

## Anabat Scout (Titely Scientific)

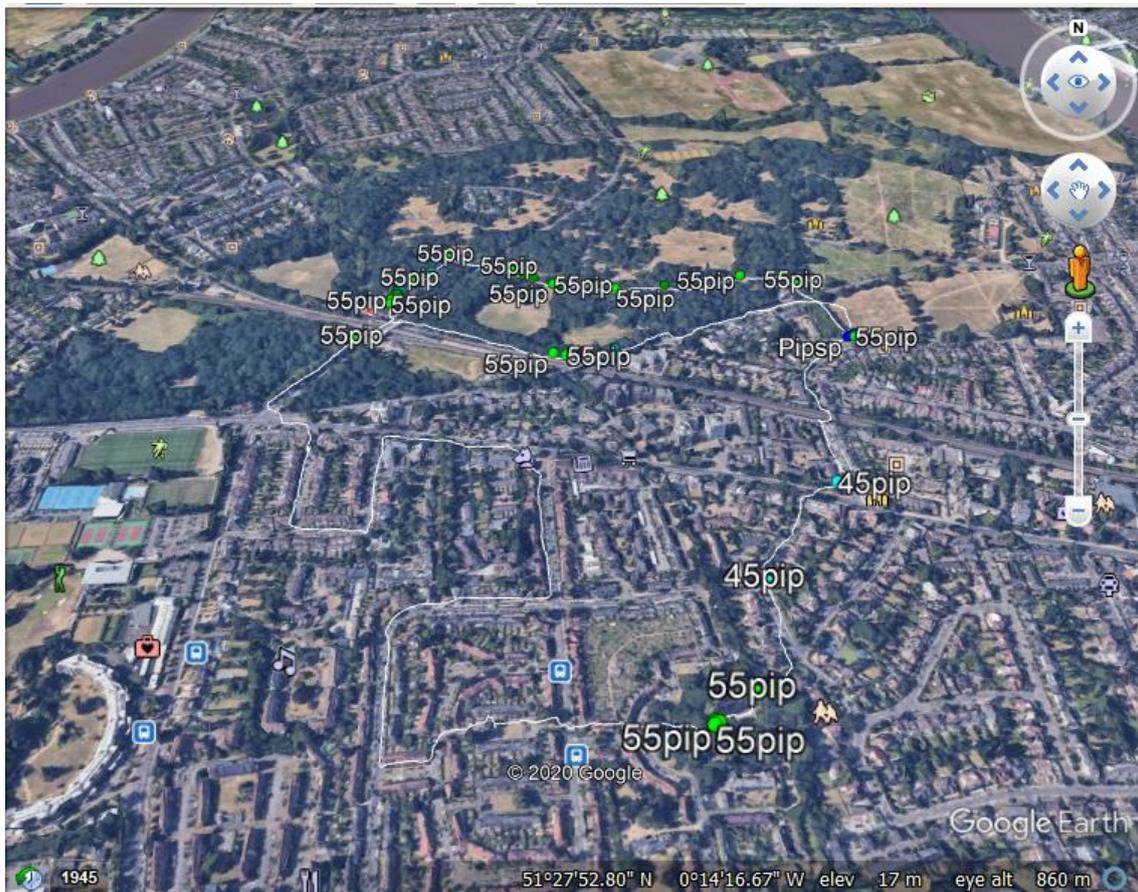


The Anabat Scout is designed for handheld use in the field. It is lightweight and comfortable to hold and the menu is easy to navigate and feels very intuitive, further aided by brief explanatory text to explain the options.

It provides the option of recording in full spectrum or zero crossing mode. You can set it to record continuously or with triggered recording. Trigger controls enable you to set the sensitivity (high/medium/low), and the min and max frequency of the trigger. Maximum file duration can be set from any value between 2 and 20 seconds. Unlike some other models (such as the Anabat Walkabout) the Scout does not display spectrograms on the screen.

The audio options for listening live in the field are heterodyne or frequency division. Manual heterodyne mode is controlled by pressing the up/down arrows on the front of the detector to change the tuned frequency. A feature I found particularly satisfying is the auto tune heterodyne mode which means that the detector automatically tunes in to the peak frequency of any bat calls picked up by the detector. Whichever mode you are in the peak frequency is automatically displayed on the screen, enabling you to instantly identify species such as pipistrelles that can be readily identified by the sound and the peak frequency of their calls.

Transect recording mode logs a GPS point once per second, enabling you to map your transect route as you walk it. A GPS point is also logged for each recording. If you analyse your recordings using Anabat Insight software (the free version of which provides full functionality if you are processing recordings from a compatible model of Anabat detector), then in the Report menu you can generate a .kml file for opening in Google Earth. The screenshot below shows a survey transect, displaying the complete route I walked and the locations of bat encounters and species ID from subsequent sound analysis I carried out using Anabat Insight.



*Anabat Insight .kml output displayed in Google Earth, showing route walked and species identified through subsequent sound analysis*

Another nice feature is the two “Bat Counter” buttons (IN and OUT), enabling you to keep a tally of bats entering and exiting a roost during roost counts. Every in and out button press is written to a .csv spreadsheet, along with the date, time and location of each button press.

An unexpected additional feature (tucked away in the “Other” menu) is the classic and very retro computer game “Snake”, no doubt provided to keep you entertained during downtime such as waiting for rain to clear. Just try not to get too addicted and use up valuable battery life!

The Anabat Scout retails for £834.

*Philip Briggs*