

## Generic Bat Biodiversity Action Plan

This generic action plan has been prepared in support of the Biodiversity Action Plans drafted by the Bat Conservation Trust and Natural Resources Wales and is intended for use by LBAP partnerships.

The actions listed in this action plan do not take account of statutory obligations.

Some of the wording in this generic plan may differ slightly from the full action plans which can be found at <http://www.biodiversitywales.org.uk/> where there is more information about species ecology, threats etc if LBAPs wish to develop species-specific action plans.

In Wales there are eight species of bat that are listed under section 42 Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006. These are:

Common name	Latin name	Lead Partner
Common pipistrelle	<i>Pipistrellus pipistrellus</i>	Bat Conservation Trust
Soprano pipistrellus	<i>Pipistrellus pygmaeus</i>	Bat Conservation Trust
Brown long-eared bat	<i>Plecotus auritus</i>	Bat Conservation Trust
Noctule bat	<i>Nyctalus noctula</i>	Bat Conservation Trust
Barbastelle	<i>Barbastella barbastellus</i>	Bat Conservation Trust
Bechstein's bat	<i>Myotis bechsteinii</i>	Bat Conservation Trust
Lesser horseshoe bat	<i>Rhinolophus hyposiderosis</i>	Bat Conservation Trust and Natural Resources Wales
Greater horseshoe bat	<i>Rhinolophus ferrumequinum</i>	Natural Resources Wales

### Objective

To maintain the population of relevant bat species in support of the Wales Biodiversity Strategy and EU Biodiversity Strategy.

## **Legal Status**

### Status

Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981(as amended), Schedule 5 (all bat species)

The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2012 (as amended), Schedule II (all bat species)

Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006, s42

EC Habitats & Species Directive, Annex II (horseshoe bats, barbastelle, and Bechstein's bats)

EC Habitats & Species Directive, Annex IV (all bat species)

Bern Convention, Appendix 2

Bonn Convention, Appendix 2

## Species Status

Species	Wales est numbers as of 2013 <a href="http://jncc.defra.gov.uk/page-6391">http://jncc.defra.gov.uk/page-6391</a>	<i>LBAP area – this column is for LBAPS to complete</i>
Common pipistrelle	Widespread across Wales  Estimated numbers 128,000	
Soprano pipistrelle	Widespread across Wales  Estimated numbers 72,000	
Brown long-eared bat	Probably widespread in low numbers across lowland Wales estimated numbers 17,500	
Noctule bat	Probably widespread in low numbers across lowland Wales estimated numbers 4,750	
Barbastelle	The barbastelle bat is found mainly in southern half of Wales. Breeding roosts have been identified in Ceredigion and Pembrokeshire although there are additional records from Snowdonia, Powys, and Neath.  Estimated number 500	
Bechstein's bat	There is insufficient information to reliably estimate numbers in Wales	
Lesser horseshoe bat	Lesser horseshoe bats are widely distributed throughout lowland Wales.  Estimated number 26,6000	
Greater horseshoe bat	Main population centre is Pembrokeshire with other important populations in parts of south and east Wales  Estimated numbers 2,220	

## **Statutory Obligations**

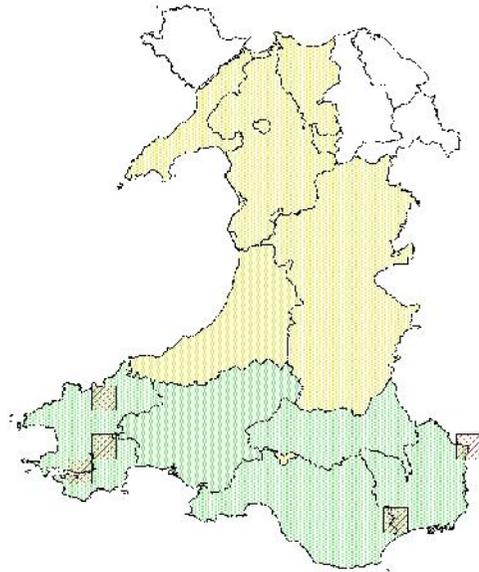
As a European Protected Species under the Regulation 9(5) Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010, a competent authority, must have regard to the requirements of the Habitats Directive in exercising any of their functions, so far as they may be affected by the exercise of those functions. This means that where a EPS is/or likely to be affected, then it will need to take account of the provisions provided by the Regulations.

Action	Common pipistrelle	Soprano pipistrelle	Brown long-eared bat	Lesser horseshoe	Greater horseshoe	Noctule bat	Barbastelle	Bechstein's bat
Survey and monitoring	Support national/local survey projects							
Survey and monitoring	Promote and take part in monitoring under BCT's National Bat Monitoring Programme.						n/a unless species known or likely to be present	n/a unless species known to be present or in adjoining areas
Habitat and site management	Ensure habitats where the species occurs, or may occur, is managed to ensure the necessary features are maintained or improved in the long-term.						n/a unless species known to be present or in adjoining areas	n/a unless species present or in adjoining areas
Habitat creation and restoration	<p>Encourage the creation and/or protection of riparian habitats close to important <b>soprano pipistrelle</b> roosts and encourage improvements in water quality, to increase insect abundance in their preferred foraging habitat</p> <p>Encourage the retention, planting and expansion of woodland, parkland and amenity trees and hedgerows within the vicinity of significant <b>brown long-eared roosts</b>.</p> <p>For <b>lesser horseshoe bats</b>, create a network of habitats to provide connectivity between all types of important roosts (including maternity, hibernation, mating, night and important transition roosts), surrounding habitat and foraging areas.</p>					<p>Manage woodland, parkland, amenity trees to maintain and increase the number of suitable roosting places</p> <p>Promote best practice to</p>	n/a unless species known to be present or in adjoining areas	n/a unless species known to be present or in adjoining areas

						ensure that the roosts are protected from avoidable loss		
<b>Action</b>	<b>Common pipistrelle</b>	<b>Soprano pipistrelle</b>	<b>Brown long-eared bat</b>	<b>Lesser horseshoe bat</b>	<b>Greater horseshoe bat</b>	<b>Noctule bat</b>	<b>Barbastelle</b>	<b>Bechstein's bat</b>
<b>Communication and advisory</b>	<p>1. Influence standards, regulation and practice in the built environment to ensure the supply of potential bat roosts does not diminish. Promote the creation of roosting opportunities within the built environment as part of initiatives to promote energy efficiency.</p> <p>2. Continue to provide practical advice to property owners with roosts thereby raising awareness of bat issues and improving relationships with roost owners.</p>			<p>Promote the importance of the built environment for this species. Influence construction practices by encouraging the creation of lesser horseshoe roosts as part of building renovation work or new developments.</p>				

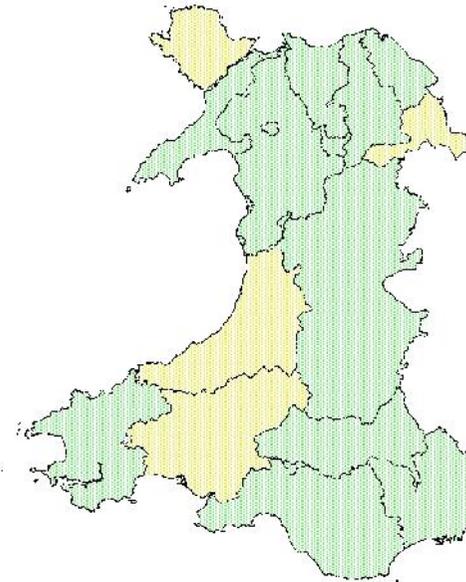
**Greater Horseshoe Bat**

LBAP areas where action is required  
(shaded yellow, core areas shaded green,  
10km squares containing nursery roosts in red)



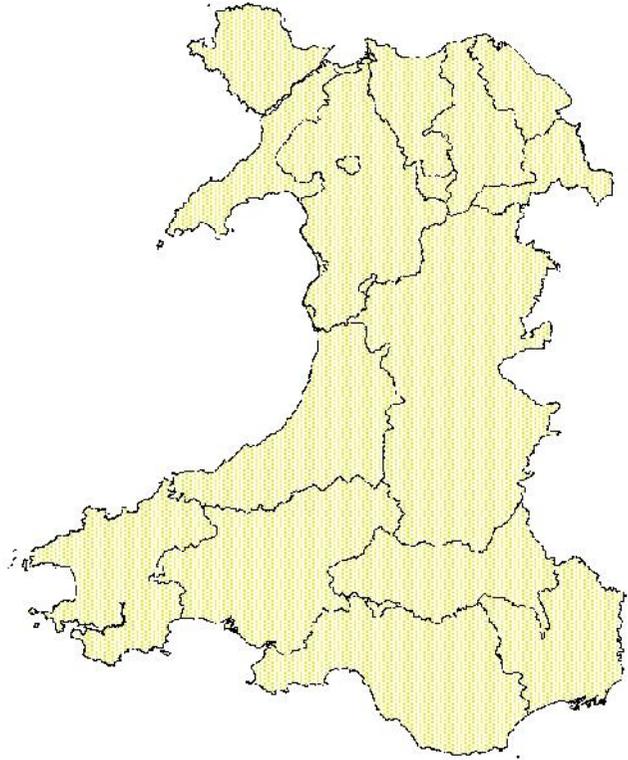
**Lesser Horseshoe Bat**

LBAP areas where action is required (shaded yellow,  
core areas shaded green)



**Common pipistrelle, Soprano pipistrelle, Brown long-eared bat , and Noctule bat**

**LBAP areas where action is required (shaded yellow)**



**Barbastelle bat**

**Priority LBAP areas where action is required**

Red = site protection and management and further survey,  
Yellow = survey required



**Bechstein's bat**

**LBAP areas where action is required (shaded yellow)**

