

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

Supporting documentation for the
Third Report by the United Kingdom under
Article 17

on the implementation of the Directive
from January 2007 to December 2012
Conservation status assessment for

Species:

S1320 - Brandt's bat (*Myotis brandtii*)

IMPORTANT NOTE – PLEASE READ

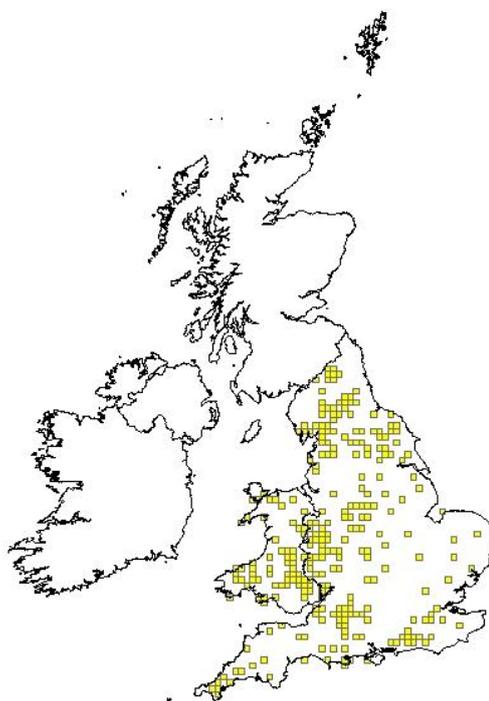
- The country-level reporting information contained in this document is a contribution to the Article 17 UK report for the habitat/species concerned.
- It has been provided by **Natural England** and refers only to the state of the habitat/species in **England** - it does not constitute an assessment for the whole of the UK.
- The Article 17 UK Approach document provides details on how this information has been used and, combined with information supplied by other Statutory Nature Conservation Bodies
- The format of the document is closely aligned to that set out by the European Commission for Member State reporting – as a result, some of the fields are not applicable at a country-level and have deliberately been left blank – in addition, the content of most fields is constrained by the EC reporting categories.

Reporting format on the 'main results of the surveillance under Article 11' for Annex II, IV & V species

<i>Field name</i>	<i>Brief explanations</i>	
0.2 Species	0.2.1 Species code	S1320
	0.2.2 Species scientific name	<i>Myotis brandtii</i>
	0.2.3 Alternative species scientific name Optional	
	0.2.4 Common name Optional	Brandt's bat

1.1 Maps

1.1.1 Distribution map	Sensitive	False
<p>M brandtii is very difficult to distinguish from M mystacinus in terms of physical appearance. Its echolocation calls are also difficult to identify unambiguously. Current monitoring is by counting M. mystacinus/M. brandtii in hibernation sites, but this may not give an unbiased trend estimate. Trends are not available for the two species separately.</p>		



1.1.2 Method used - map	Complete survey/Complete survey or a statistically robust estimate
1.1.3 Year or period	1980-2012
	The date range indicated has been selected to reflect current range/surface area for the species for the following reasons:

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> There are limitations in the quality of the data available. The largest dataset (Richardson 2000), has data ranging from 1980-1999 but the date of individual records within this dataset is not known. Deviating from this time period would mean having to exclude these records. The greatest level of change affecting populations of this species probably occurred prior to 1980, and so 1980 to the present is likely to reflect current distribution and range. <p><i>M. brandtii</i> is widely distributed in England, though it's probably less common in eastern England.</p>
1.1.4 Additional distribution map	False
1.1.5 Range map	

2.1 Biogeographical region & marine regions	ATL
2.2 Published sources	<p>"BAT CONSERVATION TRUST, 2012. The National Bat Monitoring Programme. Annual Report 2011. Bat Conservation Trust, London. (www.bats.org.uk)</p> <p>BATTERSBY, J (Ed.). 2005. UK Mammals: Species Status and Population Trends. JNCC/Tracking Mammals Partnership.</p> <p>BERGE, L. 2007. The effects of phylogenetic differences on resource partitioning between the cryptic species whiskered bat (<i>Myotis mystacinus</i>) and Brandt's bat (<i>M. brandtii</i>). Unpublished Thesis, University of Bristol, School of Biological Sciences, Bristol, UK, 162 pp.</p> <p>BERGE, L & JONES, G. 2008. Brandt's bat <i>Myotis brandtii</i>. Pp 315-319 in HARRIS, S. & YALDEN, D.W. Mammals of the British Isles: Handbook, 4th edition. The Mammal Society, Southampton.799pp.</p> <p>BOYE, P. & DIETZ, M. 2005. Research Report No 661: Development of good practice guidelines for woodland management for bats. English Nature, Peterborough.</p> <p>GLOVER, A.M. & ALTRINGHAM, J.D. 2008. Cave selection and use by swarming bat species. Biological Conservation 141(6):1493-1504.</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>CAREY, P.D., WALLIS, S.M., EMMETT, B.E., MASKELL, L.C., MURPHY, J., NORTON, L.R., SIMPSON, I.C., SMART, S.S. 2008. Countryside Survey: UK headline messages from 2007. Centre for Ecology & Hydrology, Wallingford.</p> <p>JOHANSSON, M. & DE JONG, J. 1996. Bat species diversity in a lake archipelago in central Sweden. Biodiversity & Conservation, 5, 1221-1229.</p> <p>JONES, K.E., ALTRINGHAM, J.D. & DEATON, R. 1996. Distribution and population densities of seven species of bat in northern England Journal of Zoology, 240, 788-798</p>

	<p>NORBERG, U.M. & RAYNER, J.M.V. 1987. Ecological morphology and flight in bats (Mammalia: Chiroptera): Wing adaptations, flight performance, foraging strategy and echolocation. Philosophical Transactions of the Royal Society, London B, 316, 335-427.</p> <p>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(1): 63-70.</p> <p>RICHARDSON, P. 2000. Distribution atlas of bats in Britain and Ireland 1980-1999. Bat Conservation Trust, London.</p> <p>SPEAKMAN, J.R. 1991. The impact of predation by birds on bat populations in the British Isles. Mammal Review, 21, 123-142.</p> <p>VON HELVERSEN, O., HELLER, K.G., NEMETH. A., VOLLETH, M. & GOMBKÖTÖ, P. 2001. Cryptic mammalian species: a new species of whiskered bat (<i>Myotis aclathoe</i> n sp) in Europe. Naturwissenschaft 88: 5, 217 – 223"</p>

2.3 Range					
2.3.1 Surface area Range					
2.3.2 Method used Surface area of Range	Estimate based on partial data with some extrapolation and/or modelling				
2.3.3 Short-term trend Period	The difficulty of separating this species from <i>M. mystacinus</i> in terms of physical appearance and via echolocation calls limits the availability of data. Both <i>M. brandtii</i> and <i>M. mystacinus</i> are monitored through the National Bat Monitoring Programme (NBMP), however, the data is combined from the two species which limits its use. <i>M. brandtii</i> is a widespread species, however, historic under recording and uncertainty over identification may limit the accuracy of the range data.				
2.3.4 Short term trend Trend direction	The species is widely distributed across England. However, it is probably under recorded due to its similarity in physical appearance to <i>M. mystacinus</i> and its inability to be separated from this species easily through sound analysis, as the species echolocation calls are very similar. There is no evidence to suggest that this species range has declined for the specified time period 2001-2012.				
2.3.5 Short-term trend Magnitude	<table border="1" style="width: 100%;"> <tr> <td style="width: 30%;">a) Minimum</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>b) Maximum</td> <td></td> </tr> </table>	a) Minimum		b) Maximum	
a) Minimum					
b) Maximum					

2.3.6 Long-term trend Period		
2.3.7 Long-term trend Trend direction		
2.3.8 Long-term trend Magnitude Optional	a) Minimum	
	b) Maximum	
2.3.9 Favourable reference range	a) Value in km²	
	b) Operator for FRR	
	c) FRR is unknown (indicated by "true")	False
2.3.10 Reason for change Is the difference between the reported value in 2.3.1 and the previous reporting round mainly due to...	a) Genuine change?	False
	b) Improved knowledge/more accurate data?	False
	c) Use of different method (e.g. "Range tool")?	False

2.4 Population

2.4.1 Population size estimation (using individuals or agreed exceptions where possible)	a) Unit	number of individuals
	b) Minimum	22500
	c) Maximum	22500
2.4.2 Population size estimation (using population unit other than individuals) Optional (<i>if 2.4.1 filled in</i>)	a) Unit	
	b) Minimum	
	c) Maximum	
2.4.3 Additional information on population estimates / conversion Optional	a) Definition of "locality"	
	b) Method to convert data	
	c) Problems encountered to provide population size estimation	The estimates were based on expert judgement and extrapolation from limited field surveys. The 1995 population estimate for Great Britain (GB) was based on very limited information, extrapolating from known size of <i>Pipistrellus pipistrellus</i> colonies in relation to size of <i>M. brandtii</i> colonies following the methods described by Speakman (1991) and Harris et al (1995). Harris et al's (1995) reliability rating of the estimate was 5, indicating that little confidence can be placed on the estimate. Although the estimate dates from 1995, NBMP data indicate that the population trend for this species (1997-2012) is stable, so there is no justification for updating the estimate. Better data are needed. 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.
2.4.4 Year or period	1995-	
2.4.5 Method used Population size	Estimate based on expert opinion with no or minimal sampling	
2.4.6 Short-term trend		

Period		
2.4.7 Short-term trend	unknown	
Trend direction		
2.4.8 Short-term trend Magnitude	a) Minimum	
	b) Maximum	
	c) Confidence interval	
2.4.9 Short-term trend Method used	Absent data	
2.4.10 Long-term trend – Period		
2.4.11 Long-term trend Trend direction		
2.4.12 Long-term trend Magnitude Optional	a) Minimum	
	b) Maximum	
	c) Confidence interval	
2.4.13 Long term trend Method used		
2.4.14 Favourable reference population	a) Number of individuals/agreed exceptions/other units	
	There is very little historic or current information to determine a favourable reference population for this species. The only information on current trends suggests stable populations at present, but the time	

	series is very short and the data are not robust because of potential confusion with the closely related <i>M. mystacinus</i> . More data are required to assess population trends and absolute abundance. For this reason the favourable reference population is Unknown at present.	
	b) Operator	
	c) FRP is unknown indicated by "true"	True
	d) Method used to set FRP	
2.4.15 Reason for change	a) Genuine change?	False
Is the difference between the value reported at 2.4.1 or 2.4.2 and the previous reporting round mainly due to:		
	b) Improved knowledge/more accurate data?	False
	c) Use of different method (e.g. "Range tool")?	False

2.5 Habitat for the species	
2.5.1 Area estimation	22000
	M. brandtii requires a complex mosaic of habitats to support foraging, roosting and commuting behaviour. The species has wing morphology and echolocation calls which indicate that they forage in edge or cluttered habitats (Norberg & Rayner 1987) and in broadleaf forest with particularly damp areas, close to water. Coniferous woodland, forest edges and clearings also frequently used (Boye & Dietz 2005). The species is negatively affected by habitat isolation and may be particularly vulnerable to increased forest patchiness (Ekman & DeJong 1996). In England, a radiotracking study found the species had a maximum foraging distance of 2.3 km from the roost (Berge, 2007). The species also swarms at underground sites August - October, with a peak in early August (Parsons et al. 2003). These sites should also be considered important habitat features for the species. Loose bark and large holes in tree trunks are the original roost sites of <i>M. brandtii</i> , but tree holes and bat boxes are also used, especially by males during mating time. Maternity colonies are more commonly found in buildings in wall crevices or roof lofts, and more rarely in trees, bridges and bat boxes Winter roosts are commonly in disused mines and caves, occasionally in

	cellars (Berge & Jones, 2008).	
	There is thought to be a sufficient amount of habitat in the UK to support a viable population of the species.	
2.5.2 Year or period	1980-2012	
2.5.3 Method used Habitat for the species	Estimate based on expert opinion with no or minimal sampling	
2.5.4 Quality of the habitat	a) Habitat quality	Unknown
	No or insufficient reliable information is available to assess the quality of the habitat.	
	b) Assessment method	In order to obtain this estimate, it would be necessary to first identify all of the foraging and roosting habitat located within the current range boundary; determine whether or not each of these features were being used; and subsequently calculate the combined area of all currently used habitats. This process would require very detailed habitat information at a fine scale across the UK. We do not currently have this level of information. As this is a generalist species using a mosaic of habitats, the area of distribution is used as an estimate of habitat area. This is calculated from the number of occupied 10km squares on the distribution map.
2.5.5 Short-term trend Period	2001-2012	
2.5.6 Short-term trend Trend direction	unknown	
2.5.7 Long-term trend Period		
2.5.8 Long-term trend Trend direction		
2.5.9 Area of suitable habitat for the species	a) Value in km²	22000
	b) Absence of data indicated as '0'	
2.5.10 Reason for change Is the difference between the value reported at 2.5.1 and the previous reporting round mainly	a) Genuine change?	False

due to	b) Improved knowledge/more accurate data?	False
	c) Use of different method (e.g. "Range tool")?	False

2.6 Main pressures		
a) Pressure	b) Ranking	c) Pollution qualifier
	H = high importance M = medium importance L = low importance	
A04: grazing	H	
A10: Restructuring agricultural land holding	H	
B02: Forest and Plantation management & use	H	
A07: use of biocides, hormones and chemicals	M	
E06: Other urbanisation, industrial and similar activities	M	
G05: Other human intrusions and disturbances	M	
B03: forest exploitation without replanting or natural regrowth	L	
D01: Roads, paths and railroads	L	
E01: Urbanised areas, human habitation	L	
G01: Outdoor sports and leisure activities, recreational activities	L	
J02: human induced changes in hydraulic conditions	L	

Pressures can generally be divided into those that affect roosts and those that affect commuting and foraging (including prey availability). Although roosts are strictly protected, a small number of licences permitting exclusion or roost destruction is issued every year. In addition, changes in building practices to improve energy efficiency mean that new buildings may offer fewer roosting opportunities (Mitchell-Jones, 2010). Brandt's bats forage over lowland farmland, woodland parkland and woodland edges, Agricultural and forestry practices that remove, modify or fragment these habitats, or affect the biomass of suitable insect prey could negatively affect populations.

2.6.1 Method used – Pressures

based only on expert judgements

2.7 Threats		
a) Threat	b) Ranking	c) Pollution qualifier
	H = high importance M = medium importance L = low importance	
A07: use of biocides, hormones and chemicals	H	
A10: Restructuring agricultural land holding	H	
B02: Forest and Plantation management & use	H	
A04: grazing	M	
E06: Other urbanisation, industrial and similar activities	M	
G05: Other human intrusions and disturbances	M	
B03: forest exploitation without replanting or natural regrowth	L	
D01: Roads, paths and railroads	L	
E01: Urbanised areas, human habitation	L	
G01: Outdoor sports and leisure activities, recreational activities	L	
J02: human induced changes in hydraulic conditions	L	

Threats can generally be divided into those that affect roosts and those that affect commuting and foraging (including prey availability). Although roosts are strictly protected, a small number of licences permitting exclusion or roost destruction is issued every year. In addition, changes in building practices to improve energy efficiency mean that new buildings may offer fewer roosting opportunities (Mitchell-Jones, 2010). Brandt's bats forage over lowland farmland, woodland parkland and woodland edges, Agricultural and forestry practices that remove, modify or fragment these habitats, or affect the biomass of suitable insect prey could negatively affect populations.

2.7.1 Method used – Threats	expert opinion

2.8 Complementary information

2.8.1 Justification of % thresholds for trends

2.8.2 Other relevant information	
2.8.3 Trans-boundary assessment	

2.9 Conclusions (*assessment of conservation status at end of reporting period*)

Please refer to the United Kingdom assessment for this species.

3 Natura 2000 coverage & conservation measures - Annex II species (*only applies to species listed under Annex II of the Directive*)

3.1 Population

3.1.1 Population size Estimation of population size included in the SAC network	a) Unit	
	b) Minimum	
	c) Maximum	
3.1.2 Method used		
3.1.3 Trend of population size within the network (short-term trend)		

3.2 Conservation measures

Conservation measures taken (i.e. already being implemented) within the reporting period and provided information about their importance, location and evaluation.

3.2.1 Measure	3.2.2 Type					3.2.3 Ranking H = high importance M = medium importance L = low importance	3.2.4 Location where the measure is PRIMARILY applied			3.2.5 Broad evaluation of the measure					
	a) Legal/statutory	b) Administrative	c) Contractual	d) Recurrent	e) One-off		a) Inside	b) Outside	c) Both inside & outside	a) Maintain	b) Enhance	c) Long term	d) No effect	e) Unknown	f) Not evaluated

--