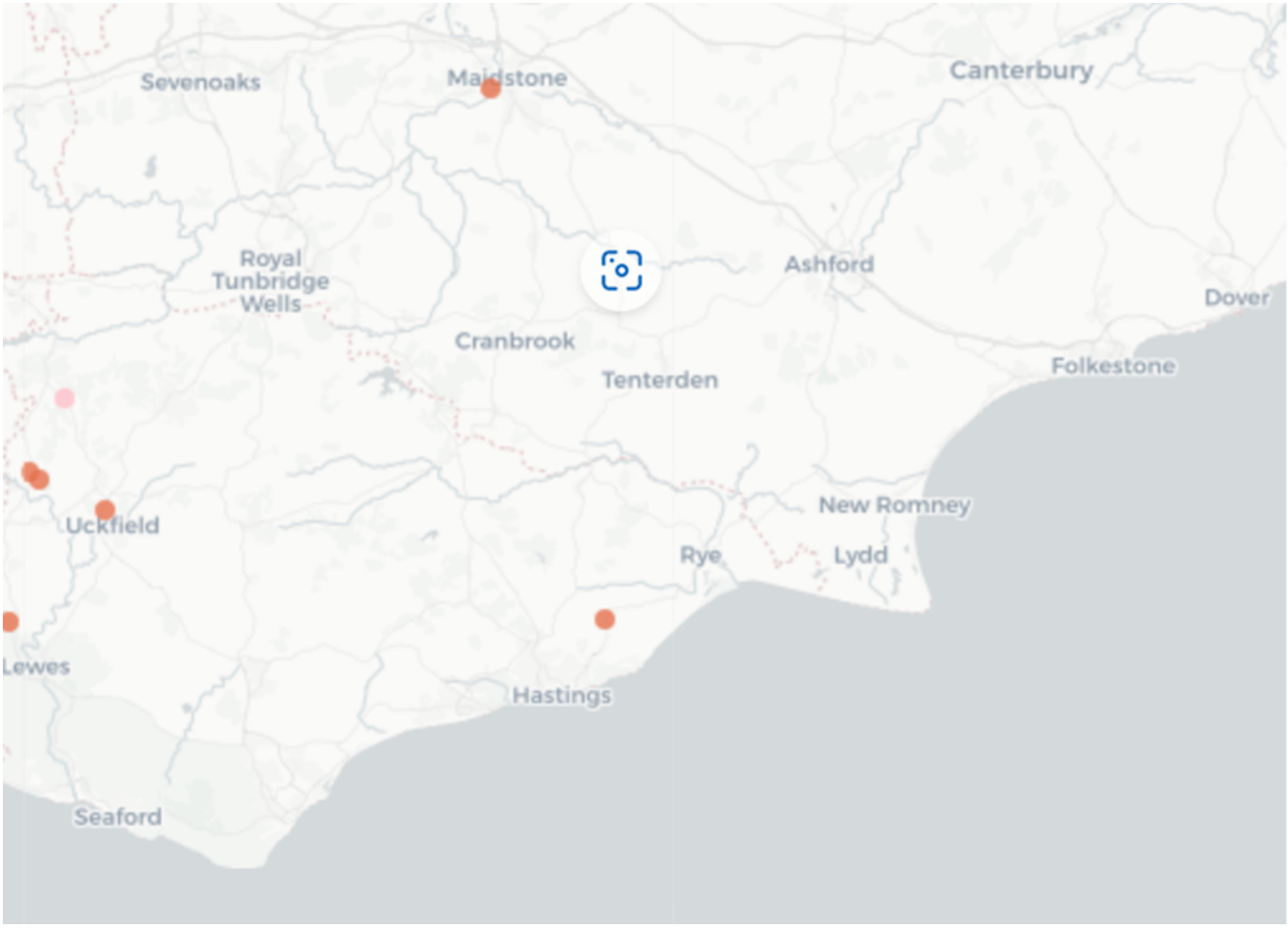


Source : NBN Atlas Map - Sussex Barbastelle Bat (2022)

IUCN Red List : Near Threatened

file:///C:/Users/ben/Downloads/10.2305_IUCN.UK.2016-2.RLTS.T2553A22029285.en.pdf

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Barbastella barbastellus, Western Barbastelle

Assessment by: Piraccini, R.



View on www.iucnredlist.org

Justification:

Although this species has a large range, it is generally rare, occurring in low density and numbers. It is mainly sedentary. The population is fragmented and linked to particular kinds of old forest habitats, which are declining. The species does not easily colonise new areas. Declines are widely reported in most of its range with a few exceptions in recent years. The status of this species is linked to forestry practices and the decline in the number of old trees (one colony may use up to 30 old trees with holes each summer season). Has specific habitat and diet requirements. Listed as Near Threatened (approaching A4c), as it is suspected that population declines will approach 30% over a 15 year period including both the past and the future.

Habitat and Ecology (see Appendix for additional information)

The Western Barbastelle (*Barbastella barbastellus*) forages in mature woodland and woodland edges, feeding mostly on large moths (Andrea *et al.* 2012). In summer, roosting sites occur in mature woodlands and occasionally in older buildings. This bat shows a high fidelity to roosting and foraging areas but not to single trees, which are changed frequently (Hillen *et al.* 2009, Hillen *et al.* 2010, Zeale *et al.* 2012). In winter the hibernation may start in trees, but later underground sites are preferred. Underground habitats may be of any type, but usually consist of very cold sites. Recent data suggest that hibernacula are visited in the pre-hibernation period and used also as breeding sites (Gottfried 2009). The Western Barbastelle is usually found in smaller numbers (up to 50) within natural caves, but in regions where these are missing it aggregates in large groups within mines and bunkers. The maximum distance covered by an individual was recorded in Austria and corresponds to 290 km (Kepka 1960).

Systems: Terrestrial

Threats (see Appendix for additional information)

Loss of old mature woodland and ancient trees with loose bark or wood crevices (reforested areas are not suitable for this species); disturbance and loss of underground habitats, disturbance and loss of roost sites in older buildings. In Germany, habitat loss and fragmentation (caused by *inter alia* infrastructure development, forestry, and the renovation or demolition of old buildings used as roost sites), and disturbance (e.g. from cave tourism) are major threats (Schulenberg 2005); accidental mortality (roadkill) is also a problem (Rudolph *et al.* 2003).

Conservation Actions (see Appendix for additional information)

It is protected by national legislation in most range states. There are also international legal obligations for its protection through the Bonn Convention (Eurobats) and Bern Convention where these apply. It is included in Annex II (and IV) of EU Habitats and Species Directive, and hence requires special measures for conservation including designation of Special Areas for Conservation. Some suitable habitat is protected through Natura 2000. Research is underway to establish conservation requirements for this species. Recommendations include adopting forestry practices that maintain old trees in sufficient numbers.

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