

## Soprano Pipistrelle (*Pipistrellus pygmaeus*)

**Areas and status:** Found throughout Britain and Ireland; though less common in northern Scotland.

**Woodland type:** Broadleaved Woodland, Wet Woodland, Wood-pasture and Parkland, Scrub.

**Preferred habitat niches:** High forest, veteran trees, wood-pasture, parkland, dead wood, glades, rides, edges, scrub mosaic, closed canopy, disturbed ground, open areas and wet woodland. The soprano pipistrelle often roosts, breeds and hibernates in tree crevices (as well as buildings) and frequently forages close to wetlands. It also feeds in all woodlands (inc. conifer plantations), orchards, urban areas, parks, gardens and alongside hedgerows and tree lines. It has been recorded flying long distances to forage but has a typical nightly foraging radius of 2km.

### Potential habitat management issues associated with decline:

- Loss of roost sites due to over-zealous tidying of woodlands
- Drainage of wet woodlands
- Decline in abundance of prey items, e.g. drainage of wetlands and agricultural intensification
- Loss of linear landscape features (hedges, shelterbelts, rows of riparian trees, etc) linking woodlands to roosting and foraging sites.

Potential habitat management solutions:	
Prescription	Comment
Deadwood	Retain standing and fallen deadwood and where suitable retain surrounding understorey growth.
Minimal intervention	Protect existing/potential roosting sites. Retain dead, dying and storm-damaged trees; also retain trees with cracks, loose bark, rot hollows, stubs of dead branches, woodpecker holes and masses of ivy.
Rides, Glades	Cut zone 2 and/or 3. Retain patches of herb-rich vegetation, cut these on 3-5yr rotation. Do not carry out operations which create high levels of disturbance close to known roosting sites. If this work is essential, liaise with local SNCO office.
Drainage	Dam drainage ditches and culverts to retain/enlarge areas of wet woodland. Create ponds and lakes in areas of little ecological value.
Connectivity	Manage woodland on landscape-scale to ensure good links with foraging areas and other roosting sites. Protect networks of mature hedgerows, tree lines, woodlands, meadows and wetlands.
Woodland creation (Natural regeneration/colonisation, Native species, Variable density)	Create woodland on areas of low ecological value to enlarge existing woodland, link nearby woods and create additional foraging habitat. Allow natural regeneration or plant a diverse mix of locally native trees and shrubs.
Bat boxes	If wood has few existing roosting opportunities, assess the use of bat boxes (consider impacts on other species).



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■ Current distribution

Source: Bat Conservation Trust