

**Snapshot:** rare bat, usually found in autumn; thought to attract females by singing social calls from their roosts.



Nathusius' Pipistrelle bat in the hand © Odette Robson



Inspecting a harp trap © Odette Robson

## Threats

- Reduction in insect prey due to degradation of water quality.
- Loss of foraging habitat such as woodland, treelines and hedgerows.
- Loss of potential roosting habitat.

## How to identify a Nathusius' Pipistrelle bat

**Echolocation:** peaks at 38 kHz; social calls 20-30kHz.

- **Size:** Medium, head & body length 46 mm - 55 mm
- **Flight pattern:** rapid, slightly faster than Common and Soprano pipistrelles, insect prey caught on the wing, by 'aerial hawking'.
- **Distinctive features**  
Fur on back may be long giving a shaggy appearance.
- **Colour:** reddish-brown, sometimes has frosted tips on belly; ears, membranes and face usually very dark.

## Habitat and requirements

- Roosts and forages close to freshwater lakes, canals, waterlogged areas, also found in woodland rides and edges.
- **Roost sites:** crevices, sometimes found in cracks in walls, under soffit boards, fissures in rocks and tree hollows. Maternity colonies rarely found, reported roosts in walls of traditionally-built buildings of stone and red brick, in wall cavities and under flat roofs. Frequently share roosts with Soprano Pipistrelles.
- **Hibernation sites:** none recorded UK.

## Conservation

Considered Near Threatened England

**Protected under UK and European law**

**Relevant legislation:**

Bonn Convention

Bern Convention

Conservation of Habitats & Species Regulations 2017 (as amended)

s41 Natural Environment & Rural Communities Act 2006 list of Priority species

## Nathusius' Pipistrelle bats in Suffolk

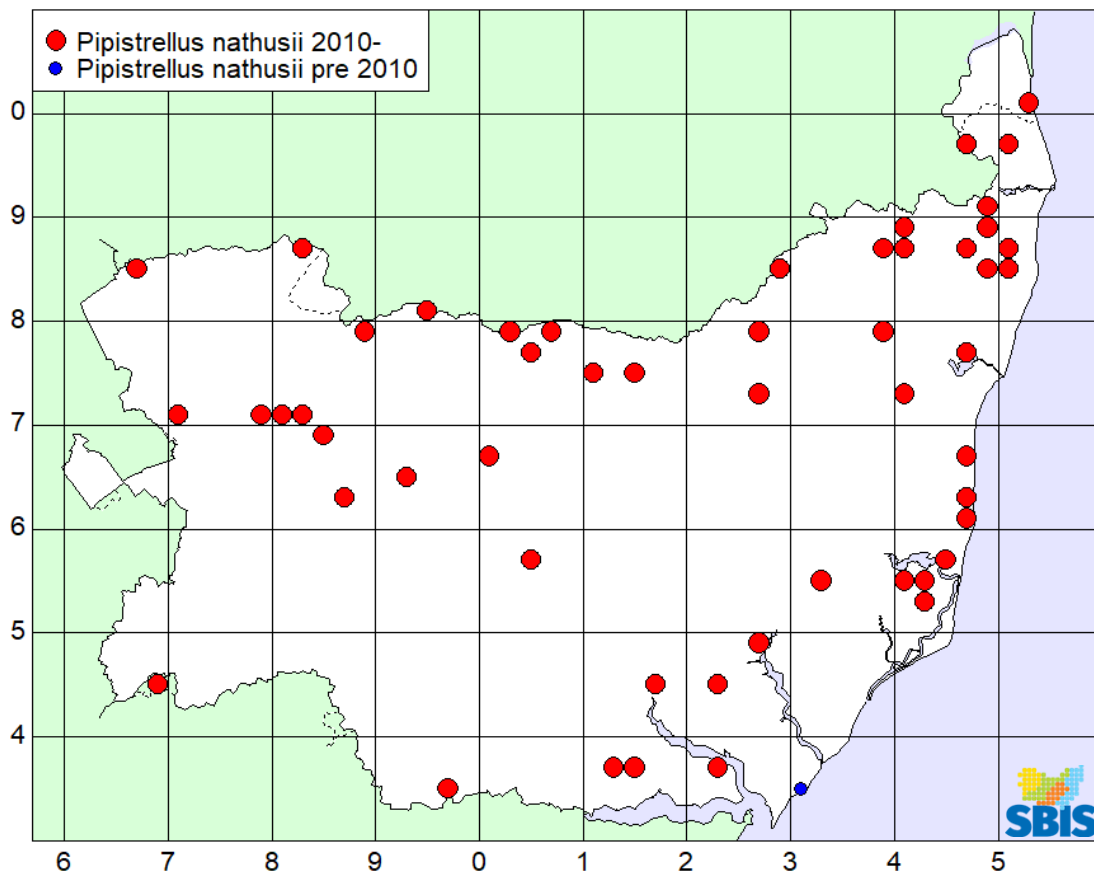
Nathusius' Pipistrelle is a migratory species on mainland Europe and in 1996 and 1997 respectively small breeding colonies were discovered in the UK in Lincolnshire and Northern Ireland. In 1998 the first Norfolk record came from Filby Broad and there have been annual records from Paston Barn since 1999.

The species was discovered in Suffolk in 2005 at two separate locations and may be more far more widespread than these records suggest. The consultants carrying out bat detector surveys near Great Blakenham reported abundant passes on two

nights in June and September suggesting a breeding colony may be located close by.

Further field work since 2012 using detectors combined with computer software has increased the locations these bats have been recorded in from six to 31. The number of coastal locations may indicate migrating animals, although some of the records were mid season.

Suffolk Bat Group has joined the National Nathusius' Pipistrelle Project with support from Essex Bat Group. This involves harp trapping with lures and ringing any Nathusius' Pipistrelles found, so more information will be available in the future.



### Further information

- **Bat Conservation Trust: Fact sheet, photos and listen to Nathusius' Pipistrelle echolocation**  
<https://www.bats.org.uk/about-bats/what-are-bats/uk-bats>
- **The Mammal Society Fact Sheet**  
<https://www.mammal.org.uk/species-nathusius-pipistrelle-bat/>
- **Distribution Atlas for Bats in Suffolk 1983-2016**, published by Suffolk Bat Group, Suffolk Biodiversity Information Service and Suffolk Wildlife Trust 2017. Available to download at <https://www.suffolkwildlifetrust.org/suffolkbatgroup> or

<https://www.suffolkbis.org.uk/bats>

- **Suffolk Bat Group** <https://www.suffolkwildlifetrust.org/suffolkbatgroup>
- **National Bat Helpline:** 0345 1300 228

