

**European Community Directive  
on the Conservation of Natural Habitats  
and of Wild Fauna and Flora  
(92/43/EEC)**


**Second Report by the United Kingdom under  
Article 17  
on the implementation of the Directive  
from January 2001 to December 2006**

**Conservation status assessment for  
Species:  
S5009 - *Pipistrellus pygmaeus* - Soprano  
pipistrelle**

The information in this assessment corresponds to the "species fact sheet" submitted by the UK to the European Union in February 2008 (second and final submission). Please note that this is a section of the UK's report. For the complete report visit <http://www.jncc.gov.uk/article17>

Please cite as: Joint Nature Conservation Committee. 2007. *Second Report by the UK under Article 17 on the implementation of the Habitats Directive from January 2001 to December 2006*. Peterborough: JNCC. Available from: [www.jncc.gov.uk/article17](http://www.jncc.gov.uk/article17)

**Species Name: *Pipistrellus pygmaeus***

<b>1. National level</b>	
Species Code	S5009
Member State	United Kingdom
Biogeographic regions concerned within the Member state	ATL
1.1 Range map	 A map of the United Kingdom showing the distribution of the species <i>Pipistrellus pygmaeus</i> . The distribution is indicated by a solid grey fill covering the entire landmass of Great Britain and Ireland, as well as the Channel Islands and the Shetland Islands. The map shows the outlines of the coastlines and major islands.

## 1.2 Distribution map



## 2. Biogeographic level

### 2.1 Biogeographic region

ATL

### 2.2 Published sources and/or websites

BARRATT, E.M., BRUFORD, M.W., BURLAND, T.M., JONES, G., RACEY, P.A. & WAYNE, R.K. 1995. Characterization of mitochondrial DNA variability within the microchiropteran genus *Pipistrellus*: approaches and applications. *Symposia Zoological Society London*, 67, 377-386.

BAT CONSERVATION TRUST. 2006. The National Bat Monitoring Programme Annual Report 2005. Available to download from Bat Conservation Trust website ([www.bats.org.uk](http://www.bats.org.uk)) and Tracking Mammals Partnership website ([www.trackingmammals.org](http://www.trackingmammals.org)).

BATTERSBY, J (Ed.) & TRACKING MAMMALS PARTNERSHIP. 2005. UK Mammals: Species Status and Population Trends. JNCC/Tracking Mammals Partnership.

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good practice guidelines for woodland management for bats. English Nature, Peterborough.

DAVIDSON-WATTS, I. & JONES, G. 2006. Differences in foraging behaviour between *Pipistrellus pipistrellus* (Schreber, 1774) and *Pipistrellus pygmaeus* (Leach, 1825). *Journal of Zoology*, London, 268 (1), 55-62.

HAINES-YOUNG, R.H., BARR, C.J., BLACK, H.I.J., BRIGGS, D.J., BUNCE, R.G.H.,

CLARKE, R.T., COOPER, A., DAWSON, F.H., FIRBANK, L.G., FULLER, R.M., FURSE,

M.T., GILLESPIE, M.K., HILL, R., HORNUNG, M., HOWARD, D.C., McCANN, T.,

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A.P., STUART, R.C. & WATKINS, J.W. 2000. Accounting for nature: assessing habitats in

the UK countryside. Countryside Survey 2000. DETR, HMSO, London.

HARRIS, S., MORRIS, P., WRAY, S. & YALDEN, D. 1995. A review of British Mammals: population estimates and conservation status of British mammals other than cetaceans. JNCC, Peterborough.

JONES, G. & VAN PARIJS, S.M. 1993. Bimodal echolocation in pipistrelle bats: are cryptic species present? *Proceedings Royal Society London*, 251, 119-125.

NICHOLLS, B. & RACEY, P. 2006a. Habitat selection as a mechanism of resource partitioning in two cryptic bat species *Pipistrellus pipistrellus* and *Pipistrellus pygmaeus*. *Ecography*, 29, 697-708.

NICHOLLS, B. & RACEY, P. 2006b. Contrasting home-range size and spatial partitioning in cryptic and sympatric pipistrelle bats. *Behavioural Ecology and Sociobiology*, 61, 131-142.

RICHARDSON, P. 2000. Distribution atlas of bats in Britain and Ireland 1980-1999. Bat Conservation Trust, London.

#### Map Data Sources

BATS & The Millennium Link - Bat species distribution in Central Belt of Scotland 2000 to 2005; Scottish Natural Heritage bat records; Highland Biological Recording Group Mammals dataset (via the NBN Gateway).

National Bat Monitoring Programme (NBMP) data to 2005 including: Colony survey (1998-2005), Field survey (1998-2005).

Scottish Natural Heritage bat records: update, J. Haddow (Pers. comm).

Distribution atlas of bats in Britain and Ireland 1980-1999, The Bat Conservation Trust 2000, GB data only.

## 2.3 Range of species in the biogeographic region or marine region

2.3.1 Surface range of the species (sq km)	227090			
2.3.2 Date of range determination	1990-2006			
2.3.3 Quality of data concerning range	Moderate			
2.3.4 Range trend	Unknown (X)			
2.3.5 Range trend magnitude (%)	Not applicable			
2.3.6 Range trend period	2001-2006			
2.3.7 Reasons for reported trend	Not applicable			
<b>2.4 Population</b>				
2.4.1 Population size estimation	Minimum	1300000	Maximum	1300000
	Units	Individuals		
2.4.2 Date of population estimation	2005			
2.4.3 Method used for population estimation	1 - Based on expert opinion			
2.4.4 Quality of population data	Poor			
2.4.5 Population trend	Unknown (X)			
2.4.6 Population trend magnitude (%)	Not applicable			
2.4.7 Population trend period	1998-2005			
2.4.8 Reasons for reported trend	Not applicable			
2.4.9 Justification of % thresholds for trends (optional)	Not applicable			
2.4.10 Main pressures	101 - Modification of cultivation practices; 110 - Use of pesticides; 141 - Abandonment of pastoral systems; 151 - Removal of hedges and copses; 160 - General Forestry management; 164 - Forestry clearance; 165 - Removal of undergrowth; 166 - Removal of dead and dying trees; 167 - Exploitation without replanting; 502 - routes, autoroutes; 700 - Pollution; 803 - infilling of ditches, dykes, ponds, pools, marshes or pits;			
2.4.11 Threats	101 - Modification of cultivation practices; 110 - Use of pesticides; 141 - Abandonment of pastoral systems; 151 - Removal of hedges and copses; 160 - General Forestry management; 164 - Forestry clearance; 165 - Removal of undergrowth; 166 - Removal of dead and dying trees; 167 - Exploitation without replanting; 502 - routes, autoroutes; 700 - Pollution; 803 - infilling of ditches, dykes, ponds, pools, marshes or pits;			
<b>2.5 Habitat for the species in the biogeographic region or marine region</b>				
2.5 Habitats for the species	P. pygmaeus requires a complex mosaic of habitats to support foraging, roosting and commuting behaviour. Summer roosts tend to be found in tree holes, behind loose bark, in bat boxes and within the cracks and crevices of new and old buildings. Winter roost sites tend to be within trees, and the wall crevices of buildings. The species prefers to forage over riparian habitat and around the canopy of broad-leaved trees. Thus, it does not occur in large, dense woodlands but forages along river banks, forest edges and in settlements. It requires hedgerows and treelines to provide habitat connectivity for foraging and commuting between foraging sites (Davidson-Watts & Jones 2006; Nicholls & Racey, 2006a, 2006b).			

2.5.2 Area estimation (sq km)	Unknown
2.5.3 Date of estimation	05/2007
2.5.4 Quality of data	Poor
2.5.5 Trend of the habitat	Unknown (X)
2.5.6 Trend period	1990-1998
2.5.7 Reasons for reported trend	Not applicable
<b>2.6 Future prospects</b>	
2.6 Future prospects for the species	Good prospects_Species expected to survive and prosper
<b>2.7 Complementary information</b>	
2.7.1 Favourable reference range (sq km)	227090
2.7.2 Favourable reference population	720000
2.7.3 Suitable Habitat for the species	Unknown
2.7.4 Other relevant information	
<b>2.8 Conclusions</b> <i>(assessment of conservation status at end of reporting period)</i>	
(2.3) Range	(FV) - Favourable
(2.4) Population	(XX) - Unknown
(2.5) Habitat for the species	(XX) - Unknown
(2.6) Future prospects	(FV) - Favourable
Overall assessment	(XX) - Unknown