

# NORFOLK BATS & ROADSIDE MAMMALS SURVEY



Between 1 May and 31 September 2009, volunteers from organisations such as Norwich Bat Group, Natural England and Friends of the Norfolk Coast will be helping with the Norfolk Bats and Roadside Mammals Survey.

This survey, which is based on the National Bats and Roadside Mammals Survey, is being carried out over a two-year period (2009-2010), and will cover an estimated 1,600 km of Norfolk's roads.

The idea for the survey developed during preparation of the [Barbastelle Species Action Plan](#) and [Grouped Species Action Plan for brown long-eared, noctule and soprano pipistrelle bats](#). One of the key recommendations in the action plans is that a county-wide survey should be undertaken to ascertain the current distribution and status of barbastelles and other bats in Norfolk.

The aims of this survey are to:

- Increase the number of bat and mammal records in Norfolk
- Identify key bat areas in Norfolk (e.g. abundance, number of species present) for use in planning)
- Produce detailed up-to-date distribution maps for bats and mammals
- Inform conservation efforts for bats such as environmental stewardship targeting (in association with Natural England)
- Identify areas for targeted bat survey work in the future
- Establish a baseline for bat distribution in Norfolk against which future trends can be determined.

It is anticipated that over the next two years, the Norfolk Bats and Roadside Mammals Survey will generate:

- Approximately 80 hours of recordings
- 0.325 to 6.325 bat encounters per km<sup>1</sup> (or, around 10,000 new bat records)
- Habitat analysis for bats (and mammals) encountered
- GIS layer and a report available to download free from the NBP Partnership website (completed May 2011)
- Data shared with organisations such as Norwich Bat Group, Natural England, the Bat Conservation Trust and NBIS.

The data will feed into the publication of a Norfolk Bat Atlas around 2013.

Following completion of the survey, it is anticipated that an annual/biannual surveillance scheme will be established using data collected during this survey as a baseline. All the equipment (including the bat detectors, MP3 recorders and GPS) will be retained by NBIS and made available to others wishing to carry out bat surveys.

The survey has been made possible through the generous support received from Natural England and NBIS. If you would like to know more about the project, please contact Catherine Greenhough by emailing [catherinegreenhough@hotmail.com](mailto:catherinegreenhough@hotmail.com).

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<sup>1</sup> Based on 2008 bat encounter rates from National Bats and Roadside Mammals Survey (Russ, 2008).