

**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:
S1312 - *Nyctalus noctula* - Noctule**

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>

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Species Name: *Nyctalus noctula*

1. National level	
Species Code	S1312
Member State	United Kingdom
Biogeographic regions concerned within the Member state	ATL
1.1 Range map	 A map of the United Kingdom showing the distribution of <i>Nyctalus noctula</i> . The distribution is indicated by a solid grey shaded area covering the entire landmass of Great Britain and Ireland, as well as the Channel Islands and the Shetland Islands. The map is a simple outline of the coastlines with the distribution area filled in grey.

1.2 Distribution map



2. Biogeographic level

2.1 Biogeographic region

ATL

2.2 Published sources and/or websites

BARR, C.J. & GILLESPIE, M.K. 2000 Estimating hedgerow length and pattern characteristics in Great Britain using Countryside Survey data. *Journal of Environmental Management*, 60, 23-32.

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.

BOYE, P. & DIETZ, M. 2005. Research Report No 661: Development of good practice guidelines for woodland management for bats. *English Nature*,

	<p>Peterborough.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>RICHARDSON, P. 2000. Distribution atlas of bats in Britain and Ireland 1980-1999. Bat Conservation Trust, London.</p> <p>Map Data Sources</p> <p>BATS & The Millennium Link - Bat species distribution in Central Belt of Scotland (2000 to 2005); Biological Records Centre - Mammals Database 100m; Environment and Heritage Service - Species Dataset; Highland Biological Recording Group Mammals dataset; Natural England - Batsites inventory for Britain; via NBN Gateway</p> <p>Scottish Natural Heritage bat records: update, J. Haddow (pers. comm)</p> <p>Bat Conservation Trust National Bat Monitoring Programme NSP Field Survey (1998-2005)</p> <p>Bat Conservation Trust Distribution atlas of bats in Britain and Ireland 1980-1999 GB data only.</p>			
2.3 Range of species in the biogeographic region or marine region				
2.3.1 Surface range of the species (sq km)	158299			
2.3.2 Date of range determination	1980-2006			
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	1980-2006			
2.3.7 Reasons for reported trend	Not applicable			
2.4 Population				
2.4.1 Population size estimation	Minimum	50000	Maximum	50000

	Units	Individuals
2.4.2 Date of population estimation	1995	
2.4.3 Method used for population estimation	2 - Extrapolation from surveys of part of the population	
2.4.4 Quality of population data	Poor	
2.4.5 Population trend	Stable (=)	
2.4.6 Population trend magnitude (%)	Not applicable	
2.4.7 Population trend period	1998-2005	
2.4.8 Reasons for reported trend	3 - Direct human influence;	
2.4.9 Justification of % thresholds for trends (optional)	Not Applicable	
2.4.10 Main pressures	101 - Modification of cultivation practices; 110 - Use of pesticides; 141 - Abandonment of pastoral systems; 151 - Removal of hedges and copses; 160 - General Forestry management; 164 - Forestry clearance; 166 - Removal of dead and dying trees; 167 - Exploitation without replanting; 701 - water pollution; 803 - infilling of ditches, dykes, ponds, pools, marshes or pits;	
2.4.11 Threats	101 - Modification of cultivation practices; 110 - Use of pesticides; 141 - Abandonment of pastoral systems; 151 - Removal of hedges and copses; 160 - General Forestry management; 164 - Forestry clearance; 166 - Removal of dead and dying trees; 167 - Exploitation without replanting; 701 - water pollution; 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	<p><i>N. noctula</i> 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.</p> <p>Foraging areas may be in several parts of the landscape, all of which host a high abundance of insect fauna and offer the space in the air needed by the fast flying <i>N. noctula</i>. Large water bodies, valley pastures and open forests are preferred, but the bats also forage in other habitats, and even above harvested fields and urban street lights. <i>N. noctula</i> bats can easily make foraging flights more than 10 kilometres away from the roost site, up to a maximum of 20 kilometres. However, the main activity of a maternity colony is within a radius of about 2 kilometres from the colony's roost.</p> <p>Summer roosts are predominantly in woodlands and parks. Deciduous and flood forests with a high percentage of old and dead trees are of highest importance. Roosts are mostly in woodpecker holes in broad-leaved trees. Maternity colonies use several roost sites in a network, which means that the individuals often change from one roost to another. Associations of males, which change their roost site on average every second or third day, need at least eight tree holes suitable for roosting per square kilometre of forest. Besides tree holes the bats also roost in bat boxes (flat constructions are preferred) and small spaces behind wall coverings of buildings or in houses.</p> <p>Winter roosts are mainly in forest and park trees, but large hibernation colonies also roost in buildings or rock crevices. Tree holes must provide a lot of space for a large number of bats to be a good hibernaculum for the species.</p>	

2.5.2 Area estimation (sq km)	Unknown
2.5.3 Date of estimation	2006
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	Unknown
2.7 Complementary information	
2.7.1 Favourable reference range (sq km)	158299
2.7.2 Favourable reference population	50000
2.7.3 Suitable Habitat for the species	Unknown
2.7.4 Other relevant information	
2.8 Conclusions <i>(assessment of conservation status at end of reporting period)</i>	
(2.3) Range	(FV) - Favourable
(2.4) Population	(FV) - Favourable
(2.5) Habitat for the species	(XX) - Unknown
(2.6) Future prospects	(XX) - Unknown
Overall assessment	(XX) - Unknown