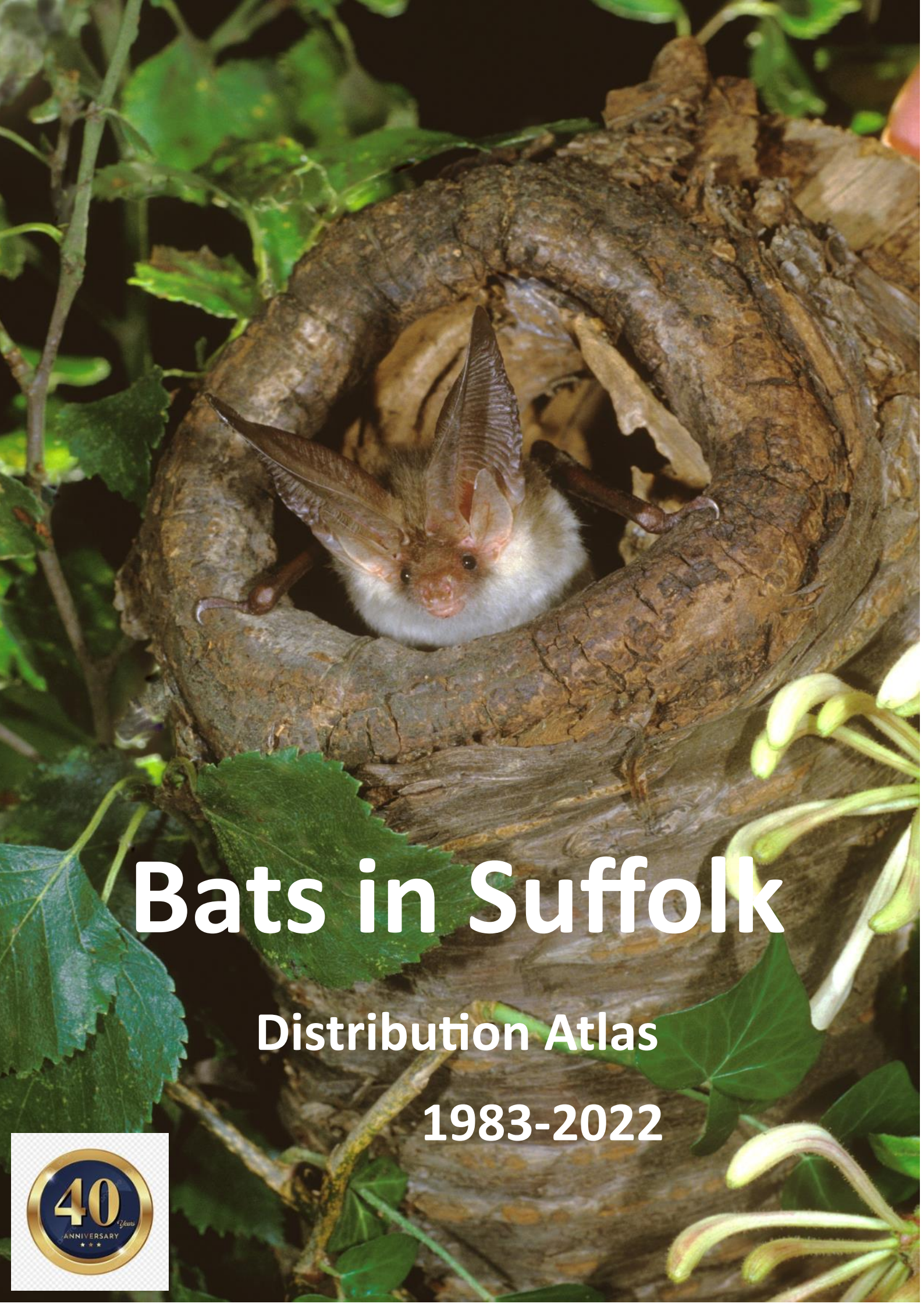

Bats in Suffolk

Distribution Atlas

1983-2022

40 Years ANNIVERSARY

CONTENTS

Editor: Sue Hooton

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Cover: Brown Long-eared bat ©Hugh Clark/www.bats.org.uk

Introduction

Suffolk Bat Group was formed in 1983 as a specialist group of Suffolk Wildlife Trust, to record, research and conserve the county's bats.

The main source of records for the first fifteen years was from licenced members carrying out building surveys for English Nature (now Natural England). These early records are entirely random as they were all in response to requests from householders and developers asking for advice in various forms as a result of bats becoming fully protected under the 1981 Wildlife & Countryside Act (as amended).

By the late 1990's, bat detectors were becoming more frequently used by both group members and other interested naturalists. However records from this method were not considered to be sufficiently accurate to species level for submission to Suffolk Biological Records Centre (now Suffolk Biodiversity Information Service).

By 2000, computer software had been developed through which the sounds on the detectors could be recorded digitally and then analysed using programmes such as Bat Sound and Batscan. The sounds are converted into spectrograms and the various species display varying images enabling a positive identification to be made for most bats.

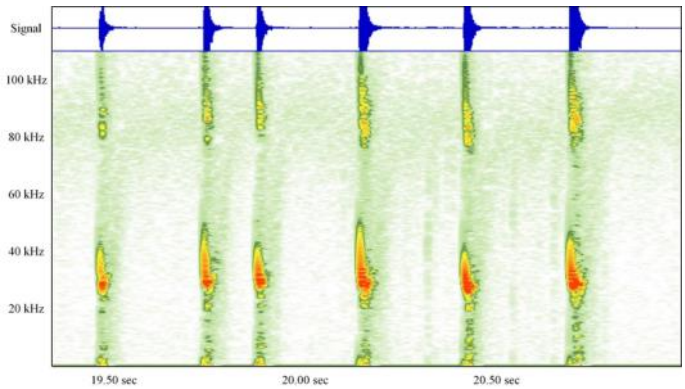
Above: Sue Hooton and Arthur Rivett recording bats © Arthur Rivett

Right: The spectrogram for a serotine bat at 27 Khz using Bat Scan

This has transformed bat surveying and, although still not quite as instant as watching birds through binoculars for identification, an evening of recording can be relatively quickly downloaded and the spectrograms viewed and compared with known images, enabling the species encountered to be positively recorded.

In the past ten years, the lower prices and therefore the availability of static detectors, has meant that they are no longer only available to consultants on expensive contracts. The Group owns two static detectors and, pre-Covid, the British Trust for Ornithology (BTO) based Norfolk Bat Project made units available on loan to individuals in Suffolk near the county boundary. This has provided context for the Norfolk results and increased the number of records received. The static units are left at sites for several days to record all bat activity over the period, greatly increasing the number of records and therefore eliminating surveyor fatigue and periods of poor weather. The downside of this technology is the sheer volume of data that is gathered meaning several hours are spent using computer programmes such as Analook to analyse the data.

All this means that bats can be identified without having them in the hand (which requires a licence) which opens up bat surveying to many more people. However, the Myotis species are still difficult to separate on recorded calls alone and so this is still not the holy grail in bat recording.



From 2000 Suffolk Bat Group has purposely selected various areas around the county to carry out organised surveys. The main driver has been to investigate the distribution of Barbastelle bats across Suffolk. Barbastelle bats are rare in a European context and, up until the mid-1990's East Anglia was thought to be the UK's stronghold, and so this was an obvious species upon which to concentrate.

Prior to using detectors combined with software, most records of Barbastelle bats were known from hibernation sites which are themselves limited in number. However, this species is relatively easy to identify from detector recordings and by choosing suitable habitat, the records of this species, and many others, have increased greatly.

The past five years have seen increased interest in recording Nathusius' pipistrelle, a species once thought to be an occasional migrant. However, through improvements in detectors, and now through the use of harp traps under a level 4 licence, the numbers of records for this species have increased. At least one nursery colony has been located and individuals are frequently recorded during the migration period.

In the past, the identification of bats has depended on either the animal being in the hand or a close visual observation such as in hibernation or an accessible roost. With the advent of bat detectors more people have taken an interest in recording bats, but, as with casual bird recording, the context is lost and it is an animal in a place at a point in time with its origin/roost site unknown. Therefore, emphasis on field records using bat detectors has increased the spread of individual species records, although there is now a much-reduced number of roosts that are counted. This means the population sizes of all bat species are more of an unknown. With the presence of Ash die back *Chalara fraxinea* affecting trees across the country, there is the potential to lose a great many bat roosts in the coming years affecting particularly those species that are dependent on tree roosts. The next five years should see this as more of a priority so that assessments of conservation efforts can be made, and population sizes compared to previous years.

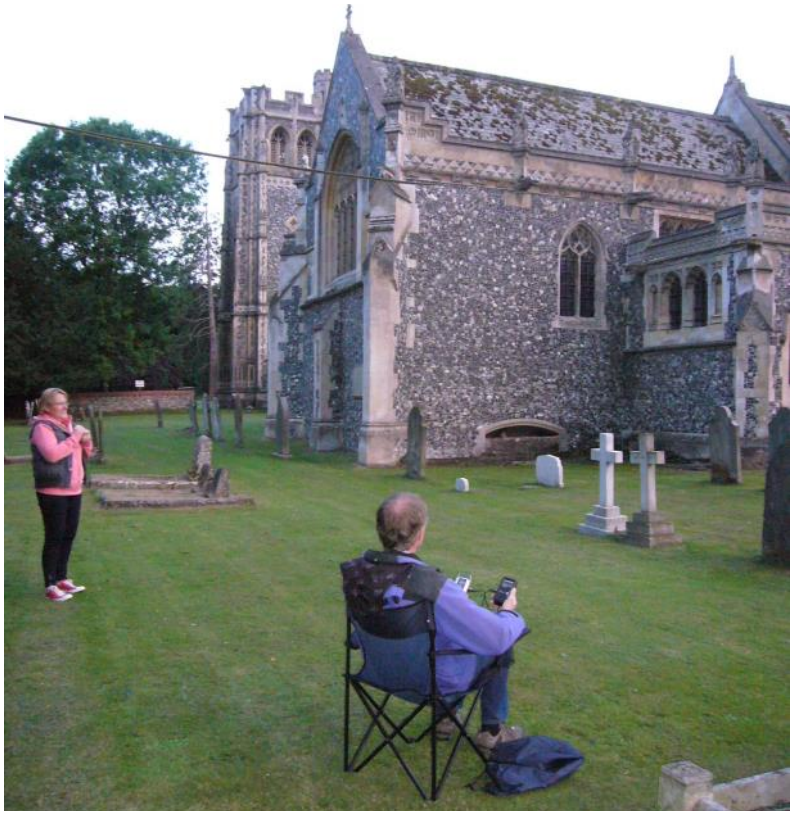
The following atlas maps have been split into pre- and post 2017 records and further split into field and roost records. The roost records refer to hibernation, breeding, bat box and general roosts, including the long term bat box project in Thetford Forest.

For each species, repeat surveys would be needed to identify population conservation status at the county level. However, distribution across the county has been assessed and an indication provided e.g. widespread across Suffolk.

Dennis Kell, a volunteer, fitting a bat box
© Arthur Rivett

It is probably fair to say that most records today are from detector surveys run either by Suffolk Bat Group, Bat Conservation Trust including the Bats in Churches project, BTO citizen science surveys or ecological consultants. In Suffolk, we now have more licensed bat workers than at any time in the Group's history, but the number of volunteer bat roost visits requested by Natural England is less than in former times with ecological consultants taking on advisory work where projects trigger planning applications.

The protected status of bats means surveys are routinely undertaken for new developments, not just for housing and building conversions, but also for wind farms, power stations and other large infrastructure projects. However, building repairs and renovations still run the risk of destroying roosts either unknowingly or deliberately. Volunteers can therefore play a key role in supporting householders and churches with repairs and renovations and contributing records to maintain the county database and local knowledge

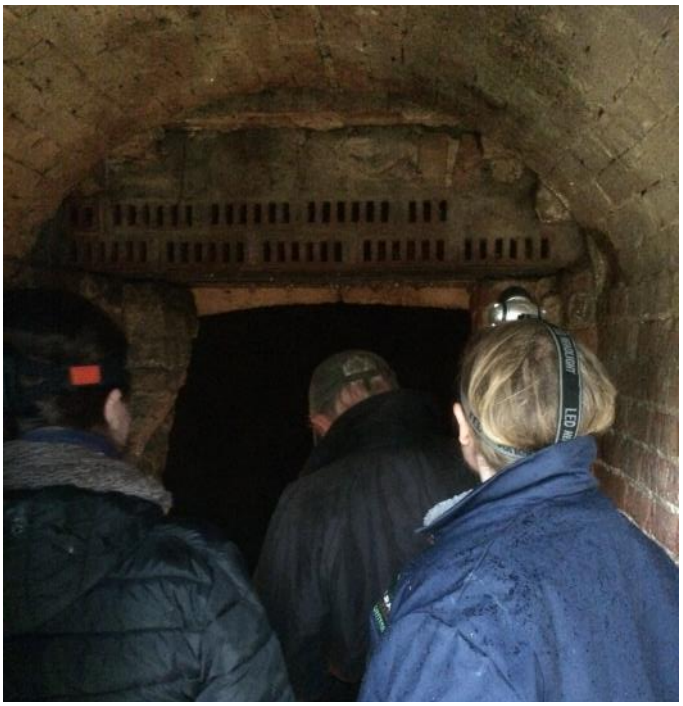


Volunteers undertaking a bat emergence survey at a church © Sue Hooton

Suffolk Bat Group is celebrating its 40th anniversary!
Since the group was formed in 1983, members have put much effort put into protecting, enhancing and creating hibernation sites, carrying out surveys using bat detectors and computer software, establishing bat box projects and carrying out specific surveys on barns and churches. Many people have contributed to this atlas with over 19,200 bat records collected on the species currently considered to be resident in the county.

Thanks to collaboration with Suffolk Biodiversity Information Service, this is our new atlas of bats in Suffolk.

Gen, a Volunteer Bat Roost Visitor, inspecting a void at a church © Sue Hooton



Sharon and Alison, trainees, surveying an ice house (note the purpose-built bat bricks) © Sue Hooton

Species Accounts

Barbastelle bat *Barbastella barbastellus*

Conservation status assessment at county level: Widespread but rare

Barbastelle bat hibernating © Arthur Rivett

The Barbastelle is one of Britain's rarest bats and listed as Near Threatened globally on the IUCN Red List and as endangered or vulnerable in most European Countries. The first known UK breeding colony was discovered in 1996 in Norfolk. The species has a restricted distribution, being confined to England north to Yorkshire and Wales. It is one of the UK Priority species and is listed for special protection under both the Bonn and Bern international Conventions.

Most of the Suffolk records prior to 2004 relate to single animals in hibernation except for six animals discovered hibernating in a purpose-built site in January 2002.

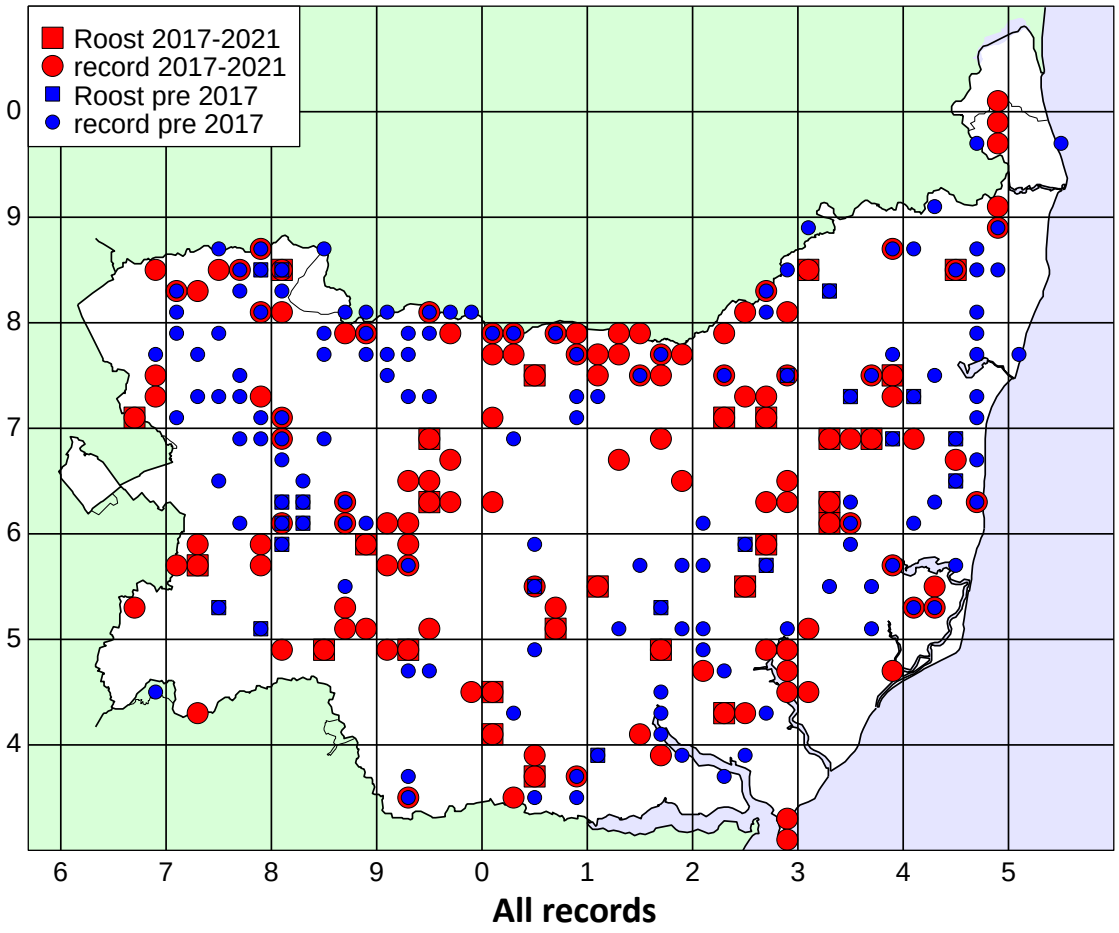
Most of the records in the west of the County pre 2004 relate to hibernating animals. They are remarkably tolerant of cold weather and have been noted as usually entering known and monitored hibernacula only when the temperatures drop well below freezing for prolonged periods.

The advances in bat detectors and sound analysis software has enabled Suffolk Bat Group to survey a large number of potential new sites with initial help from the Norfolk Bat Group. Ancient woodland, park land and storm damaged woodland have been the initial target habitat and barbastelles have been found on every occasion.

Breeding colonies have been located through radio tracking for proposed development, but as a tree dwelling species that favours old trees with lifting bark, this habitat and therefore the location of roosts, changes every year. They therefore need a territory with a diverse range of roosting opportunities to maintain the local population level.

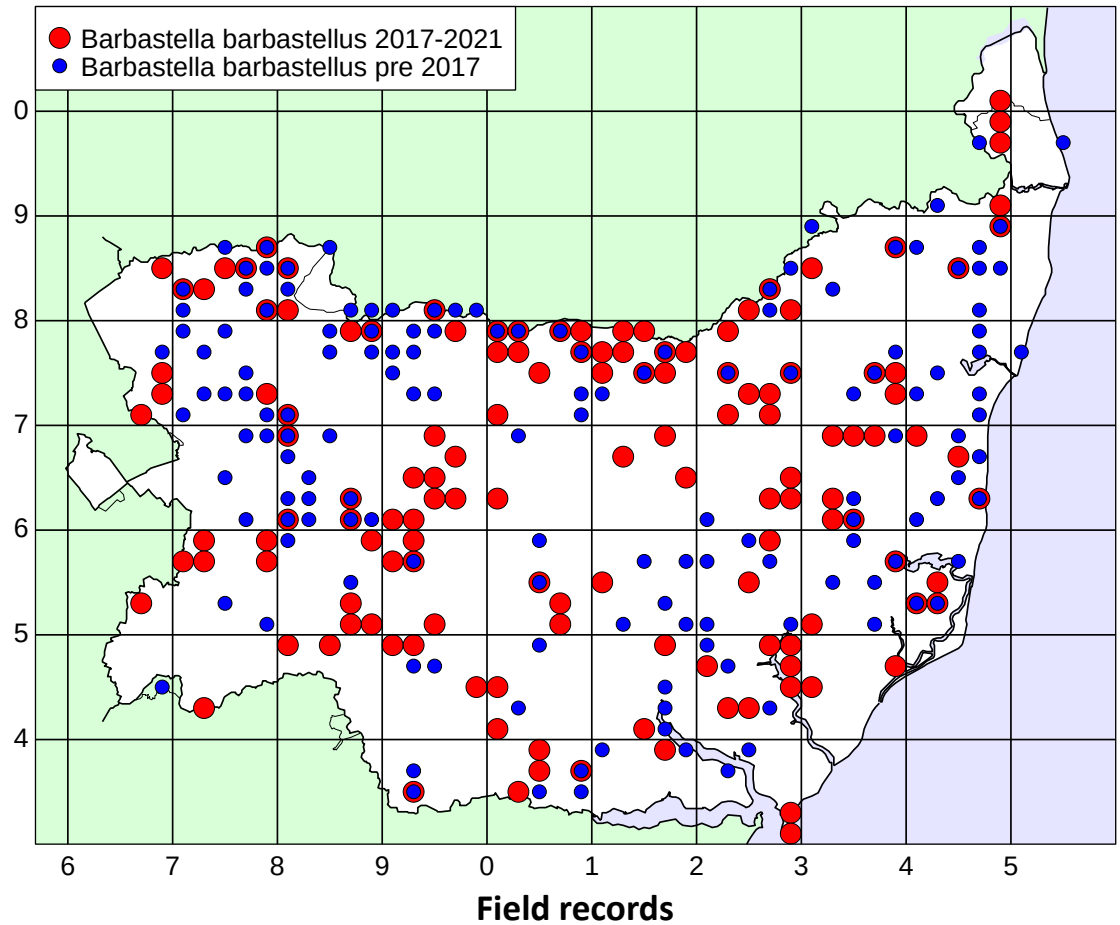
Between 2000 and 2012 records increased from 15 locations to 64, a massive increase, and since 2012 further locations have been confirmed. Between 2017 and 2021, another 26 roost sites were identified, but how many of these sites are breeding roosts it's not possible to ascertain. However, this does not mean they are more common, it is just that with better technology we are better at finding them. The map does now suggest they are widespread across the county in suitable habitat having been recorded in 51 of the 57 county 10km squares, albeit in very small numbers.

Barbastelle



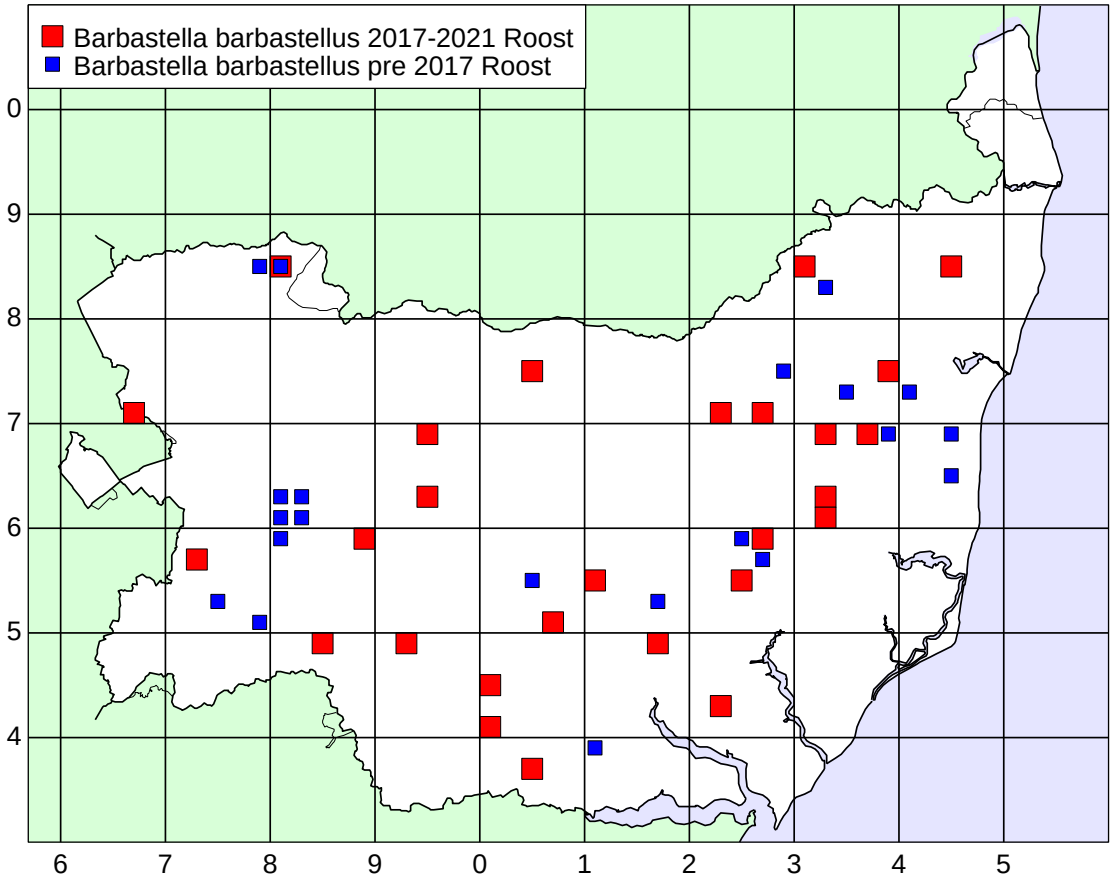
All records

Barbastelle



Field records

Barbastelle



Roost records

An old tree with peeling bark in woodland - suitable roosting habitat for Barbastelle bats © Arthur Rivett

Good Barbastelle bat habitat - broad-leaved woodland with lots of trees with crevices for roosts and dense areas for foraging © Arthur Rivett

Serotine bat *Eptesicus serotinus*

Conservation status assessment at county level: Widespread but population status unknown

The UK range of this large bat, with its wingspan of approximately 30cm, is confined to the south and south-eastern counties with few records north of a line between the Severn and the Wash. There are few Norfolk records, making Suffolk the northern breeding limit of this species.

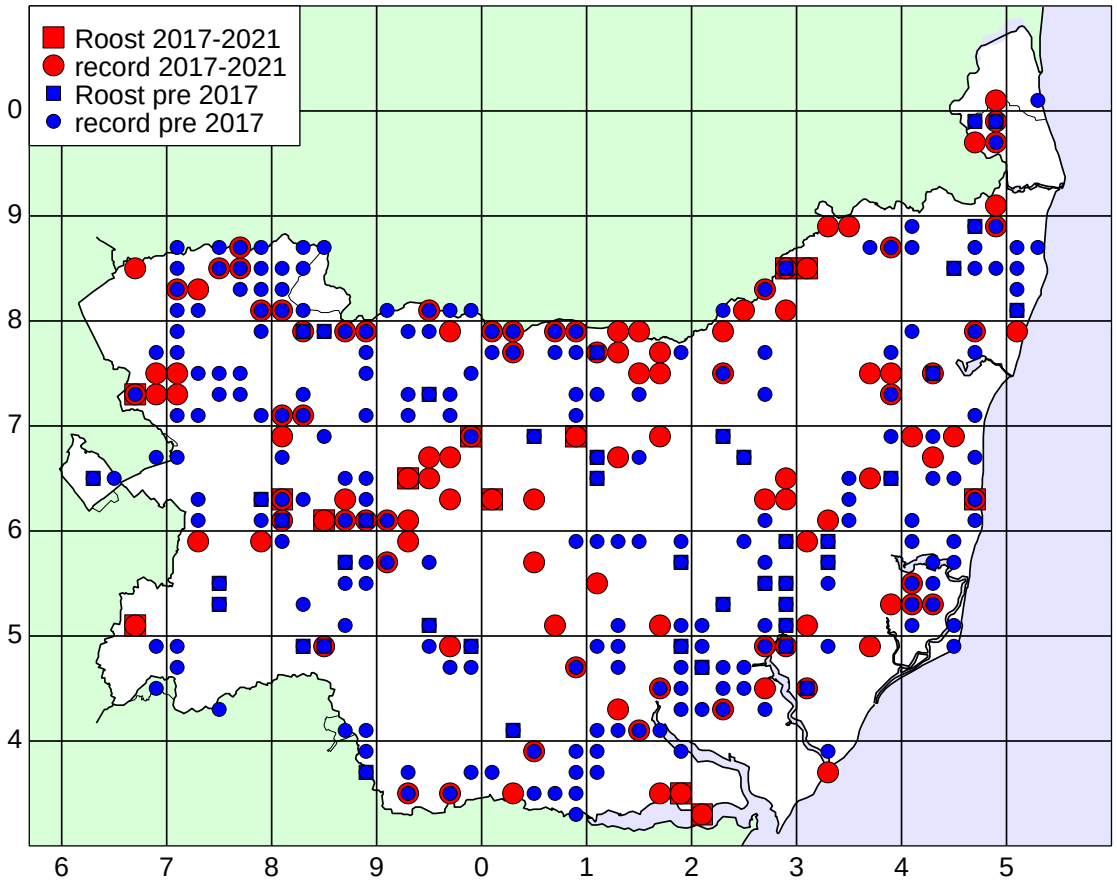
It has a large, distinctive 'rugby ball' shaped dropping and this fact has enabled the identification of many roosts as the animals, being crevice dwellers, tend to secrete themselves out of sight under tiles and roof timbers. This bat is chiefly associated with buildings and nursery roosts are either in older houses with large roof voids or in churches, often sharing the building with other species.

In 1985 only one breeding colony of Serotines was known to exist in the County. Since that time the species has been found to be widespread, albeit in small colonies, and to date there are still only 53 known breeding colonies in the county. By 2012 these bats were known from 136 locations with a further 99 added by the end of 2016 and more detector surveys up to 2021 have increased that number by another 65. While field records have been received from 56 of the county's 10km squares, breeding colonies are known from just 34 and so more work is needed to locate colonies where they appear to be absent.

All records relate to summer nursery colonies and detector records. Very few serotines are recorded in hibernation, and it is thought that most of them hibernate within buildings, in cavity walls or cracks in timber.

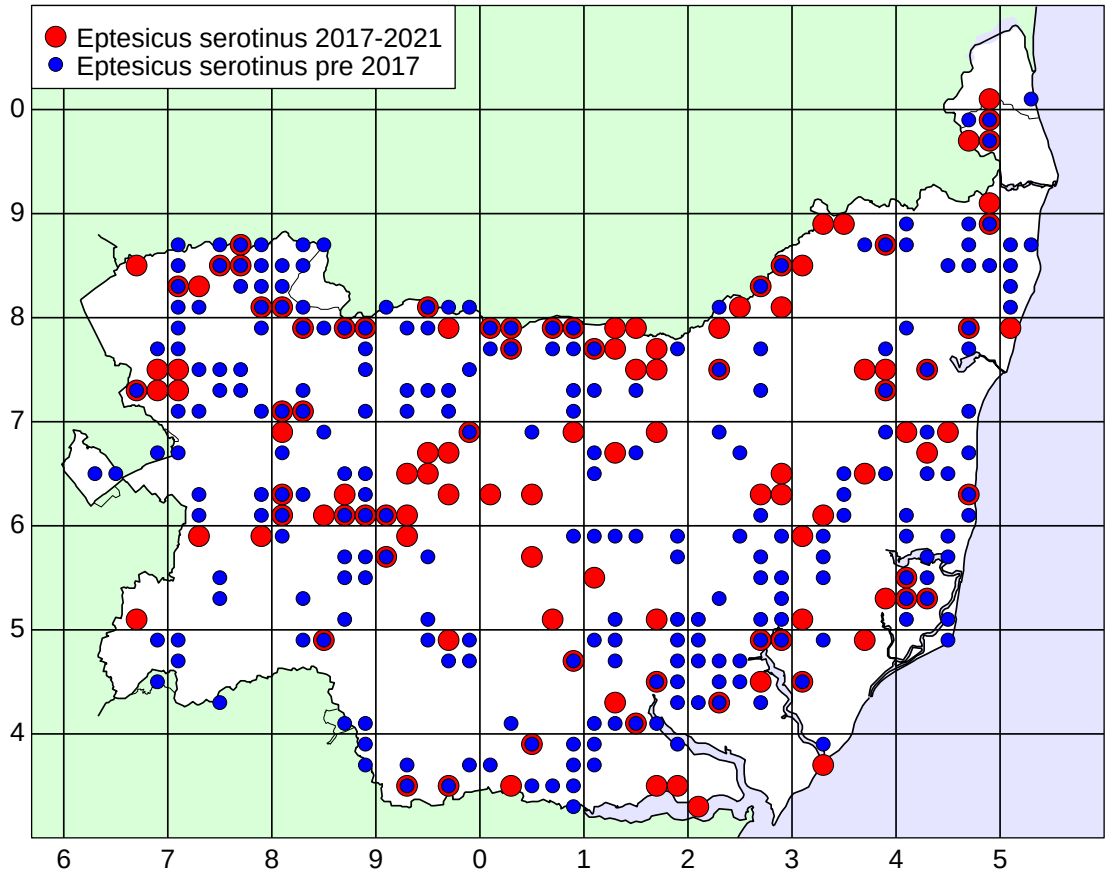
Because of the species' association with pasture, the ongoing decline in livestock farming and the use of ivermectin treatments could have a significant influence on the survival of this animal in the eastern counties.

Serotine



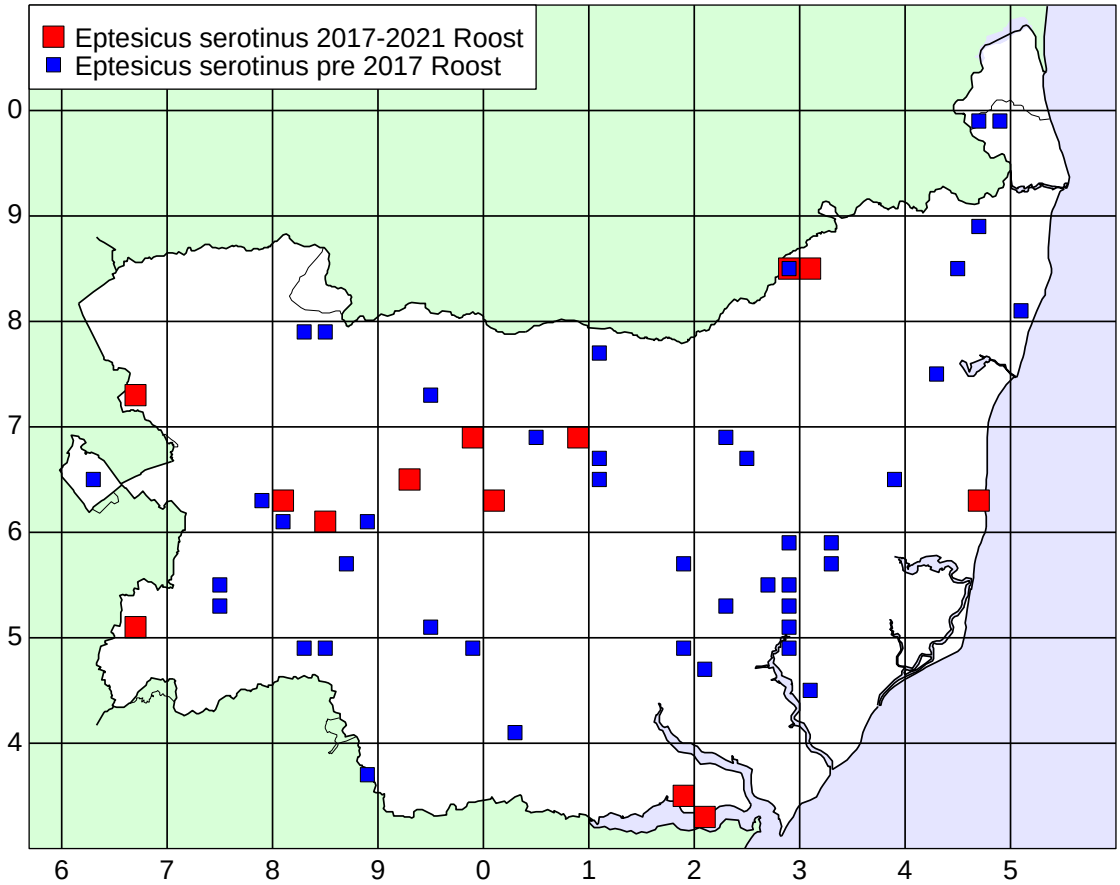
All records

Serotine



Field records

Serotine



Roost records

Serotine bat © Bob Stebbings

Grazed Breckland heath provides habitat for chafers and dung beetles, prey for Serotine bats © Arthur Rivett

Myotis bat Species

The Myotis group of bats consist of Natterers, Daubenton's, Whiskered and Brandt's bats. While these species can be separated in the hand, their calls cannot currently be easily separated using detectors and software. Therefore, most detector records are recorded just as Myotis unless there are other field signs i.e. Daubenton's feeding over water or a good visual sighting in flight of Natterers in suitable habitat.

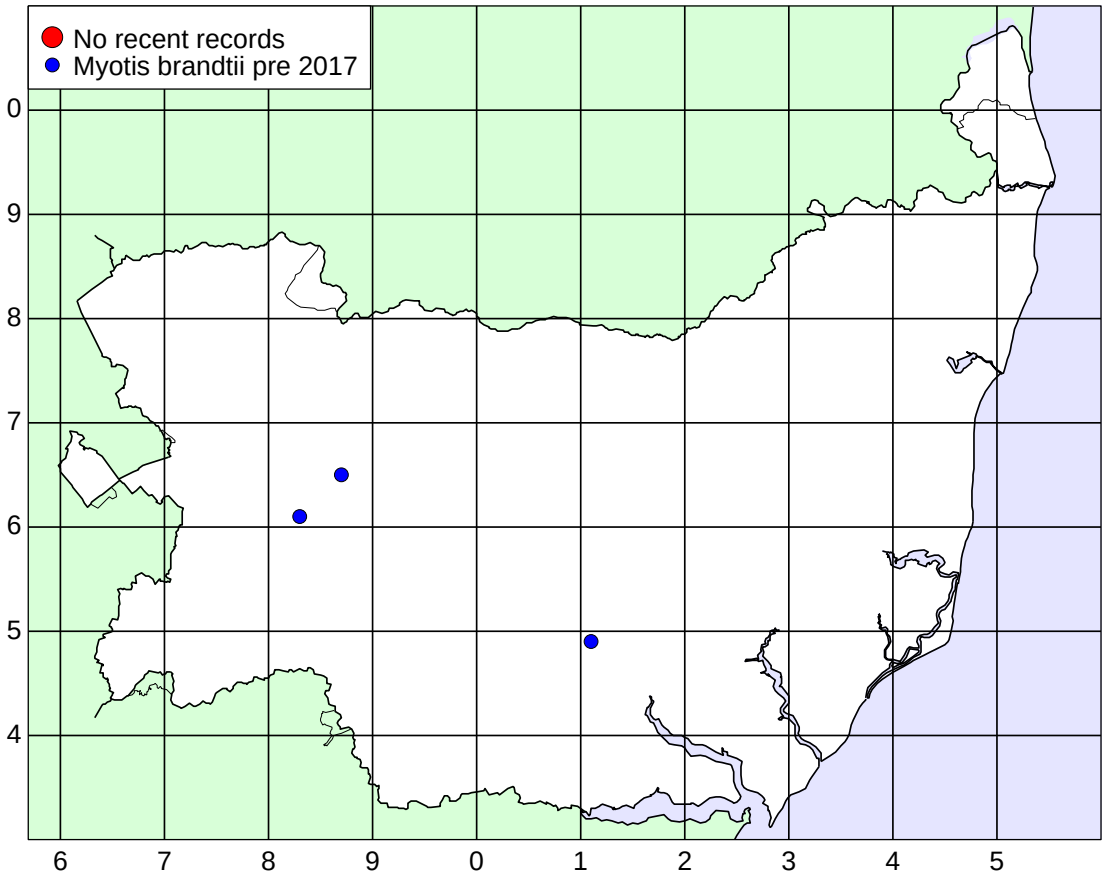
Brandt's bat *Myotis brandtii*

Conservation status assessment at county level: Limited knowledge, assumed rare

Brandt's bat was not distinguished from the whiskered bat in Europe until 1971 and was recorded in Suffolk in the same year. The smallest of our *Myotis* species, Brandt's bats are scarce nationally with very few records for East Anglia. The only Suffolk records have been from animals in hibernation, and none have been recorded since 2000.

Brandt's bat © **Bob Stebbings**

Brandt's



Roost records

Daubenton's bat *Myotis daubentonii*

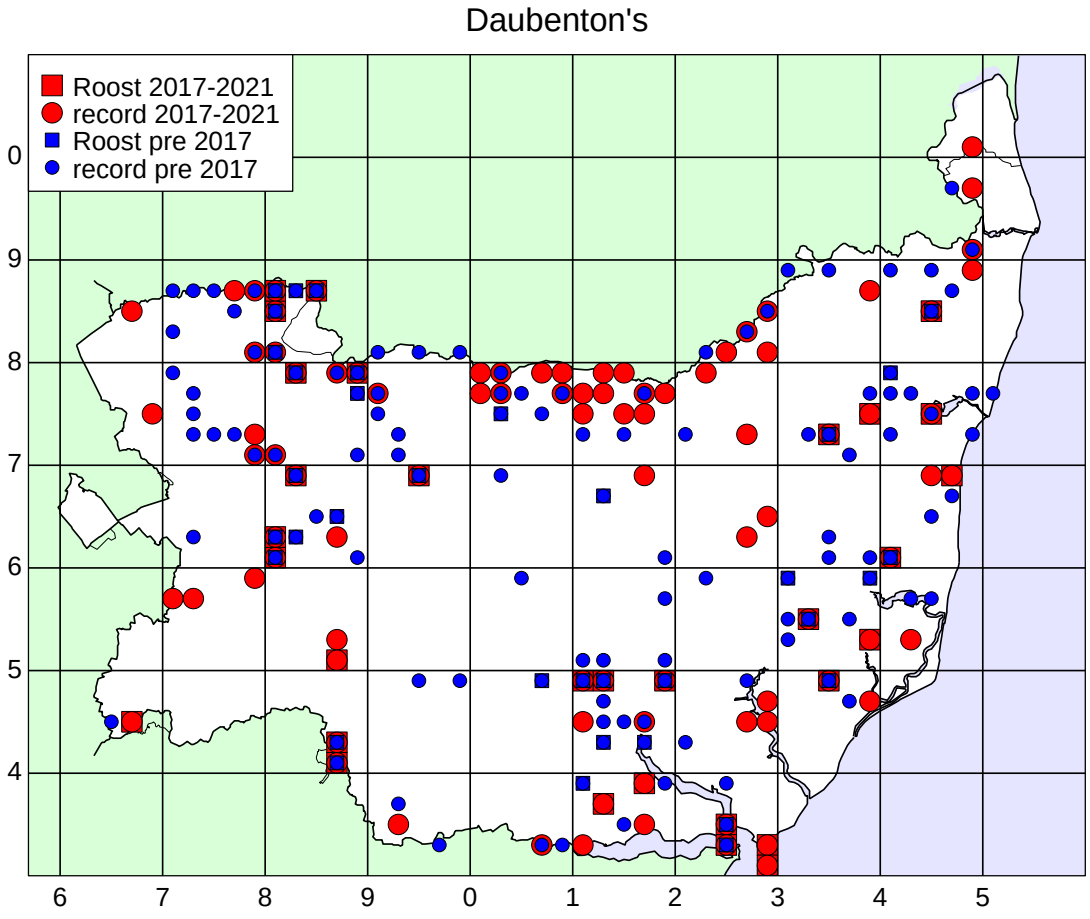
Conservation status assessment at county level: Widespread near river valleys but population status unknown

Daubentons bat is regarded nationally as widespread and records for Suffolk suggest it has a wide distribution, but it is far from common in the county. Most records pre-2000 relate to animals found in hibernation. The use of detectors along water ways has increased the verified field records of this species which feeds over water.

To date, only one regular nursery roost has been recorded in the county, but at one time it held over 400 animals making it one of the largest breeding colonies in the UK. However, this is the most abundant species to be found in most of the known and monitored hibernacula with a few designated sites holding several hundred animals. Over the past ten years a further ten hibernation sites have been found, however most are holding singles or very low numbers of animals. Counts at the larger sites over recent years indicate a relatively stable population in Suffolk.

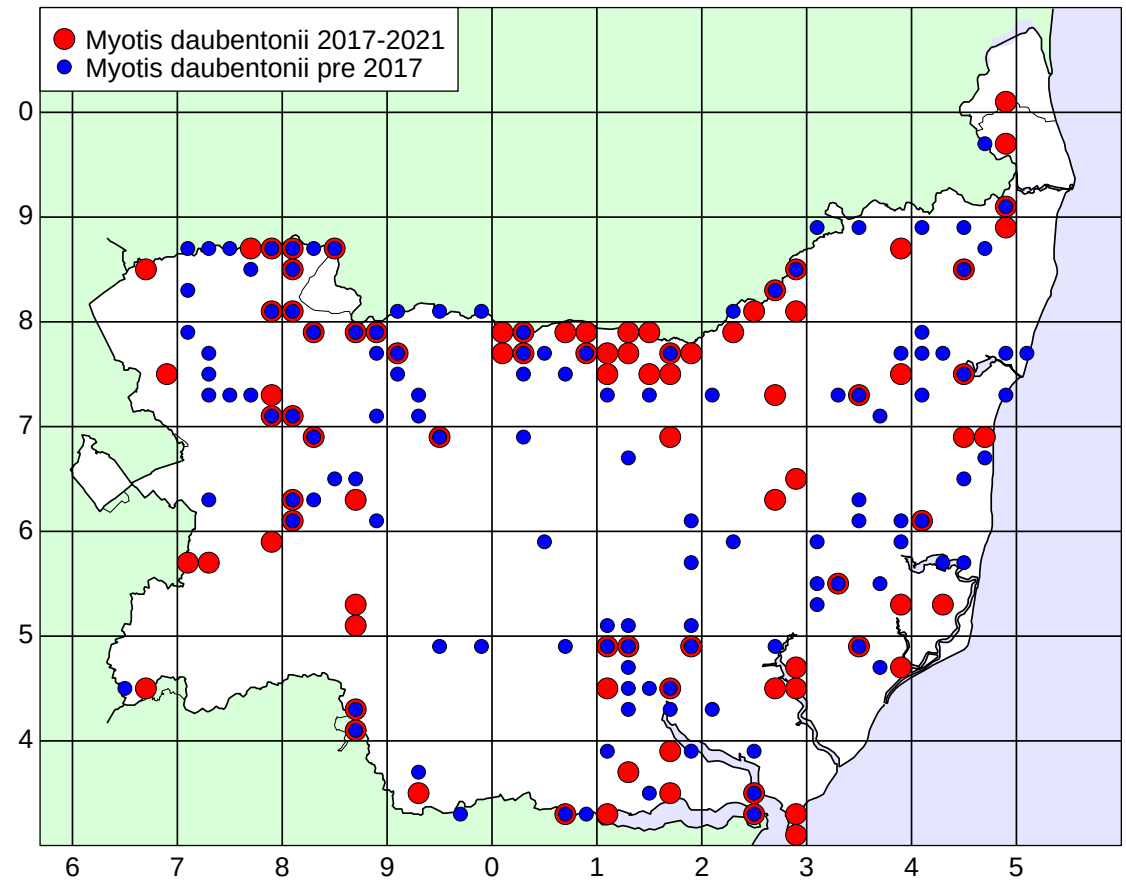
Daubenton's bats hibernating © Arthur Rivett

Found in 51 of the 65 10km squares, it is a widespread species, but there is still much to learn about the locations of its breeding colonies.



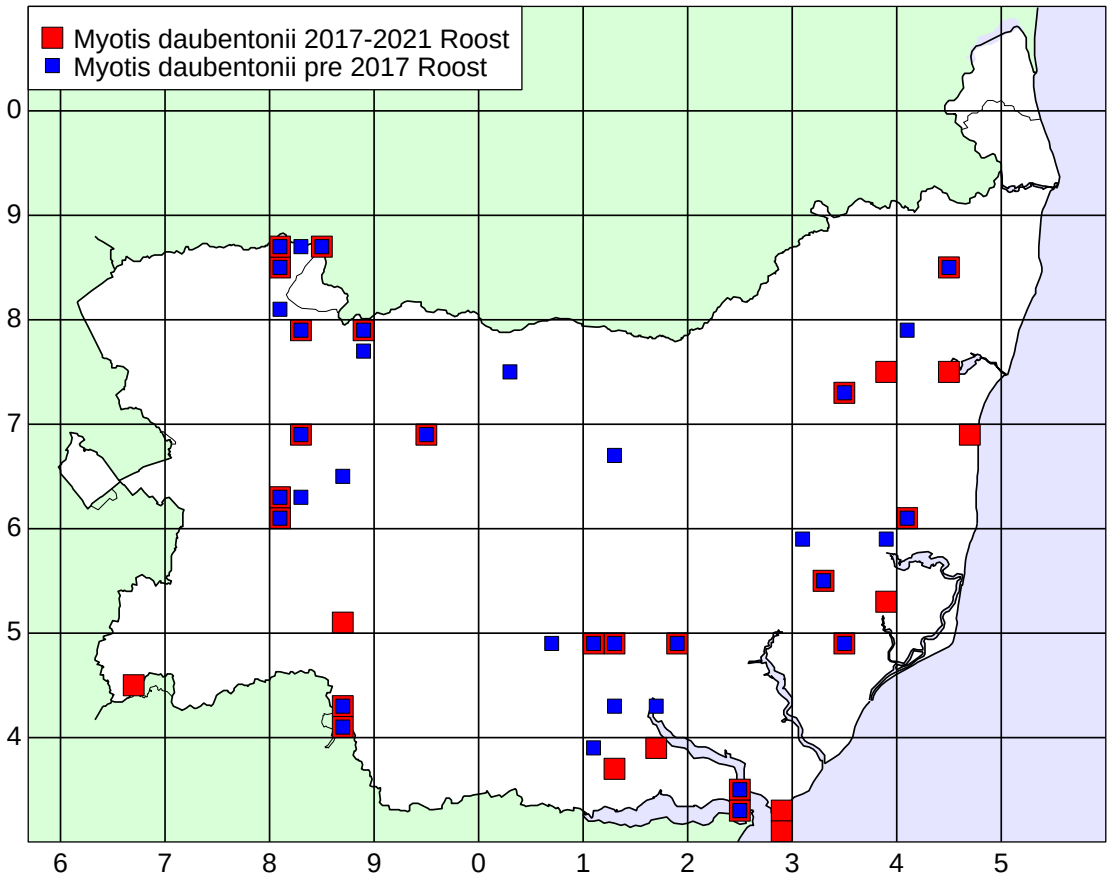
All records

Daubenton's



Field records

Daubenton's



Roost records

Daubenton's bat hibernating . Note the large feet used for trawling for insects when feeding over still water © Gen Broad

Daubenton's bat flying over water © Kevin Durose / Bat Conservation Trust

Good feeding habitat for Daubenton's bats - lakes and other waterways contain prey such as aquatic insects © Arthur Rivett

Whiskered bat *Myotis mystacinus*

Conservation status assessment at county level: Limited knowledge, assumed rare

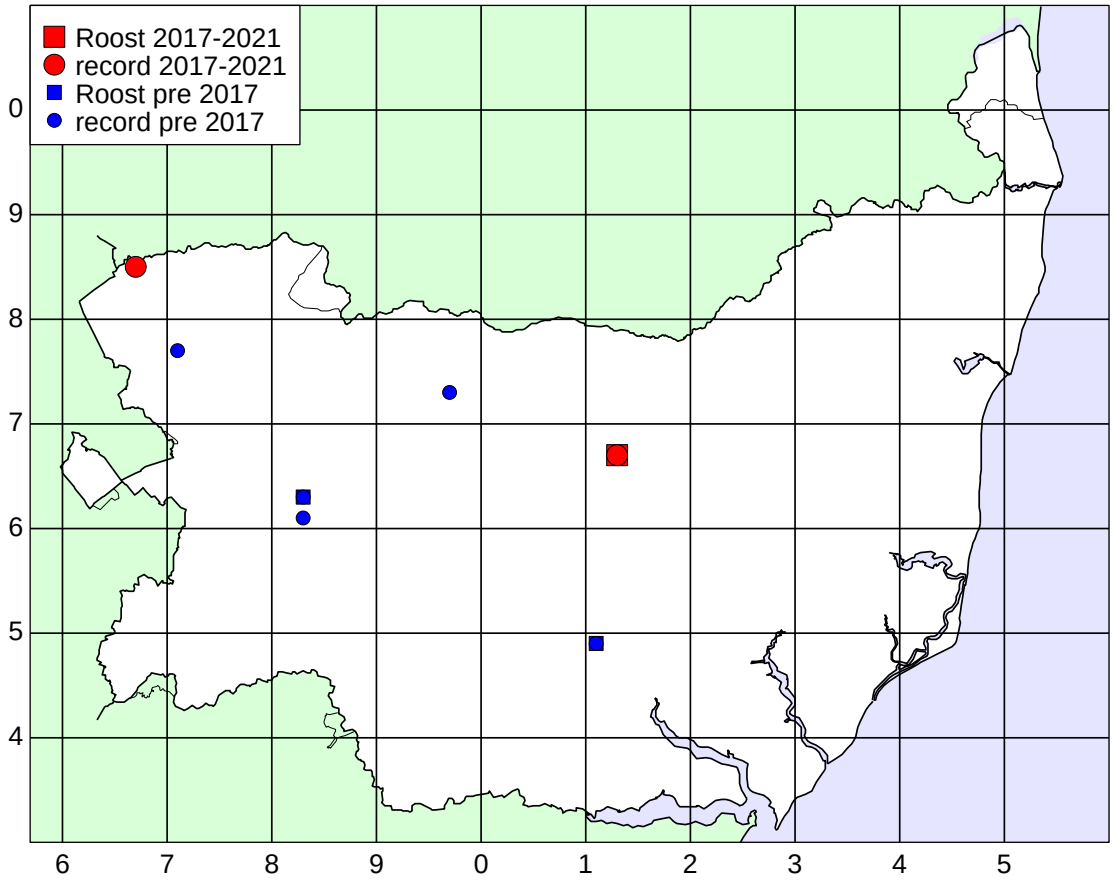
The smallest of our *Myotis* species, both Whiskered and Brandt's are scarce nationally with very few records for East Anglia.

Records before 1971 referring to 'whiskered' may relate to either species. All records, with one exception, relate to single animals discovered in hibernation sites. In January 2000, a Whiskered bat was found clinging to a wall of Stanton Primary School and after being taken into care, it was released back into the area.

From the scattered locations of the records it would be reasonable to assume that a few small colonies are yet to be discovered. However, only two new records have been added in the past five years. The sole roost record since 2017 relates to a bat identified by an experienced bat consultant during a preliminary roost assessment in 2021.

Whiskered bat © Bob Stebbings

Whiskered



Roost records

Natterer's bat *Myotis nattereri*

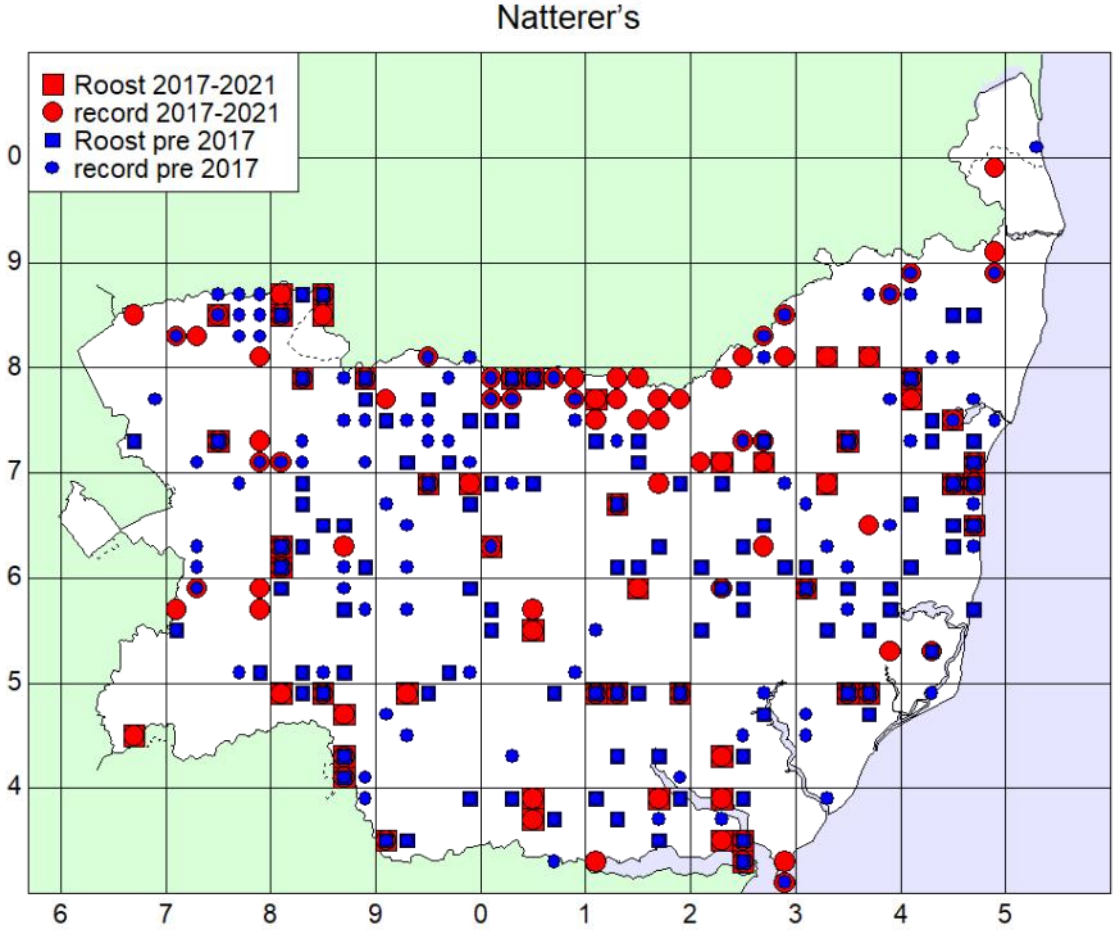
Conservation status assessment at county level: Widespread but population status unknown

This species has a widespread distribution throughout Great Britain and in Suffolk. Prior to the 1996 Suffolk Barn Survey, almost all records related to animals found in hibernation sites. The barn survey provided a three-fold increase in records of the species and located several nursery roosts. Barns that need surveying before planning applications for conversion still provide new records, though these are now very much reduced as the number of available buildings diminishes.

The species has been recorded in 52 of the 57 10km squares, with three new squares added during the past five years. However, there are five squares where Natterers' have not been recorded during the past five years and so these sites should be revisited during the next five years to confirm their current status.

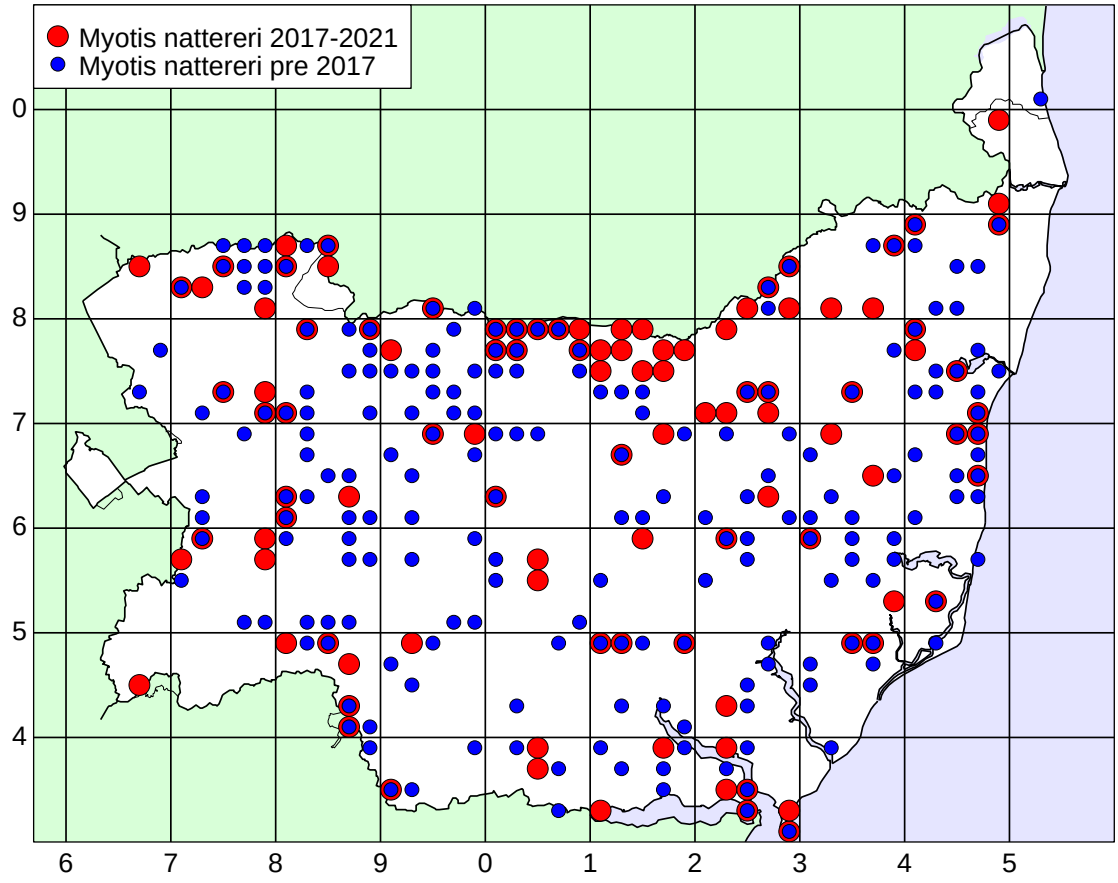
Natterer's use most of the known and monitored hibernation sites around the county with the highest numbers being found during cold spells of weather. They frequently share their hibernation sites with Daubenton's and Brown Long-eared bats.

Natterer's bat hibernating © Arthur Rivett



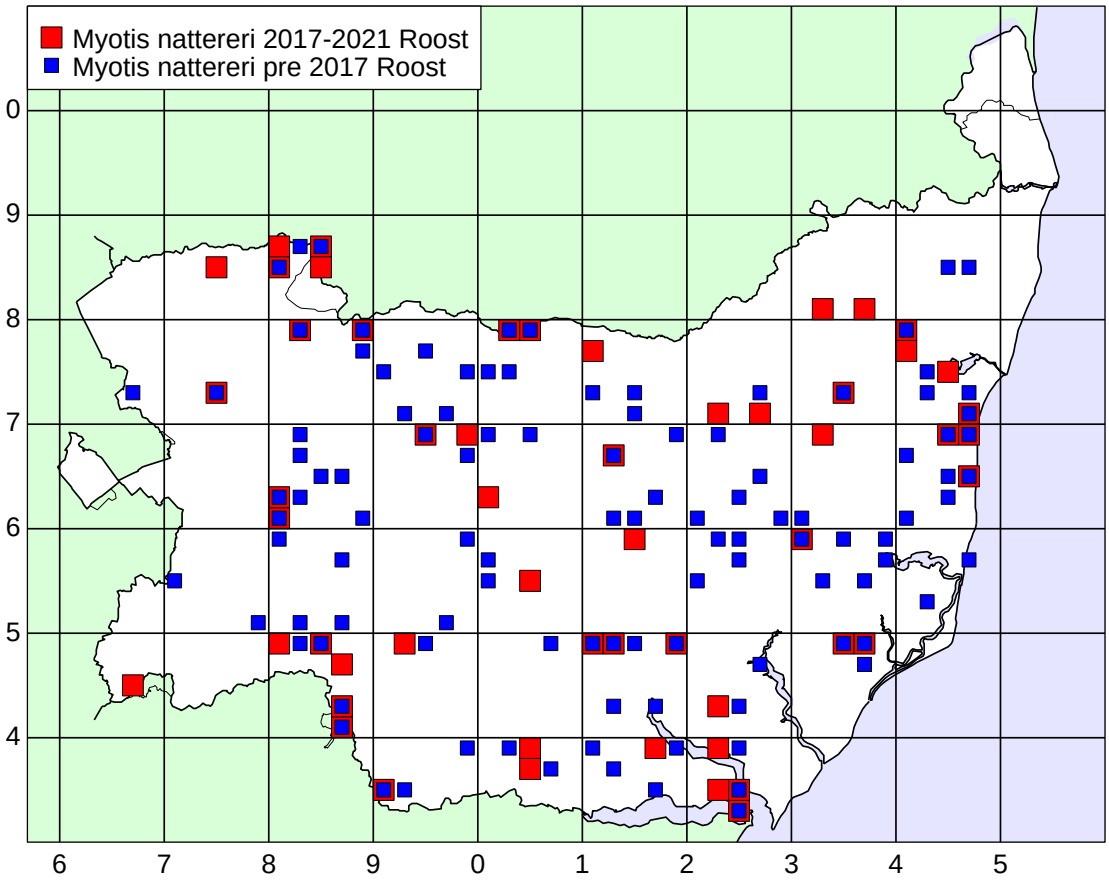
All records

Natterer's



Field records

Natterer's



Roost records

Natterer's bats at Tiger Hill Local Nature Reserve © Neil Catchpole

Natterer's and Brown Long-eared bats feed in woodland edges where they often take prey from foliage within the canopy. © Arthur Rivett

Natterer's bat tree roost, Ickworth Park © Arthur Rivett

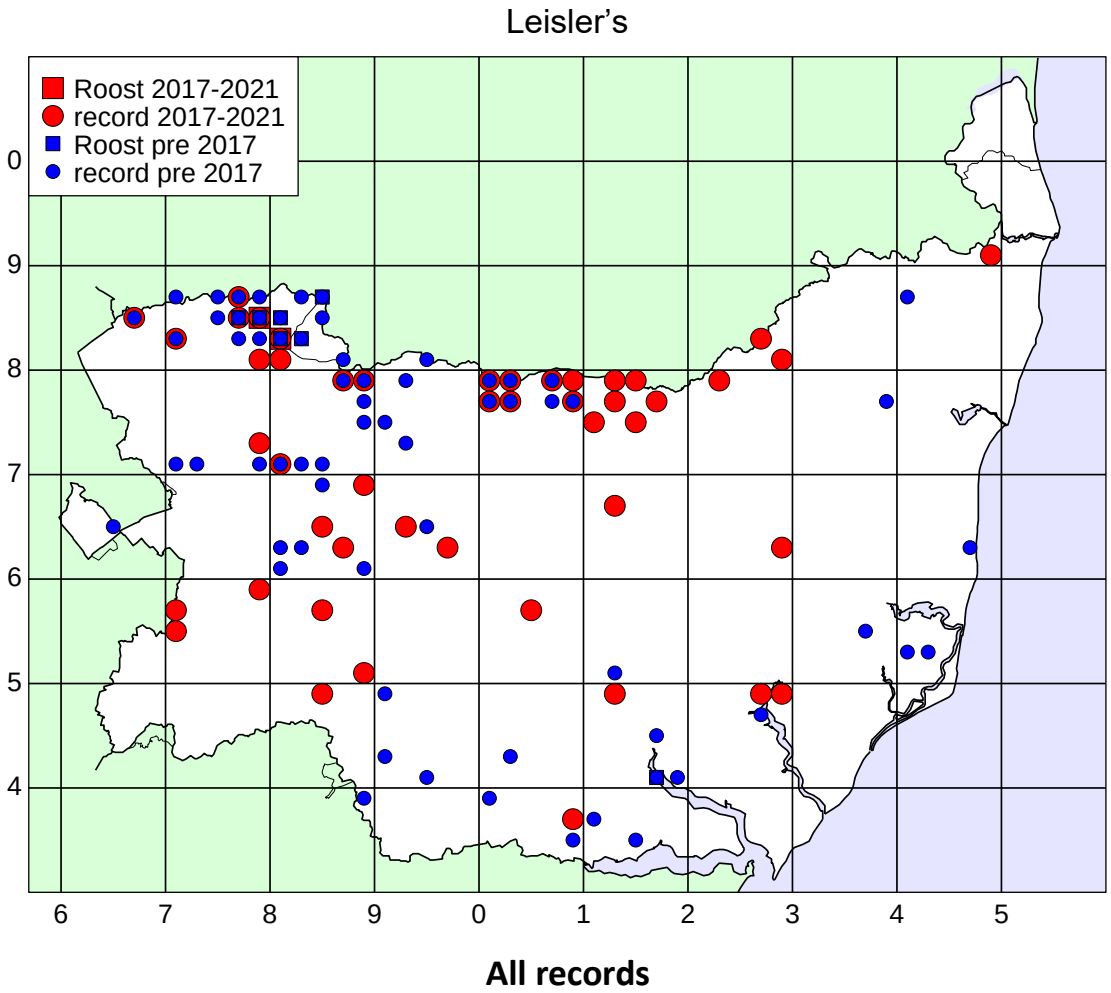
Leisler's bat *Nyctalus leisleri*

Conservation status assessment at county level: Localised distribution, current population status unknown

Leisler's bat is common in Ireland, but regarded as a rare species in Great Britain and so is on the list of UK Priority species, although records suggest it has a widespread distribution. The picture in Suffolk reflects the situation in the rest of the country with only ten records outside Thetford Forest and only two of these relating to nursery colonies.

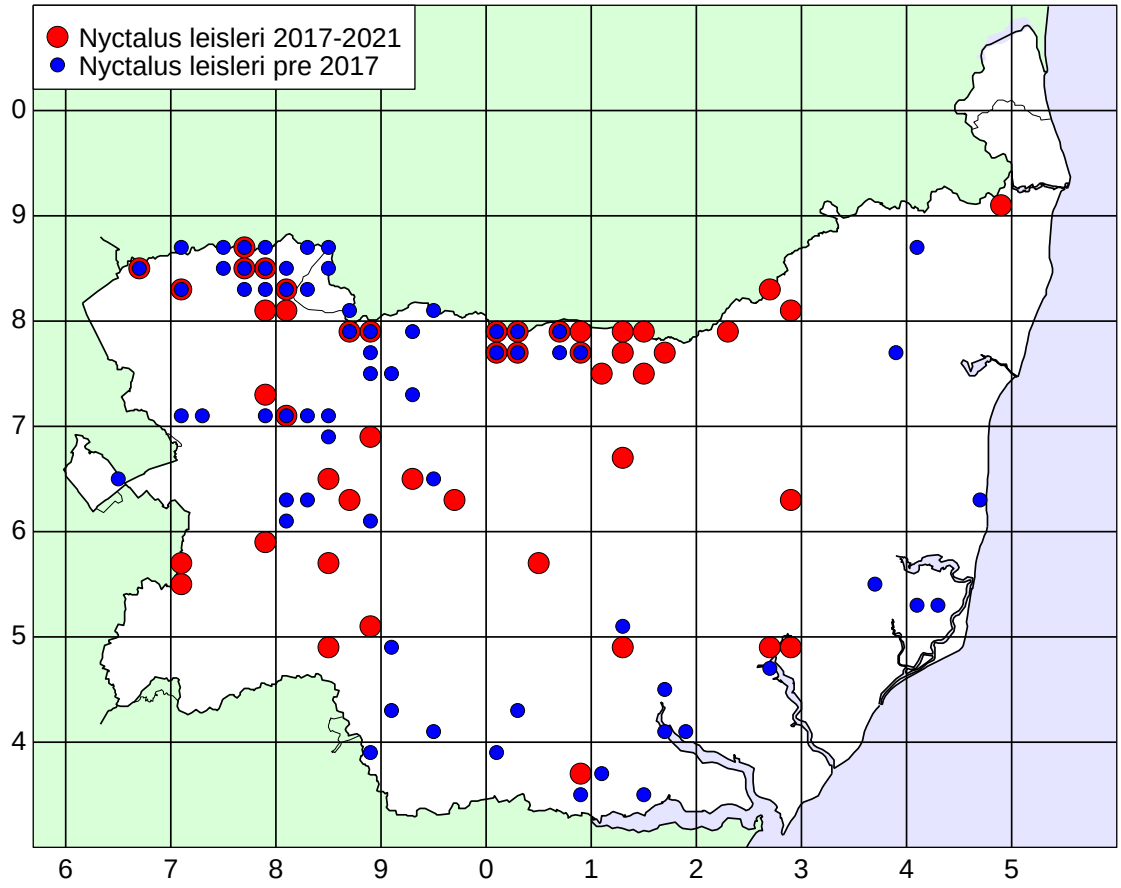
Prior to the start of the Thetford Forest Bat Box project in 1975, this species was unknown in the County. Over the years, Leisler's have been regular occupants of the boxes and in 1998 a breeding colony was discovered in a house in Brandon. It is possibly animals from this colony that occur in the Thetford bat boxes, but since 2012, records now show this animal is widespread in the northeast of the county. The scattered records across the rest of the county require further follow up work to confirm the species status in the Suffolk.

No animals have been discovered in hibernation, but as it is predominately a tree dwelling species, such sites are most likely to be used in winter, making them difficult to locate. All the current known roosts are still in the Thetford Forest area, but there are increasingly field records spread across the county. However, Leisler's are known to fly quite long distances and so breeding and hibernation sites could be many miles apart.



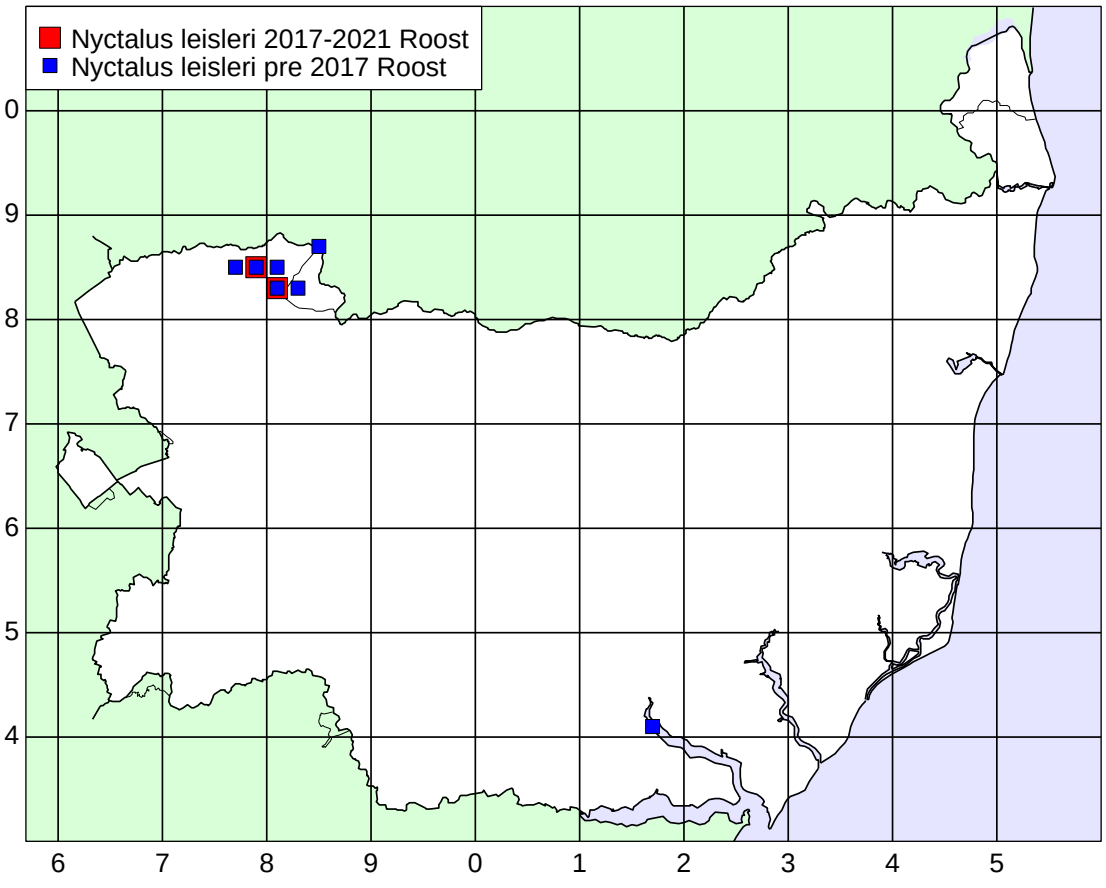
All records

Leisler's



Field records

Leisler's



Roost records

Leisler's bat © Bob Stebbings

Good habitat for Leisler's bats. Grazed parkland and water provide a range of insect prey such as caddis flies and beetles © Sue Hooton

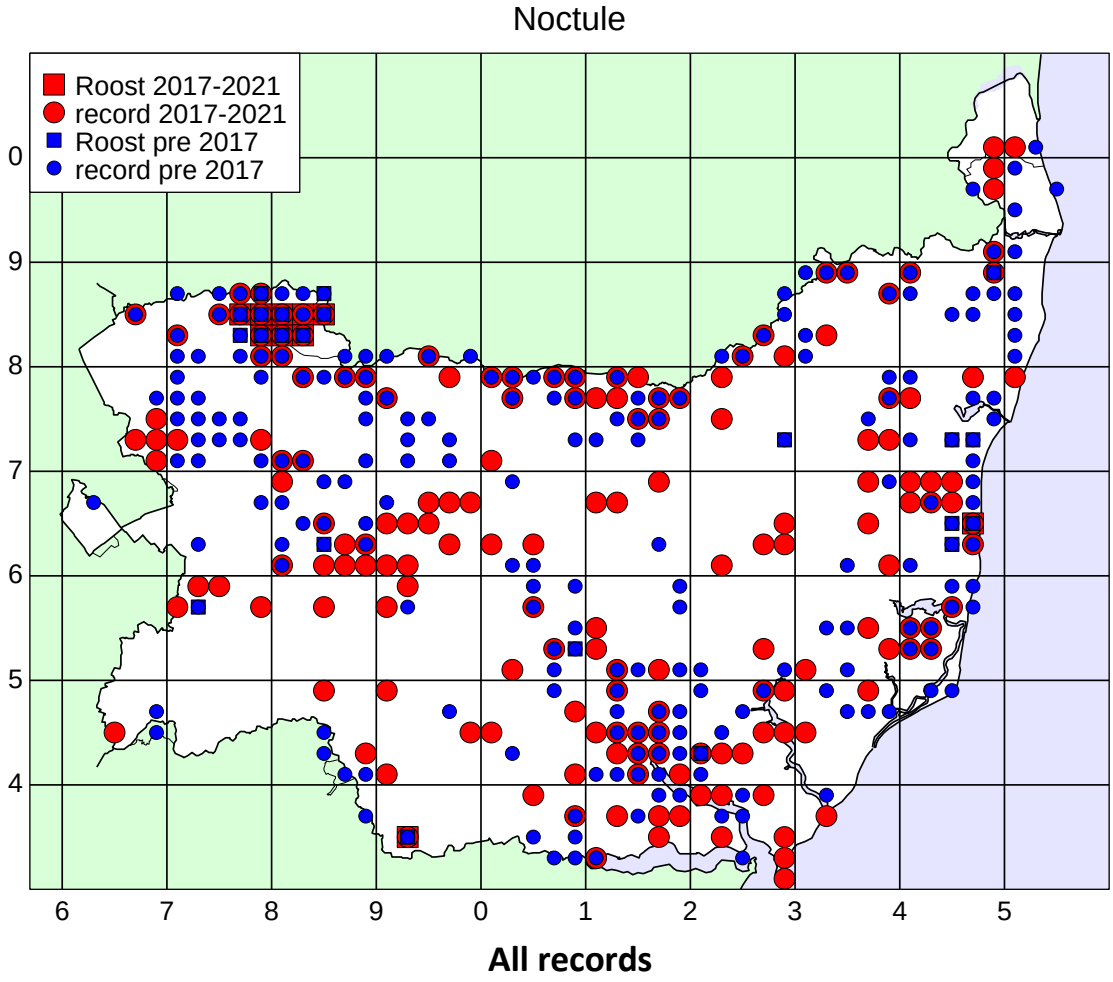
Noctule bat *Nyctalus noctula*

Conservation status assessment at county level: Widespread, but population status unknown

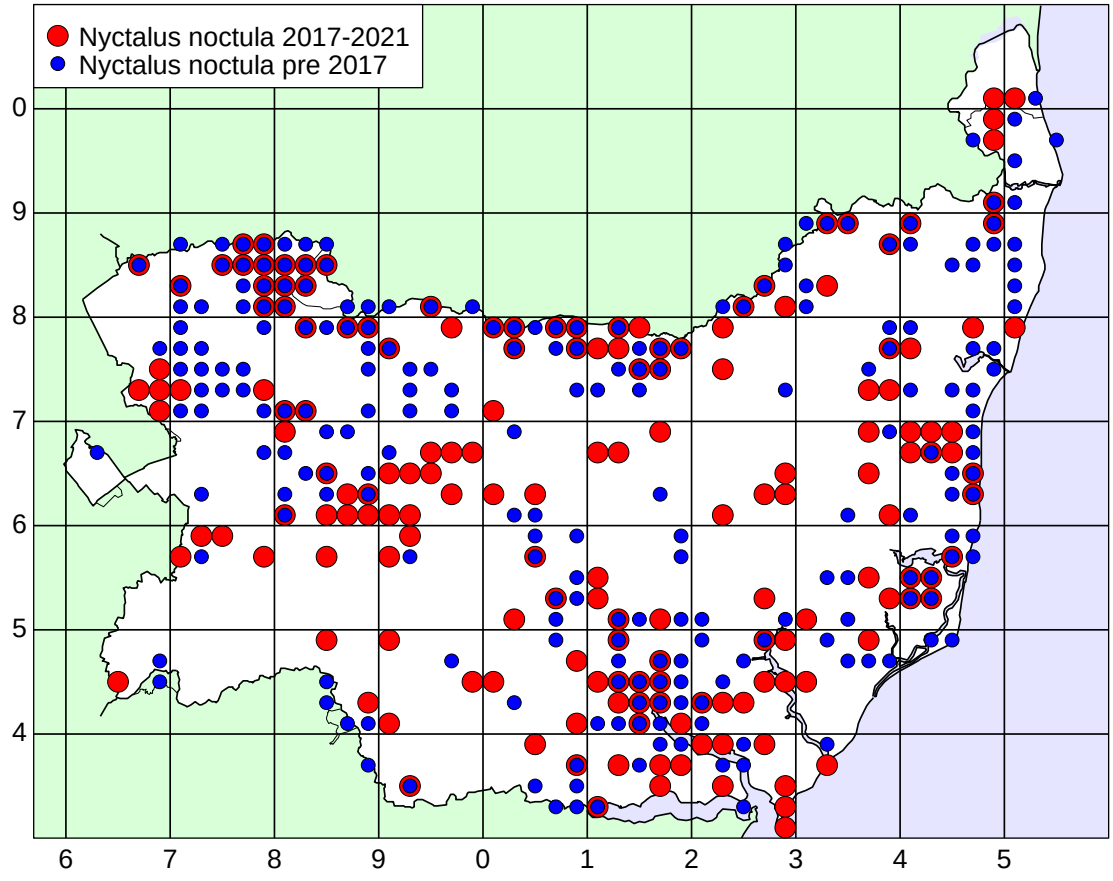
The Noctule is Britain's largest bat, a tree dwelling species that tends to forage over wide distances above open habitats such as wetlands, pastures and widely-spaced woodlands. It has a widespread distribution in England and Wales, is rare in Scotland, and is not found in Ireland where the Leisler's bat takes its place.

Records suggest that the Noctule is widespread throughout the county, but most records relate to either bat detector and sight records or animals discovered in bat boxes. The species has been known to breed in bat boxes in at least one of the county's project areas and is known to travel long distances from its roost to foraging habitats.

One of the largest known regular colonies occurred in a white poplar on Purdis Heath Golf course near Ipswich where over 50 animals were seen emerging in August 2000. However, no records have been received in recent years and so this colony may no longer exist and no other large colonies have been recorded since that time. Almost all of the recent records are of individuals recorded on detectors, but there are still two 10km squares that have never recorded this species. In the past five years this species has been widely recorded, but only one new roost site has been discovered and all of the currently known roost sites are animals using bat boxes. Tree roosts are difficult to locate and can be transient as, when the trees deteriorate, the bats move on.

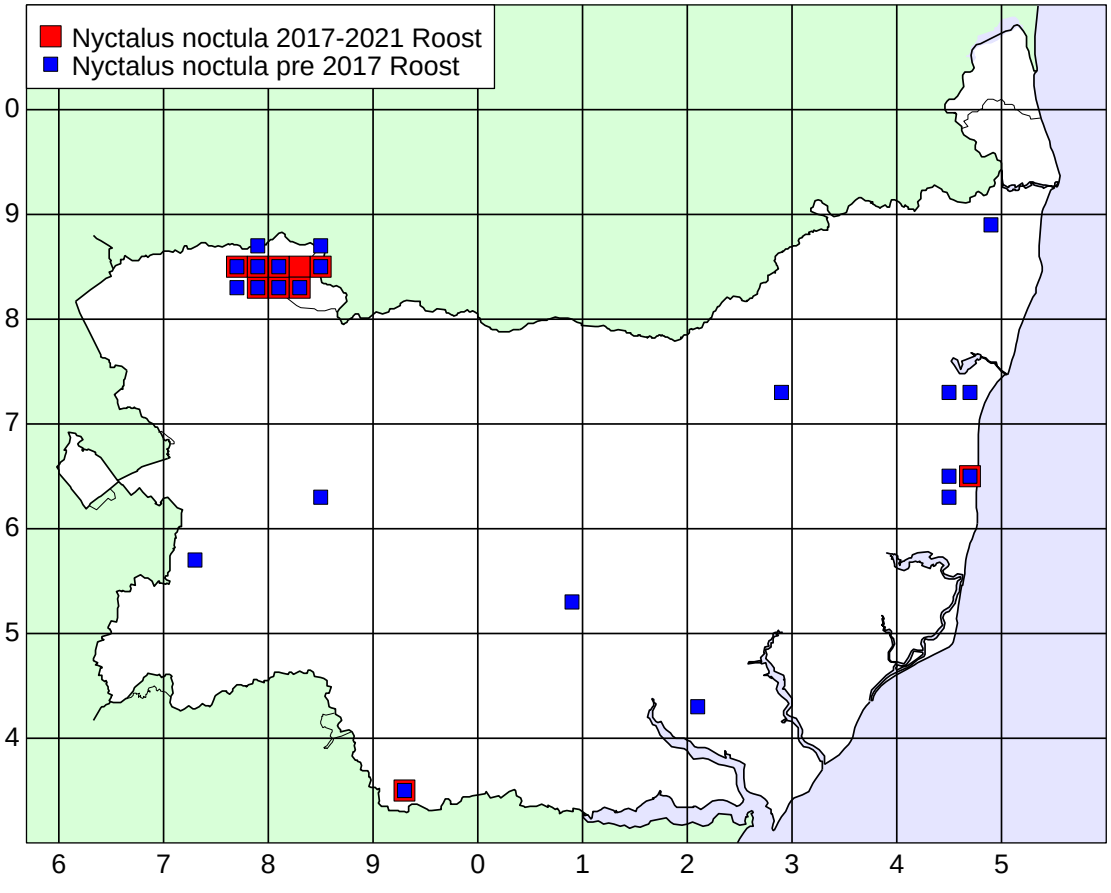


Noctule



Field records

Noctule



Roost records

Noctule bats being checked as part of long term monitoring of bat boxes in Thetford Forest © Luci Spencer

Noctule bat roost in woodpecker holes in Scots Pine tree © Arthur Rivett

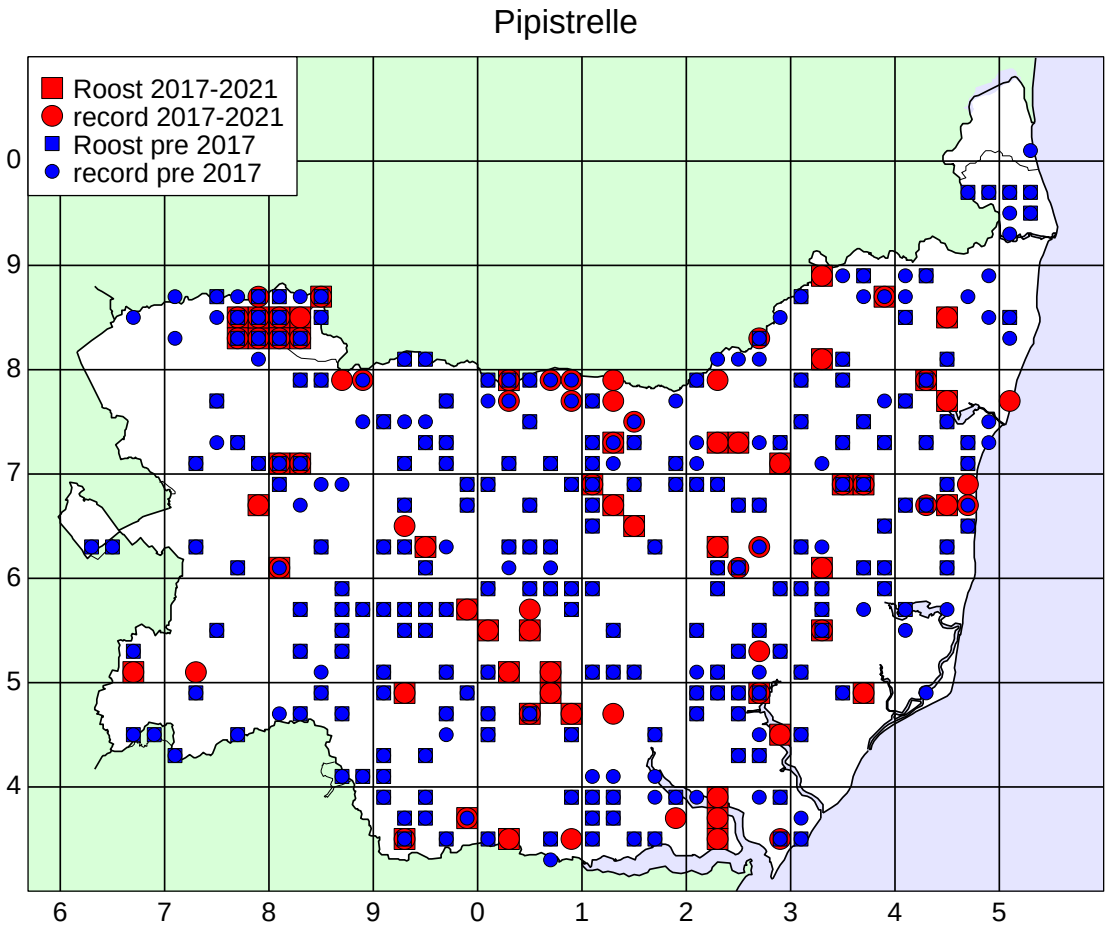
Noctules in hollow tree, adult top right with juveniles capable of flight and so about 55 days old © Bob Stebbings

Pipistrelle bat Species

Two Pipistrelle bat species (Common and Soprano) are the most abundant bats in the UK and are by far the most frequently encountered bats in Suffolk. Further advances in bat detectors and the use of harp traps have led to increasing records of Nathusius's Pipistrelle occurring in the county.

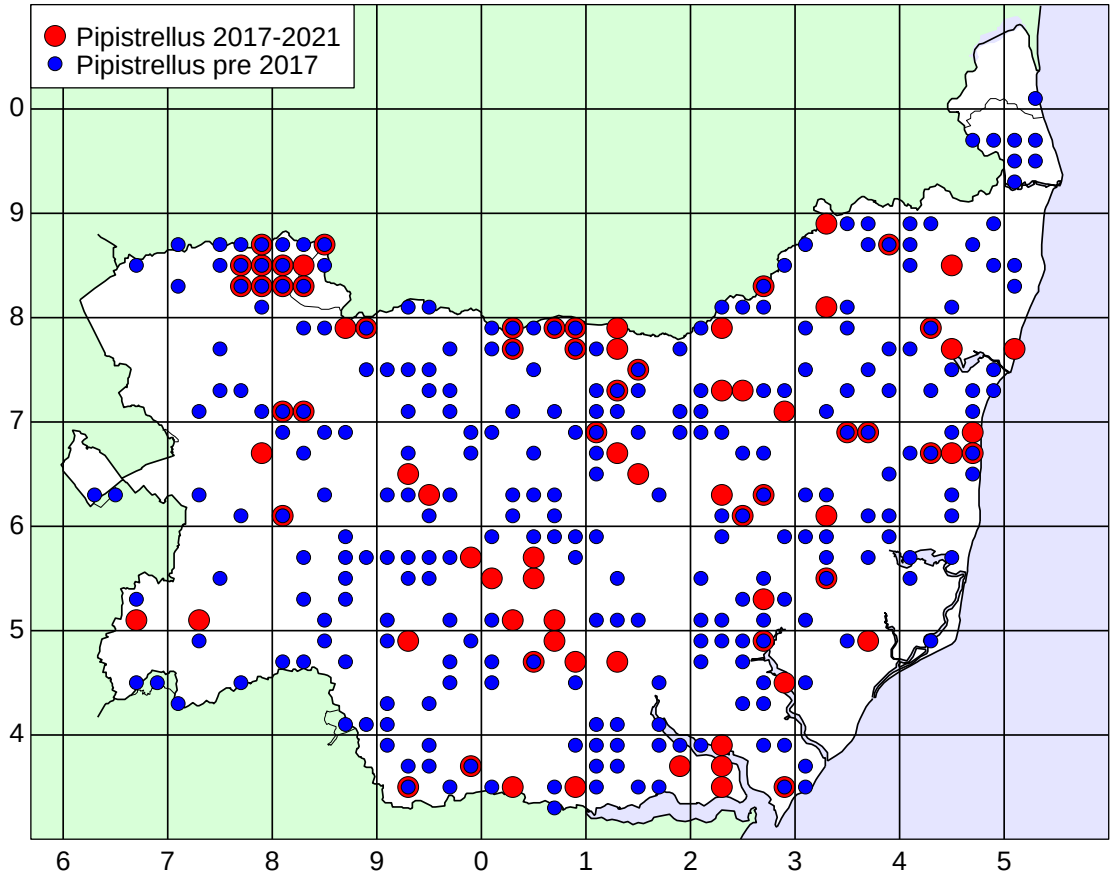
In the 1990's developments in taxonomy resulted in the then Common Pipistrelle being split into two species based on differences in the frequency of their echo-location calls. Both the 45kHz Common Pipistrelle and the 55kHz Soprano Pipistrelle occur in Suffolk. These two species are extremely alike in appearance and there is no guaranteed way of separating them in the hand. The first maps show all Pipistrelle records where the species has not been specifically identified.

Common and Soprano Pipistrelle have very similar distributions, being found throughout the British Isles. Pipistrelles are seldom found in winter in Suffolk. The few records there are relate to animals found by accident usually during building works, whereas they are the most frequently encountered species in spring and summer.



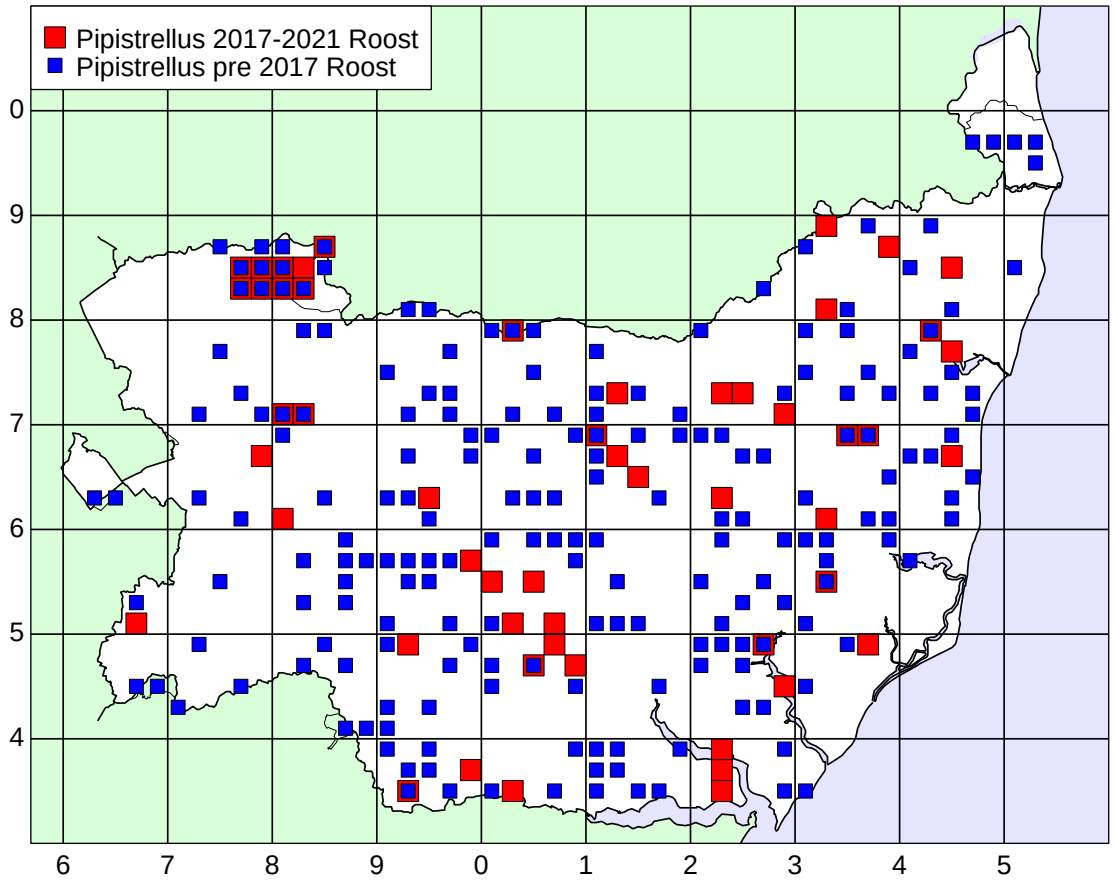
All records

Pipistrelle



Field records

Pipistrelle



Roost records

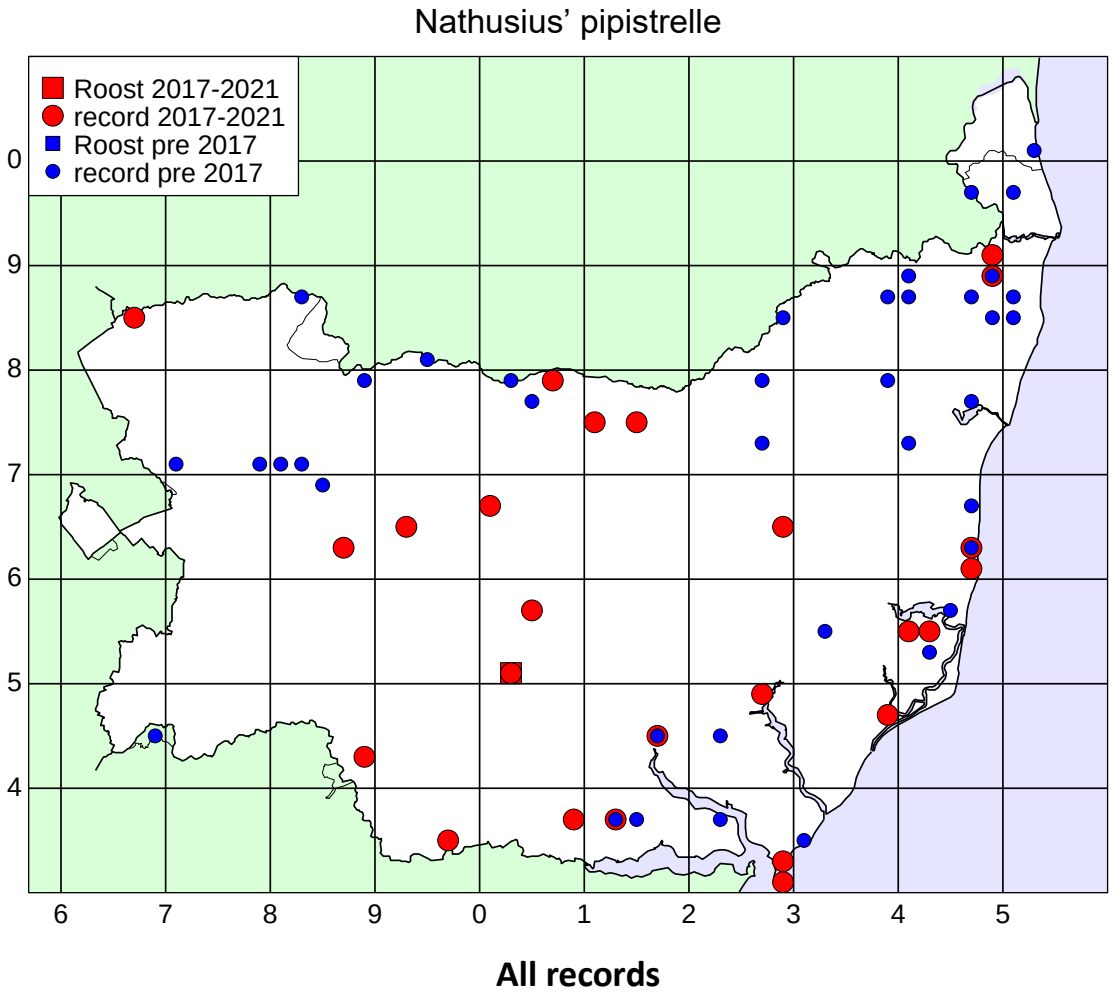
Nathusius' pipistrelle *Pipistrellus nathusii*

Conservation status assessment at county level: Limited knowledge

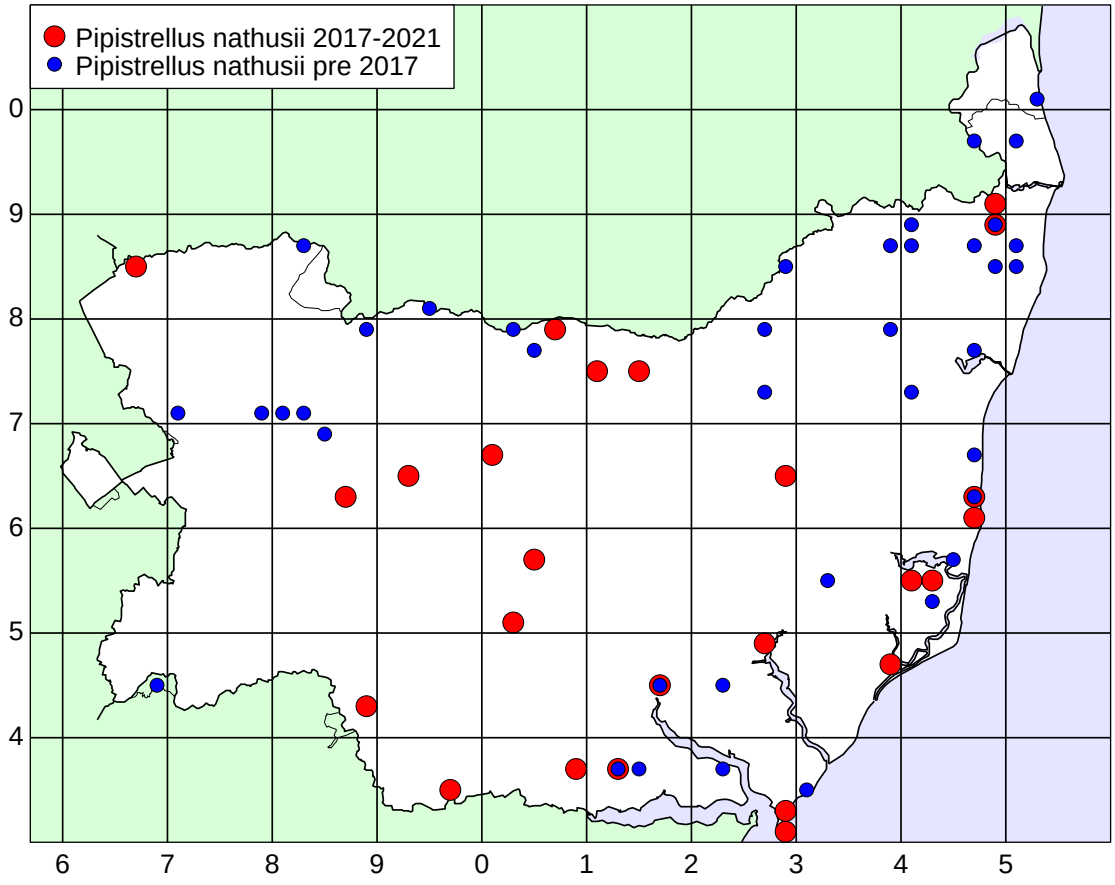
Nathusius' Pipistrelle is a migratory species on mainland Europe and as only occasional animals have been found in the UK for many years, the assumption has been that they were windblown migrants. However, in 1996, a small breeding colony was discovered in a Lincolnshire house roof and in 1997 a second breeding colony was found in Northern Ireland. In 1998, the first Norfolk record came from Filby Broad and there have been annual records from Paston Barn since 1999.

The Nathusius' Pipistrelle was only discovered in Suffolk in 2005 at two separate locations and may be more far more widespread than these records suggest. Ecological consultants carrying out bat detector surveys near Great Blakenham reported abundant passes on two nights in June and September, which suggests a breeding colony may be located close by.

Further field work between 2012 and 2017 using detectors combined with computer software, increased from 6 to 31 the locations in which these bats have been recorded. An additional 21 records have been confirmed to date. The installation of Motus wildlife tracking monitoring stations at Landguard, Dunwich Heath and Benacre have helped detect radio tagged bats migrating to and from mainland Europe. Only one breeding colony has been found in the county so far.

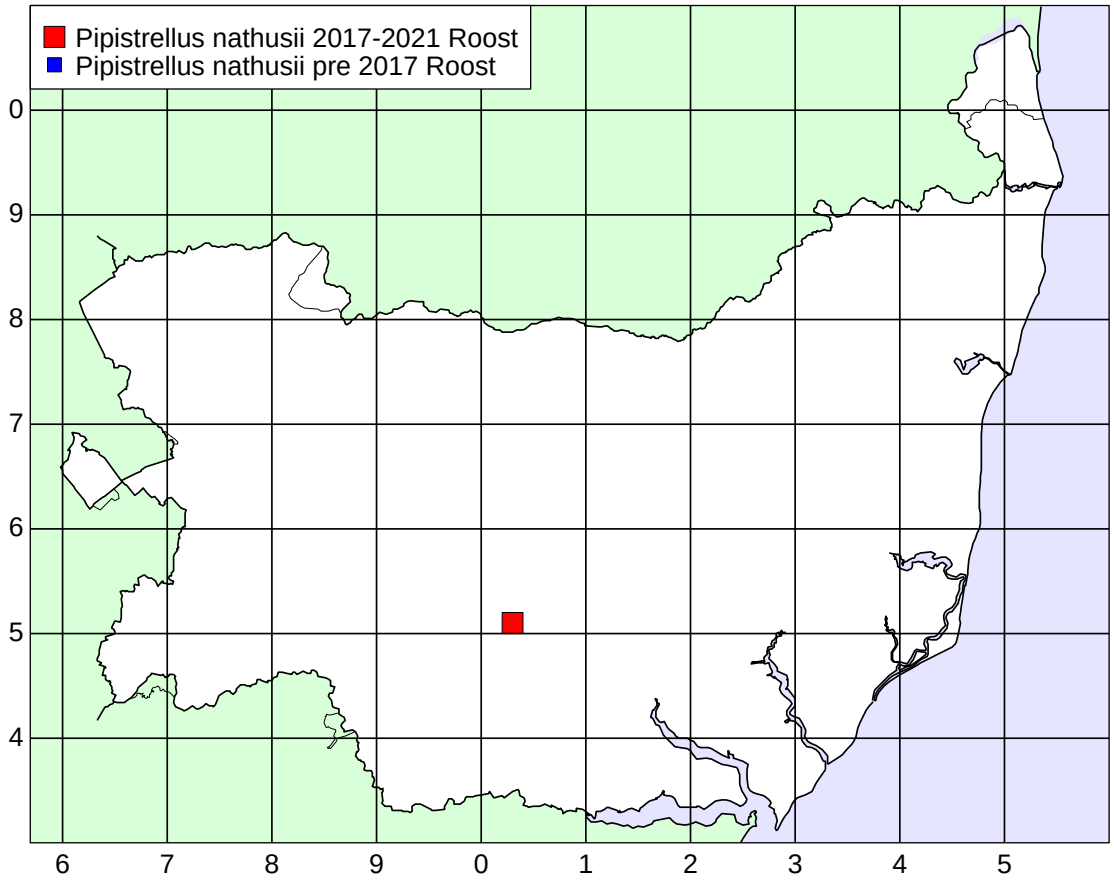


Nathusius' Pipistrelle



Field records

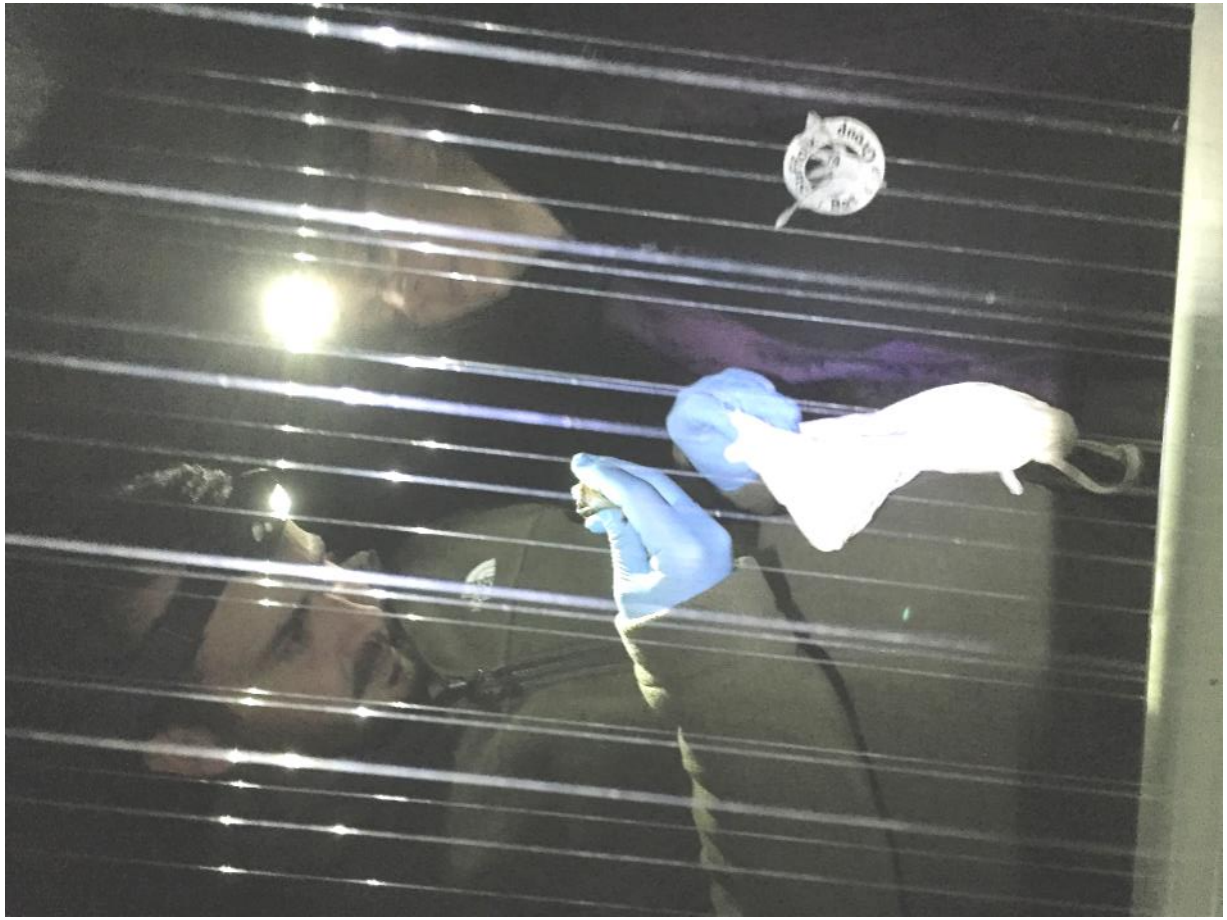
Nathusius' Pipistrelle



Roost records

Nathusius' Pipistrelle **© Bob Stebbings**

James Booty and Sue Hooton inspecting a harp trap for Nathusius' Pistrelles © Odette Robson



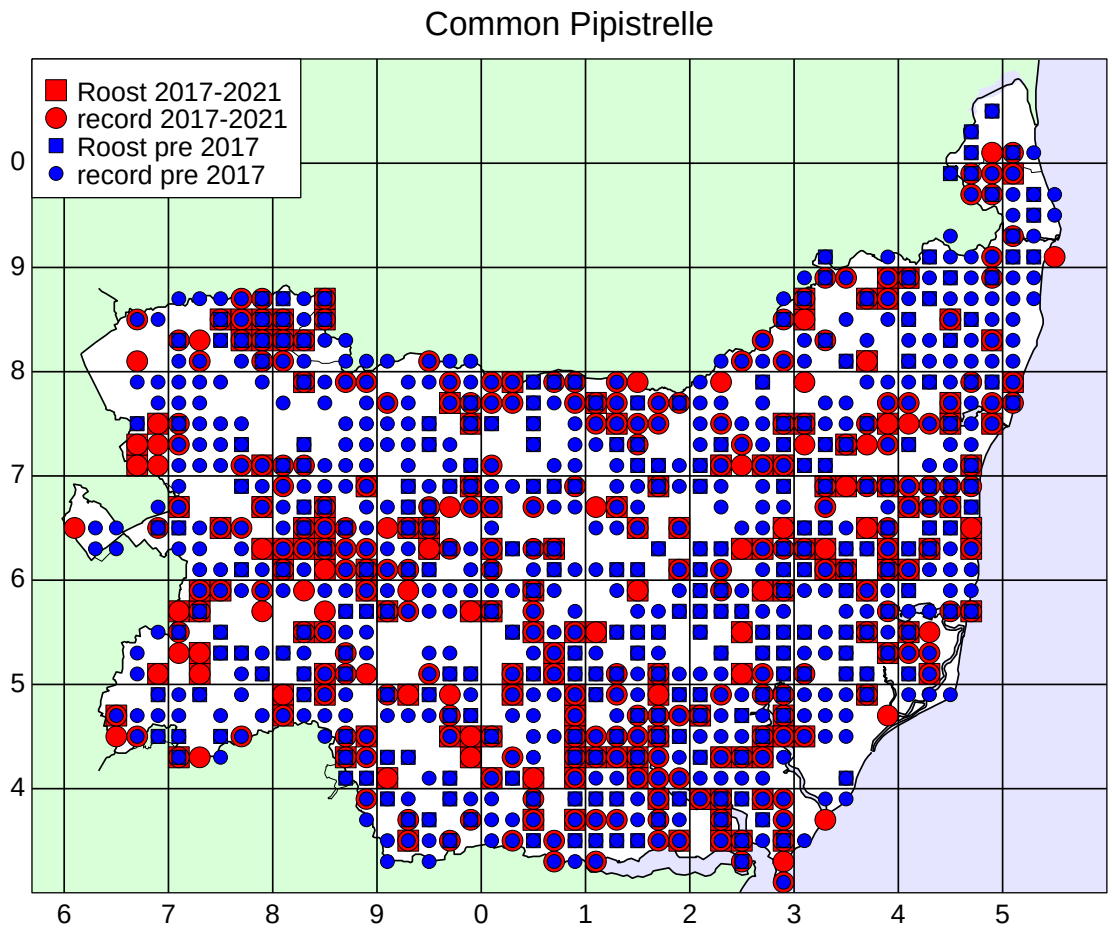
Common pipistrelle *Pipistrellus pipistrellus*

Conservation status assessment at county level: Common and widespread

Both commoner species of pipistrelle bats are usually associated with buildings, particularly in the summer. Most roosts are found whilst following up Natural England enquiries where the animals are likely to be disturbed by building works or timber treatment.

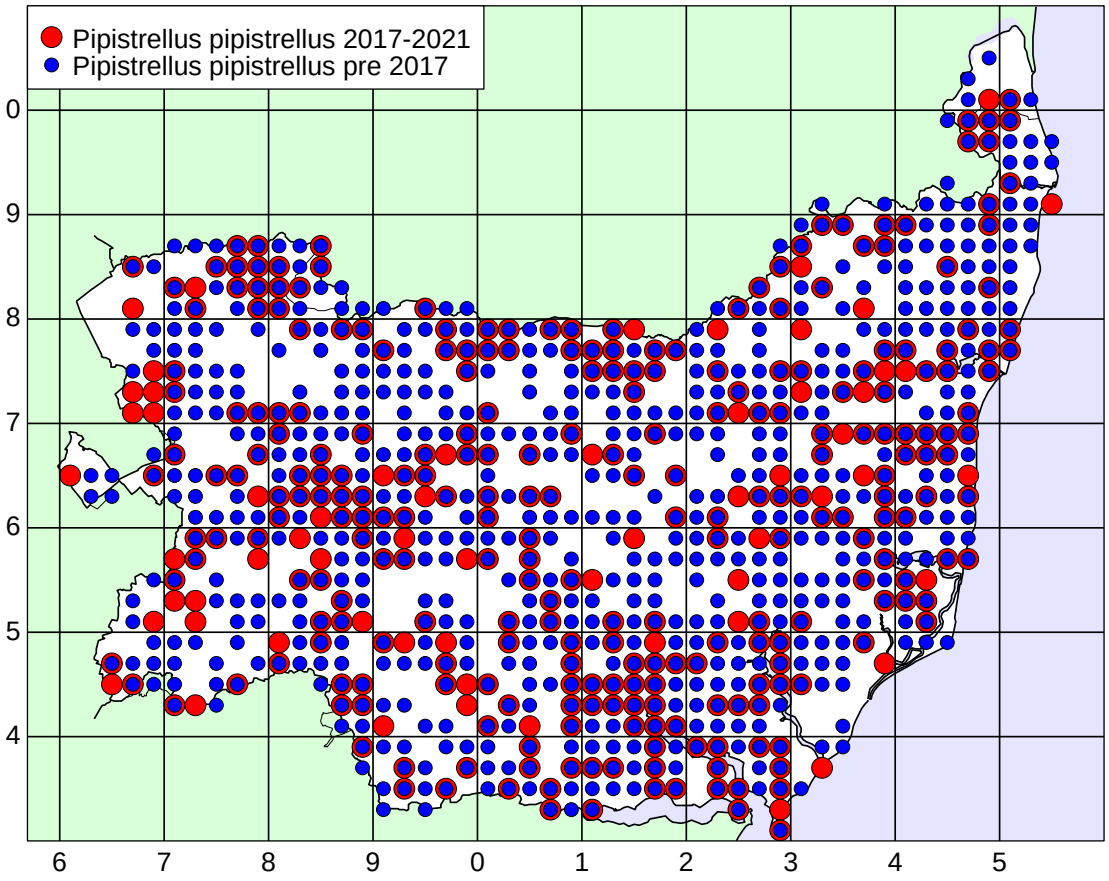
Over 350 roosts have been located in the county, the size of the colonies ranging from 50 - 400+ animals. These roosting sites include listed and historic buildings, modern houses, barns, churches, trees, and bat boxes. Roosting sites in trees are notoriously difficult to locate and consequently are likely to be under-recorded, not just for pipistrelles, but for all other species.

They are the only bat species to have been recorded in every 10km square in the county.



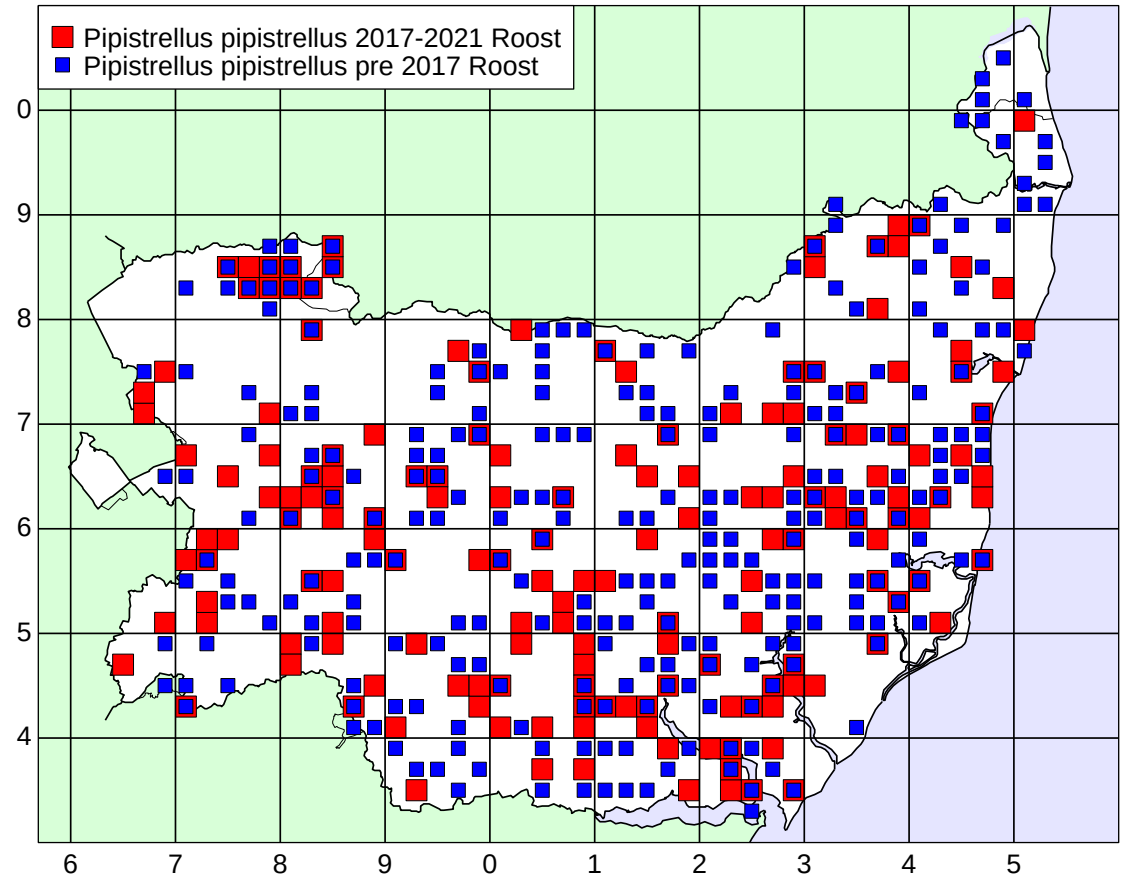
All records

Common Pipistrelle



Field records

Common Pipistrelle



Roost records

Pipistrelle with young in house roof © Bob Stebbings

Farm ponds are good Pipistrelle bat feeding habitat as they provide lots of small insect prey such as midges. © Arthur Rivett

Soprano Pipistrelle *Pipistrellus pygmaeus*

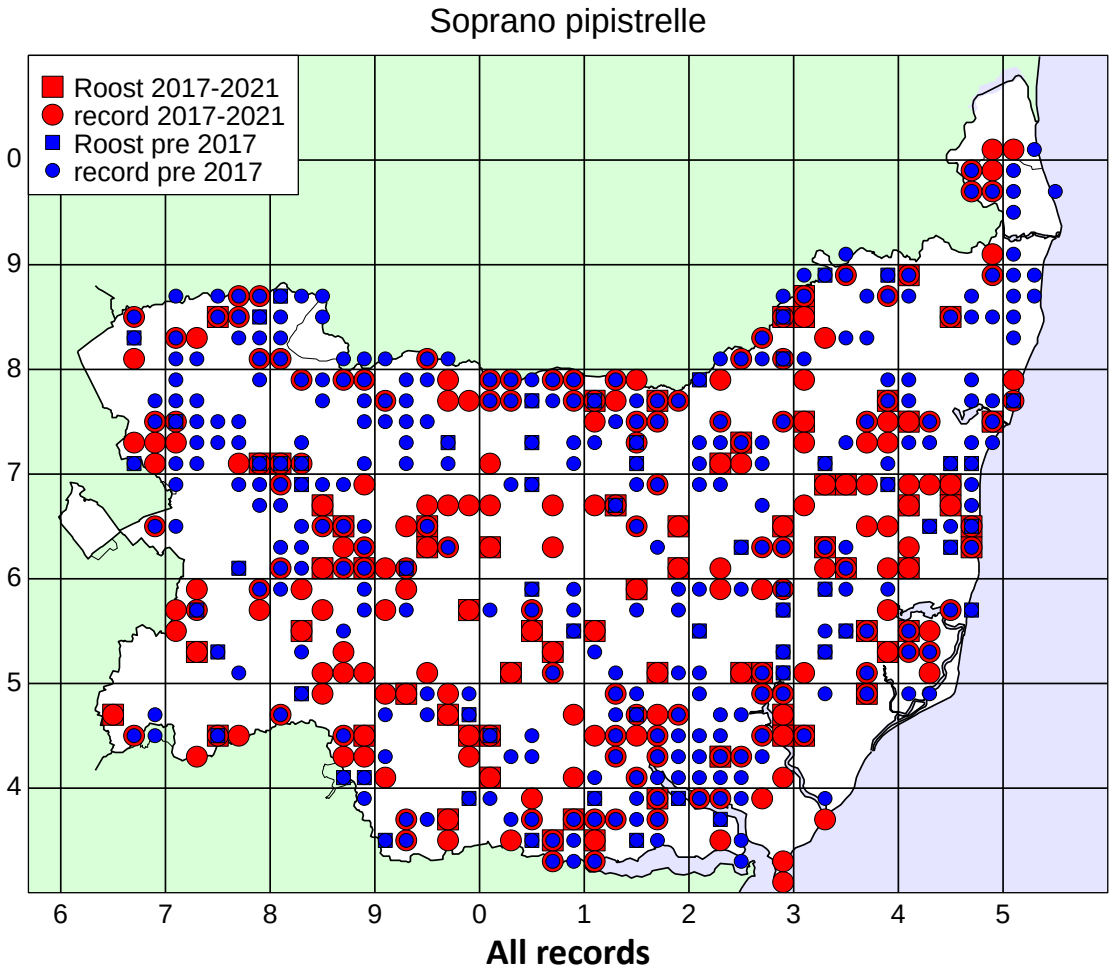
Conservation status assessment at county level: Common and widespread with a focus for roosts in river valleys

Both of the commoner Pipistrelle bat species have very similar distributions, being found throughout the British Isles. However, recent research has found that Soprano Pipistrelle. one of the UK Priority species, appear to be quite different from Common Pipistrelles in certain aspects of their biology. They may be more reliant on aquatic habitats for foraging and many of their known roosts are associated with river valleys (Oakley and Jones, 1998). They also form larger maternity roosts than Common Pipistrelles. A very large summer roost of Soprano Pipistrelles known to exist at Flatford adjacent to the River Stour in South Suffolk, certainly bears out these findings.

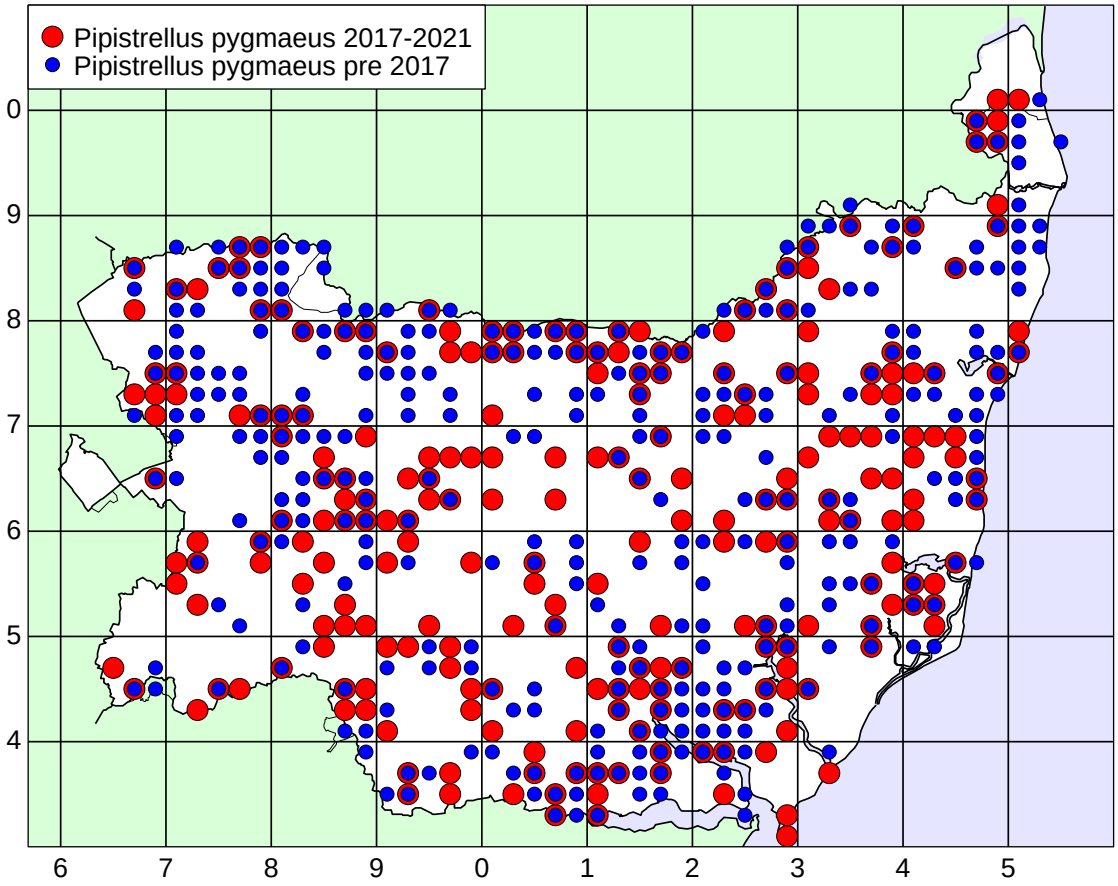
The huge increase in records over the past 10 years is down to the ease of splitting the two pipistrelle species using sound analysis software and not that this species is increasing and spreading its range.

No breeding colonies have been discovered in eight tetrads, particularly in north east Suffolk, although field records have found them in all but one tetrad. However this is still a widespread species.

Soprano Pipistrelles at a roost site
© Kevin Simmonds / Aurum Ecology

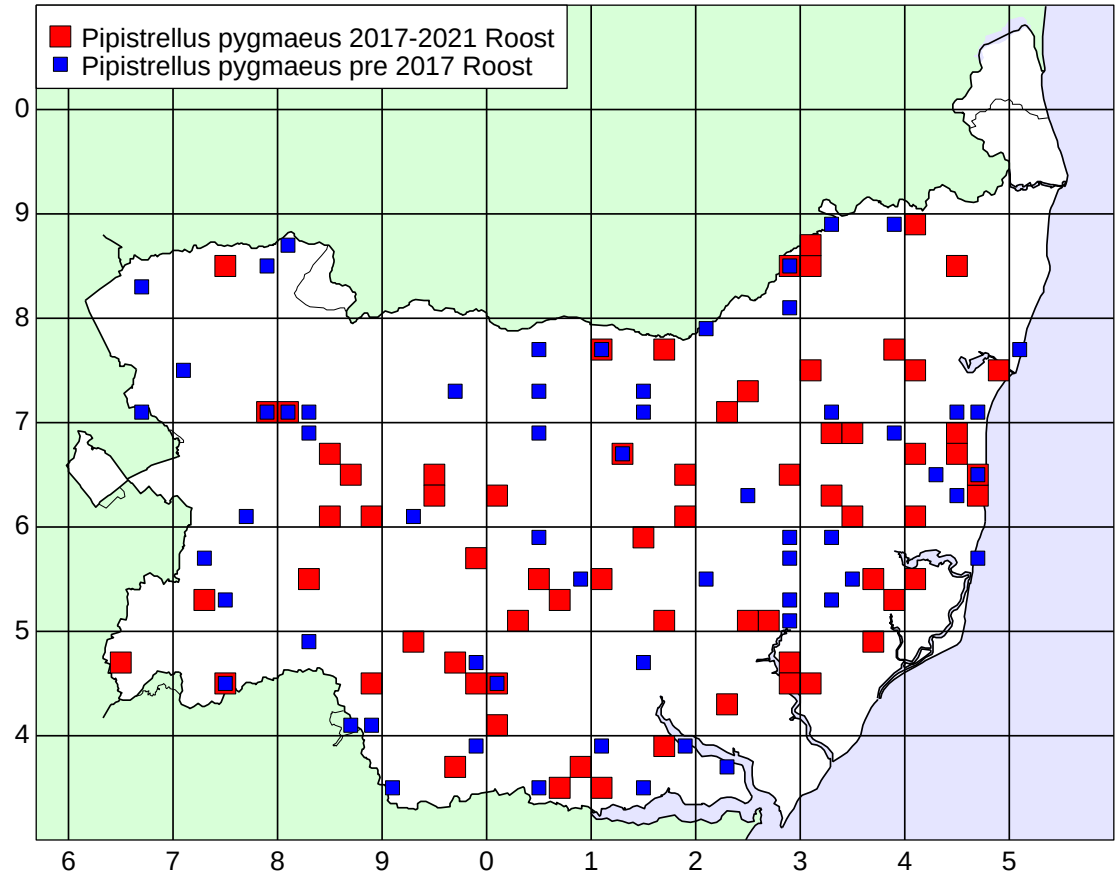


Soprano Pipistrelle



Field records

Soprano Pipistrelle



Roost records

Brown Long-eared bat *Plecotus auritus*

Conservation status assessment at county level: Widespread but population status unknown

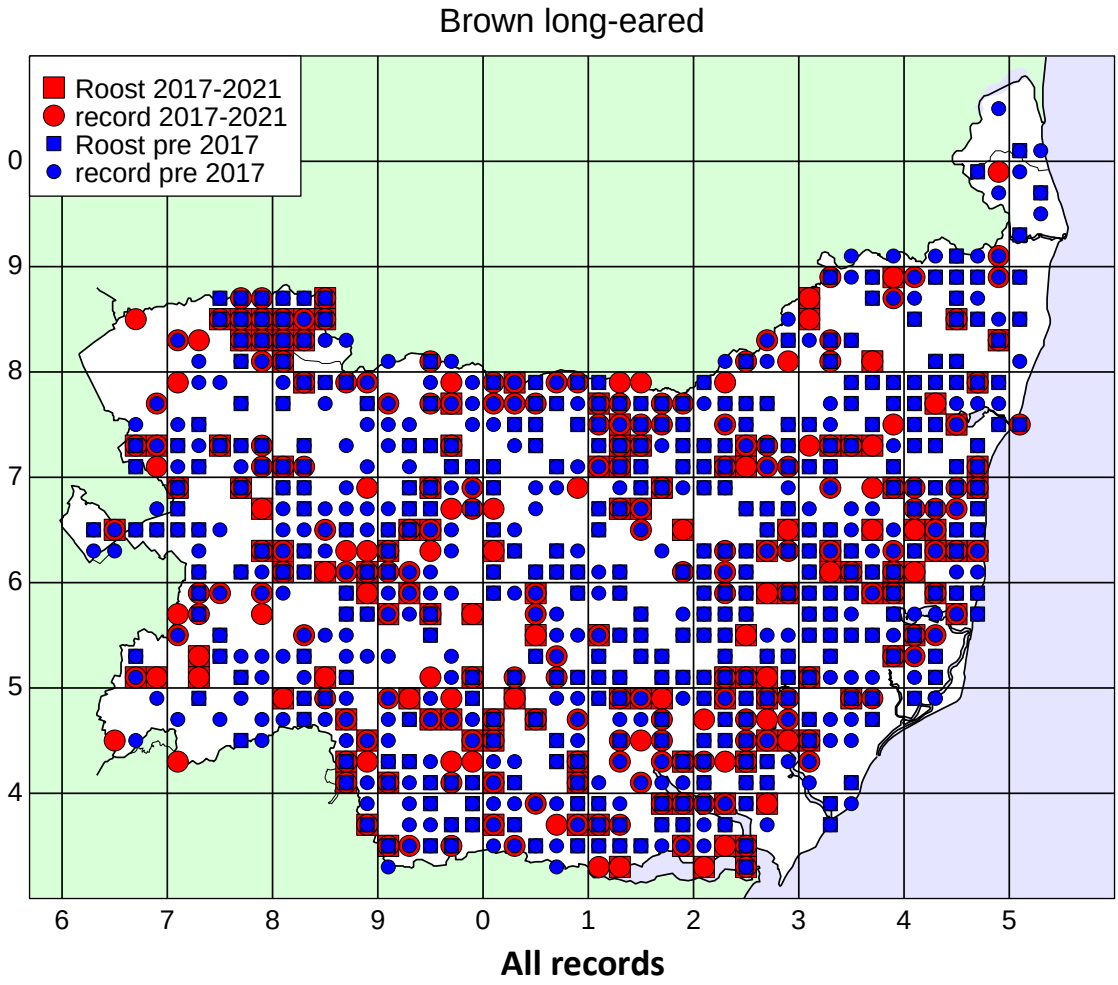
The Brown Long-eared bat is a common and widespread species second only to the pipistrelle species in distribution, both nationally and in Suffolk.

This species is found in a wide variety of sites from modern houses to churches and timber framed barns. It is known to hibernate in underground structures such as cellars, ice houses and chalk tunnels. It is the only species regularly found both in summer and winter. They readily use bat boxes, and some 65 animals were discovered in one Thetford box! Nursery colonies are usually small numbers of females located within lofts where the animals cluster along the ridge board, giving rise to a characteristic line of droppings on the loft floor.

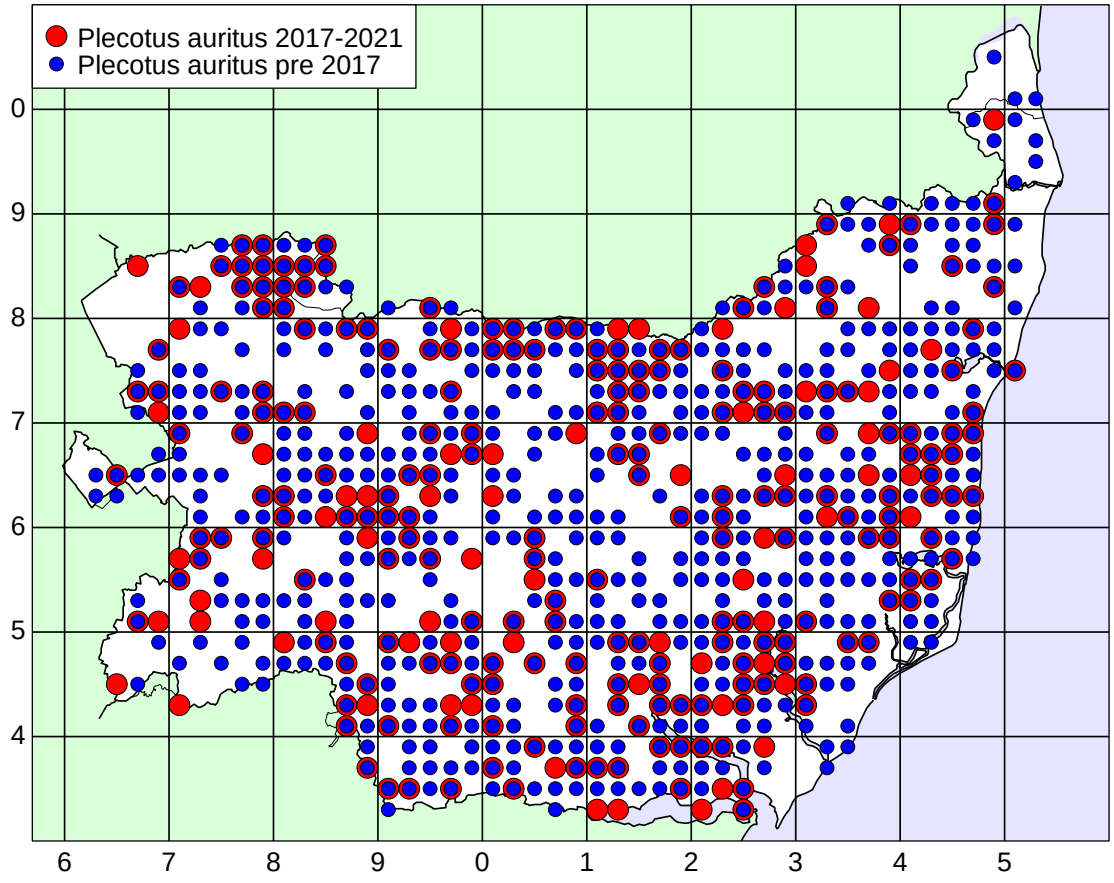
They have a characteristic slow, fluttering flight with occasional hovering pauses and are more frequently seen than heard because their very quiet echolocation sounds are not easily picked up by bat detectors.

Brown long-eared bat © Tony Spencer

This species is found in every one of the county tetrads with only two tetrads in south west Suffolk failing to turn up a breeding colony although individuals have been recorded. Further work is required to identify roost locations in those areas.

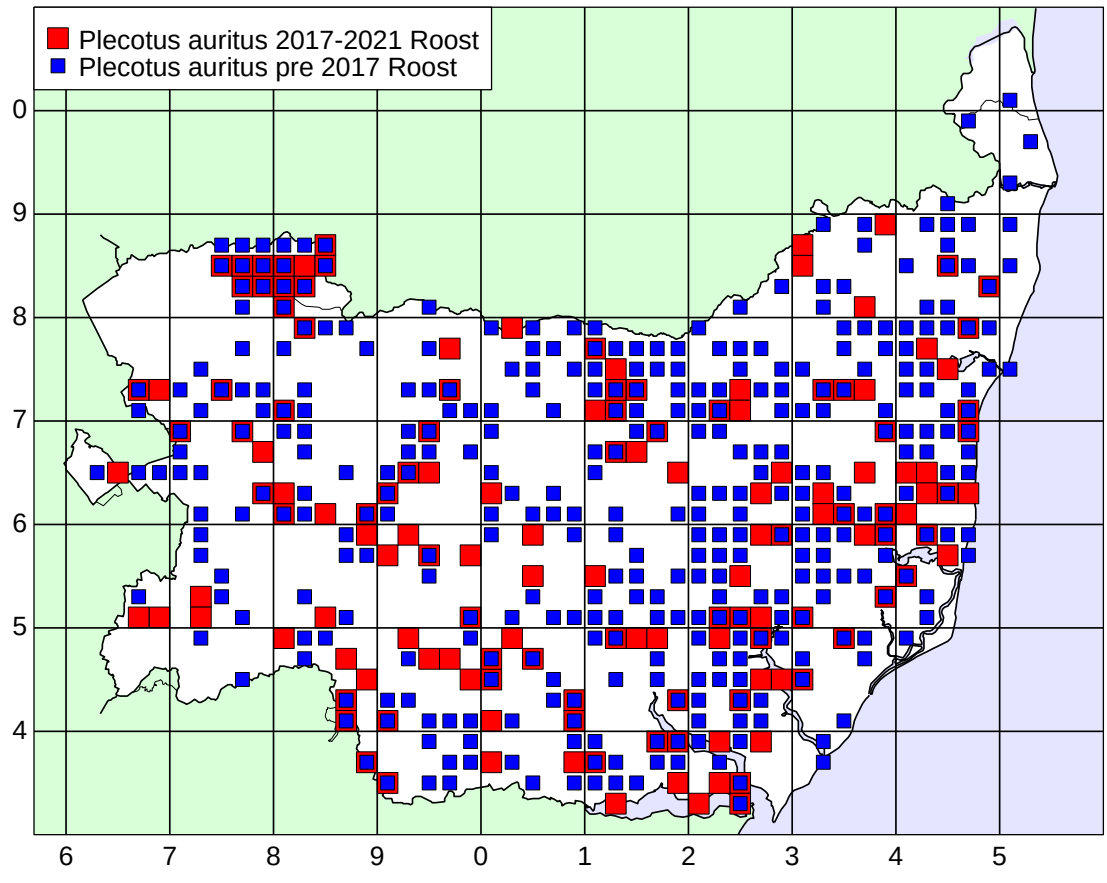


Long-eared



Field records

Long-eared



Roost records

Lesser horseshoe bat *Rhinolophus hipposideros*

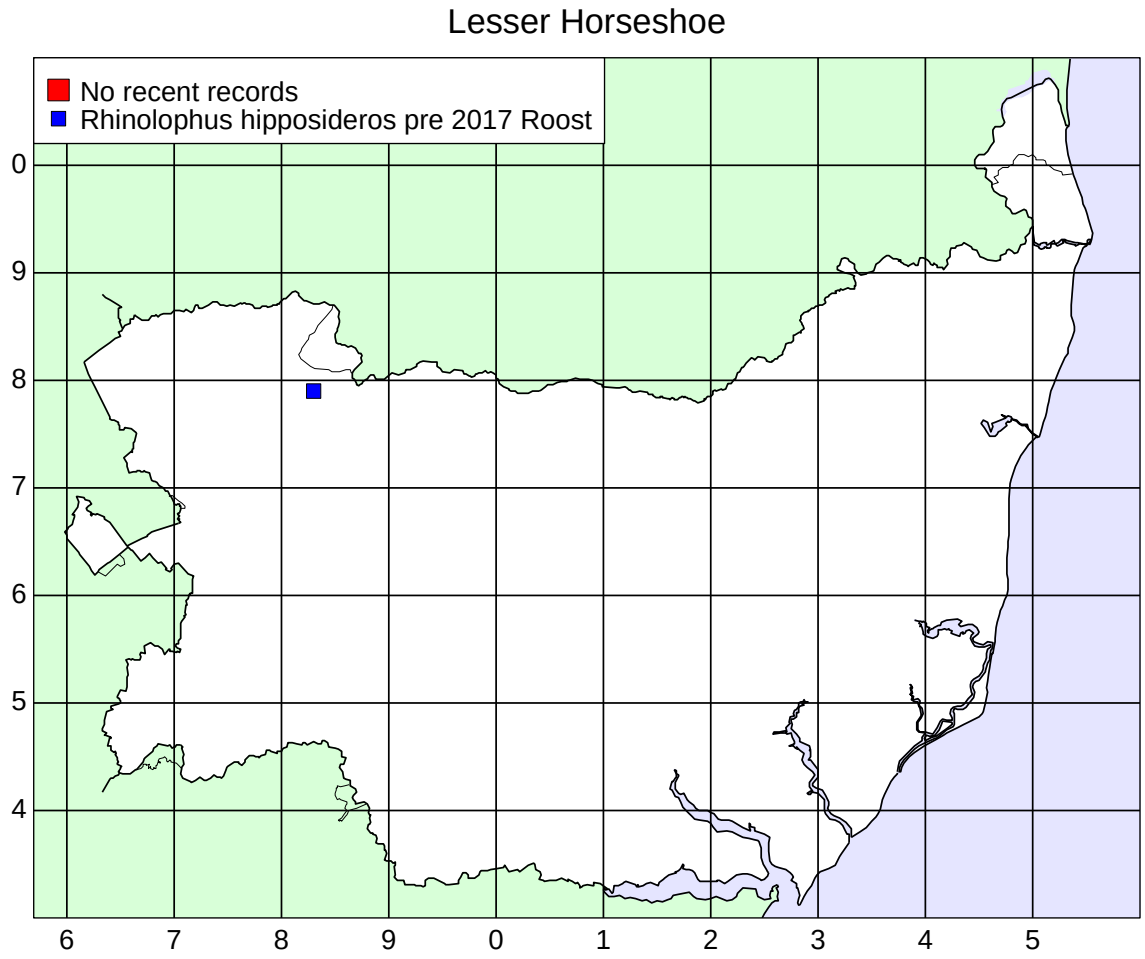
Conservation status assessment at county level: Considered to be extinct

The discovery of a single individual Lesser Horseshoe bat hibernating in Suffolk in 1996 was probably the most exciting find in the history of Suffolk Bat Group. This bat was found in the same site every winter until 2015, but has not been recorded since that time. Efforts were made during several summers to locate this bat in suitable habitat near to the hibernation site, but to no avail and we must now assume this species is now extinct in Suffolk.

Lesser horseshoe bat
© Arthur Rivett

Prior to this, there was only one other record of the species in the county in the past 100 years with the last occurrence in December 1958. This related to a single animal that was ringed and remained until early 1959.

Studies have shown these bats rarely travel more than 15km between their roosts and so the appearance of one in Suffolk has always been intriguing. It is unknown whether it was a lost or displaced individual, or whether there is a small population existing somewhere in West Suffolk waiting to be discovered. However, in the past five years this species seems to have expanded its range eastward with several animals found by bat detector surveys on the Suffolk coast as well as parkland south west of Bury St Edmunds. Both of these locations are outside of the previous known range so we may still add this species back to the county fauna.



Roost records

Summary

The maps show that bats occur right across the county. Only one square is yet to have bats recorded and so some pioneering work is required in the extreme north-east of Suffolk, maybe with Norfolk & Norwich Bat Group. However, a very good spread of records has been amassed over the past 39 years. The squares that indicate several species occurring usually relate to areas where Suffolk Bat Group has carried out extensive surveys or an enthusiastic bat worker lives. There is still much to find out about the distribution of bats across the county and so having read this, we hope you will be inspired to go out and look for bats and submit your records to either Suffolk Biodiversity Information Service or the Suffolk Bat Group/County Recorder for Suffolk Naturalists' Society (bats@sns.org.uk).

*****

References

Collins A., Rivett A. and Hooton S. 2015. Long Term Monitoring of Bat Boxes in Thetford Forest Park. Trans. Suffolk Nat. Soc. 51.

Acknowledgements

Thanks to everyone in Suffolk Bat Group, consultants and other naturalists who have contributed records over the past 39 years and to Suffolk County Recorder for bats, Alan Miller. An incredible amount of work has been undertaken over this time and, now in our 40th year, we now have a far more detailed picture of the county's bats.

Many thanks also to Suffolk Biodiversity Information Service for providing the maps and to Gen Broad for her work in design and layout of this edition of our bat atlas. The new atlas is definitely something to celebrate as well as the Group's commitment to continuing efforts to record Suffolk bats to help conserve them and their habitats for the future.

How to submit records

To submit records in the future please send them to:
Suffolk Biodiversity Information Service online at www.suffolkbis.org.uk/record
Or
Suffolk Naturalists Society County Recorder for Bats - email: bats@sns.org.uk
Or
Suffolk Bat Group, c/o Suffolk Wildlife Trust, Brooke House, The Green, Ashbocking, Ipswich IP6 9JY
Email bats@sns.org.uk
For more information on Suffolk Bat Group and for verification of bat records, please visit our website

www.Suffolkwildlifetrust.org/suffolkbatgroup

Back page:
Top left: An old bridge provides an ideal hibernation site for bats © Arthur Rivett
Top right: bat bricks in an ice house provide hibernation sites for Myotis and Brown Long-eared bats **© Sue Hooton**
Below: A green lane provides connectivity across the landscape and shelter for many species of insect © Arthur Rivett

Suffolk Bat Group

SBIS

Suffolk Wildlife Trust