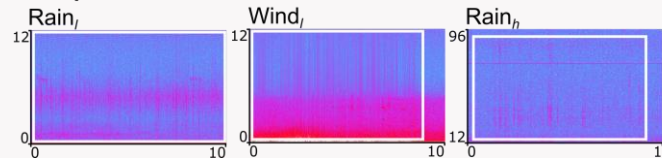
# CitySounds2017

## Library of urban sounds

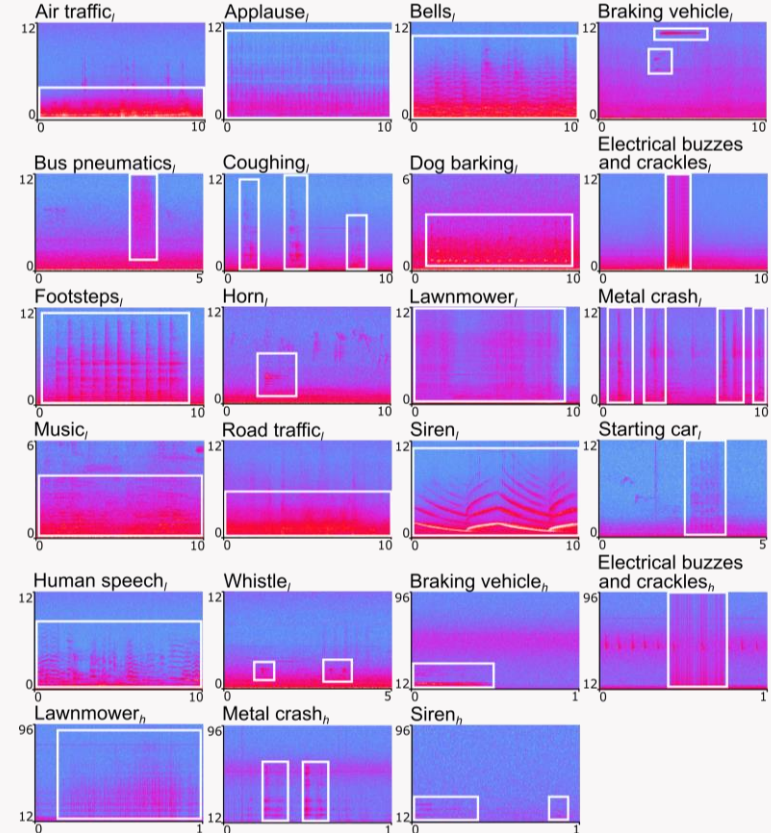
### Biotic

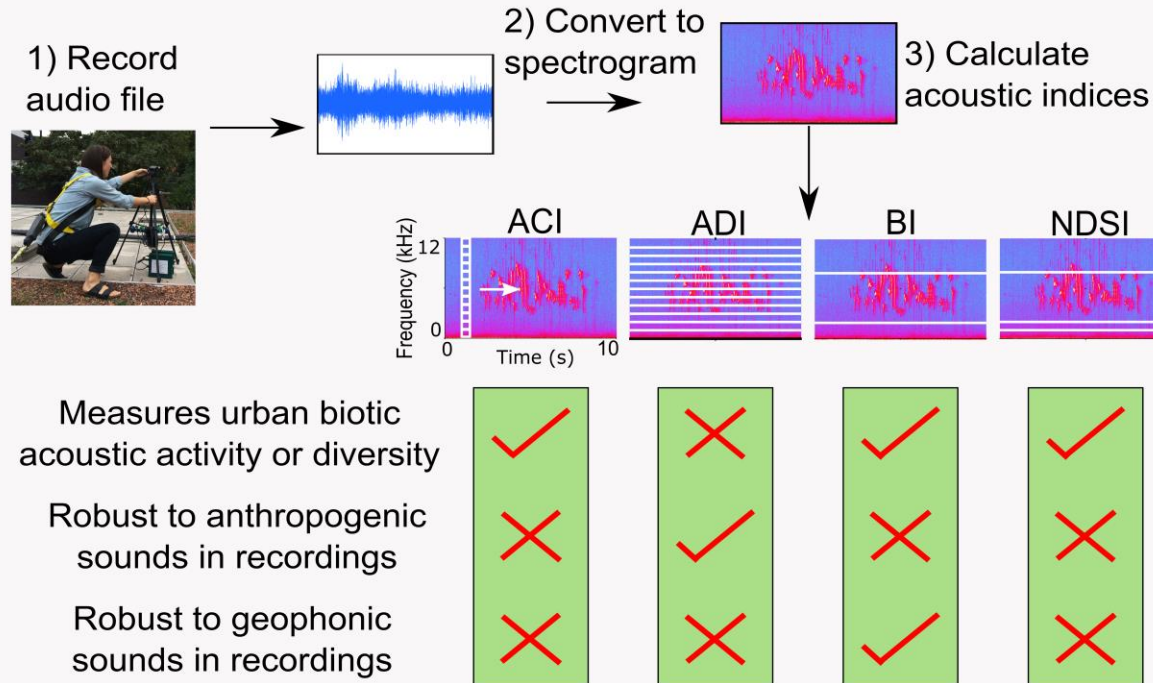


### Geophonic



### Anthropogenic





**Recommendation:** to use acoustic indices to measure biotic acoustic activity or diversity in urban environments, biasing anthropogenic and geophonic sounds must be removed from recordings prior to acoustic index calculation.

Fairbrass et al. (2017)  
Ecol. Indic.

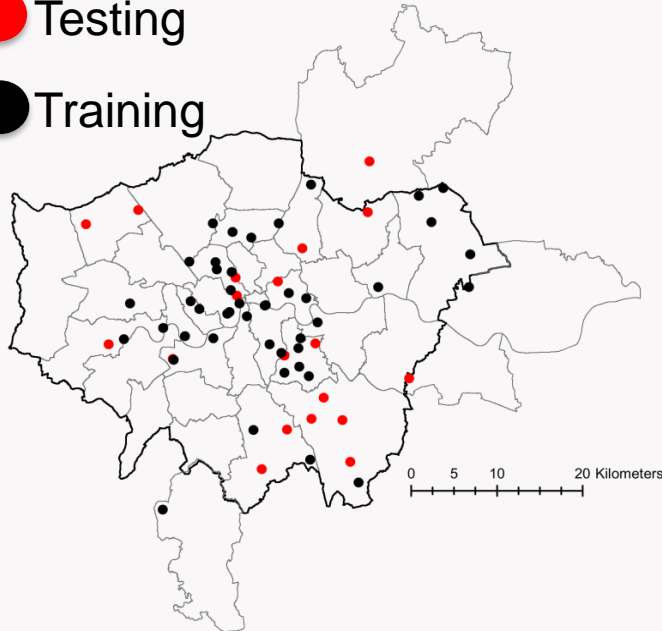


# CityNet

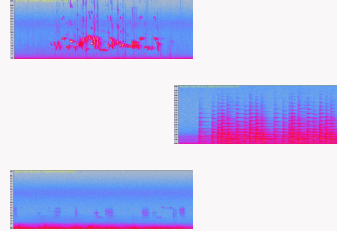
Machine learning algorithms to measure biotic and anthropogenic sound in large volumes of noisy audio data from the urban environment.

● Testing

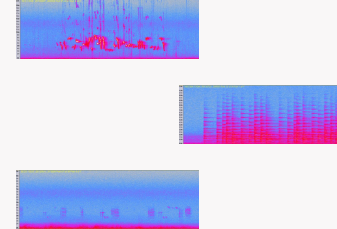
● Training



Training dataset



Testing dataset

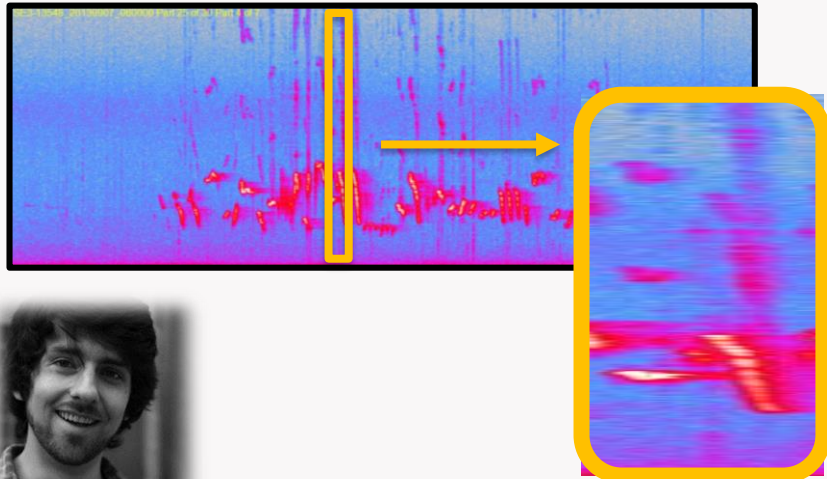


Train the algorithms to choose features that represent different sounds

Test % of sounds correctly classified

# CityNet

Machine learning algorithms to measure biotic and anthropogenic sound in large volumes of noisy audio data from the urban environment.



CNN  
Deep Learning

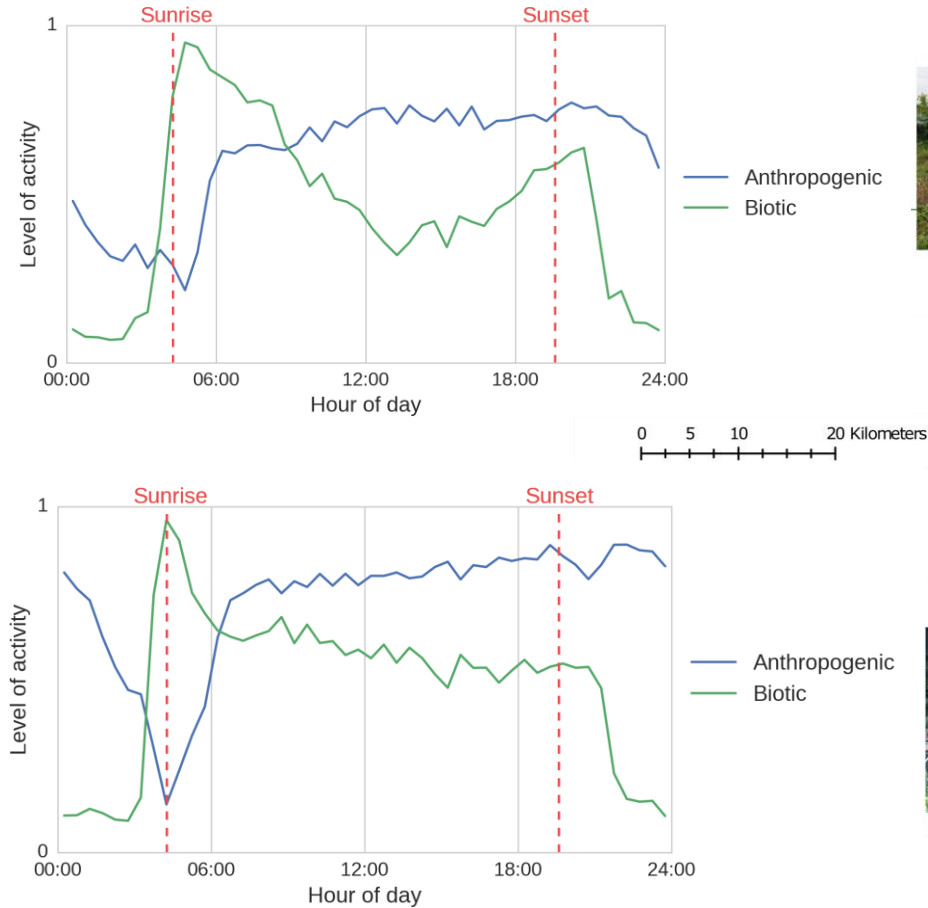
## Results

Biotic sound .....100%

Anthropogenic sound.....5%

# CityNet

Produces patterns of biotic and anthropogenic acoustic activity over long temporal scales



Forest Farm Peace Garden



Bethnal Green Nature Reserve



# Nature-Smart Cities:

Smart technology  
to monitor urban  
bat life

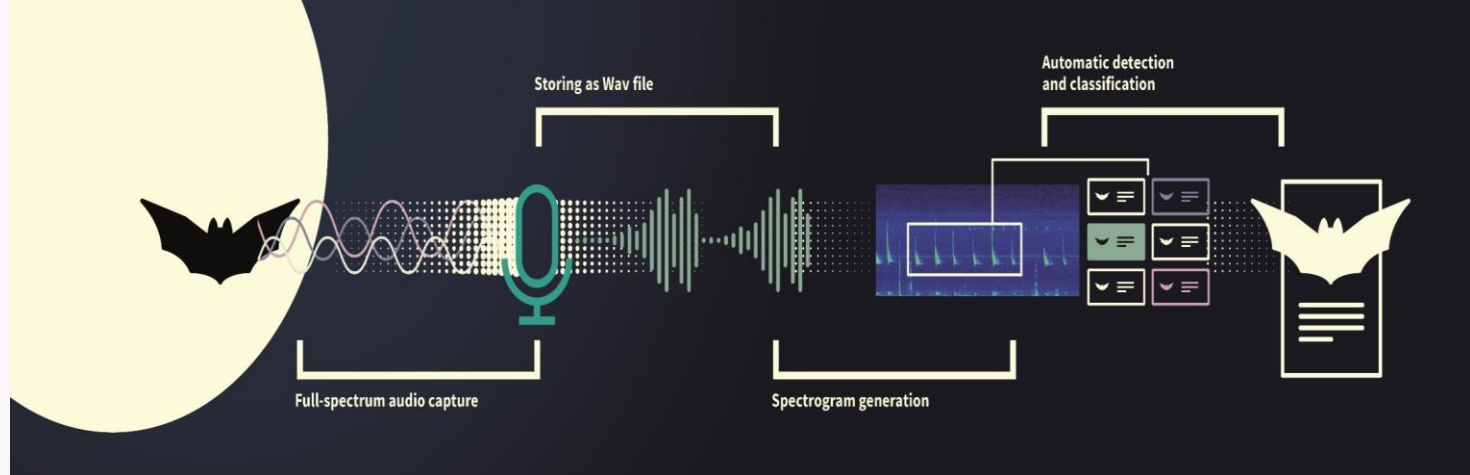
[www.naturesmartcities.com](http://www.naturesmartcities.com)

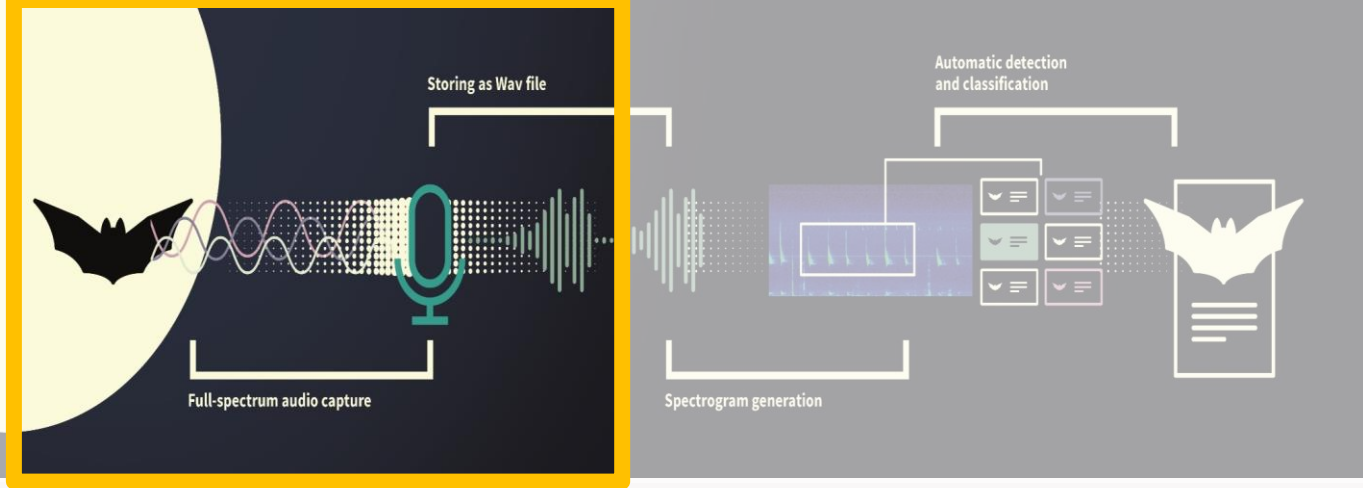








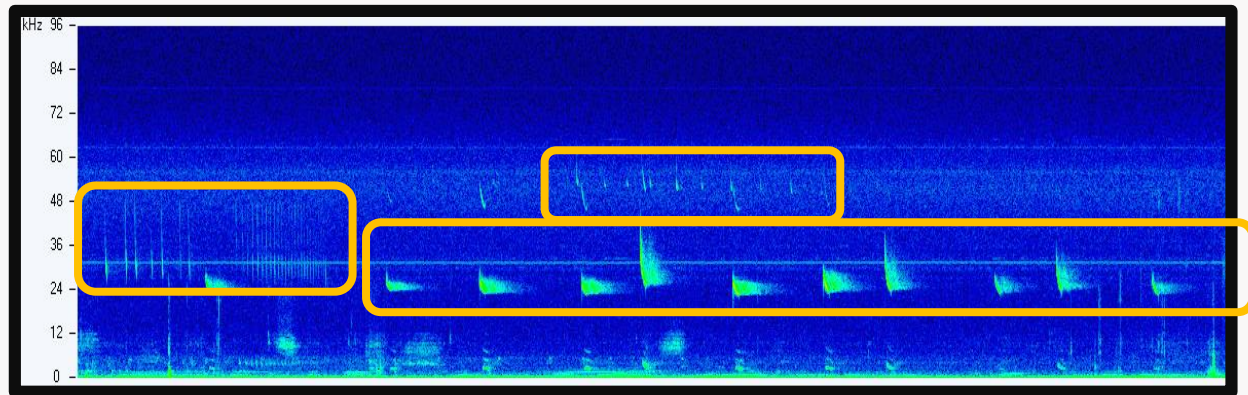
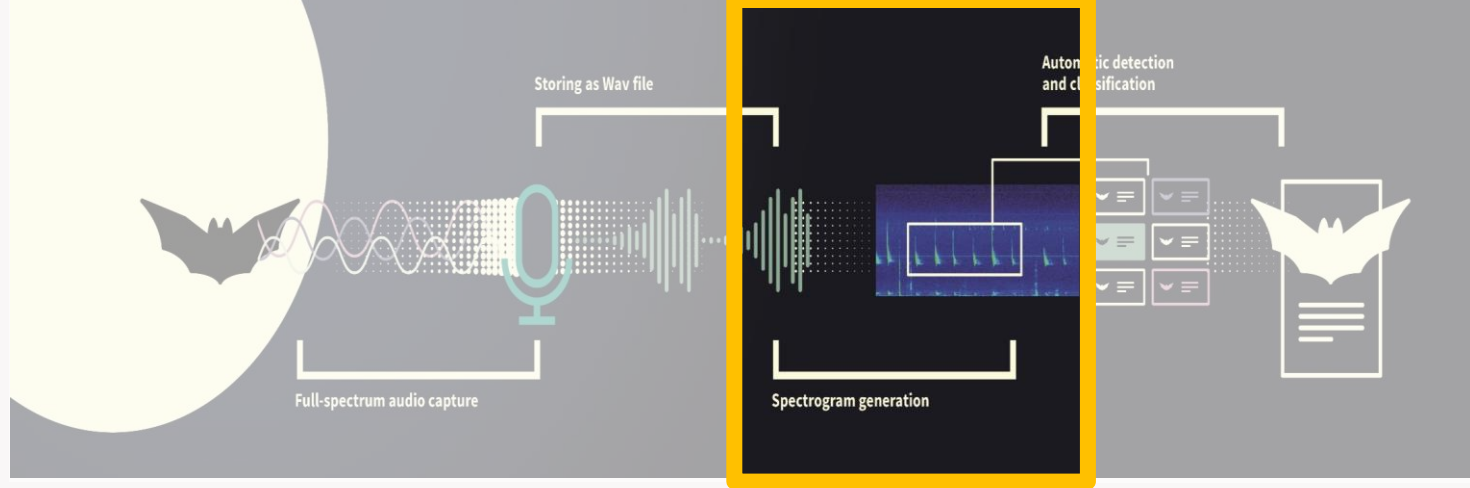


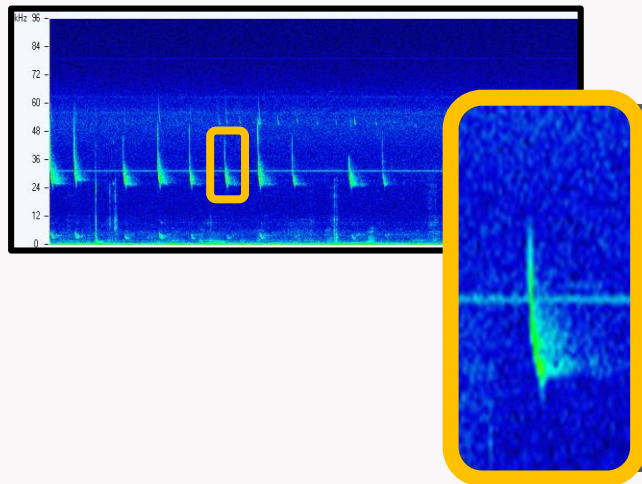
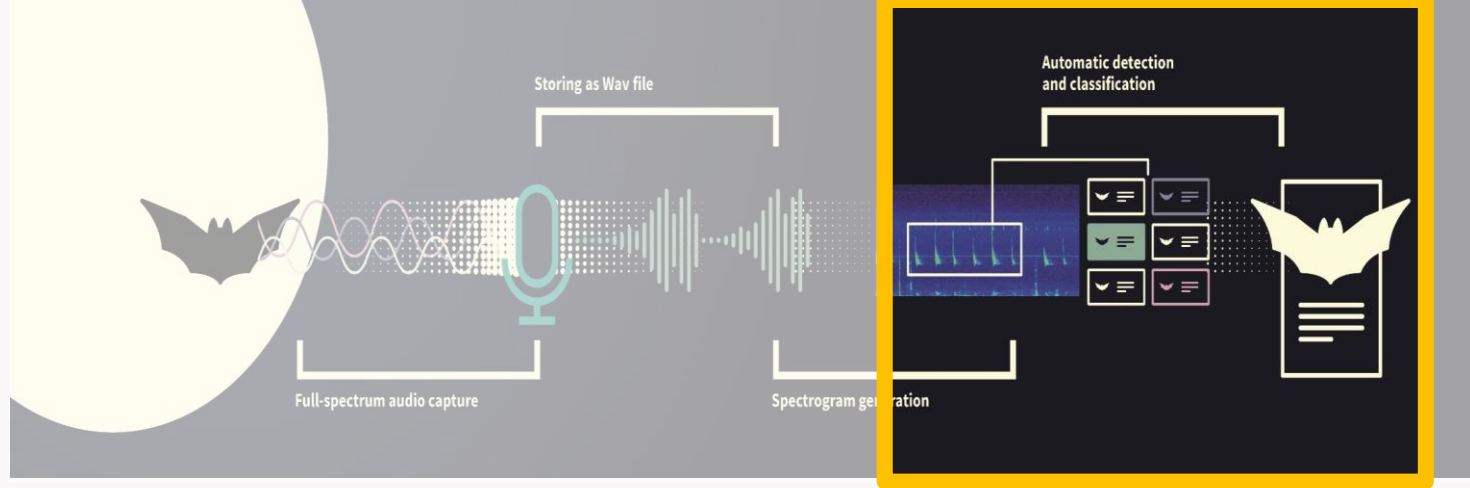


Soprano Pipistrelle  
**Common pipistrelle**  
(*Pipistrellus pipistrellus*)



Leisler  
**Daubenton's bat**  
(*Myotis daubentonii*)





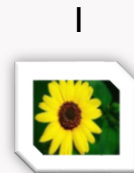
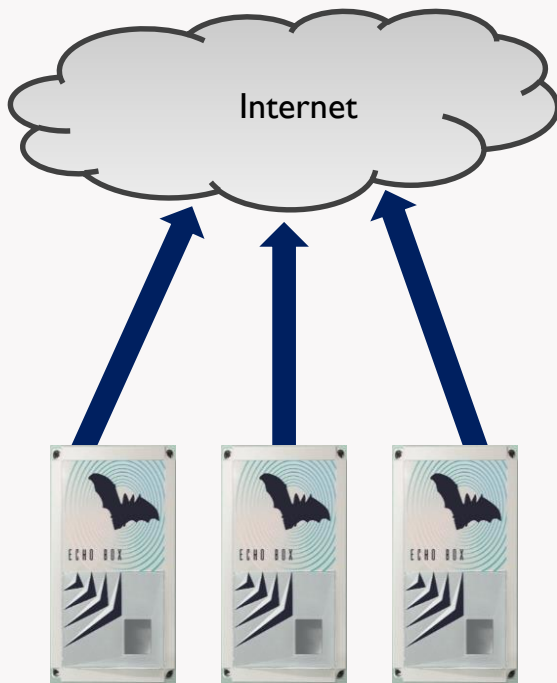
CNN  
Deep Learning

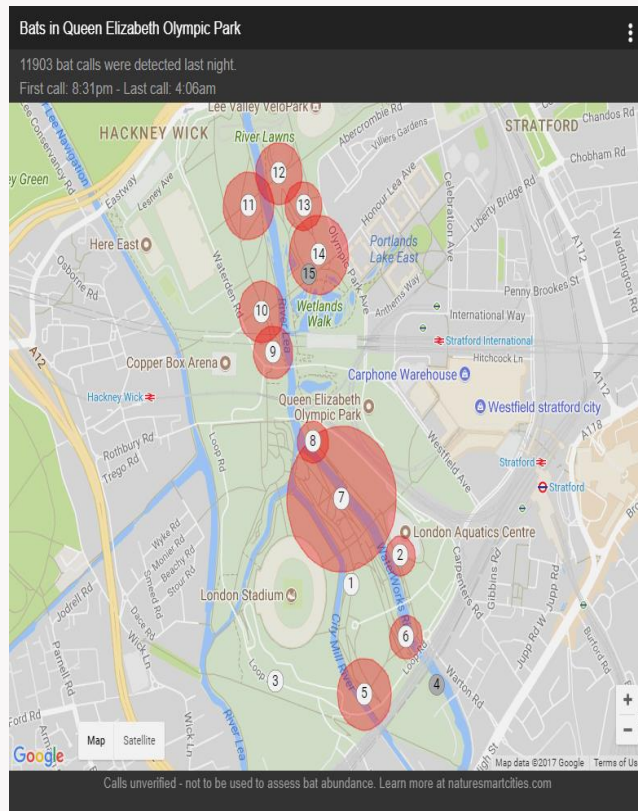
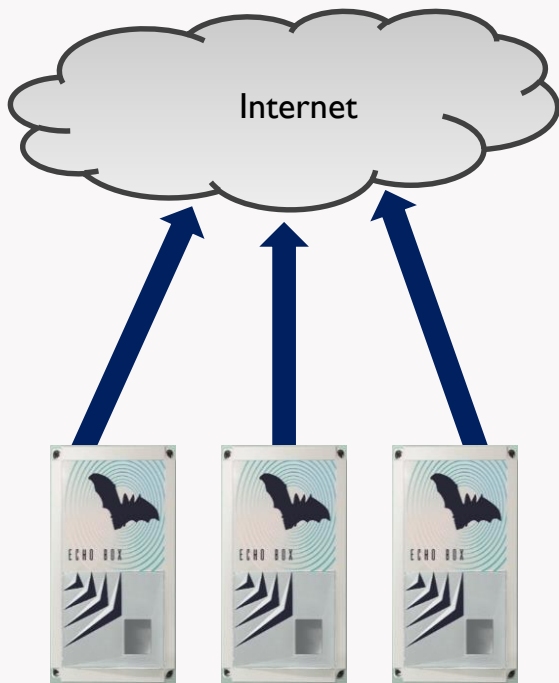
### Results

Soprano pipistrelle.....	10%
Leisleri.....	60%
Noctula.....	30%









## Bats in Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park

2 bat calls were detected so far tonight.

First call: 9:23pm - Last call: 8:38pm



## ← Sensor 7

### Bats detected tonight

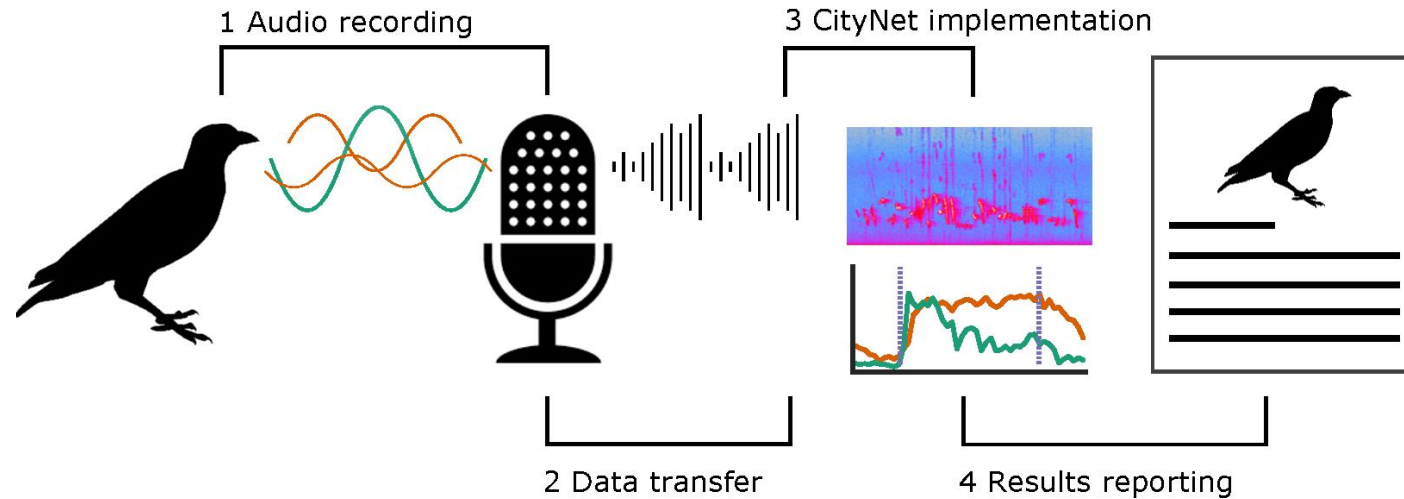
Current London time 10:02pm

0 bat calls detected





# How could CityNet be operationalised?





Thank you

Questions?

Alison Fairbrass  
University College London  
@AlisonFairbrass



November, 2017