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

Fourth Report by the United Kingdom under Article 17

on the implementation of the Directive
from January 2013 to December 2018

Conservation status assessment for the species:

S1331 - Leisler's bat (*Nyctalus leisleri*)

UNITED KINGDOM

IMPORTANT NOTE - PLEASE READ

- The information in this document represents the UK Report on the conservation status of this species, submitted to the European Commission as part of the 2019 UK Reporting under Article 17 of the EU Habitats Directive.
- It is based on supporting information provided by the geographically-relevant Statutory Nature Conservation Bodies, which is documented separately.
- The 2019 Article 17 UK Approach document provides details on how this supporting information contributed to the UK Report and the fields that were completed for each parameter.
- The reporting fields and options used are aligned to those set out in the European Commission guidance.
- Maps showing the distribution and range of the species are included (where available).
- Explanatory notes (where provided) are included at the end. These provide additional audit trail information to that included within the UK assessments. Further underpinning explanatory notes are available in the related country-level reports.
- Some of the reporting fields have been left blank because either: (i) there was insufficient information to complete the field; (ii) completion of the field was not obligatory; and/or (iii) the field was not relevant to this species (section 12 Natura 2000 coverage for Annex II species).
- The UK-level reporting information for all habitats and species is also available in spreadsheet format.

Visit the JNCC website, https://jncc.gov.uk/article17, for further information on UK Article 17 reporting.

Report on the main results of the surveillance under Article 11 for Annex II, IV and V species (Annex B)

NATIONAL LEVEL

1. General information

1.1 Member State	**UK**
1.2 Species code	**1331**
1.3 Species scientific name	**Nyctalus leisleri**
1.4 Alternative species scientific name	
1.5 Common name (in national language)	Leisler's bat

2. Maps

2.1 Sensitive species	No
2.2 Year or period	1994-2018
2.3 Distribution map	Yes
2.4 Distribution map Method used	Based mainly on extrapolation from a limited amount of data
2.5 Additional maps	No

3. Information related to Annex V Species (Art. 14)

3.1 Is the species taken in the wild/exploited?	No	
3.2 Which of the measures in Art. 14 have been taken?	a) regulations regarding access to property	No
	b) temporary or local prohibition of the taking of specimens in the wild and exploitation	No
	c) regulation of the periods and/or methods of taking specimens	No
	d) application of hunting and fishing rules which take account of the conservation of such populations	No
	e) establishment of a system of licences for taking specimens or of quotas	No
	f) regulation of the purchase, sale, offering for sale, keeping for sale or transport for sale of specimens	No
	g) breeding in captivity of animal species as well as artificial propagation of plant species	No
	h) other measures	No

Report on the main results of the surveillance under Article 11 for Annex II, IV and V species (Annex B)

3.3 Hunting bag or quantity taken in the wild for Mammals and Acipenseridae (Fish)

a) Unit

b) Statistics/ quantity taken	Provide statistics/quantity per hunting season or per year (where season is not used) over the reporting period					
	Season/ year 1	Season/ year 2	Season/ year 3	Season/ year 4	Season/ year 5	Season/ year 6
Min. (raw, ie. not rounded)						
Max. (raw, ie. not rounded)						
Unknown	No	No	No	No	No	No

3.4. Hunting bag or quantity taken in the wild Method used

3.5. Additional information

BIOGEOGRAPHICAL LEVEL

4. Biogeographical and marine regions

4.1 Biogeographical or marine region where the species occurs

Atlantic (ATL)

4.2 Sources of information

England
Bat Conservation Trust. 2018. The State of the UK's Bats 2017. Bat Conservation Trust, London. Available at (http://www.bats.org.uk/pages/results_and_reports.html)
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Rodrigues, L., Bach, L., Dubourg-Savage, M.-J., Karapandza, B., Kovac, D., Kervyn,

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Dietz, C., Kiefer, A., 2016. Bats of Britain and Europe. Bloomsbury, United Kingdom.
Scotland
Bat Conservation Trust. 2018. The State of the UK's Bats 2017. Bat Conservation Trust, London. Available at (http://www.bats.org.uk/pages/results_and_reports.html)
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5. Range

5.1 Surface area (km²)	94224	
5.2 Short-term trend Period	2013-2018	
5.3 Short-term trend Direction	Stable (0)	
5.4 Short-term trend Magnitude	a) Minimum	b) Maximum
5.5 Short-term trend Method used	Based mainly on extrapolation from a limited amount of data	
5.6 Long-term trend Period		
5.7 Long-term trend Direction		
5.8 Long-term trend Magnitude	a) Minimum	b) Maximum
5.9 Long-term trend Method used		
5.10 Favourable reference range	a) Area (km²)	83313
	b) Operator	
	c) Unknown	
	d) Method	The FRR is the same as in 2013. The value is considered to be large enough to support a viable population and no lower than the range estimate when the Habitats Directive came into force in the UK. For further information see the 2019 Article 17 UK Approach document. The current range surface area has been calculated using the method outlined in Mathews et al. (2018) and is based on presence data collected between 1995-2016. Areas that contain very isolated records may not have been included in the area of distribution. The new, more robust method of calculating range has reduced the estimated range size for this species since 2013. This does not represent a real reduction in range. Current range is above the FRR.
5.11 Change and reason for change in surface area of range	Improved knowledge/more accurate data Use of different method	
	The change is mainly due to:	Use of different method
5.12 Additional information	Short term trend in range has been assessed by using the 2019 distribution data	

and the 2013 method for calculating range and comparing the result with range surface area in 2013. For further details please see the 2019 Article 17 UK Approach document and country assessments.

6. Population

6.1 Year or period	1994-2018	
6.2 Population size (in reporting unit)	a) Unit	number of map 1x1 km grid cells (grids1x1)
	b) Minimum	
	c) Maximum	
	d) Best single value	1138
6.3 Type of estimate	Minimum	
6.4 Additional population size (using population unit other than reporting unit)	a) Unit	
	b) Minimum	
	c) Maximum	
	d) Best single value	
6.5 Type of estimate	Best estimate	
6.6 Population size Method used	Based mainly on expert opinion with very limited data	
6.7 Short-term trend Period	1995-2018	
6.8 Short-term trend Direction	Unknown (x)	
6.9 Short-term trend Magnitude	a) Minimum	
	b) Maximum	
	c) Confidence interval	
6.10 Short-term trend Method used	Based mainly on expert opinion with very limited data	
6.11 Long-term trend Period		
6.12 Long-term trend Direction		
6.13 Long-term trend Magnitude	a) Minimum	
	b) Maximum	
	c) Confidence interval	
6.14 Long-term trend Method used		
6.15 Favourable reference population (using the unit in 6.2 or 6.4)	a) Population size	
	b) Operator	
	c) Unknown	x
	d) Method	The FRP for this species is unknown because there is insufficient information to set an FRP value. For further information see the 2019 Article 17 UK Approach document. Accurate predictions of population size cannot be made as very few roosts are known.
6.16 Change and reason for change in population size	No change	
	The change is mainly due to:	

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6.17 Additional information	The 1km square count has been calculated from the UK count of 1km squares where the species has been recorded. This is a minimum count because it only includes number of recorded occupied 1km squares. There is no recent population estimate available for this species across the UK, and there are limited accurate data on trends, so it is not possible to comment on population changes or trends for this species at this time. Lack of a population estimate and trend information and inability to set an FRP mean that the population status of this species is currently unknown.

7. Habitat for the species

7.1 Sufficiency of area and quality of occupied habitat	a) Are area and quality of occupied habitat sufficient (for long-term survival)?	Yes
	b) Is there a sufficiently large area of unoccupied habitat of suitable quality (for long-term survival)?	
7.2 Sufficiency of area and quality of occupied habitat Method used	Based mainly on expert opinion with very limited data	
7.3 Short-term trend Period	1995-2018	
7.4 Short-term trend Direction	Stable (0)	
7.5 Short-term trend Method used	Based mainly on expert opinion with very limited data	
7.6 Long-term trend Period		
7.7 Long-term trend Direction		
7.8 Long-term trend Method used		
7.9 Additional information	The habitable area has been taken from Mathews et al. (2018). Whilst there is very little information on habitat area for this species, expert opinion is that there is sufficient quantity and quality of habitat available.	

8. Main pressures and threats

8.1 Characterisation of pressures/threats

Pressure	Ranking
Removal of small landscape features for agricultural land parcel consolidation (hedges, stone walls, rushes, open ditches, springs, solitary trees, etc.) (A05)	M
Abandonment of grassland management (e.g. cessation of grazing or mowing) (A06)	M
Use of other pest control methods in agriculture (excluding tillage) (A23)	M
Conversion to other types of forests including monocultures (B02)	M
Removal of dead and dying trees, including debris (B07)	H
Removal of old trees (excluding dead or dying trees) (B08)	H
Clear-cutting, removal of all trees (B09)	H
Forest management reducing old growth forests (B15)	H
Wind, wave and tidal power, including infrastructure (D01)	H

Construction or modification (e.g. of housing and settlements) in existing urban or recreational areas (F02)	M

Threat	Ranking
Removal of small landscape features for agricultural land parcel consolidation (hedges, stone walls, rushes, open ditches, springs, solitary trees, etc.) (A05)	M
Abandonment of grassland management (e.g. cessation of grazing or mowing) (A06)	M
Use of other pest control methods in agriculture (excluding tillage) (A23)	M
Conversion to other types of forests including monocultures (B02)	M
Removal of dead and dying trees, including debris (B07)	H
Removal of old trees (excluding dead or dying trees) (B08)	H
Clear-cutting, removal of all trees (B09)	H
Forest management reducing old growth forests (B15)	H
Wind, wave and tidal power, including infrastructure (D01)	M
Construction or modification (e.g. of housing and settlements) in existing urban or recreational areas (F02)	H

8.2 Sources of information

8.3 Additional information

9. Conservation measures

9.1 Status of measures	a) Are measures needed?	Yes
	b) Indicate the status of measures	Measures identified and taken
9.2 Main purpose of the measures taken		Maintain the current range, population and/or habitat for the species
9.3 Location of the measures taken		Both inside and outside Natura 2000
9.4 Response to the measures		Long-term results (after 2030)

9.5 List of main conservation measures

Restore small landscape features on agricultural land (CA02)
Maintain existing extensive agricultural practices and agricultural landscape features (CA03)
Other measures related to agricultural practices (CA16)
Prevent conversion of (semi-) natural habitats into forests and of (semi-)natural forests into intensive forest plantation (CB01)
Adapt/manage reforestation and forest regeneration (CB04)
Adapt/change forest management and exploitation practices (CB05)
Stop forest management and exploitation practices (CB06)
Adapt/manage renewable energy installation, facilities and operation (CC03)

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Other measures related to residential, commercial, industrial and recreational infrastructures, operations and activities (CF12)

9.6 Additional information	

10. Future prospects

10.1 Future prospects of parameters	a) Range	Good
	b) Population	Unknown
	c) Habitat of the species	Good
10.2 Additional information	Future trend in Range is Overall stable; Future trend in Population is Unknown; and Future trend in Habitat for the species is Overall stable. For further information on how future trends inform the Future Prospects conclusion see the 2019 Article 17 UK Approach document.	

11. Conclusions

11.1. Range	Favourable (FV)
11.2. Population	Unknown (XX)
11.3. Habitat for the species	Favourable (FV)
11.4. Future prospects	Favourable (FV)
11.5 Overall assessment of Conservation Status	Favourable (FV)
11.6 Overall trend in Conservation Status	Stable (=)
11.7 Change and reasons for change in conservation status and conservation status trend	a) Overall assessment of conservation status No change The change is mainly due to: b) Overall trend in conservation status No change The change is mainly due to:
11.8 Additional information	Conclusion on Range reached because: (i) the short-term trend direction in Range surface area is stable; and (ii) the current Range surface area is more than the Favourable Reference Range. Conclusion on Population reached because: (i) the short-term trend direction in Population size is unknown; and (ii) the Favourable Reference Population is unknown. Conclusion on Habitat for the species reached because: (i) the area of occupied habitat is sufficiently large and (ii) the habitat quality is suitable for the long-term survival of the species; and (iii) the short-term trend in area and quality of habitat is stable. Conclusion on Future prospects reached because: (i) the Future prospects for Range are good; (ii) the Future prospects for Population are unknown; and (iii) the Future prospects for Habitat for the species are

good.

Overall assessment of Conservation Status is Favourable because three of the conclusions are Favourable and one in Unknown.

Overall trend in Conservation Status is based on the combination of the short-term trends for Range -stable, Population - unknown, and Habitat for the species - stable.

Overall assessment of Conservation Status has not changed since 2013.

Overall trend in conservation status was not reported for this species in 2013. It is not clear from the information available, what the overall trend would have been in 2013 but there has been little change since the last reporting round.

12. Natura 2000 (pSCIs, SCIs and SACs) coverage for Annex II species

12.1 Population size inside the pSCIs, SCIs and SACs network (on the biogeographical/marine level including all sites where the species is present)	a) Unit b) Minimum c) Maximum d) Best single value
12.2 Type of estimate	
12.3 Population size inside the network Method used	
12.4 Short-term trend of population size within the network Direction	
12.5 Short-term trend of population size within the network Method used	
12.6 Additional information	

13. Complementary information

13.1 Justification of % thresholds for trends
13.2 Trans-boundary assessment
13.3 Other relevant Information

Distribution Map

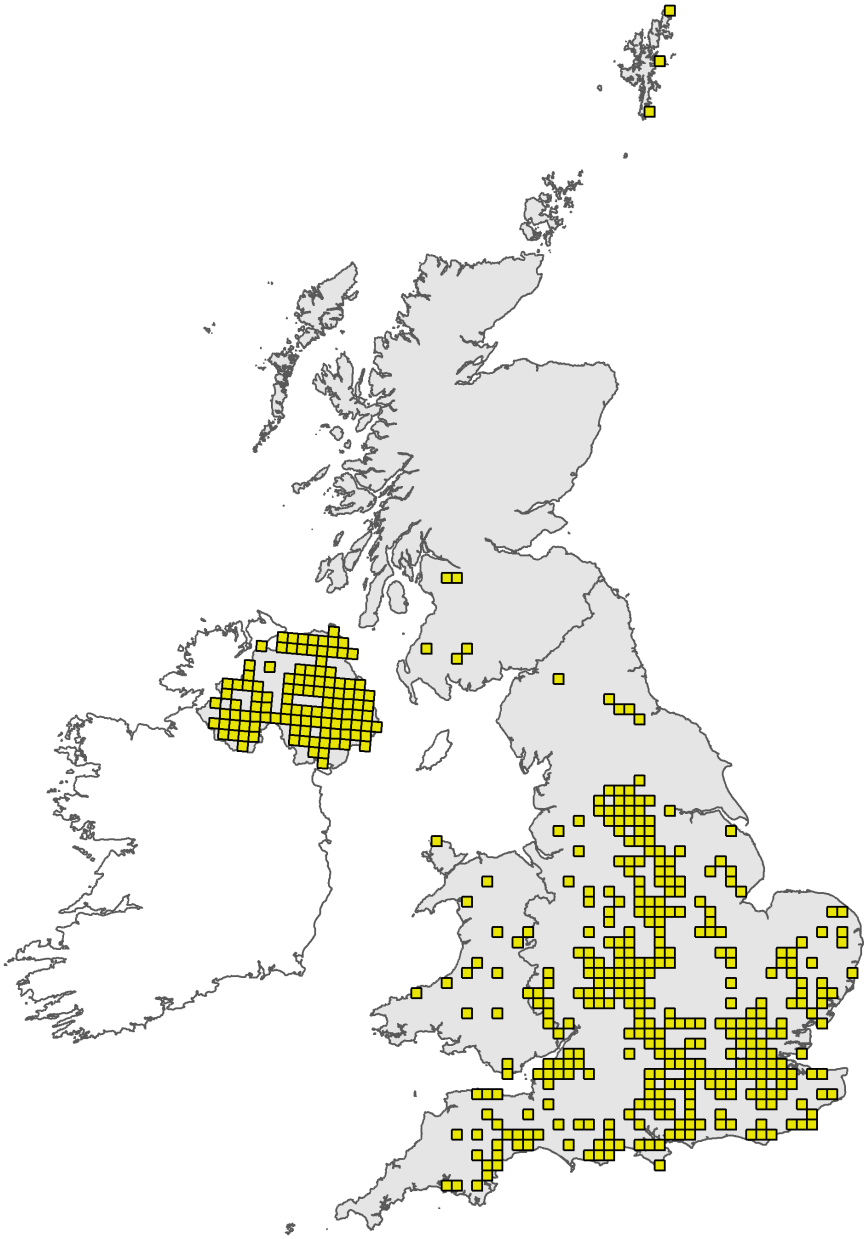

Figure 1: UK distribution map for S1331 - Leisler's bat (*Nyctalus leisleri*). Coastline boundary derived from the Oil and Gas Authority's OGA and Lloyd's Register SNS Regional Geological Maps (Open Source). Open Government Licence v3 (OGL). Contains data © 2017 Oil and Gas Authority.

The 10km grid square distribution map is based on available species records within the current reporting period. For further details see the 2019 Article 17 UK Approach document.

Range Map

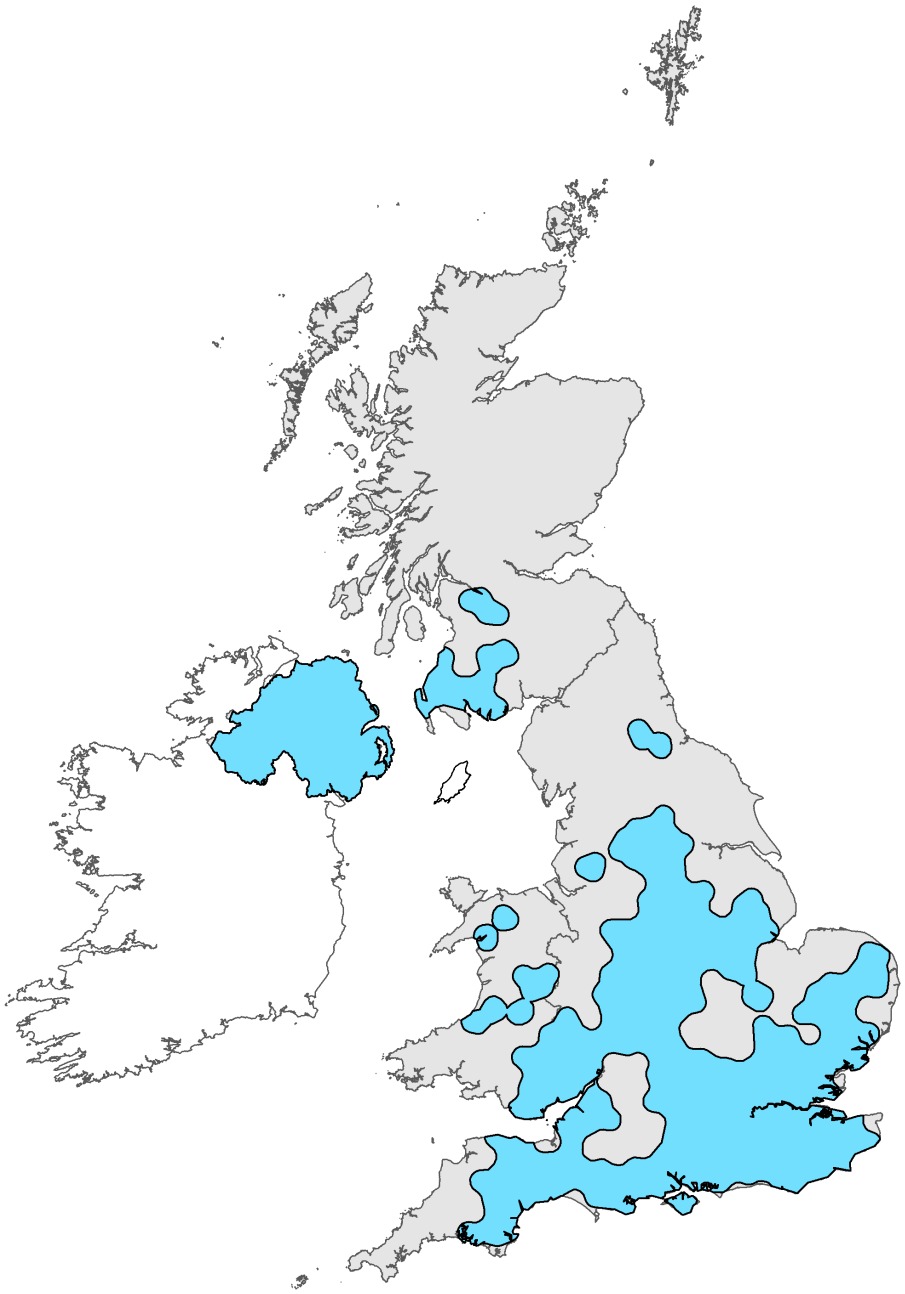

Figure 2: UK range map for S1331 - Leisler's bat (*Nyctalus leisleri*).Coastline boundary derived from the Oil and Gas Authority's OGA and Lloyd's Register SNS Regional Geological Maps (Open Source). Open Government Licence v3 (OGL). Contains data © 2017 Oil and Gas Authority.

The range map has been produced by The Mammal Society applying a range mapping tool as outlined in Matthews et al. (2018), to the 10km grid square distribution map presented in Figure 1. The alpha value for this species was 20km. For further details see the 2019 Article 17 UK Approach document.