



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	Lesser horseshoe bat (<i>Rhinolophus hipposideros</i>)
Lead Partner/Agency	The Bat Conservation Trust
Steering Group/Other organisations	No formal steering group at present; working group of EN, CCW, the Bat Conservation Trust, Vincent Wildlife Trust, National Trust, with appropriate universities, species specialists and local bat groups.
Work programme in existence?	No, but several projects by EN, CCW, DETR/BCT aimed at delivery of aspects of 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 the current range and populations.		✓			✓	
4.2 In the long term, expand the current range through natural recolonisation and landscape enhancement, into areas where research shows that climatic and landscape features are suitable.		✓			✓	

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 Policy and legislation 5.1.1 Pursue the principles and requirements of the Agreement on the Conservation of Bats in Europe (ACTION: CCW, DETR, EA, EN, FA, LAs, MAFF, WOAD)		✓			✓		ongoing
5.1.2 When next reviewed, consider targeting the Woodland Grant Scheme (WGS) (Project 3), Forest Design Plans, Countryside Stewardship Schemes, ESAs and other relevant agri-environment and forestry schemes to land in the vicinity of important roost sites, with the aim of enhancing and extending habitat used by bats. (ACTION: CCW, DETR, EN, FA, FE, MAFF, WOAD)		✓			✓		?not started
5.1.3 Establish mechanisms to ensure routine survey of mines or other underground sites due for closure or change of use, or otherwise considered vulnerable, with a view to protecting any bat colonies identified. (ACTION: CCW, EN, FE, JNCC)		✓			✓		Not started
5.1.4 Ensure that consideration is given to key maternity roost sites and the surrounding habitat when developing structure plans and assessing planning applications, particularly those for redundant buildings. The provision of alternative roost sites should be considered to mitigate any loss, as should the need for survey on planning applications for old buildings in current (and any expanded) range. (ACTION:CCW, EN, LAs)		✓			✓	✓	ongoing
5.2 Site safeguard and management 5.2.1 Ensure that management agreements for all SSSIs where the lesser horseshoe bat is known to occur take account of the requirements of this species. (ACTION:CCW, EN)		✓			✓		started
5.2.2 Identify representative numbers of key maternity, hibernation and other roosts across the range of this species and ensure that they are notified to Local Authorities and fully protected from damaging developments. Ensure adequate representation in the SSSI series. (ACTION:CCW, EN, LAs)		✓			✓		ongoing

5.2.3 Include the lesser horseshoe bat on the list of reasons for notification on those SSSIs which have been notified for other reasons (eg geology) but which also support important bat roosts. (ACTION: CCW, EN)		✓			✓		?Not started
5.4 Advisory 5.4.1 When appropriate, advise project officers for Countryside Stewardship, the WIG Scheme and other agri-environment schemes of the location of key roost sites, their importance and appropriate habitat management for the surrounding areas. (ACTION: CCW, EN, FA, FE, MAFF, WOAD)		✓			✓		Not started
5.4.2 Establish links with organisations associated with the care and restoration of old buildings in the vicinity of lesser horseshoe bat sites, in order to encourage provision for the requirements of the species within old buildings. (ACTION: CADW, CCW, EH, EN, LAs)		✓			✓		ongoing
5.4.3 Advise organisations engaged in underground research and recreation on the location and importance of lesser horseshoe bat roosts and the need to avoid causing disturbance to them. (ACTION: CCW, EN, LAs)		✓			✓	✓	ongoing
5.4.4 Advise key landowners, managers and other relevant organisations in the vicinity of important populations of this species on appropriate habitat management for the conservation of the lesser horseshoe bat. (ACTION: CCW, EN)		✓			✓		?not started
5.4.5 Continue to support and expand the current network providing bat conservation advice including the use of licensed bat workers/wardens for roost visits. (ACTION: CCW, EN)		✓			✓		ongoing
5.5 Future research and monitoring							
5.5.1 Maintain and enhance national monitoring, in relation to pan-European proposals under the Agreement on the Conservation of Bats in Europe. (ACTION: CCW, DETR, EN)		✓			✓	✓	ongoing
5.5.2 Undertake research to identify the habitat requirements of this species and the appropriate management of feeding areas needed to maintain populations at a favourable conservation status. The findings should be used to inform development of guidelines and policies for habitat protection, creation and management around roost sites. (ACTION: CCW, EN, FA, JNCC)		✓			✓	✓	ongoing
5.5.3 Assess the importance of mating roosts, underground sites and satellite or minor summer sites used by small numbers of bats with a view to establishing protection for key sites. (ACTION: CCW, EN)		✓			✓		Not started
5.5.4 Develop and maintain a national database for bat records. (ACTION: JNCC)		✓			✓	✓	ongoing

5.5.5 Consider the recommendations of the National Bat Monitoring Programme once they are produced (ACTION: DETR)		✓			✓		not started
5.6 Communications and publicity 5.6.1 Raise awareness of bat conservation issues amongst owners of large country houses and farm buildings through relevant organisations and appropriate property and farming magazines. (ACTION: CADW, CCW, EH, EN)		✓			✓		ongoing
5.6.2 Raise awareness of this bat species among land managers and Local Authorities. (ACTION: CCW, EN)		✓			✓		?not started
5.6.3 Maintain discussions on the conservation of the species on a pan-European scale through the IUCN Coordinating Panel for the Conservation of Bats in Europe and the European Bat Agreement. (ACTION:CCW, DETR, EN)		✓			✓		ongoing
5.7 Links with other action plans 5.7.1 It is likely that implementation of this action plan will benefit barbastelle and Bechstein's bat.							
5.7.2 The plan should be considered in conjunction with those for lowland beech, wet woodlands, lowland wood pastures and parkland, broadleaved and yew woodland, and chalk rivers.		✓			✓	✓	ongoing

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: (~ no more than 100 words for each country/region)

Monitoring of maternity colonies and hibernation sites in **England** and **Wales** over the last twenty years suggests a relatively stable population at present with some signs of increase in some areas, e.g. Forest of Dean/Gwent, ?Merionethshire.

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.

Conservation action for this species was well-established prior to the BAP process; this includes notification of maternity and hibernation sites as SSSIs and some as SACs, and the establishment of a more rigorous monitoring programme through local volunteer bat groups in Wales since 1993 (CCW) and England since 1996 (DETR/BCT). Research includes a recently completed PhD on roost and foraging ecology (Aberdeen University) and current work in winter activity and foraging (Bristol University). A workshop in December 1998 has identified priorities for conservation and research in line with the published SAP and will be developed into a work programme

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
Name	A.M.Hutson	Dr. Ruth Warren
Organisation	The Bat Conservation Trust	Countryside Council for Wales
Assessment date (dd/mm/yy)		

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 the current range and populations.			
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: no significant colonies lost, continuing progress in designation and notification of SSSIs and SACs, including surrounding buffer zone habitat in some instances. Some key sites still need improved maintenance, by designation as protected areas or by management agreement. Increased identification of key habitat around roosts and its protection needs development					
Wales: as England					

Objective/target <i>(For new or revised targets please provide the new paragraph number and target text.)</i>		4.2 In the long term, expand the current range through natural recolonisation and landscape enhancement, into areas where research shows that climatic and landscape features are suitable.			
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 and Wales: this is only likely to be possible within the current range of the species (and is probably more applicable to England), but mechanisms for meeting the target need to be agreed.					

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>5.1.4 Ensure that consideration is given to key maternity roost sites and the surrounding habitat when developing structure plans and assessing planning applications, particularly those for redundant buildings. The provision of alternative roost sites should be considered to mitigate any loss, as should the need for survey on planning applications for old buildings in current (and any expanded) range. (ACTION:CCW, EN, LAs)</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. Please provide details of progress to date, including information about outputs, deadlines, which organisations and where action is being undertaken</p>	<p>Many principal maternity sites now notified as SSSIs by EN/CCW (and some proposed for SACs). Remaining principal sites need to be identified and assessed for SSSI status or alternative management agreement.</p> <p>Known roost sites would already be subject to consideration in planning applications (PPG9 in England and TAN5 in Wales)</p>	
<p>Output and timescale</p>	<p>Any further sites for SSSI designation should be identified and notification initiated by 2000</p>	<p>Action by CCW/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>Many maternity roosts are in privately owned occupied buildings (dwellings) where notification as SSSI may be unwelcome</p>	
<p>Action complete or ongoing? (Please state yes, not started, or ongoing.)</p>	ongoing	
<p>Next steps Please outline future action/work including an indication of expected output, timescale and organisation responsible.</p>	<p>Development of notification procedure and criteria for buildings which should be surveyed on planning application</p> <p>Investigation of potential mitigation for roost loss</p>	
<p>Output and timescale</p>	<p>Criteria for survey year 2000</p> <p>Potential for mitigation</p>	<p>Action by EN/CCW CCW/EN</p>

<p>Published action/organisation(s) responsible <i>(For new or revised actions please provide the new paragraph number and action text.)</i></p>	<p>5.4.3 Advise organisations engaged in underground research and recreation on the location and importance of lesser horseshoe bat roosts and the need to avoid causing disturbance to them. (ACTION: CCW, EN, LAs)</p>	
<p>Work plan/organisation(s) responsible <i>(Summary of work plan agreed by the steering group, broken down by year if possible.)</i></p>		
<p>Action/workplan undertaken? <i>(Please state yes or no.)</i></p>	No	
<p>Description of work taken and organisation responsible. <i>Please provide details of progress to date, including information about outputs, deadlines, which organisations and where action is being undertaken</i></p>	National bodies interested in underground habitats are already well aware of general bat conservation issues and feed down to local organizations/branches	
<p>Output and timescale</p>		<i>Action by</i>
<p>Constraints to action <i>(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.)</i></p>		
<p>Action complete or ongoing? <i>(Please state yes, not started, or ongoing.)</i></p>	ongoing	
<p>Next steps <i>Please outline future action/work including an indication of expected output, timescale and organisation responsible.</i></p>	Need to review and reaffirm current policy and practice, including, as appropriate, through proposed new cave conservation and access forum of which BCT will be a member	
<p>Output and timescale</p>	<p>Cave conservation and access forum to be established ?1999</p> <p>Developments arising from this to be extended to National Association of Mining History Organizations, Subterranea Britannica, etc by 2001</p>	<p><i>Action by</i></p> <p>BCT,EN/ CCW</p>

<p>Published action/organisation(s) responsible <i>(For new or revised actions please provide the new paragraph number and action text.)</i></p>	<p>5.5.1. Maintain and enhance national monitoring, in relation to pan-European proposals under the Agreement on the Conservation of Bats in Europe. (ACTION; CCW, DETR, EN)</p>	
<p>Work plan/organisation(s) responsible <i>(Summary of work plan agreed by the steering group, broken down by year if</i></p>		

<i>possible.)</i>	
Action/workplan undertaken? <i>(Please state yes or no.)</i>	Yes
Description of work taken and organisation responsible. <i>Please provide details of progress to date, including information about outputs, deadlines, which organisations and where action is being undertaken</i>	Monitoring of summer colonies has been established in Wales since 1993(CCW) and in England since 1996 (DETR/BCT) with data being reciprocally available. Monitoring of winter roosts (hibernacula) co-ordinated since 1996 (DETR/BCT) but considered less reliable. Monitoring protocols are in line with recommendations of European Bats Agreement
Output and timescale	<i>Action by</i>
Constraints to action <i>(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.)</i>	Some limitation of availability of volunteers to carry out monitoring activities
Action complete or ongoing? <i>(Please state yes, not started, or ongoing.)</i>	ongoing
Next steps <i>Please outline future action/work including an indication of expected output, timescale and organisation responsible.</i>	Maintain and improve current procedures. Identify long-term requirements for monitoring (frequency, number of sites) Investigate use of automatic counters at key roosts (e.g. SACs)
Output and timescale	Agree long-term monitoring requirements in line with future of National Bat Monitoring Programme by end 2000 <i>Action by</i> CCW/EN/ BCT

Published action/organisation(s) responsible <i>(For new or revised actions please provide the new paragraph number and action text.)</i>	5.5.2. Undertake research to identify the habitat requirements of this species and the appropriate management of feeding areas needed to maintain populations at a favourable conservation status. The findings should be used to inform development of guidelines and policies for habitat protection, creation and management around roost sites. (ACTION: CCW, EN, FA, JNCC)
Work plan/organisation(s) responsible <i>(Summary of work plan agreed by the steering group, broken down by year if possible.)</i>	
Action/workplan undertaken? <i>(Please state yes or no.)</i>	Yes
Description of work taken and organisation responsible. <i>Please provide details of progress to date, including information about outputs, deadlines, which organisations and where</i>	Recently completed PhD (Aberdeen University) has identified summer roost and foraging requirements (in liaison with studies elsewhere in Europe), Current research (Bristol University) on winter foraging needs includes assessment of habitat needs around hibernacula

<i>action is being undertaken</i>	JNCC booklet on Habitat Management for Bats, including section on this species, in press	
Output and timescale	Winter activity project to be completed 2000 JNCC publication 1999/2000	<i>Action by</i> Bristol Univ JNCC
Constraints to action <i>(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.)</i>		
Action complete or ongoing? <i>(Please state yes, not started, or ongoing.)</i>	ongoing	
Next steps <i>Please outline future action/work including an indication of expected output, timescale and organisation responsible.</i>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. develop more comprehensive/more specific guidance on habitat management for the species for landowners/managers associated with (important) roosts (summer and winter), including connectivity to increase geneflow 2. assess influence of avermectins (endectocides) on prey 3. develop mechanisms to assess effects of management for the species. 	
Output and timescale	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. guidelines to be available 2001 2 & 3. To be agreed 	<i>Action by</i> CCW/EN CCW/EN

Published action/organisation(s) responsible <i>(For new or revised actions please provide the new paragraph number and action text.)</i>	5.5.4 Develop and maintain a national database for bat records. (ACTION: JNCC)	
Work plan/organisation(s) responsible <i>(Summary of work plan agreed by the steering group, broken down by year if possible.)</i>		
Action/workplan undertaken? <i>(Please state yes or no.)</i>	No	
Description of work taken and organisation responsible. <i>Please provide details of progress to date, including information about outputs, deadlines, which organisations and where action is being undertaken</i>	<p>No longer visualised as a JNCC responsibility</p> <p>CCW/EN keep roost records</p> <p>BCT has complete summer roost record to 1995</p> <p>The species is included in the DETR/BCT National Bat Monitoring Programme</p>	
Output and timescale		<i>Action by</i>

<p>Constraints to action <i>(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.)</i></p>		
<p>Action complete or ongoing? <i>(Please state yes, not started, or ongoing.)</i></p>	ongoing	
<p>Next steps <i>Please outline future action/work including an indication of expected output, timescale and organisation responsible.</i></p>	<p>Combine and update data sets BCT proposes to plot current distribution within planned atlas of UK bats</p>	
<p>Output and timescale</p>	<p>Combine data sets by end 2000 Plot current distribution map in year 2000</p>	<p>Action by CCW/EN/ BCT BCT</p>

<p>Published action/organisation(s) responsible <i>(For new or revised actions please provide the new paragraph number and action text.)</i></p>	<p>5.7.2 The plan should be considered in conjunction with those for lowland beech, wet woodlands, lowland wood pastures and parkland, broadleaved and yew woodland, and chalk rivers.</p>	
<p>Work plan/organisation(s) responsible <i>(Summary of work plan agreed by the steering group, broken down by year if possible.)</i></p>		
<p>Action/workplan undertaken? <i>(Please state yes or no.)</i></p>	Yes	
<p>Description of work taken and organisation responsible. <i>Please provide details of progress to date, including information about outputs, deadlines, which organisations and where action is being undertaken</i></p>	<p>Appropriate HAPs have been identified and contact established with some</p>	
<p>Output and timescale</p>		<p>Action by</p>
<p>Constraints to action <i>(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.)</i></p>		
<p>Action complete or ongoing? <i>(Please state yes, not started, or ongoing.)</i></p>	ongoing	

<p>Next steps</p> <p><i>Please outline future action/work including an indication of expected output, timescale and organisation responsible.</i></p>	<p>Complete association with appropriate HAPs and develop input to these plans</p>	
<p>Output and timescale</p>	<p>Identify how appropriate HAPs can assist delivery of SAP and negotiate input by end 2000</p> <p>Maintain involvement with appropriate HAPs</p>	<p><i>Action by</i> BCT/ CCW</p>