



# The Norwich Natterer

for Norwich and the surrounding area

## Chair's welcome

Welcome to the first edition of the Norwich Natterer, the newsletter of the Norwich Bat Group. The Norwich Bat Group was formed in 2007 and we have been working ever since to help protect, conserve and raise the awareness of bats in Norwich and the surrounding area. The aim of this newsletter is to keep you informed of what we are doing and how you can get involved in the activities of the group.

Norfolk is a great place for bats! Of the 16 regular resident species of bat found in Britain, at least nine species have been recorded in and around Norwich. Bats can be encountered anywhere along the City's waterways, and in our many parks, especially around Whitlingham Country Park and along the Marriott's Way. We lead guided walks at these sites, and at others, promoting awareness and understanding of bats to interested people and groups.

The group is affiliated to the Bat Conservation Trust, the national voice for bats in Britain, and we are involved in national monitoring and research schemes, including the National Bat Monitoring Program, for which we run training for volunteers. We are also involved in the National Nathusius' Pipistrelle Project. Volunteering on these schemes is great fun and you can get up close and personal with some of our most difficult to see mammals.

Whilst our focus in the past has been on Norwich, we hold events and operate across a much wider area, and we welcome anyone from across Norfolk with an interest in bats to join us.

In April 2018 I was voted chair person of the Norwich Bat Group. I take on this role following in the footsteps of Michelle Fielden, a dedicated ecologist who with the support of bat group members has seen the Norwich Bat Group grow into the group it is today. Michelle Fielden remains on the committee and a key member of the Norwich Bat Group. We would like to thank Michelle for her hard work and dedication as chair over the years.

We hope you find this newsletter interesting. If you want to know more, or want to show your support for the group, please do get in touch.

Happy batting!

Dave White

Chair

## Support Us

If you would like to become a member of the Norwich Bat Group we do not ask for a membership fee. However, we rely on donations and if you would like to support the work of the Norfolk bat Group, this can be done via the [Norwich Bat Group Website](#). Thank you for your support!

The central part of the Norwich Bat Group's efforts are to help protect, conserve and raise awareness of bats in Norwich and the surrounding area.

Affiliated with the Bat Conservation Trust

Bat Conservation Trust





# Past Events



## Hibernation Check at Whitlingham Broad lead by Richard Moores



Bats hibernate in the bat bricks in the lime kiln

In January 2018 a hibernation survey was carried out by Richard Moores at Whitlingham Country Park. Members of the Norwich Bat Group were invited to go along (participant numbers are usually limited to minimise disturbance to the hibernating bats). Three Natterer's and three Daubenton's bats were found present on this survey visit.

## Talk on the Bats and Mills in the Broads, by Andrea Kelly, Senior Ecologist at the Broads Authority



Water, Mills and Marshes is the Broads Landscape Partnership Project, funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund. The project has a big focus on recording and repairing some of the iconic drainage mills on Halvergate marshes, an area which boasts one of the greatest concentration of such mills in Europe. As well as the heritage focus, the enhancement of mills as places for wildlife was explored, with a focus on providing enhancements for bats.

## Social Event

In March 2018 the Norwich Bat Group got together for their first social event. This was an opportunity to network with other members of the Norwich Bat Group and to take part in batty related activities including a race between two groups to assemble a harp trap. It was a close race, one team was slightly faster. However the harp trap was not assembled correctly resulting in a draw between the two teams. Thank you to everyone responsible for organising the evening!



Norwich Bat Group members assemble harp traps



# The National Nathusius' Pipistrelle Project



**The National Nathusius' Pipistrelle Project** was launched in 2014 with a grant from the People's Trust for Endangered Species, to improve our understanding of the ecology, current status and conservation threats for Nathusius' pipistrelles in Great Britain.

The aims of the project are to determine the resident and breeding status of Nathusius' pipistrelle and determine the migratory origins of Nathusius' pipistrelles in Great Britain.



Nathusius' pipistrelle

Each year, participating bat groups around the country send their results to the National Nathusius' Pipistrelle Project. The combined data will develop a more comprehensive understanding of this enigmatic migratory bat which is needed for the long-term conservation of populations of this species.

The project has already revealed important information about this species by trapping and ringing to identify individuals. It has been discovered that, as well as being a resident species in the UK, Nathusius' pipistrelle also migrates between north east European countries such as Latvia and Lithuania and the UK. The bats migrate south during the autumn months to escape the harsh winters and return in the spring, crossing the North Sea on their journey to and from Europe.

Nathusius' Pipistrelle is generally associated with woodland (deciduous and mixed), waterbodies & reedbeds and forages on small Diptera (flies) especially midges, mosquitoes & caddis flies. The Norfolk Broads provides ideal habitat for this species. Norwich Bat Group joined the project in 2017 and concentrated survey effort in The Broads National Park.

During the summer and autumn, the group trapped and ringed Nathusius' pipistrelle at eight separate locations across the Broads National Park and one other water body in south east Norfolk. Harp traps are used to trap the bats and an acoustic lure which plays the male Nathusius' pipistrelle advertisement call to help attract individuals. The bats are unharmed and are released immediately after confirming identify, weighing, measuring and ringing with a unique ring number. A total of thirty two trapping sessions have been carried out by twenty two dedicated volunteers and fifty two Nathusius' pipistrelles have been ringed (39 males and 13 females), including thirteen at Whitlingham Country Park. Other bat species are also attracted by the calls and soprano pipistrelle, common pipistrelle, brown long-eared, Daubenton's, Natterer's, noctule, barbastelle and a whiskered bat were also trapped. All records are also sent to the Norfolk Biodiversity Information Service.

Plans for 2018 are to survey more sites to see how widely Nathusius' pipistrelle is distributed within the Broads National Park, and to return to sites surveyed in 2017 to see if any previously ringed bats are recaptured. Females will also be radiotagged to try to locate maternity colonies and give more information about resident populations. In the autumn migration period, the group will trap close to the coast, with the hope of trapping a Nathusius' pipistrelle that has been ringed in north-east Europe after crossing the North Sea. That would be a very exciting event!

Norwich Bat group is grateful to The Broads Authority and Norfolk Biodiversity Information Service for supporting this project.



Harp trap and acoustic lure



# The National Bat Monitoring Programme



The Bat Conservation Trust runs a number of national, annual surveys which rely heavily on volunteers to monitor the status of many of our bat species across a range of habitats. These surveys form the National Bat Monitoring Programme (NBMP). The data collected allow them to calculate population trends, assess the conservation needs of the UK's bats, identify any significant changes in populations and help inform conservation policies. The NBMP surveys are carefully designed so that anybody can take part in monitoring these fascinating mammals and are fun and rewarding to carry out. Different surveys are suitable for differing levels of experience and knowledge and there's bound to be something out there you can take part in!

## Types of Survey

### Sunset/Sunrise Surveys:

The most flexible of surveys, these can take place anytime between April - September in any local green space and is aimed at beginners, so is a great way to get involved if you don't have any previous bat survey experience.

### Waterways Surveys:

These take place in August and focus specifically on Daubenton's bats. A 1km transect alongside a waterways course is walked, with counts of bats made at ten stopping points along the route. Again, you can choose a site which has been done before, or ask for a new site.

### Field Surveys:

Field surveys take place twice in July, and involve looking for common pipistrelle, soprano pipistrelle, noctule and serotine along a pre-determined transect route. You can either choose a site which has been surveyed before, or ask for a new site to be allocated to you (although bear in mind that with new sites you may need to design the transect route yourself – your NBMP Coordinator will be able to help you design one if needed).

### Roost Counts:

These surveys are for buildings known to support bats, and focusses on common pipistrelle, soprano pipistrelle, serotine, Natterer's bat, brown long-eared bat, and lesser and greater horseshoe bats (not found in Norfolk!). You can register your own property for this survey if you like, and sit outside two evenings in June, counting how many bats come out. The Norwich Bat Group is hoping to set up a number of sites across Norfolk for this year's counts – watch this space as anyone is welcome to come along to these!



Daubenton's bat © Hugh Clarke/www.bats.org.uk

### Further Details:

More information on the NBMP surveys and which Waterways and Field Survey sites are up for grabs can be found on the [Bat Conservation Trust's website](http://www.bats.org.uk).

If you are interested in any other of the surveys but need some training, send an email to the NBMP Coordinator via the Norwich Bat Group website who may be able to help.



# Upcoming Events

For the most up to date list of events, please see the [Norwich Bat group website](#)



Event	Date	Event Details
National Nathusius' Pipistrelle Project	TBC	TBC
Two summer bat walks organised by the Broads Authority in conjunction with the National Nathusius' Pipistrelle project	23/08/18 and 20/09/18	Please book via the Broads Authorities website <a href="http://www.broads-authority.gov.uk/">http://www.broads-authority.gov.uk/</a>
International Bat Night	25/08/18	Hickling Broad with Norfolk Wildlife Trust
Summer bat walk at Strumpshaw Fen with RSPB	15/09/2018 and 21/09/18	Organised by Lindsey Bilston

## Bat Care

It's getting to that time of year again where you might open your door one day on the way to work, and find that you've got a surprise guest on your doorstep! Bats are waking up and becoming increasingly active as the season progresses, and unfortunately they do somehow manage to get themselves in a spot of bother now and again. So what should you do if you find a bat at your home or work place?

If the bat is in a vulnerable location, the first step would be to safely contain the bat in a suitable cardboard box like a shoe box, with very small air holes. Avoid handling the bat if you can by placing the box over the bat and sliding a thin piece of cardboard underneath it. If you have to pick it up, wear gloves and use a tea cloth or similar to gently place over the bat and lift it into the box. Don't handle the bat with bare hands as it is a wild animal which may bite, particularly if stressed. Leave a milk bottle lid with a few drops of water in the box, and then as soon as you can, call the BCT helpline on 0345 1300 228 for further advice. They will put you in contact with a local bat carer, who will be able to assess the bat for injuries, provide care where necessary, and hopefully release it back into the wild.

Any bat that is found on the ground, or in an exposed area, especially during the day, is likely to need help, so please don't assume that it is healthy and leave it outside to fly away.

Further information can be found on the BCT website: <http://www.bats.org.uk/pages/help.html>



Brown long-eared bat