



Species and Habitat Action Plan Assessment Form

Please refer to the accompanying guidance for information about how to complete this form and an explanation of terms used

Field 1: Action Plan details

Species/Habitat Action Plan	Greater horseshoe bat <i>Rhinolophus ferrumequinum</i>
Lead Partner/Agency	English Nature & Countryside Council for Wales
Steering Group/Other organisations	No formal Steering Group at present.
Work programme in existence?	No, but several projects by EN/CCW aimed at delivering the SAP

Field 2: Objectives and targets overview

Please list the targets for the action plan, indicating in which country/region the target is applicable, and additional comments including the rationale for new targets. For each new target please add new sequential paragraph numbers and target text. Please provide information about progress and country disaggregation in Table A for all targets.

Number and text	UK	E	NI	S	W	Comments
4.1 Maintain all existing maternity roosts and associated hibernation sites		-			-	
4.2 Increase current population by 25% by 2010		-			-	

Field 3: Proposed actions overview

Please list the proposed actions for the action plan, indicating in which country/region the action is applicable. For each new action please add new sequential paragraph numbers and action text. If the action is regarded as significant (please see guidance) indicate this in the box and provide further details in Table B. For actions not regarded as significant simply state if the action is ongoing or complete. Remember any action which is being dropped from the workplan will be regarded as significant for the first round of reporting.

Number and text	UK	E	NI	S	W	Action significant?	Action complete or ongoing? (Please state yes, not started, or ongoing.)
5.1.1 Consider the obligations of the Habitats Directive and Agreement on the Conservation of Bats in Europe and seek to develop appropriate policies on wider habitat conservation for bats.		-			-	-	Ongoing
5.2.1 Consider statutory protection for roost sites not already covered, and seek to ensure that consideration is given to key areas, or population centres, in respect of		-			-	-	Ongoing

planning and land-use strategies.							
5.2.2 Following further research to identify the ecological requirements of this species more precisely, encourage favourable habitat management (aiming for up to 4 km around each roost), seeking to implement these through voluntary or formal agreement.		-			-	-	Ongoing
5.4.1 Continue to implement the current advisory mechanisms for roost sites.		-			-	-	Ongoing
5.4.2 Prepare and distribute advice on the management of foraging areas by the year 2000.		-			-	-	Yes
5.5.1 Seek to maintain the current level of research into the ecology and conservation requirements of this species, identifying further areas of research as necessary. This should include studies on the population genetics and feeding requirements of the species.		-			-	-	Ongoing
5.5.2 Promote research to assess the importance of sites used by small numbers of bats and develop and implement a strategy for their conservation. Investigate the rate of loss of minor sites and their importance for population structure.							Not yet started
5.5.3 Identify key areas or population centres for this species.						-	Yes
5.5.4 Develop and implement a systematic recording scheme to standardise population estimates between sites and between years.							Ongoing
5.5.5 Pass information gathered during survey and monitoring of this species to JNCC in order that it can be incorporated in a national database and contribute to the maintenance of an up-to date Red List.							No longer applicable

Field 4: Assessment of status

Please tick the appropriate category to indicate the assessment of status of the species or habitat, for each country/region where appropriate, and provide a statement supporting the category selected.

	Not appropriate	Recovered	Signs of recovery	No change	Declining	Lost	Insufficient information
<i>UK</i>							
<i>England</i>			–				
<i>Northern Ireland</i>							
<i>Scotland</i>							
<i>Wales</i>			–				
Brief text description justifying assessment of status: Counts of adults or babies at all maternity roost in England and Wales have shown increases in the last few years; no maternity sites have been lost.							

Field 5: Summary statement

Please provide an overview of plan implementation, including new factors affecting the species or habitat which will accelerate or constrain progress towards meeting of the targets. Where a factor results in new action(s) please cross-reference back to the relevant numbers under Field 3 and Table B.

England and Wales: Many maternity and hibernation sites for this species have already been notified as SSSIs or selected as SACs, so conservation action for this species was well-established prior to the BAP process. Similarly, a Species Recovery Programme by English Nature had already begun to address many of the proposed actions. The main focus of action in the next few years will be the maintenance of suitable feeding areas for the bats around significant roosts. This will involve a wider range of organisations and mechanisms than the protection of individual roost sites.

Field 6: Signing off

Please 'sign off' the form below to confirm that steering group members or key contacts have been consulted and agreed the information provided.

Contact details	Lead Partner	Contact Point & Lead Partner
Name	Ruth Warren	Tony Mitchell-Jones
Organisation	Countryside Council for Wales	English Nature
Assessment date (dd/mm/yy)	28/09/99	28/09/99

Completed forms should be submitted to JNCC

Biodiversity Information Service
 Joint Nature Conservation Committee
 Monkstone House
 City Road
 Peterborough PE1 1JY
 Tel: 01733 562626
 Fax: 01733 555948
 E-mail: lpr99@jncc.gov.uk

Table A: Action Plan objectives and targets (Copiable table)

For each target please state how, if applicable, it has been disaggregated to the country level. Please insert the paragraph number, UK target and country-specific disaggregated target(s) into the table. Please tick the appropriate category to indicate progress against published and disaggregated targets. For each target please copy the table and detail the (existing or new [new paragraph numbers should run sequentially, under relevant headings in the published volumes]) paragraph number, target text and an assessment of progress.

Objective/target <i>(For new or revised targets please provide the new paragraph number and target text.)</i>		4.1 Maintain all existing maternity roosts and associated hibernation sites			
Country	Not appropriate	Target achieved	Some progress	No progress	Insufficient information
<i>UK</i>					
<i>England</i>			–		
<i>Northern Ireland</i>					
<i>Scotland</i>					
<i>Wales</i>			–		
Text description of target progress (separate for each country/region): England: Further maternity and hibernation sites notified as SSSIs. No significant sites lost, though several remain in sub-optimal condition. Wales: Notification of SSSIs is ongoing. No significant sites lost, though several remain in sub-optimal condition					

Objective/target <i>(For new or revised targets please provide the new paragraph number and target text.)</i>		4.2 Increase current population by 25% by 2010			
Country	Not appropriate	Target achieved	Some progress	No progress	Insufficient information
<i>UK</i>					
<i>England</i>			–		
<i>Northern Ireland</i>					
<i>Scotland</i>					
<i>Wales</i>			–		
Text description of target progress (separate for each country/region): England: Increase in numbers reported from most maternity sites. Wales: for the two maternity roosts for which there are data the number of babies has increased by 14% and the number of adults has increased by 11% and 4% respectively.					

Table B: Proposed actions (Copiable table)

For each significant action please copy and complete the table below.

<p>Published action/organisation(s) responsible (For new or revised actions please provide the new paragraph number and action text.)</p>	<p>5.1.1 Consider the obligations of the Habitats Directive and Agreement on the Conservation of Bats in Europe and seek to develop appropriate policies on wider habitat conservation for bats.</p>	
<p>Work plan/organisation(s) responsible (Summary of work plan agreed by the steering group, broken down by year if possible.)</p>		
<p>Action/workplan undertaken? (Please state yes or no.)</p>	Yes	
<p>Description of work taken and organisation responsible.</p>	<p>The UK makes a significant input to the operation of the Agreement on the Conservation of Bats in Europe, including the development of wider habitat policies. DETR bat monitoring contract with Bat Conservation Trust is providing data on populations and habitat preferences. EN project on management of feeding areas is testing value of Countryside Stewardship schemes for conserving feeding areas.</p>	
<p>Output and timescale</p>	<p>Clearer understanding of habitat requirements at the landscape level (by 2000) Assessment of role of Countryside Stewardship in maintaining feeding areas (by 2000)</p>	<p>Action by DETR EN</p>
<p>Constraints to action (Please provide an explanation of the significant issues or difficulties encountered and how they have been or will be resolved. Any constraints which the steering group are unable to resolve should also be detailed.)</p>	<p>Countryside Stewardship schemes are appropriate only for certain habitat types/features and action to maintain appropriate grazing regimes may not qualify. A review of the value of CS (see 5.2.2) should clarify this. In Wales, Tir Gofal, the only agri-environment scheme available, does not allow the targeting of farms with greater horseshoe bats for funding. Funds for this scheme are limiting.</p>	
<p>Action complete or ongoing? (Please state yes, not started, or ongoing.)</p>	Ongoing	
<p>Next steps</p>	<p>Review of value of CS in wider habitat conservation Development of appropriate methods for targeting WIGs by FC</p>	
<p>Output and timescale</p>	review of value of CS by 2000	Action by EN
<p>Published action/organisation(s) responsible (For new or revised actions please provide the new paragraph number and action text.)</p>	<p>5.2.1 Consider statutory protection for roost sites not already covered, and seek to ensure that consideration is given to key areas, or population centres, in respect of planning and land-use strategies.</p>	
<p>Work plan/organisation(s) responsible (Summary of work plan agreed by the steering group, broken down by year if possible.)</p>	<p>Notify all maternity sites and large hibernation sites as SSSIs (EN, CCW) Ensure local plans take account of presence of roost sites and that planning policies are in place to maintain essential habitats (LAs)</p>	

Action/workplan undertaken? (Please state yes or no.)	Yes	
Description of work taken and organisation responsible.	Most maternity sites and large hibernation sites now notified as SSSIs by EN/CCW. Remaining sites to be notified as situation allows.	
Output and timescale	Remaining few sites to be notified by 2005, unless considered prejudicial to their conservation	Action by EN, CCW
Constraints to action		
Action complete or ongoing? (Please state yes, not started, or ongoing.)	Ongoing	
Next steps	Development of planning policy, perhaps in response to review of PPG9	
Output and timescale	Appropriate planning policies in areas around all maternity sites. Timescales to be determined by review of PPG9	Action by LAs

Published action/organisation(s) responsible (For new or revised actions please provide the new paragraph number and action text.)	5.2.2 Following further research to identify the ecological requirements of this species more precisely, encourage favourable habitat management (aiming for up to 4 km around each roost), seeking to implement these through voluntary or formal agreement.	
Work plan/organisation(s) responsible (Summary of work plan agreed by the steering group, broken down by year if possible.)	Commission research on ecological requirements of the species (EN + CCW) Encourage favourable habitat management around roosts through education and use of appropriate support mechanisms	
Action/workplan undertaken? (Please state yes or no.)	Yes	
Description of work taken and organisation responsible.	EN-commissioned research from R D Ransome has improved knowledge of foraging habitat requirements and identification of key habitats. Research by Vincent Wildlife Trust, CCW and EN has identified feeding areas. Leaflet on habitat management for greater horseshoe bats published by EN Project officer appointed to encourage farmers around maternity sites in Devon & Cornwall (EN-funded) and Avon (WT & EN-funded) to adopt sympathetic land management practices, using CS support where appropriate.	
Output and timescale	English Nature Research Reports (3) (1995-1999) (EN/CCW) Leaflet on habitat management (1999)	Action by EN CCW
Constraints to action (Please provide an explanation of the significant issues or difficulties encountered and how they have been or will be resolved. Any constraints which the steering group are unable to resolve should also be detailed.)	Voluntary or formal agreements (under CS) may not be sufficient to maintain feeding areas in favourable condition if EU support for extensification is inadequate. Review of value of current projects will clarify this. It is not possible for CCW to target farms for inclusion into Tir Gogal. Funding for this scheme is limited.	
Action complete or ongoing? (Please state yes, not started, or ongoing.)	Ongoing	

Next steps	Further research on winter feeding requirements Continuation of work of CS project officer, following a review in 2000	
Output and timescale	Report on winter feeding by 2000 Review of value of CS schemes by 2000	Action by EN

Published action/organisation(s) responsible (For new or revised actions please provide the new paragraph number and action text.)	5.4.1 Continue to implement the current advisory mechanisms for roost sites.	
Work plan/organisation(s) responsible (Summary of work plan agreed by the steering group, broken down by year if possible.)	Advice provided by CCW and EN, with close links to Bat Conservation Trust and local bat groups	
Action/workplan undertaken? (Please state yes or no.)	Yes	
Description of work taken and organisation responsible.	CCW & EN both respond to request for advice about the management of bat roosts, using well-established links with local bat groups.	
Output and timescale	Continuous and reactive	Action by EN, CCW
Constraints to action (Please provide an explanation of the significant issues or difficulties encountered and how they have been or will be resolved. Any constraints which the steering group are unable to resolve should also be detailed.)		
Action complete or ongoing? (Please state yes, not started, or ongoing.)	Ongoing	
Next steps	Please outline future action/work including an indication of expected output, timescale and organisation responsible.	
Output and timescale	Continuous	Action by

Published action/organisation(s) responsible (For new or revised actions please provide the new paragraph number and action text.)	5.4.2 Prepare and distribute advice on the management of foraging areas by the year 2000.	
Work plan/organisation(s) responsible (Summary of work plan agreed by the steering group, broken down by year if possible.)	Preparation of advisory leaflet (EN)	
Action/workplan undertaken? (Please state yes or no.)	Yes	
Description of work taken and	Advisory leaflet "Managing Landscapes for Greater Horseshoe Bats"	

organisation responsible.	published by EN in 1999. Two-part leaflet, with a more technical insert for use by project officers.	
Output and timescale	Leaflet distributed in 1999	Action by EN
Constraints to action (Please provide an explanation of the significant issues or difficulties encountered and how they have been or will be resolved. Any constraints which the steering group are unable to resolve should also be detailed.)		
Action complete or ongoing? (Please state yes, not started, or ongoing.)	Complete	
Next steps	Please outline future action/work including an indication of expected output, timescale and organisation responsible.	
Output and timescale		Action by

Published action/organisation(s) responsible (For new or revised actions please provide the new paragraph number and action text.)	5.5.1 Seek to maintain the current level of research into the ecology and conservation requirements of this species, identifying further areas of research as necessary. This should include studies on the population genetics and feeding requirements of the species.	
Work plan/organisation(s) responsible (Summary of work plan agreed by the steering group, broken down by year if possible.)	CCW & EN.	
Action/workplan undertaken? (Please state yes or no.)	Yes	
Description of work taken and organisation responsible.	Studies on population genetics (Institute of Zoology/EN) Studies on feeding requirements (R D Ransome/EN) Location of feeding areas (Vincent Wildlife Trust, CCW, EN) Value of heaters in maternity sites (R D Ransome/EN)	
Output and timescale	Genetics studies completed; report published Feeding studies part-completed & published	Action by EN, CCW
Constraints to action (Please provide an explanation of the significant issues or difficulties encountered and how they have been or will be resolved. Any constraints which the steering group are unable to resolve should also be detailed.)	Insufficient funds available for CCW to commission research in Wales.	
Action complete or ongoing? (Please state yes, not started, or ongoing.)	Ongoing	
Next steps	Further work on winter feeding to be commissioned in 1999/2000	
Output and timescale	Report on winter feeding	Action by EN

Published action/organisation(s) responsible (For new or revised actions please provide the new paragraph number and action text.)	5.5.3 Identify key areas or population centres for this species.	
Work plan/organisation(s) responsible (Summary of work plan agreed by the steering group, broken down by year if possible.)	CCW, EN	
Action/workplan undertaken? (Please state yes or no.)	Yes	
Description of work taken and organisation responsible.	Identification of key areas or population centres is implicit in the identification of maternity and hibernation sites and their associated feeding areas. Knowledge of roost sites is good; detailed knowledge of feeding areas is improving.	
Output and timescale		Action by CCW, EN
Constraints to action (Please provide an explanation of the significant issues or difficulties encountered and how they have been or will be resolved. Any constraints which the steering group are unable to resolve should also be detailed.)	Access to roosts at some sites is discouraged by the owners. This can preclude monitoring.	
Action complete or ongoing? (Please state yes, not started, or ongoing.)	Substantially complete	
Next steps	Further detailed investigations at individual sites	
Output and timescale		Action by

Published action/organisation(s) responsible (For new or revised actions please provide the new paragraph number and action text.)	5.5.4 Develop and implement a systematic recording scheme to standardise population estimates between sites and between years. (CCW, EN, JNCC)	
Work plan/organisation(s) responsible (Summary of work plan agreed by the steering group, broken down by year if possible.)		
Action/workplan undertaken? (Please state yes or no.)	Yes	
Description of work taken and organisation responsible.	Most sites are recorded every year. Further work is required on the standardisation of counts and relating counts to population size. DETR/BCT monitoring project will provide data. Automatic bat counters have been developed for use in two sites in Wales. Data are collected automatically while the roost is occupied.	

Output and timescale	Report due on automatic bat counters in 2000	Action by CCW
Constraints to action (Please provide an explanation of the significant issues or difficulties encountered and how they have been or will be resolved. Any constraints which the steering group are unable to resolve should also be detailed.)	Maternity sites vary in ownership and accessibility. We need to develop a range of measures of population performance that can be applied in different situations.	
Action complete or ongoing? (Please state yes, not started, or ongoing.)	Ongoing	
Next steps	Workshop on roost monitoring and population estimation to be held	
Output and timescale	Workshop in 1999/2000	Action by EN/CCW