

**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:

S1330 - Whiskered bat (*Myotis mystacinus*)

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	1330
1.3 Species scientific name	<i>Myotis mystacinus</i>
1.4 Alternative species scientific name	
1.5 Common name (in national language)	Whiskered 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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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

England

Aegerter, I.N., 2003. Maximising the biodiversity value of farm woodlands to the agri-environment. Final project report to DEFRA. Project code WD0129.

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Brown, P.A., 2016. The Cryptic Group of Small *Myotis* Bats (*M. mystacinus*, *M. brandtii* and *M. alcathoe*) and Habitat Use by Woodland Bats Species in Britain, University of Bristol.

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- Parsons, K.N., Jones, G., Davidson-Watts, I., Greenaway, F. 2003. Swarming of bats at underground sites in Britain-implications for conservation. *Biological Conservation*. 111, 63-70.
- Richardson, P. W. 2000. Distribution Atlas of Bats in Britain and Ireland, 1980-1999, Bat Conservation Trust.
- Ruedi, M., and Mayer, F. 2001. Molecular systematics of bats of the genus *Myotis* (Vespertilionidae) suggests deterministic ecomorphological convergences. *Molecular phylogenetics and evolution*. 21, 436-448.
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N.Ireland

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.

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5. Range

5.1 Surface area (km ²)	171942
5.2 Short-term trend Period	2007-2018
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 (km ²) 155969 b) Operator c) Unknown d) Method The FRR value is the same as in 2013 and 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.
5.11 Change and reason for change in surface area of range	Use of different method The change is mainly due to: Use of different method

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5.12 Additional information

The range surface area for this species has been calculated using the UK 2013 approach and not the new approach outlined in Mathews et al. (2018). The trend in range is based on comparing current range with range in 2013 and expert opinion. Apparent change in the surface area of the range is due to a different method of data collection and is not genuine change.

The difficulty of separating this species from Brandt's bat (*Myotis brandtii*) in terms of physical appearance and echolocation calls limits the availability of data. The estimated range is therefore likely to be less reliable for this species than for other UK bat species.

There is no evidence to suggest that this species range has declined for the specified time period. The current range is above the FRR value and is considered to be large enough to support a viable population.

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 2834

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

6.6 Population size Method used

Based mainly on expert opinion with very limited data

6.7 Short-term trend Period

1999-2018

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

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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.

6.16 Change and reason for change in population size

Improved knowledge/more accurate data

Use of different method

No information on nature of change

The change is mainly due to: Use of different method

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. Accurate predictions of population size cannot be made as very few roosts are known, and it is highly likely that there is considerable misidentification of the species, which is very similar to Brandt's bat (*Myotis brandtii*) in physical appearance and echolocation calls. Trend information suggests the species populations are currently stable. However, lack of a population estimate 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

There is some detailed information on the habitat requirements/ limitations of this species. As this is a generalist species, using a mosaic of habitats across a large area this parameter is thought to be stable. It is assumed that there is sufficient habitat for the species, which does not appear to have declined in range or population.

8. Main pressures and threats

8.1 Characterisation of pressures/threats

Pressure

Ranking

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

Abandonment of grassland management (e.g. cessation of grazing or mowing) (A06)	M
---	---

Intensive grazing or overgrazing by livestock (A09)	H
---	---

Logging without replanting or natural regrowth (B05)	H
--	---

Removal of old trees (excluding dead or dying trees) (B08)	M
--	---

Clear-cutting, removal of all trees (B09)	H
---	---

Roads, paths, railroads and related infrastructure (e.g. bridges, viaducts, tunnels) (E01)	H
--	---

Conversion from other land uses to housing, settlement or recreational areas (excluding drainage and modification of coastline, estuary and coastal conditions) (F01)	M
---	---

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

Sports, tourism and leisure activities (F07)	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
---	---

Intensive grazing or overgrazing by livestock (A09)	H
---	---

Logging without replanting or natural regrowth (B05)	M
--	---

Removal of old trees (excluding dead or dying trees) (B08)	H
--	---

Clear-cutting, removal of all trees (B09)	M
---	---

Roads, paths, railroads and related infrastructure (e.g. bridges, viaducts, tunnels) (E01)	H
--	---

Conversion from other land uses to housing, settlement or recreational areas (excluding drainage and modification of coastline, estuary and coastal conditions) (F01)	H
---	---

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

Sports, tourism and leisure activities (F07)	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

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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)
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)
Adapt/manage reforestation and forest regeneration (CB04)
Adapt/change forest management and exploitation practices (CB05)
Reduce impact of transport operation and infrastructure (CE01)
Manage conversion of land for construction and development of infrastructure (CF01)
Reduce impact of outdoor sports, leisure and recreational activities (CF03)
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 Overall stable; 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

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Range surface area is stable and (ii) the current Range surface area is not less than the Favourable Reference Range.

Conclusion on Population reached because: (i) the short-term trend direction in Population size is stable; and (ii) the current Population size 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 is Unknown.

Overall trend in Conservation Status is based on the combination of the short-term trends for Range – stable Population – stable, 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. However, from the information available the overall trend would have been stable in 2013 and so there has been no 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

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13.2 Trans-boundary assessment

13.3 Other relevant Information

Distribution Map

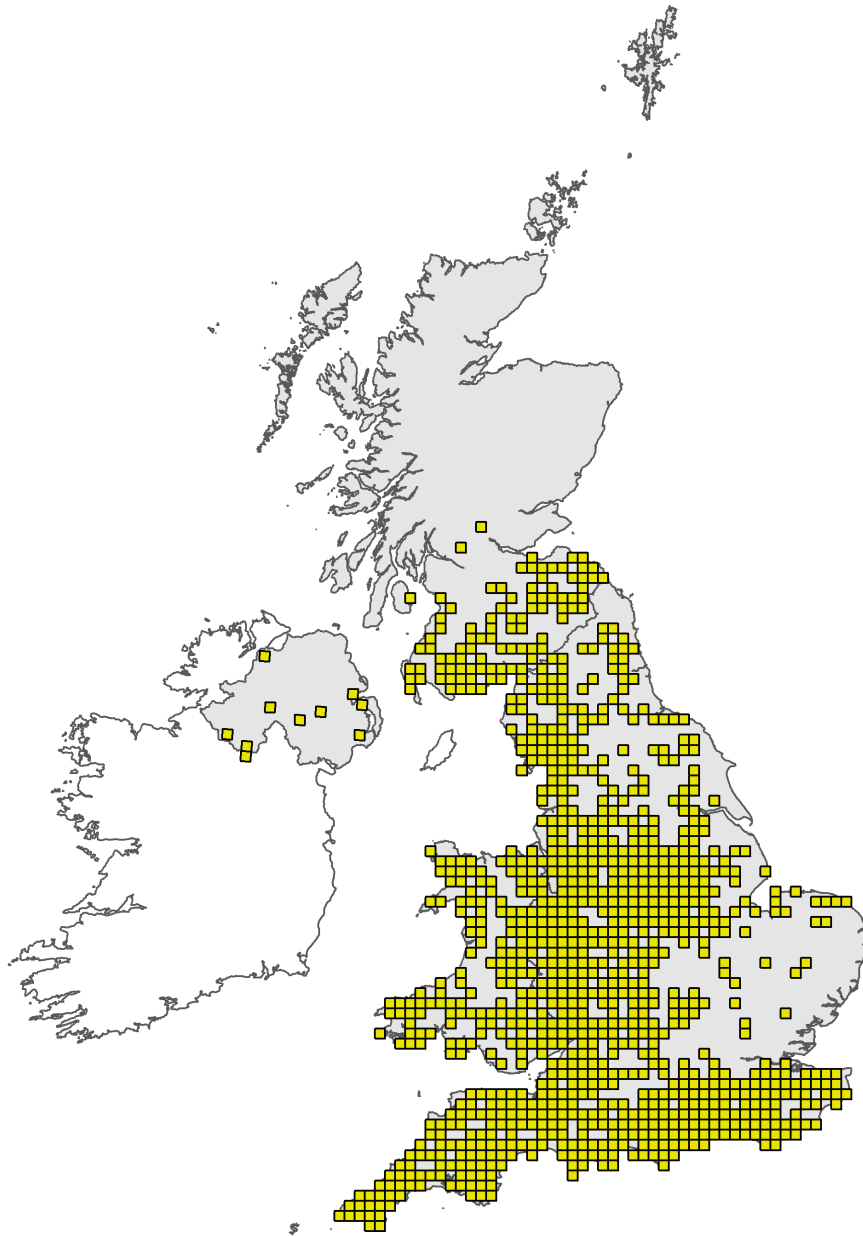


Figure 1: UK distribution map for S1330 - Whiskered bat (*Myotis mystacinus*). Coastline boundary derived from the Oil and Gas Authority's OGA and Lloyd's Register SNS Regional Geological Maps (Open Source). Open Government Licence v3 (OGL). Contains data © 2017 Oil and Gas Authority.

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 S1330 - Whiskered bat (*Myotis mystacinus*). 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 applying a bespoke range mapping tool for Article 17 reporting (produced by JNCC) to the 10km grid square distribution map presented in Figure 1. The alpha value for this species was 45km. For further details see the 2019 Article 17 UK Approach document.