



SURVEY 2018

Bat



Suffolk Bat Group volunteers recorded at least eight of Suffolk's 13 bats in their July 2018 survey to the south of Rougham Estate as follows:

- The Barbastelle bat is one of Britain's rarest bats and considered 'Vulnerable'. The survey found that the woodlands, particularly the ancient woodland with lots of standing dead wood, were very important for this rare species.
- The Leislers bat (pictured above) is quite a rare bat in Suffolk and Breckland seems to be a county stronghold, but they are known to fly quite a distance and have been recorded roosting a bit closer in Great Barton.



Above:
Suffolk Bat Group volunteers bat detecting.

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More overleaf

- The widespread but declining Brown Long-eared bats were recorded foraging in the woodland and will roost nearby in tree cavities and buildings.
- The most abundant bat recorded was the Common Pipistrelle but only small numbers of Soprano Pipistrelles. Pipistrelles roost in both buildings and hollow trees.
- Rougham Estate estate provides ideal habitat for Serotine bats as they feed on beetles, cranesflies and other insects, hunting low over unimproved grassland and wide field margins, around woodland edges and along woodland rides and roost in buildings nearby.
- Noctule bats roost in hollow trees and will fly over 20 miles to suitable foraging areas where they fly high over the woods and meadows, diving down to take large invertebrates such as cockchafers and craneflies.
- Lastly, Myotis species were recorded – probably either Natterer’s bats or Daubenton’s bats.

Rougham Estate Trust is committed to implementing Suffolk Bat Group and Suffolk Wildlife Trust’s recommendations to maximise roosting opportunities in standing dead, dying or damaged trees and undisturbed buildings; and to provide insect-rich foraging habitat along woodland rides, grass margins and grazed meadows, whilst maintaining good connecting corridors between the habitat.

-END-

Complied and written by Juliet Hawkins of Suffolk Wildlife Trust

The trustees of the Rougham Estate Trust would like to thank all those involved in undertaking the work on this important survey, which will help guide woodland management at Rougham in the future.

18 January 2019



Above:
The rare Barbastelle bat.
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Above:
Good roosting for woodland bats which need standing dead, dying or damaged trees with crevices and loose bark.
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Above:
Insect-rich headlands and grazed grassland provide good feeding habitat for Serotines.
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Front page:
The Leislars bat which flies long distances.
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Rougham Estate Trust

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