

21st Meeting of the Advisory Committee

Zandvoort, Netherlands, 18 – 20 April 2016



UK National Report

1. Species Trend Information

The National Bat Monitoring Programme 2014 results show that currently all species surveyed appear to be stable or increasing based on data from at least one survey. In 2014, five species showed statistically significant increases over the period of the monitoring programme in at least one survey across GB. Significant positive trends were reported for the following species: Greater horseshoe bat (Roost Count), Lesser horseshoe bat (Hibernation Survey & Roost Count), Natterer's bat (Hibernation Survey), Common pipistrelle (Field Survey), Soprano pipistrelle (Field Survey).

These results indicate that lesser horseshoe bat populations are increasing, as clear increases are shown in both surveys and that common pipistrelle and soprano pipistrelle populations are increasing, as Field Survey data are considered to be more reliable than Roost Count data for these species.

http://www.bats.org.uk/pages/species_population_trends.html

2. Research projects

2.1 UK Wind turbines and bats research project - the final report will be published in 2016 once the guidance to go with the report has been completed.

2.2 Woodland Bat Monitoring. The project report "Developing an effective method for the systematic surveillance of bats in woodland habitats in the UK" is available on the Defra website. Search for WC1015 at <http://sciencesearch.defra.gov.uk>

2.3 Roads and Infrastructure and bats. The project report "Development of a cost-effective method for monitoring the effectiveness of mitigation for bats crossing linear transport infrastructure is available on the Defra website. Search for WC1060 at <http://sciencesearch.defra.gov.uk>

2.4 Review of British Mammals. This project will review the distribution and status of British mammal populations (last undertaken by Harris et al, in 1995). The project will finish in September 2016 and will include an IUNC Red List assessment.

2.5 Systematic survey of bats across southern Scotland using automatic detectors, focussing on *Nyctalus* spp and *Pipistrellus nathusii*. Fieldwork to commence in May 2016.

3. Legislation

At the last AC meeting, BCT reported on the European Commission's review of the Birds and Habitats Directives and whether they are "fit for purpose". Member state consultation

and public consultations were undertaken in the UK and concluded that there was no need to renegotiate the Directives and that the focus should be on implementing them.

Jean Matthews

13 Apr. 16