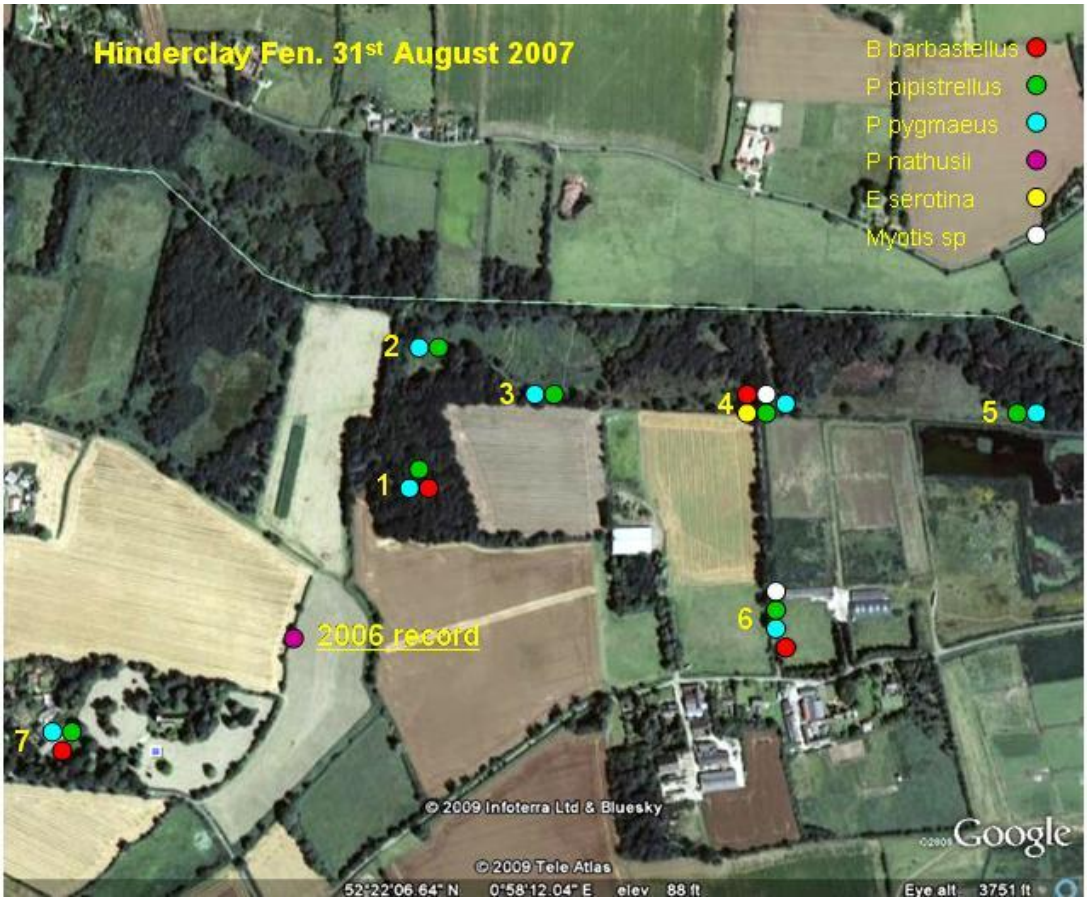
Hinderclay Fen Bat Detector Survey

31st August 2007

1. Survey Methodology

The survey was carried out at various fixed points around the site [see map]. The points were chosen because they were judged to offer good sheltered feeding areas for bats so as to maximize the amount of feeding activity detected.
Batbox Duet bat detectors were used in conjunction with mini-disc recorders to record bat echolocation onto disc. Recording times were synchronized and ran for 80 minutes which was the recording time for the discs. Analysis was done on computer using Batscan and Batsound analysis programmes.



2. Summary of Results

Recording points

Point 1.

Three species were recorded, Common Pipistrelle *Pipistrellus pipistrellus,* Soprano Pipistrelle *Pipistrellus pygmaeus* and Barbastelle *Barbastella barbastellus.*

Point 2.

Two species were recorded, Common Pipistrelle, and Soprano Pipistrelle.

Point 3.

Two species were recorded**,** Common Pipistrelle and Soprano Pipistrelle.

Point 4.

Five species were recorded, Common Pipistrelle, Soprano Pipistrelle, Barbastelle, Serotine *Eptesicus serotinus* and a Myotis sp.

Point 5.

Two species were recorded, Common Pipistrelle and Soprano Pipistrelle.

Point 6.

Four species were recorded, Common Pipistrelle, Soprano Pipistrelle, Barbastelle and a Myotis sp.

Point 7.

Three species were recorded, Common Pipistrelle, Soprano Pipistrelle and Barbastelle.

Extra Special Record !!!!

During a bat walk at the end of August 2006 a **Nathusius' Pipistrelle** *Pipistrellus nathusii* was detected along the hedgerow northeast of Thelnetham church.

3. Conclusions

Hinderclay Fen provides feeding and/or commuting habitat plus probable roosting sites for at least six species of bats.
The most abundant species of bats recorded were Common Pipistrelle and Soprano Pipistrelle. Both of these species were active throughout the survey periods, displaying foraging behaviour in sheltered locations. They are probably roosting in domestic properties in the nearby villages.
The second most frequently recorded bat was the Barbastelle. This is a nationally rare species which is being recorded on most of our bat detector surveys in Suffolk. These bats frequently roost in trees, in hollow trunks and branches, split branches and behind loose bark
The Serotine bat recorded at point four is probably roosting in a nearby building and is using Hinderclay Fen as a foraging area.
The Myotis bats recorded at points four and six were probably Natterers bats *Myotis nattereri*. They are probably roosting in a nearby building but they do also use old trees.
The Nathusius' Pipistrelle is a very good record. They have only been confirmed as breeding in Britain very recently and very little is known about there behaviour here.

Recommendations.

Retain the variety of habitats, as the glades and woodland edges provide sheltered feeding areas for bats.
Leave dead standing trees where possible as roosting sites.
Leave all trees with splits and loose peeling bark as these are important roosting sites particularly for the Barbastelle bats.
Do not remove any wind damaged branches from the old trees as the splits in these provide important roosting sites.
Retain as much unimproved grassland as possible as this provides important foraging habitat for Serotine bats which often feed low over the grass, taking crane flies and beetles.
Try to ensure that hedgerows that link Hinderclay Fen with other areas of good habitat are retained and improved if possible.

Acknowledgements.

Many thanks to all Suffolk Bat Group members who helped make the survey so comprehensive.

Arthur Rivett 21/12/2009