

## Common Pipistrelle and Soprano Pipistrelle

*Pipistrellus pipistrellus* (Schreber, 1774) and *Pipistrellus pygmaeus* (Leach, 1825)

Order: Chiroptera

Small bats, the dorsal fur is dark to chestnut brown, distinctive short and broad triangular ears, the common pipistrelle bat has a dark muzzle and is also referred to as a 'bandit pipistrelle'.

**HABITAT** – various, including farmland, open woodland, parkland, gardens, urban areas, lakes and hedgerows.

**ROOSTING** – buildings, trees and bat boxes, rarely caves and tunnels.

**DIET** – small aerial insects such as midges.



Pipistrelle bats are common and widespread throughout Europe

The common pipistrelle bat is widespread throughout Britain and Ireland except for the Shetlands and Western Isles of Scotland. Population monitoring data from different methodologies show conflicting trends but recent data indicates that the common pipistrelle bat population is increasing (BCT, 2006). The soprano pipistrelle bat is listed as a priority species for conservation on the UK BAP (UKBP, 2007). It is widely distributed across Britain and Ireland although there has been suggested that soprano pipistrelle bat roosts are more common in Scotland and parts of Ireland (BCT, 2001). Population monitoring data are inconclusive but may suggest a recent decline (BCT, 2006).

### Survey Methods

Roost surveys

Cat and road kills

### Did you know?

### Local distribution and key sites

Pipistrelle species are widespread and common in Cornwall. Due to the difficulties associated with distinguishing individual species (i.e. common, Soprano, and Nathusius' pipistrelle) it is difficult to determine their status. For this reason the maps give a useful overview of the distribution of pipistrelle's in Cornwall suggesting that, whilst widespread, all the pipistrelle species are under recorded. The majority of the records displayed are for the Common Pipistrelle. Both the soprano pipistrelle and the Nathusius pipistrelle are probably under recorded.

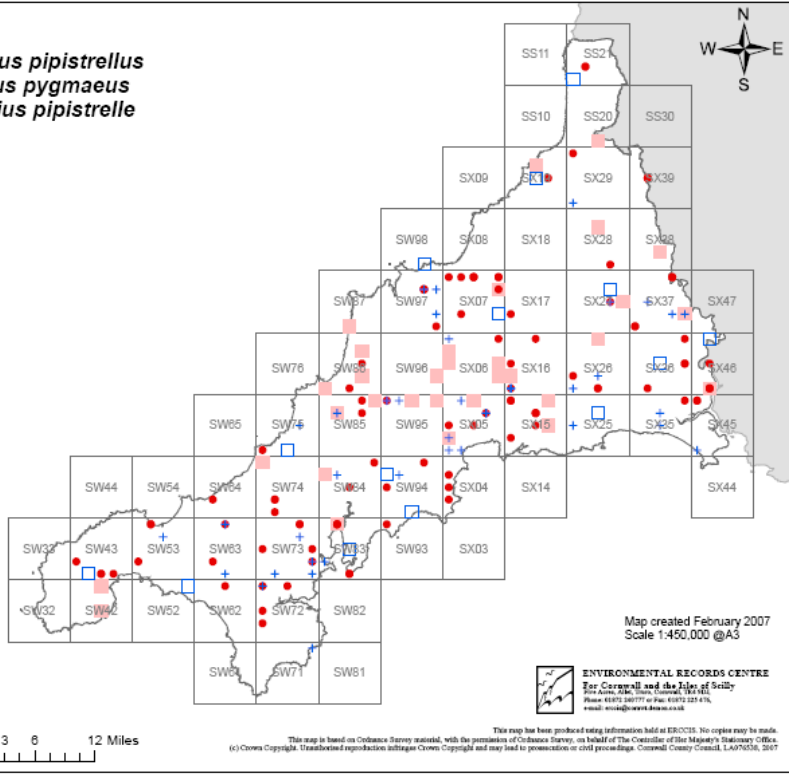
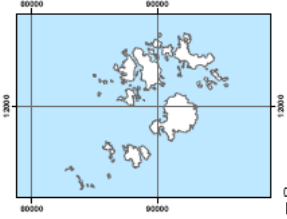
### Key references

**Pipistrelle Species:**

Common Pipistrelle *Pipistrellus pipistrellus*  
 Soprano Pipistrelle *Pipistrellus pygmaeus*  
 Nathusius' Pipistrelle *Nathusius pipistrelle*

**Roost records**

- Legend**
- + Winter roosts: records 2002 - 2006 Inclusive
  - Summer roosts: records 2002 - 2006 Inclusive
  - Winter roosts: records 1997 - 2001 Inclusive
  - Summer roosts: records 1997 - 2001 Inclusive



Map created February 2007  
 Scale 1:450,000 @A3

**ENVIRONMENTAL RECORDS CENTRE**  
 For Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly  
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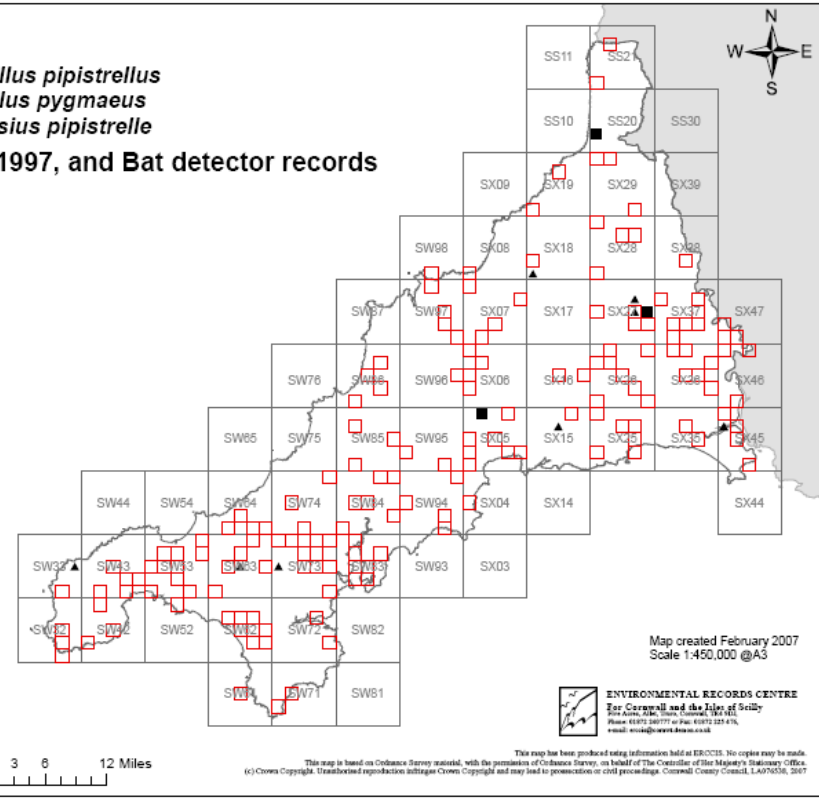
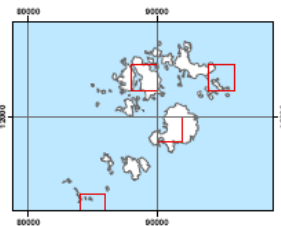
**Number of records per date class**  
 2002 to 2006 inclusive 136  
 1997 to 2001 inclusive 73  
 All records previous to 1997 325  
**Total bat roost records 209**

**Pipistrelle Species:**

Common Pipistrelle *Pipistrellus pipistrellus*  
 Soprano Pipistrelle *Pipistrellus pygmaeus*  
 Nathusius' Pipistrelle *Nathusius pipistrelle*

**All records previous to 1997, and Bat detector records**

- Legend**
- ▲ Audible sound (Bat detector): records 2002 - 2006
  - Audible sound (Bat detector): 1997 - 2001 Inclusive
  - All records previous to 1997 Inclusive



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**Number of records per date class**  
 2002 to 2006 inclusive 12  
 1997 to 2001 inclusive 4  
 All records previous to 1997 325  
**Total bat detector records 16**