

## Soprano pipistrelle

*Pipistrellus pygmaeus*

**Description:** A small bat (body length 35-45mm), with a wingspan of 190-230mm. 3-8g. It has a post-calcarial lobe and does not have an internarial ridge. Medium to dark brown. Face and around the eyes usually dark. Adult forearm length: 29-34mm. Tragus up to four times as long as it is broad. Visual difference from other pipistrelle species is that soprano pipistrelle has a Y-shaped vein in the wing and the last finger bone is same length as previous bone (5:5 ratio).



Matt Hobbs

**Droppings:** 7-9mm long, 1.5-2mm wide. Fine texture, tapered at either end. Often found below roost access points.



**Flight description:** Emerges 20-30 mins after sunset, although occasionally before. Moderate speed hawking (catching prey on the wing). Fast erratic flight at head height (up to 10m)

**Lifespan:** Normally 4-5 years, can live up to 11 years.

**Life cycle:** During summer, females form maternity colony where they give birth to a single young (in June/July). Young can fly at 4 weeks and forage for themselves at 6 weeks. Males usually roost singularly.

**Roost locations:** Buildings (any, although especially in villages), trees, bat boxes, rarely tunnels and caves. Prefer tight crevices. Hibernation roosts similar but usually solitary or in small numbers.

**Habitats:** Typically wetland habitats, rivers, lakes, woodland edges, tree lines or hedgerows, suburban parks and gardens.

**UK conservation status:** Widespread, declined over last few decades but now stabilising.  
**Oxfordshire:** Common, especially near wetlands.

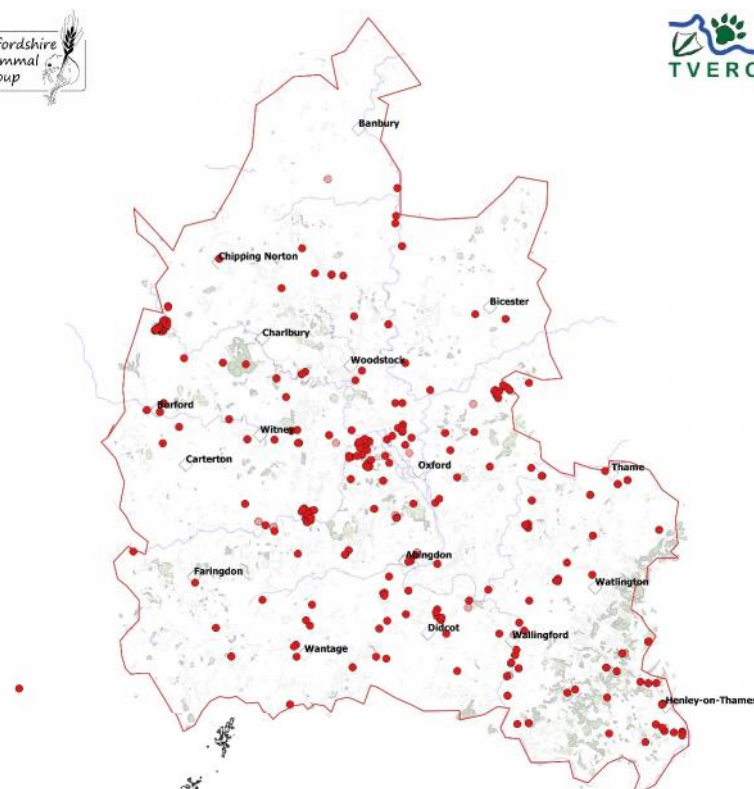
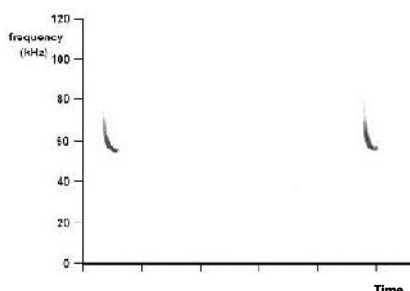
### Legislation:

- ◆ Habitat regulations 2010 Schedule 2
- ◆ Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 Schedule 5
- ◆ Section 41 NERC Act 2006

### Echolocation:

Lowest frequency: 47.3 kHz  
Highest frequency: 90 kHz  
Peak intensity: 55 kHz  
Average call duration: 0.006 seconds  
Description: Irregular, loud, wet slaps developing into clicks at the end.

**Typical echolocation sonogram** (from Brooks, A. *The Bats of Britain and Europe*).



### KNOWN RECORDS

#### Oxfordshire:

1995-2005 Present = pink

2005-2015 Present = red

#### Great Britain and Northern Ireland:

1995-2015 Present = yellow

