European Community Directive
on the Conservation of Natural Habitats
and of Wild Fauna and Flora
(92/43/EEC)

Second Report by the United Kingdom under Article 17

on the implementation of the Directive from January 2001 to December 2006

Conservation status assessment for

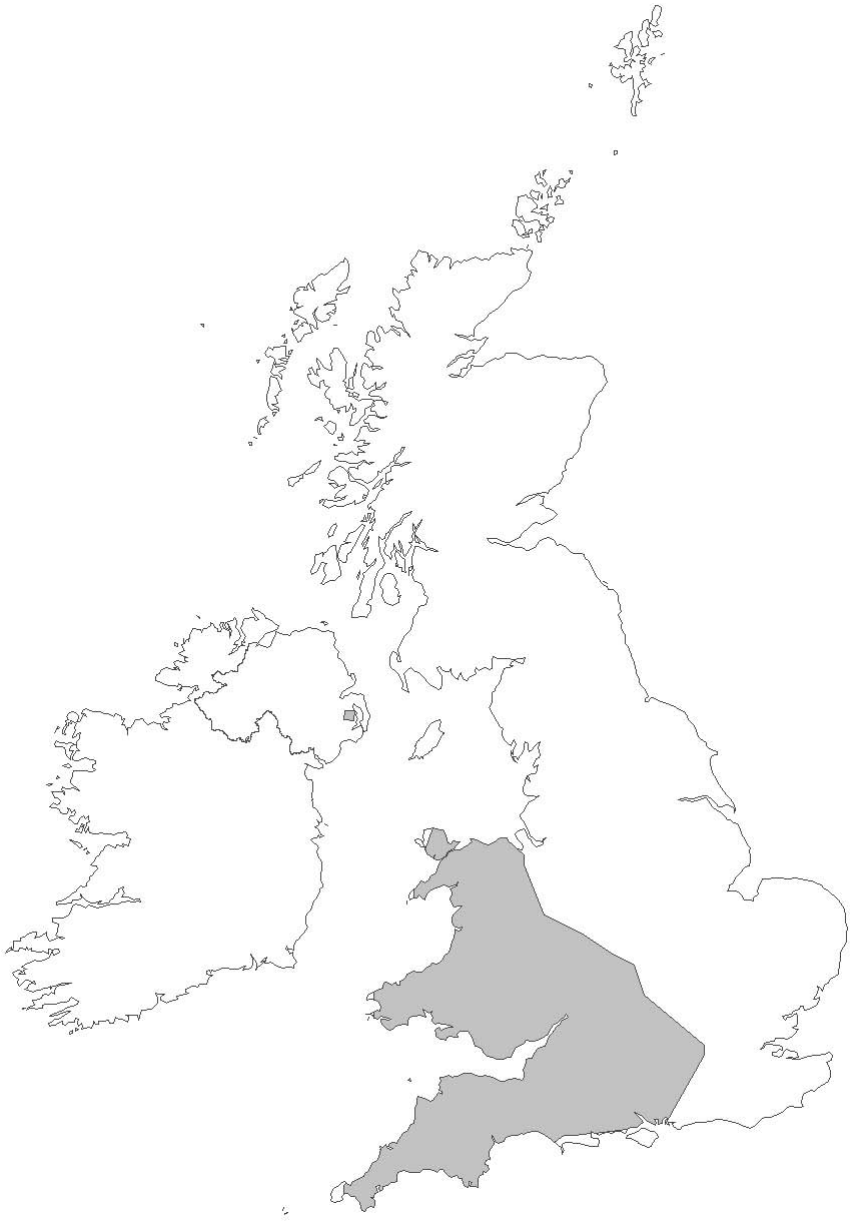
Species:

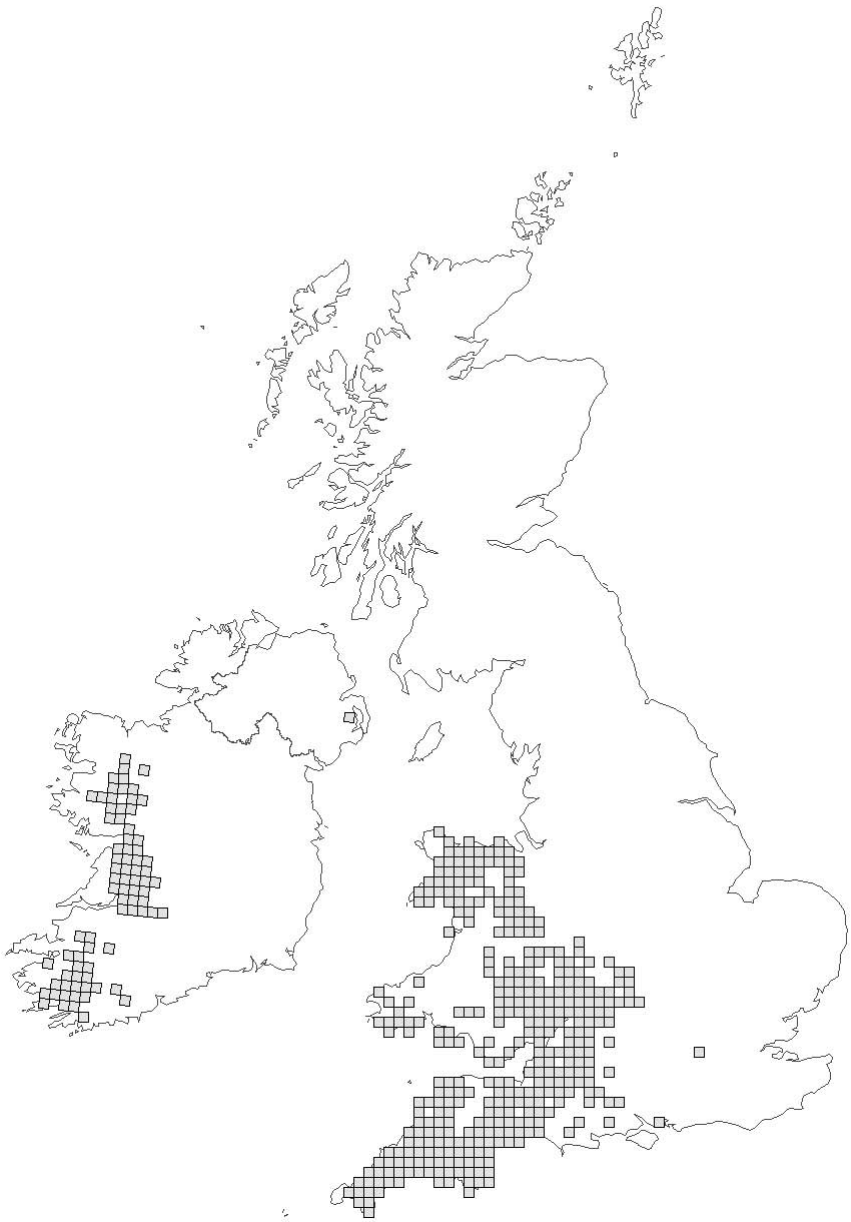
S1303 - *Rhinolophus hipposideros* - Lesser horseshoe bat

The information in this assessment corresponds to the "species fact sheet" submitted by the UK to the European Union in February 2008 (second and final submission). Please note that this is a section of the UK's report. For the complete report visit http://www.jncc.gov.uk/article17

Please cite as: Joint Nature Conservation Committee. 2007. *Second Report by the UK under Article 17 on the implementation of the Habitats Directive from January 2001 to December 2006*. Peterborough: JNCC. Available from: www.jncc.gov.uk/article17

Species Name: *Rhinolophus hipposideros*

1. National level	
Species Code	S1303
Member State	United Kingdom
Biogeographic regions concerned within the Member state	ATL
1.1 Range map	

1.2 Distribution map	

2. Biogeographic level

2.1 Biogeographic region	ATL
2.2 Published sources and/or websites	BAT CONSERVATION TRUST. 2006. The National Bat Monitoring Programme Annual Report 2005. Available to download from Bat Conservation Trust website (www.bats.org.uk) and Tracking Mammals Partnership website (www.trackingmammals.org). BATTERSBY, J (Ed.) & TRACKING MAMMALS PARTNERSHIP. 2005. UK Mammals: Species Status and Population Trends. JNCC/Tracking Mammals Partnership. BILLINGTON G. & RAWLINSON, M.D. 2006. A review of horseshoe bats flight lines and feeding areas. CCW Science Report No. 755. CCW, Bangor. BOYE, P. & DIETZ, M. 2005. Research Report No 661: Development of good practice guidelines for woodland management for bats. English Nature.

	CATHERINE BICKMORE ASSOCIATES 2003 Review of work carried out on trunk road network in Wales for bats. Report prepared for the Welsh Assembly Government Transport Directorate and countryside Council for Wales. HAINES-YOUNG, R.H., BARR, C.J., BLACK, H.I.J., BRIGGS, D.J., BUNCE, R.G.H., CLARKE, R.T., COOPER, A., DAWSON, F.H., FIRBANK, L.G., FULLER, R.M., FURSE, M.T., GILLESPIE, M.K., HILL, R., HORNUNG, M., HOWARD, D.C., McCANN, T., MORECROFT, M.D., PETIT, S., SIER, A.R.J., SMART, S.M., SMITH, G.M., STOTT, A.P., STUART, R.C. & WATKINS, J.W. 2000. Accounting for nature: assessing habitats in the UK countryside. Countryside Survey 2000. DETR, HMSO, London. HARRIS, S., MORRIS, P., WRAY, S. and YALDEN, D. 1995. A review of British Mammals: population estimates and conservation status of British mammals other than cetaceans. JNCC, Peterborough. MATTHEWS, J.E. & HALLIWELL, E.C. (in prep). Lesser Horseshoe Bat summer roost surveillance, 29 May to 17 June, 2002 - 2006. CCW Staff Science Report No.06/9/1, CCW, Bangor. RICHARDSON, P. 2000 Distribution atlas of bats in Britain and Ireland 1980-1999. Bat Conservation Trust, London. RUSS, J.M. 1999 The Microchiroptera of Northern Ireland: community composition, habitat associations and ultrasound. Unpublished PhD thesis. Queen's University, Belfast. SCHOFIELD, H.W. 1996 The ecology and conservation biology of Rhinolophus hipposideros, the lesser horseshoe bat. Unpublished PhD thesis. University of Aberdeen. Map Data Sources Biological Records Centre - Mammals Database 100m; Natural England - Batsites inventory for Britain; Devon Biodiversity Records Centre - Devon incidental species records (1950-2002) (via NBN Gateway) Bat Conservation Trust National Bat Monitoring Programme Colony Survey (1998-2005), Hibernation survey (1997-2005) Bat Conservation Trust - Distribution atlas of bats in Britain and Ireland 1980-1999. GB data only.
2.3 Range of species in the biogeographic region or marine region	
2.3.1 Surface range of the species (sq km)	58483
2.3.2 Date of range determination	1990-2006

2.3.3 Quality of data concerning range	Moderate			
2.3.4 Range trend	Stable (=)			
2.3.5 Range trend magnitude (%)	Not applicable			
2.3.6 Range trend period	1990-2006			
2.3.7 Reasons for reported trend	1 - Improved knowledge/more accurate data; 2 - Climate change; 3 - Direct human influence;			
2.4 Population				
2.4.1 Population size estimation	Minimum	18000	Maximum	18000
	Units	Individuals		
2.4.2 Date of population estimation	2002			
2.4.3 Method used for population estimation	2 - Extrapolation from surveys of part of the population			
2.4.4 Quality of population data	Moderate			
2.4.5 Population trend	Increasing (+)			
2.4.6 Population trend magnitude (%)	46-53			
2.4.7 Population trend period	1997-2005			
2.4.8 Reasons for reported trend	3 - Direct human influence; 5 - Natural processes;			
2.4.9 Justification of % thresholds for trends (optional)	The recent increase of 5.6% – 6.3% annually since 1998 is greater than the specified threshold and no justification is required.			
2.4.10 Main pressures	141 - Abandonment of pastoral systems; 151 - Removal of hedges and copses; 167 - Exploitation without replanting; 400 - Urbanised areas, human habitation; 401 - continuous urbanisation; 410 - Industrial or commercial areas; 502 - routes, autoroutes; 624 - mountaineering, rock climbing, speliology;			
2.4.11 Threats	110 - Use of pesticides; 166 - Removal of dead and dying trees; 301 - quarries; 330 - Mines; 402 - discontinuous urbanisation; 624 - mountaineering, rock climbing, speliology; 709 - other forms or mixed forms of pollution; 740 - Vandalism; 803 - infilling of ditches, dykes, ponds, pools, marshes or pits;			
2.5 Habitat for the species in the biogeographic region or marine region				
2.5 Habitats for the species	*R. hipposideros* requires a complex mosaic of habitats to support foraging, roosting and commuting behaviour. Boye & Dietz (2005) provide a good overview of this species' habitat requirements. Woodlands play a predominant role as foraging habitats for the species, especially in spring when *R. hipposideros* almost exclusively forages there. Foraging areas are close to summer roosts (distances up to 4.2 kilometres) and the animals spend about half of their activity time within a radius of 600 metres. The high importance of semi or unimproved wet pasture bounded by hedgerows has been found in the main foraging areas of one of the largest European colonies at Glynllifon in Gwynedd (Billington & Rawlinson 2006). Summer roosts are usually situated close to woodland or a park. If this is not the case a system of continuous linear landscape elements, such as hedges or			

	walls, provide guidance to the bats when flying to their foraging areas. Undisturbed hibernation sites in underground caves, mines or cellars must be available at a maximum distance of 30 kilometres from the summer roosts. Night roosts are important in extending the foraging area available to a colony and occasionally it may be advantageous for bats to remain in these satellite roosts during the day to conserve energy levels rather than return to the maternity roost that same night (Billington and Rawlinson 2006).
2.5.2 Area estimation (sq km)	Unknown
2.5.3 Date of estimation	05/2007
2.5.4 Quality of data	Poor
2.5.5 Trend of the habitat	Unknown (X)
2.5.6 Trend period	1990-1998
2.5.7 Reasons for reported trend	Not applicable
2.6 Future prospects	
2.6 Future prospects for the species	Good prospects_Species expected to survive and prosper
2.7 Complementary information	
2.7.1 Favourable reference range (sq km)	58483
2.7.2 Favourable reference population	14000
2.7.3 Suitable Habitat for the species	Unknown
2.7.4 Other relevant information	
2.8 Conclusions ***(assessment of conservation status at end of reporting period)***	
(2.3) Range	(FV) - Favourable
(2.4) Population	(FV) - Favourable
(2.5) Habitat for the species	(XX) - Unknown
(2.6) Future prospects	(FV) - Favourable
Overall assessment	(FV) - Favourable