

**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

Supporting documentation for the  
conservation status assessment for the species:

**S1326 - Brown long-eared bat (*Plecotus auritus*)**

**NORTHERN IRELAND**

## **IMPORTANT NOTE - PLEASE READ**

- The information in this document is a country-level contribution to 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.
- The 2019 Article 17 UK Approach document provides details on how this supporting information was used to produce the UK Report.
- The UK Report on the conservation status of this species is provided in a separate document.
- The reporting fields and options used are aligned to those set out in the European Commission guidance.
- Explanatory notes (where provided) by the country are included at the end. These provide an audit trail of relevant supporting information.
- 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; (iii) the field was not relevant to this species (section 12 Natura 2000 coverage for Annex II species) and/or (iv) the field was only relevant at UK-level (sections 9 Future prospects and 10 Conclusions).
- For technical reasons, the country-level future trends for Range, Population and Habitat for the species are only available in a separate spreadsheet that contains all the country-level supporting information.
- The country-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 (Northern Ireland information only)
1.2 Species code	1326
1.3 Species scientific name	<i>Plecotus auritus</i>
1.4 Alternative species scientific name	
1.5 Common name (in national language)	Brown long-eared 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?	<table> <tr> <td>a) regulations regarding access to property</td><td>No</td></tr> <tr> <td>b) temporary or local prohibition of the taking of specimens in the wild and exploitation</td><td>No</td></tr> <tr> <td>c) regulation of the periods and/or methods of taking specimens</td><td>No</td></tr> <tr> <td>d) application of hunting and fishing rules which take account of the conservation of such populations</td><td>No</td></tr> <tr> <td>e) establishment of a system of licences for taking specimens or of quotas</td><td>No</td></tr> <tr> <td>f) regulation of the purchase, sale, offering for sale, keeping for sale or transport for sale of specimens</td><td>No</td></tr> <tr> <td>g) breeding in captivity of animal species as well as artificial propagation of plant species</td><td>No</td></tr> <tr> <td>h) other measures</td><td>No</td></tr> </table>	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
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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

Lundy, M. & Montgomery, I. (2010) Summer habitat associations of bats between riparian landscapes and within riparian areas, *European Journal of Wildlife Research*, 56(3): 385-394.

Lundy, M.G., Aughney, T., Montgomery, W.I., and Roche, N. (2011). Landscape conservation for Irish bats & species: specific roosting characteristics. Bat Conservation Ireland. Unpublished.

Russ, J.M. & Montgomery, W.I. (2002). Habitat association of bats in Northern Ireland: implications for conservation. *Biological Conservation*. 108: 49-58.

Lundy, M.G., Buckley, D.J., Boston, E.S.M., Scott, D.D., Prodohl, P.A., Marnell, F., Teeling, E.C., Montgomery, W.I., (2012). Behavioural context of multi-scale species distribution models assessed by radio-tracking. *Basic Appl. Ecol.*, <http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.baae.2011.1012.1003>.

Hutson, A.M., Mickleburgh, S.P., and Racey, P.A. (comp.). (2001). Microchiropteran bats: global status survey and conservation action plan. IUCN/SSC Chiroptera Specialist Group. IUCN, Gland, Switzerland and Cambridge, UK. x + 258 pp.

Hutson, A.M., Mickleburgh, S.P. & Racey, P.A. (comp.). (2001) Global Status Survey and Conservation Action Plan Microchiropteran Bats, The Nature Conservation Bureau Ltd, ISBN: 2-8317-0595-9, <http://www.uni-giessen.de/faculties/f08/departments/tsz/mammalian-ecology-group/downloads/iucn-microchiroptera>

Russ, J.M. (1999). The Microchiroptera of Northern Ireland: community composition, habitat associations and ultrasound. Unpublished Ph.D thesis. The Queen's University of Belfast.

Murphy, S.E., Greenaway, F. and Hill, D.A. (2012) Patterns of habitat use by

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female brown long-eared bats presage negative impacts of woodland conservation management. Journal of Zoology, 288: 177-183.

Boston, E. (2016) A report on Article 17 reporting for Northern Ireland on the eight bat species listed in annex IV of the UK Habitats Directive, unpublished report compiled for CEDaR

Mathews, F., Richardson, S., Lintott, P., and Hosken, D. 2016. Understanding the Risk to European Protected Species (bats) at Onshore Wind Turbine Sites to inform Risk Management. University of Exeter. Report to DEFRA.

## 5. Range

5.1 Surface area (km <sup>2</sup> )	
5.2 Short-term trend Period	
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	
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 (km <sup>2</sup> ) b) Operator c) Unknown d) Method
5.11 Change and reason for change in surface area of range	No change The change is mainly due to:
5.12 Additional information	

## 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 133
6.3 Type of estimate	Best estimate
6.4 Additional population size (using population unit other than reporting unit)	a) Unit number of individuals (i) b) Minimum c) Maximum d) Best single value 45000
6.5 Type of estimate	Best estimate
6.6 Population size Method used	Complete survey or a statistically robust estimate

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6.7 Short-term trend Period	2007-2018
6.8 Short-term trend Direction	Stable (0)
6.9 Short-term trend Magnitude	a) Minimum b) Maximum c) Confidence interval
6.10 Short-term trend Method used	Complete survey or a statistically robust estimate
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 d) Method
6.16 Change and reason for change in population size	No change The change is mainly due to:
6.17 Additional information	

## 7. Habitat for the species

7.1 Sufficiency of area and quality of occupied habitat	a) Are area and quality of occupied habitat sufficient (to maintain the species at FCS)? b) Is there a sufficiently large area of occupied AND unoccupied habitat of suitable quality (to maintain the species at FCS)?	Yes
7.2 Sufficiency of area and quality of occupied habitat Method used	Based mainly on extrapolation from a limited amount of data	
7.3 Short-term trend Period	2007-2018	
7.4 Short-term trend Direction	Uncertain (u)	
7.5 Short-term trend Method used	Insufficient or no data available	
7.6 Long-term trend Period		
7.7 Long-term trend Direction		
7.8 Long-term trend Method used		
7.9 Additional information		

## 8. Main pressures and threats

### 8.1 Characterisation of pressures/threats

Pressure	Ranking
Removal of small landscape features for agricultural land	H

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parcel consolidation (hedges, stone walls, rushes, open ditches, springs, solitary trees, etc.) (A05)

Logging without replanting or natural regrowth (B05)	H
Removal of dead and dying trees, including debris (B07)	M
Clear-cutting, removal of all trees (B09)	H
Forest management reducing old growth forests (B15)	M
Roads, paths, railroads and related infrastructure (e.g. bridges, viaducts, tunnels) (E01)	M
Construction or modification (e.g. of housing and settlements) in existing urban or recreational areas (F02)	H
Residential or recreational activities and structures generating noise, light, heat or other forms of pollution (F24)	H
Tree surgery, felling/removal of roadside trees and vegetation for public safety (H05)	M
Closure or restricted access to site/habitat (H06)	M

Threat	Ranking
Removal of small landscape features for agricultural land parcel consolidation (hedges, stone walls, rushes, open ditches, springs, solitary trees, etc.) (A05)	H
Logging without replanting or natural regrowth (B05)	H
Removal of dead and dying trees, including debris (B07)	M
Clear-cutting, removal of all trees (B09)	H
Forest management reducing old growth forests (B15)	M
Roads, paths, railroads and related infrastructure (e.g. bridges, viaducts, tunnels) (E01)	M
Construction or modification (e.g. of housing and settlements) in existing urban or recreational areas (F02)	H
Residential or recreational activities and structures generating noise, light, heat or other forms of pollution (F24)	H
Tree surgery, felling/removal of roadside trees and vegetation for public safety (H05)	M
Closure or restricted access to site/habitat (H06)	M

## 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

Medium-term results (within the next two reporting periods, 2019-2030)

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## 9.5 List of main conservation measures

## 9.6 Additional information

## 10. Future prospects

- |                                     |  |
|-------------------------------------|--|
| 10.1 Future prospects of parameters | a) Range<br>b) Population<br>c) Habitat of the species |
|-------------------------------------|--|

## 10.2 Additional information

## 11. Conclusions

### 11.1. Range

### 11.2. Population

### 11.3. Habitat for the species

### 11.4. Future prospects

### 11.5 Overall assessment of Conservation Status

### 11.6 Overall trend in Conservation Status

### 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

## 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



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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

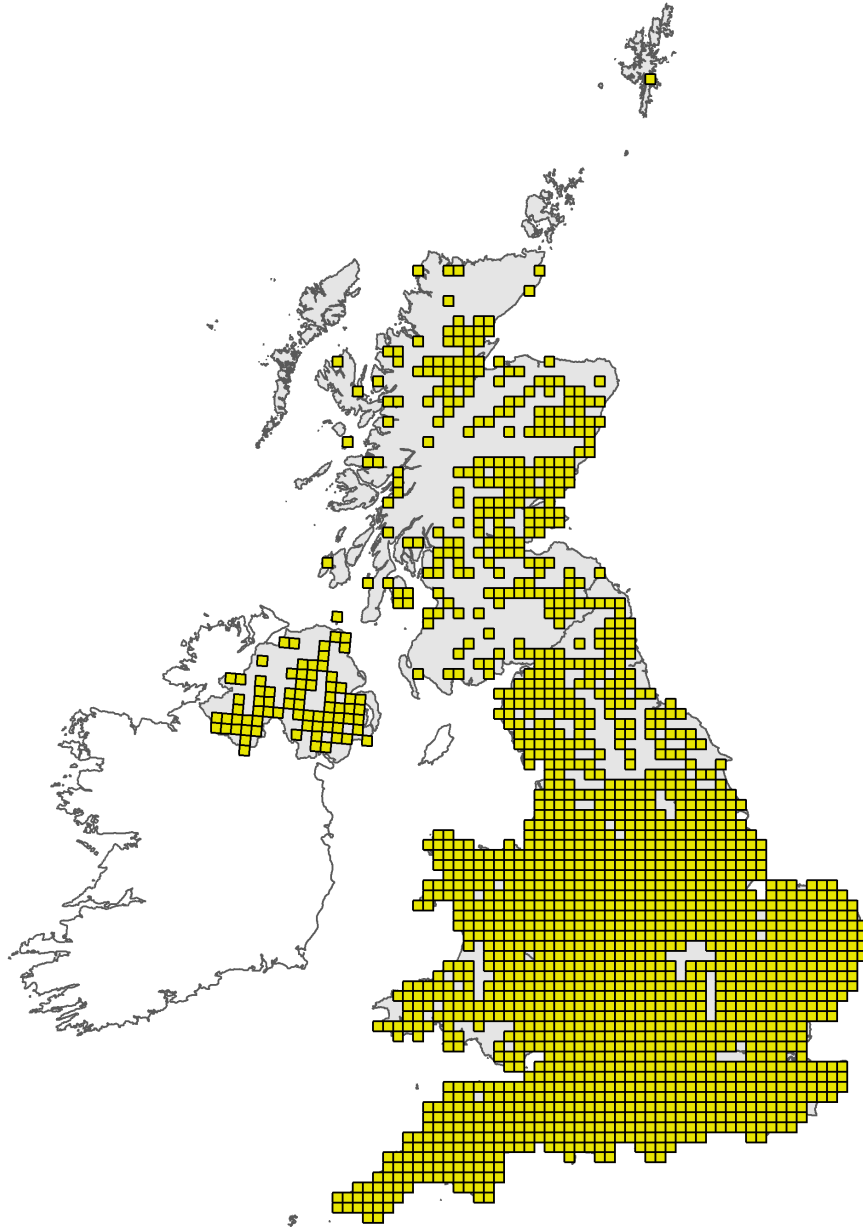


Figure 1: UK distribution map for S1326 - Brown long-eared bat (*Plecotus auritus*). Coastline boundary derived from the Oil and Gas Authority's OGA and Lloyd's Register SNS Regional Geological Maps (Open Source). Open Government Licence v3 (OGL). Contains data © 2017 Oil and Gas Authority.

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

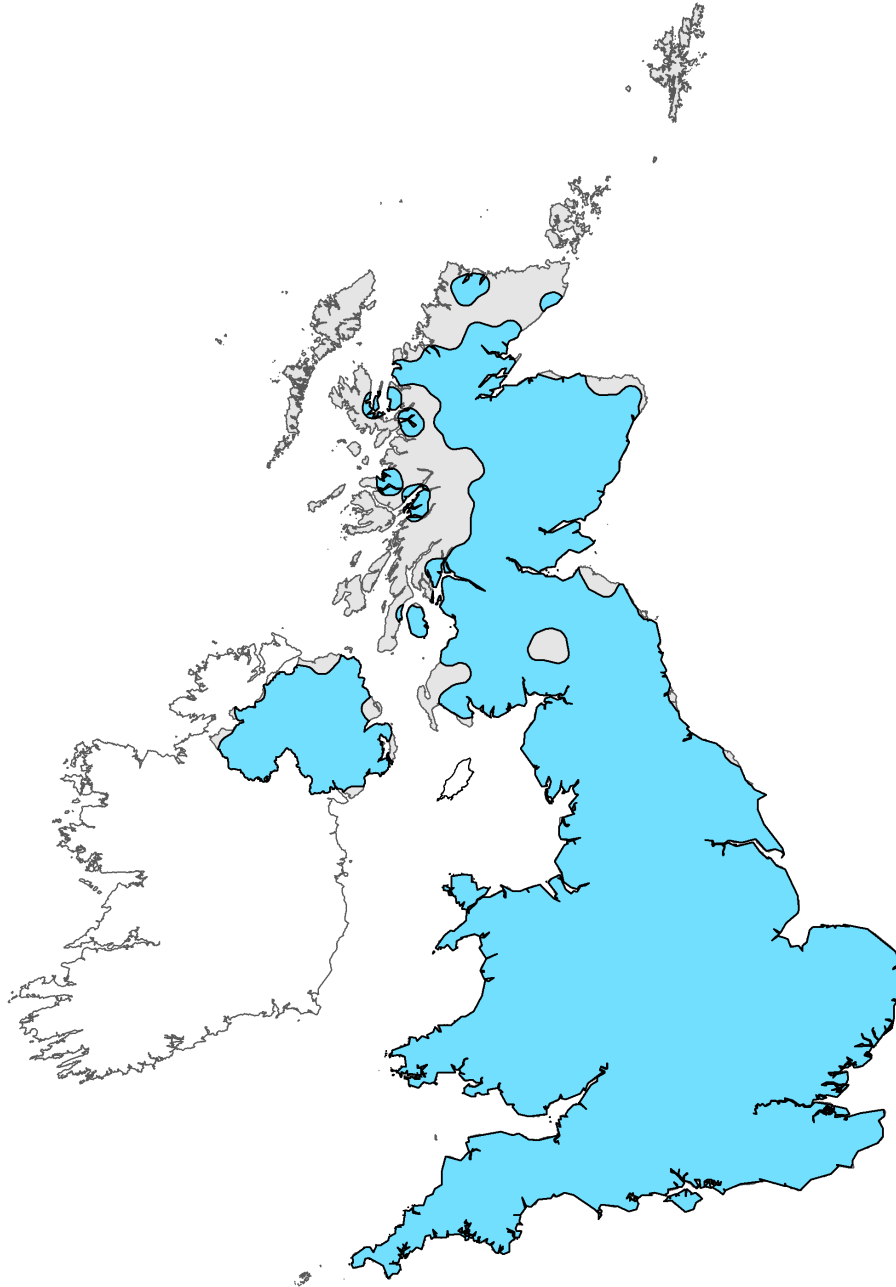


Figure 2: UK range map for S1326 - Brown long-eared bat (*Plecotus auritus*). Coastline boundary derived from the Oil and Gas Authority's OGA and Lloyd's Register SNS Regional Geological Maps (Open Source). Open Government Licence v3 (OGL). Contains data © 2017 Oil and Gas Authority.

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.

# Explanatory Notes

**Species name: Plecotus auritus (1326) Region code: ATL**

Field label	Note
5.3 Short term trend; Direction	The calculation of surface area range in the previous Article 17 Report was based on the number of occupied 10km sq records for this species in Northern Ireland 2001-2012. Based on the number of records between 2001- 2012 and 1989-2012 respectively they suggest the population was stable in the short and long term, and it is likely that this trend has continued.
5.5 Short term trend; Method used	Brown long-eared records have been collected since 1985 by the NIBG, BCT and BCI, yet they have a scattered distribution in Northern Ireland and there is currently no scheme in place to monitor populations of this species. There may be a number of additional incidental records from other sources that have not been added to species databases. The omission of these records will affect the interpretation of the overall distribution of the species within this report.
5.11 Change and reason for change in surface area of range	Available evidence suggests that there has been 'no' change in the surface area of this species' range.
6.1 Year or Period	Due to inconsistent recording, population estimates (1x1km squares presence) for all bat species have been based upon available data from the period 1994-2018.
6.5 Type of estimate	Based upon estimate used in 2013 Report. This estimate was based on a number of assumptions that are as yet untested and should be treated with caution.
6.6 Population size; Method used	The incidental records used in this report are collected by NI Bat Group, Bat Conservation Trust and Bat Conservation Ireland are available from databases managed by CEDaR, NI Bat Group, Bat Conservation Ireland and the National Biodiversity Data Centre. It is thought there are additional incidental records from other sources that have not been added to these databases. The omission of these records will affect the interpretation of the overall distribution and population estimate of the species within this report.
6.16 Change and reason for change in population size	There is patchy distributional data for this species and no long term monitoring of roost site use or population size. As a result there is no method to estimate population trends, while there is also no short and long term trend data on habitat availability. Hence no change reported in population size.
7.4 Short term trend; Direction	Brown long-eared bats can occupy a variety of habitats. There is little information on habitat associations of the species available. Given that there have been no systematic surveys carried out across brown long-eared bat sites in all of the possible habitats to assess their condition in relation to brown long-eared bat requirements, we cannot infer any directional trend between this period and the last for 'habitat for the species' with confidence. Therefore the short-term trend direction for the habitat for the species has been reported as 'uncertain'.

#### 8.1 Characterisation of pressures/ threats

Brown long-eared bats feed in open deciduous and coniferous woodland, parkland and gardens. There are many similarities with other bat species in terms of Threats and Pressures - i.e. - A05: Removal of small landscape features for agricultural land parcel consolidation (hedges, stone walls, rushes, open ditches, springs, solitary trees, etc.); B05: Logging without replanting or natural regrowth; B07: Removal of dead and dying trees, including debris; B09: Clear-cutting, removal of all trees; B15: Forest management reducing old growth forests; E01: Roads, paths railroads and related infrastructure (e.g. bridges, viaducts, tunnels); F02: Construction or modification (of e.g. housing and settlements) in existing urban or recreational areas; F24: Residential or recreational activities and structures generating noise, light, heat or other forms of pollution; H05: Tree surgery, felling/removal of roadside trees and vegetation for public safety; H06: Closure or restrictive access to site/habitat

#### 10.1 Future prospects of parameters

The future prospects for the habitat for the species have been reported as 'unknown' because there is insufficient monitoring data available to accurately interpret habitat trends. We cannot infer any directional trends in the habitat for the species between this period and the last with confidence, due to the quality and amount of data available to us for all reporting periods.