

**NATIONAL REPORT ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE AGREEMENT ON THE
CONSERVATION OF POPULATIONS OF EUROPEAN BATS
(EUROBATS)**

2006 – 2009

UNITED KINGDOM

Prepared by the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs
June 2010

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AGREEMENT FOR THE CONSERVATION OF BATS IN EUROPE (EUROBATS)

Report on the implementation of the Agreement in the United Kingdom

2010 / MoP 6

This document reports on actions undertaken by the UNITED KINGDOM from 2006 to 2009 to meet its obligations under the Agreement.

A. GENERAL INFORMATION

Party: United Kingdom

Date of Report: June 2010

Period Covered by Report: 2006 to 2009

Competent Authority: The Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra)

A Abbreviations

BAP Biodiversity Action Plan

BBC British Broadcasting Corporation

BCI Bat Conservation Ireland

BCT Bat Conservation Trust

BRE Building Research Establishment

CCW Countryside Council for Wales

CEO Chief Executive Officer

CIEF Construction Industry Research and Information Forum

CSS Countryside Stewardship Scheme

DEFRA Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs

EEA European Environment Agency

EA Environment Agency

EBLV European Bat Lyssavirus

ES Environmental Stewardship

ESA Environmentally Sensitive Areas

GONHS Gibraltar Ornithological and Natural History Society

HPA Health Protection Agency

HAP Habitat Action Plan

HLF Heritage Lottery Fund

IBDA Integrated Biodiversity Delivery Area

IEEM Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management

ILE Institute of Lighting Engineers

IOZ the Zoological Society of London's (ZSL) Institute of Zoology

IWG Intercessional Working Group

JNCC Joint Nature Conservation Committee

LBAP Local Biodiversity Action Plan

LPA Local Planning Authorities

MP Member of Parliament

NBMP National Bat Monitoring Programme

NE Natural England

NIEA Northern Ireland Environment Agency

NWCU National Wildlife Crime Unit

RIBA Royal Institute of British Architects

RICS Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors

RSPB Royal Society for the Protection of Birds

RSPCA Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals

SAC Special Area of Conservation

SAPs Species Action Plans

SCI Sites of Community Importance

SEBI 2010 Streamlining European 2010 Indicators (SEBI 2010)
SEPA Scottish Environment Protection Agency
SNCO Statutory Nature Conservation Organisations
SNH Scottish National Heritage
SSSI Site of Special Scientific Interest
UK United Kingdom
UK BAP United Kingdom Biodiversity Action Plan
UKGBC UK Green Building Council
VLA Veterinary Laboratories Agency
WIIS Wildlife Incident Investigation Scheme
WCO Wildlife Crime Officer
WNS White Nose Syndrome

B. STATUS OF BATS WITHIN THE TERRITORY OF THE PARTY

1. Summary Details of Resident Species

United Kingdom

Alcathoe bat *Myotis alcathoe* has been newly reported to occur within the UK, at sites in Sussex and Yorkshire, bringing the total number of resident species to 17. The bat was discovered by researchers from University of Leeds and University of Sheffield and a paper submitted to *Acta Chiropterologica* is currently under peer review.

A single greater mouse-eared bat *Myotis myotis* was recorded in Dec 2009, but no other individuals have been recorded for several years before this and as such the status is not confirmed. A record of a grounded parti-coloured bat *Vespertilio murinus* that was rescued in London and subsequently released in April 2009. has been confirmed.

A male Bechstein's bat *Myotis bechsteinii* was discovered in a woodland in south west Wales. It is not known if this represents the first indication of a resident population in Wales, but the record is a long way from any known breeding sites. The bat was found during research work aiming to identify roosts of barbastelle *Barbastella barbastellus*.

Gibraltar

There are currently 3 species of bat in Gibraltar which include the Soprano pipistrelle (*Pipistrellus pygmaeus*), Schreiber's bat (*Miniopterus schreibersii*) and the European free-tailed bat (*Tadarida teniotis*). It is very likely that the common pipistrelle (*Pipistrellus pipistrellus*) is also present in Gibraltar and further investigations are being carried out at present by the Gibraltar Ornithological and Natural History Society (GONHS)

2. Status and Trends

Monitoring and trends

The National Bat Monitoring Programme (NBMP) has been run by BCT since 1996 and funded by the JNCC since 2001. It is the longest running purpose-built multi-species monitoring programme for mammals in the UK, producing statistically robust population trends for 11 of the UK's resident bat species. Four survey methods are employed to monitor the UK's bats:

- Field surveys with bat detectors;
- Hibernation site surveys;
- Summer maternity colony counts; and
- Car survey with broadband detectors.

The NBMP's datasets are unique in that some species are monitored using more than one of the survey methods and may have two trends described. However, the robustness of the data obtained may vary among survey methods. As a rule, trends from field surveys currently take priority, followed by the hibernation survey, and then by the colony counts unless otherwise stated.

Status of UK's bat species monitored by NBMP

Table 1 below summarises NBMP trends for 2009. This information is from the 2009 Annual Report which is available on BCT's website at <http://www.bats.org.uk/pages/nbmp.html>. Figures 1 and 2 show NBMP trends for a) BAP species and b) other species up to 2008.

Table 1: UK long-term population trends and average annual percentage change up to 2009.

Species	Status	Survey	Trend time period	Long-term trend %	Average annual change %	Comments
<i>Rhinolophus ferrumequinum</i>	Rare	Hibernation	1999-2009	34.9	3.0	Significant increase from Colony Counts
		Colony	1999-2009	89.5	6.6	
<i>Rhinolophus hipposideros</i>	Rare	Hibernation	1999-2009	63.7	5.1	Significant increase on both surveys
		Colony	1999-2009	57.6	4.7	
<i>Eptesicus serotinus</i>	Widespread but scarce in Southern Britain	Field	1999-2009	20.1	1.9	No significant trend from either survey
		Colony	1999-2009	-0.6	-0.1	
<i>Myotis brandtii/M. mystacinus</i>	Common in N and W England, rare elsewhere	Hibernation	1999-2009	52.7	4.3	Significant increase though should be treated with caution at present
<i>Myotis Nattereri</i>	Common	Hibernation	1999-2009	97.6	7.1	Significant increase from Hibernation Survey
		Colony	2000-2009	-23.9	-3.0	
<i>Myotis Daubentonii</i>	Common	Hibernation	1999-2009	11.1	1.1	No significant trend
		Waterway	1999-2009	1.6	0.2	
<i>Nyctalus noctula</i>	Uncommon	Field	1999-2009	50.4	4.2	Significant increase though should be treated with caution at present
<i>Pipistrellus pipistrellus</i>	Common	Field	1999-2009	65.4	5.2	Both trends significant; Field Survey considered more robust, therefore considered to be increasing
		Colony	1999-2009	-48.1	-6.4	
<i>Pipistrellus pygmaeus</i>	Common	Field	1999-2009	20.7	1.9	Colony count trend is significant but should be treated with caution due to colony mobility; Field Survey considered more robust but trend not significant
		Colony	1999-2009	-40.5	-5.1	
<i>Plecotus auritus</i>	Common	Hibernation	1999-2009	-2	-0.2	No significant trend
		Colony	2001-2009	0.6	0.1	
<i>Myotis bechsteinii</i>	Very rare	No trend data available; baseline distribution survey in progress				
<i>Nyctalus leisleri</i>	Scarce in GB, common in Ireland	Recorded on iBatsUK car survey but more data needed to detect trends				

<i>Pipistrellus nathusii</i>	Rare	Recorded on iBatsUK car survey but more data needed to detect trends
<i>Barbastelle barbastellus</i>	Rare	Recorded on Woodland Survey but more data needed to detect trends
<i>Plecotus austriacus</i>	Very rare	No trend data available; a few records from Hibernation Survey
<i>Myotis myotis</i>	Status unconfirmed	Only one individual known in UK at present; recorded on Hibernation Survey

Myotis bechsteinii

Launched in February 2008, the Bechstein's bat survey project is a 3.5 year funded project which aims to map the UK distribution of the elusive Bechstein's bat. Selected woodlands in southern England and south Wales are being surveyed to gather more information about this species' known range, its habitat associations and to identify conservation hotspots.

In 2009 six local bat groups took part in the project; Cornwall, Devon, Dorset, Kent, Oxfordshire and Surrey. Between May and September, 93 target woodlands were surveyed in which 356 bats of 12 species were caught (and released). This included 13 Bechstein's bats (12 caught in Dorset and one in Kent) which add to the two individuals caught in Surrey during the 2008 survey.

By combining the Bechstein's bat records for Dorset in 2009 with those previously held by the group an interesting distribution pattern is beginning to emerge which strongly suggests that Dorset is an important area for Bechstein's bats.

According to bat group records the female recorded in Kent is the first confirmed summer record of a female in the county, giving it local importance. This record and the two individuals identified in Surrey were all located near to the Sussex border where further records for this species (collected during the pilot study) are present. The project is therefore increasing our understanding of this species across this south east area.

Barbastella barbastellus

The NBMP Woodland Survey was piloted in 2004 by BCT as a new method to survey and monitor bats in woodlands with particular focus on barbastelle *Barbastella barbastellus*. It is funded by Natural England with the key aim of monitoring sites that are designated as Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) due to the presence of barbastelles. Seven barbastelle woodland SAC sites are currently monitored using the protocol. The survey has also been rolled out to 22 other woodland sites, four of which have confirmed barbastelle records so far, including at least one where the presence of barbastelle was confirmed for the first time using this methodology.

A sound analysis protocol has also been put together for use by Woodland Survey volunteers who wish to analyse their own recordings.

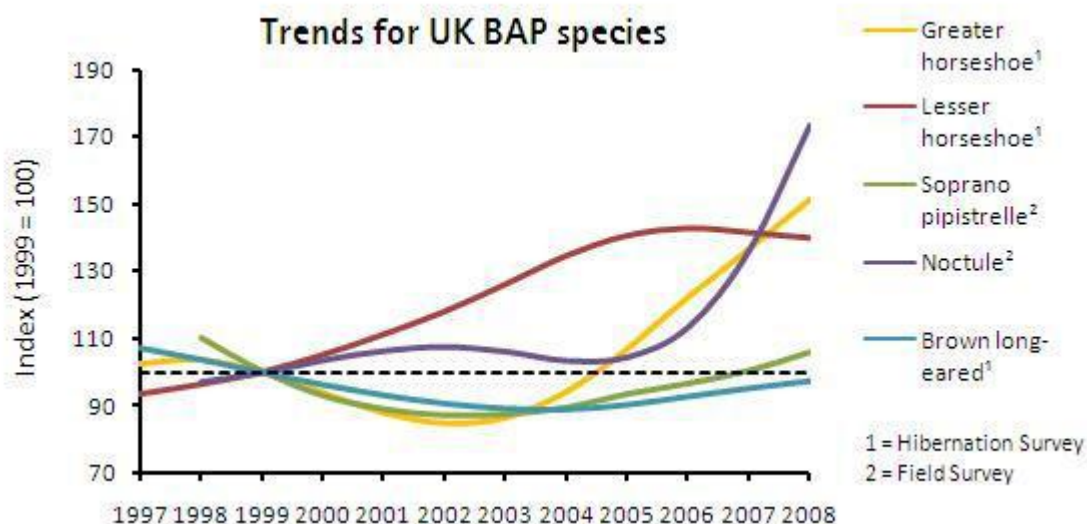


Figure 1: NBMP trends for UK Bap Species

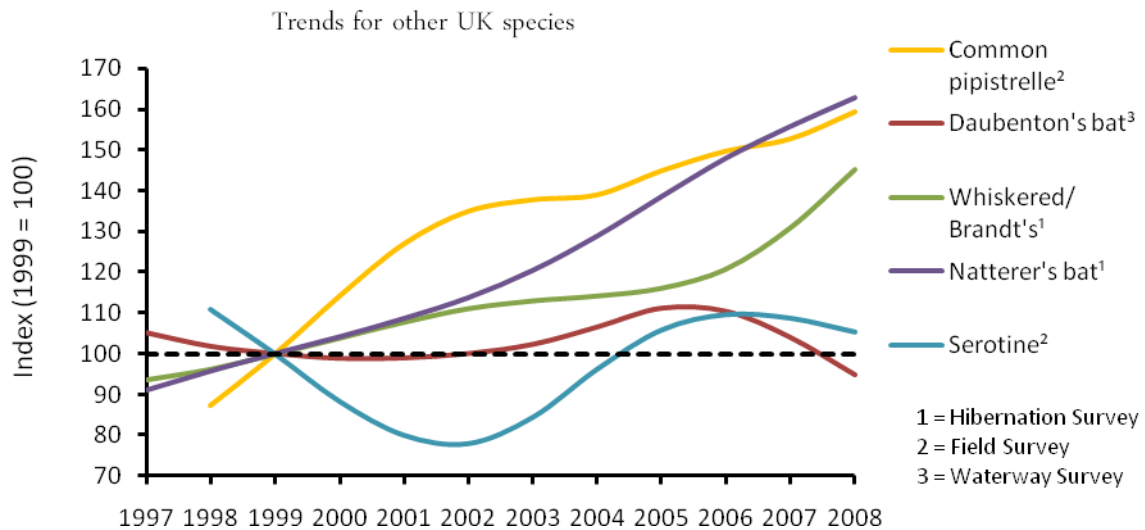


Figure 2: NBMP Trends for UK Species

Wales

The largest pre-parturition count of *Rhinolophus hipposideros* in Wales was 769 at Buckland House SSSI, near Brecon.

Gibraltar

Soprano pipistrelle (*Pipistrellus pygmaeus*) – Common species found in open, urban areas interspersed with gardens, where they roost crevices and roofs of buildings. No estimates of population numbers are available at present. The population trend has been identified as being stable to decreasing.

European Free-tailed Bat (*Tadarida teniotis*) - European free-tailed bats roost in cracks and crevices on rock faces in Gibraltar and therefore roost sites are difficult to locate. No information regarding the population size appears to be available at present.

Schreiber's Bat (*Miniopterus schreibersii*) - This species is reported to occupy a range of 4 km² in Gibraltar. The population is said to be transient, with the bats being present in their only known roost (close to O'Hara's Battery) mainly during the months of February to April and October to November.

Schreiber's bats continue to be monitored on a monthly basis. Monthly trends are shown since surveys began (see Figure 3 over page produced by the GONHS).

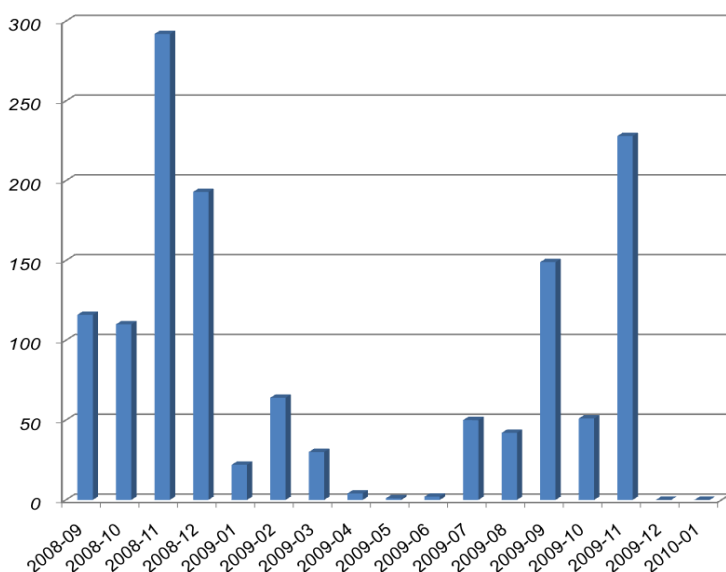


Figure 3. Monthly counts of Schreiber's Bats emerging from their roost at O'Hara's Battery .

Biodiversity Action Planning (BAP)

The New BAP Process - England, Scotland and Wales

A new BAP process is being developed. It aims to deliver BAP targets through an ecosystem approach focussing on delivering actions for habitats at a landscape scale that will deliver targets for both habitats and species.

The biggest change that the framework will bring is a much greater emphasis on identifying and carrying out the actions that are most urgent and have the greatest benefit for biodiversity, and much less emphasis on producing habitat or species-specific action plans. The old process did not identify which of these actions matter most for biodiversity conservation and ensure that they are carried out. The new implementation framework aims to do this. It will establish clear delivery and policy priorities, at different geographical scales, and with assigned accountabilities.

BAP Reporting

The BAP reporting exercise for the species on the 'old' UK BAP was completed in November 2008. The exercise involved: assessing the current status and trends for each species and assessing progress against the targets (set in 2006); highlighting studies on these species that have increased the knowledge base; identifying further research required, threats and constraints to BAP delivery; and successes in BAP delivery since the last BAP reporting round in 2005.

The full report has now been published and is available online along with the detailed results at <http://www.ukbapreporting.org.uk/news/details.asp?X=55>.

3. Habitats and Roost Sites

UK

Many of the ninety five bat groups in the UK undertake habitat management and roost monitoring/creation. This work is mainly funded by the SNCOs and other Government agencies. BCT, has a Bat Support Fund from which it can help local bat conservation projects. The work undertaken contributes to conservation of bat habitats and roosting sites. In addition, the UKBAP has field survey, habitats and roost sites identified on its database.

England

As part of the new approach to the BAP process, NE have been working in 2009 to identify Integrated Biodiversity Delivery Areas (IBDAs), as a complement to other conservation work. The aim is to deliver significant biodiversity gains in these areas, while also delivering a range of ecosystem goods and services so that we can demonstrate the benefit of this approach and attract additional resources for biodiversity conservation as a whole. IBDAs have been identified using distribution data from a range of sources, including the NBMP to identify areas of importance for bat species. Details of the identified areas will be available later this year.

The Campaign for the Farmed Environment was launched in 2009 and replaces the previous set aside scheme. It has been designed to provide advice to farmers, through support and education, on the habitat management requirements of nationally protected and UKBAP Priority Species. BCT has worked in partnerships with the Campaign to identify features of importance to bats and how to manage areas for the benefits of bat conservation.

Scotland

There is no evidence of significant changes in bat habitat and roost sites since the last report.

4. Threats

UK

Main threats to bat conservation within the UK are:

- Building demolition;
- Maintenance and alterations to buildings (including inappropriate timing of works);
- Woodland management and tree work;

- Barn conversions;
- Loss of habitat due to planning proposals;
- Loss of traditional farmland landscape and agricultural practices;
- Work on underground sites;
- Lack of knowledge on successful mitigation approaches;
- Potential impact of wind turbines;
- Inappropriate management or clearance of key habitats for foraging, commuting and roosting bats (including inappropriate timing of habitat management).
- Habitat fragmentation
- Zero/low carbon new build which does not include space for bats

Gibraltar :

- Development and subsequent loss of foraging habitat in the vicinity of the Upper Rock Nature Reserve
- Re-roofing
- Cliff Stabilisation works

5. Data collection, analysis, interpretation and dissemination

iBats

The Indicator Bats Program (iBats) is a partnership project between The Institute of Zoology (IoZ) and BCT and aims to develop national bat monitoring programmes globally in order to generate long-term data on biodiversity indicator species to assess the impact of national development and global change. Further details can be found via www.ibats.org.uk. Since its inception in 2006 the project has been a huge success and as a consequence the project was awarded follow-on funding from The Darwin Initiative until April 2011 to expand the project into Ukraine, Russia and Hungary.

The 1st International Indicator Bats Global Monitoring Workshop was held in Savadisla, Tordaszentlaszlo, Romania from 15-18th May 2009 and new volunteers were trained in the iBats monitoring method.

During 2009, volunteers have collected data from Romania, Bulgaria, Ukraine, Russia and Hungary. The uploading of data to the web portal is ongoing and the uploading and sonogram analysis underway.

The development of an application for the iPhone to simplify the existing equipment began in late 2009 in collaboration with Dr. George Roussos at Birkbeck (University of London), funded by the Leverhulme Trust.

iBatsUK

The iBatsUK project started out in 2005 as The Bats & Roadside Mammals Survey, a partnership project of the Bat Conservation Trust (BCT) and the Mammals Trust UK (MTUK). The main aims of the project were to increase the number of records of mammals (primarily bats) along roads, to determine which roadside habitats are important for bats and to provide long-term monitoring at a national and regional level. Now fully integrated into the Indicator Bats Program (iBats) the survey is carried out by a large number of bat groups throughout the UK.

In 2009 fifteen bat groups were involved in the iBatsUK project and fifty-five 40km transects were surveyed. The overall number of monitoring transects increased in 2009 as a result of a shift in focus of the project from surveying to monitoring. Analysis of the sound data recorded during surveys is ongoing and will be made publicly available.

BICCO-net

BICCO-Net is a new online collaborative project providing the latest information on the impacts of Climate Change on UK biodiversity. This partner meeting discussed progress to date.

Information about the project is available on the project's website <http://www.bicco-net.org/> . All partners have uploaded agreed surveillance datasets to a central location for analysis within the consortium and the format of data and appropriate analyses was discussed in detail at the meeting. The web area is in progress and currently shows the projects aims and partners. Summary results of analyses will be made available at a later date.

Gibraltar

Bat monitoring is carried out by the GONHS throughout Gibraltar on an intermittent basis.

Northern Ireland

All bat records are collated and stored at the Centre for Environmental Data and Recording at the Ulster Museum.

BATLAS NI

In 2009, a study was conducted by BCI under contract by NIEA with the aim to survey by bat detector, and torch where necessary, to record the presence or absence of the four common species in Northern Ireland: common pipistrelle *Pipistrellus pipistrellus*, soprano pipistrelle *Pipistrellus pygmeus*, Leisler's bat *Nyctalus leisleri* and Daubenton's bat *Myotis daubentonii* by targeting survey effort at suitable habitat in 10km squares (hectads) preferentially where there were no bat records prior to 2009. The results of this study are yet to be finalised. The BCI contract with the NIEA stipulated that data was to be collated for a minimum of 110 10km squares across Northern Ireland. The results of this study are yet to be finalised.

C: MEASURES TAKEN IN ACCORDANCE WITH ARTICLE III TO THE AGREEMENT

6. Legal measures taken to protect bats, including enforcement action

Bats remained a UK wildlife crime priority for 2006-2009. The police have enforcement of bat legislation as a national priority and continue to implement "Operation Bat".

Training sessions for Wildlife Crime Officers (WCOs) in England, Scotland and Wales has continued. Further details on the Investigations Project can be found at http://www.bats.org.uk/pages/bat_crime_investigations.html

2009

BCT's Investigations Project continued to operate. A total of 124 suspected bat crimes were investigated by the police in 2009. The increase in cases is thought to be a result of the appointment of a dedicated operation bat officer within the NWCU.

There were also three successful prosecutions. In May 2009 Loughborough Magistrates Court ruled that a developer be fined £1,500 for the destruction of a roost of common pipistrelles. A similar case saw two companies prosecuted by Essex police. Both companies were found guilty of destruction of a bat roost and fined £2,000 and £1,500.

53 crimes against bats or their roosts were reported to Wales Police Wildlife Crime Officers in 2009. One case accounted for 11 of the reports. These relate to vandalism and criminal theft of roofing and building materials from an abandoned property that is used by greater and lesser horseshoe bats. There were 2 cautions, 1 case where official advice was given and one prosecution. A property developer, was convicted of destroying two roosts - or brown long-eared bats and lesser horseshoe bats - at Old Denbigh Hospital, north Wales. He received a conditional discharge and £2,000 fine + costs.

2008

There was a total of 65 bat crime incidents reported to BCT in 2008. There were also two successful prosecutions, one in Hertfordshire in which fines of £3500 were imposed for damage / destruction of a roost; and one in Wales in which a roofer was fined £5000 for the damage / destruction of two bat roosts.

2007

A total of 65 incidents were reported with five prosecutions relating to bat crime in 2007. Police involvement in cases has improved since an Operation Bat Project Officer was appointed <http://www.incc.gov.uk/page-4> to the National Wildlife Crime Unit (NWCU).

2006

Police received 34 reports relating to bats in Wales.

Further details on the Investigations Project can be found at http://www.bats.org.uk/pages/bat_crime_investigations.html

7. Sites identified and protected which are important to the conservation of bats

Section 28 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 provides for the protection of any area of land which is of special interest with regard to its flora, fauna, or geological or physical features by its designation as an SSSI in England, Scotland and Wales. Designation of a site may include conditions restricting activities on the land which may harm the feature which it contains. More information on UK protected sites can be found here: <http://www.incc.gov.uk/page-4>

One new site in Wales was notified as SSSI for lesser horseshoe bats in 2008. The site is linked to the Meirionydd Oakwoods and Bat Sites SAC. Also in 2008 in Scotland, the National Trust for Scotland (NTS), established the first site specifically identified for its exceptional bat interest – the Threave Bat Reserve near Castle Douglas in SW Scotland. Much of the site is already designated as SSSI and/or SPA, primarily for its wetland interest. This habitat protection will help secure the future of this important assemblage of bat species at the site.

In 2007 in Wales, Ganllwyd SSSI was enlarged to allow the amalgamation of Coed Ganllwyd SSSI, Parc Dolmelynlyn a Glasdir SSSI, Cefn Coch Mine SSSI and Glasdir Copper Mine SSSI, which include the lesser horseshoe bat *Rhinolophus hipposideros* as a feature.

8. Consideration given to habitats which are important to bats

Gibraltar

Habitats within the rock of Gibraltar SCI that are used by bats are all protected under the Habitats Directive and its local transposition through Part IIA of the Nature Protection Act 1991. In 2006 the Government of Gibraltar studied the upper Rock Management Plans, which made recommendations for habitat management that would benefit bats.

England

There were a number of relevant consultations in England between 2006-2009 including:

- The Forestry Commission England's Restoring and expanding open habitats from woodland";
- Natural England's – Space for nature – evidence for review
- Two BSI (British Standards Institution) consultations relating to bats and tree work in August 2008 and October 2008.

In 2006, England's new agri-environment scheme (Environmental Stewardship) made significant contributions to habitats important to bats. The scheme made specific contributions to bats on 84 agreements in England in 2006. On each agreement, the ecological requirements of the species present were taken into consideration when deciding upon land management, which ranged from restoration of woodland to maintenance of species-rich grassland. In most cases Pipistrelle and Brown long-eared bat were the only bat species recorded, however, the management proposed was thought to offer benefits to other bat species (which were often under recorded). Specialist species occurred less frequently. Where they did occur, specifically tailored management was employed to achieve desired habitat conditions.

Wales

CCW continued to provide advice regarding the development of the new agri-environment scheme in Wales (Glastir) in 2009 and contributed to the development of guidance on bats

being produced by the Forestry Commission Wales and the Ministry of Defence. This will be statutory guidance as required by the amended Habitats Regulations.

Scotland

Forestry Commission Scotland and SNH jointly produced practical guidance for forest managers entitled "Forest operations and bats in Scotland".

SNH continued to work closely with the Scottish Executive throughout 2007 to develop appropriate habitat management prescriptions that will benefit bats, in the recently introduced Scottish agri-environment incentive schemes, collectively known as the Scotland Rural Development Programme.

Northern Ireland

By 31 December 2006, the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (Northern Ireland) had over 13,000 participants in agri-environment schemes (the Countryside Management Scheme and Environmentally Sensitive Areas Scheme). Both schemes are closely aligned with biodiversity targets and contribute to the BAP targets for bats.

9. Activities carried out to promote the awareness of the importance of the conservation of bats

UK

NE published Technical Advice Note 059 **Bats and single large wind turbines: Joint Agencies interim guidance** on behalf of NE, CCW and SNH. This note TIN059 is available at the following link:

<http://www.naturalengland.org.uk/ourwork/regulation/wildlife/advice/advisoryleaflets.aspx#bats>

The UK continues to promote the importance of the conservation of bats. BCT provide a range of publications, events, projects and communication activities. These include a new information leaflet to provide information for churches, funded by the Barbara Whitmore Foundation. They also operate memberships of their organisation for adults, children and teachers/youth leaders and produce membership magazines: Bat News and The Young Batworker and an education pack for their 4,500 members. Email bulletins are also sent to interested bat workers. BCT has held a bat and moth evening for Members of Parliament in the Palace of Westminster for the last 4 years. It has been attended by Members of Parliament, peers and policy makers. A bat walk for journalists took place in Regent's Park. BCT works with the media to promote a positive image of bats and provides journalists with up to date information and advice, resulting in extensive coverage of bats in national and regional media in both print and broadcast press. In 2009 BCT established itself in social media engaging new audiences via facebook, a BCT blog and twitter.

National Bat Helpline

The National Bat Helpline was set up to provide information for all of those who come across bats. Funded by NE, BCT manage roost visits, bat care and address concerns from members of the public. It receives more than 9,000 enquiries each year, from a diverse range of people including householders, builders, teachers and those who have found injured or grounded bats.

Training and Best Practice

Over 30 courses are run by BCT each year, including courses for professionals and volunteers. Volunteer courses included roost visitor courses, Progress was made on the professional licensing scheme, with a panel meeting to discuss ideas about how to take this forward. A decision was made about the structure of the scheme and work is now continuing on a syllabus.

Following on from the Bat Care and Rehabilitation workshop in 2007, the Bat Care Guidelines were distributed to all veterinary practices in the UK and all those on the BCT bat care network in 2008.

BCT has produced a Best Practice Guide to 'Managing trees in woods for bats in London' under the Forestry Commission's Capital Woodland Project;

In 2008, BCT also produced a joint publication with the Environment Agency (EA) entitled 'Riparian Habitat Management for bats' and are currently awaiting the results of consultation before publication.

Bats and the Built Environment

The Bats and the Built Environment project launched in January 2007 with the aim of developing good practice for mitigation in relation to bats and the built environment. It is intended that this project will help pave the way to a built environment where bats and people live in harmony. The project is funded by Vincent Wildlife Trust

BCT's Bats and the Built Environment Officer has worked in partnership with the Royal Institute of British Architects (RIBA) to publish a book which brings together much-needed model designs and practical guidance for incorporating provision for biodiversity in low and zero carbon developments. *Biodiversity for Low and Zero Carbon Buildings: A Technical Guide for New Build* also provides a useful summary of all the legislation and regulations relating to biodiversity and sustainable construction in the UK and is available from www.ribabookshops.com.

The London Wetlands Centre ran a design competition to build a structure for bats. Designs were submitted by the public, architects, the construction industry and children and prompted these audiences to examine the link between bats and the built environment and the need to design for bats. The Bat House was opened in September 2009.

A revised version of BCT's "Bats and lighting in the UK" document has been produced and a further version is in preparation to include more detail on LED lighting that is now becoming more widely used.

Conservation of Lesser Horseshoe bats

The Vincent Wildlife Trust ran a series of training courses for land managers and advisory staff in 2009 on the conservation of lesser horseshoe bats. The National Trust provided training on management of buildings containing bat roosts.

England

Count Bat

A considerable amount of work to increase the awareness of bat conservation to wider audiences has been undertaken through BCT's Count Bat Project which started in 2008. The 4 year Project employs three regional officers to cover the country. The project is funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF), Natural England (NE) and The City Bridge Trust.

The project aims to broaden the spectrum of people involved in bat conservation, informing groups about bats and their presence in local areas. From the partnerships built with local bat groups and external organisations at the start of the project the following: education events including classroom and outdoor activities; training events including work with the visually impaired, culturally diverse communities; and the prison service have taken place. It is hoped that groups will use the resources to improve the understanding of bats within the local community and promote bat conservation, whilst feeling equipped to run activities that will get people involved in their local green spaces and support the work of the group.

More general promotion of bat conservation has been achieved through working with the BBC Breathing Places programme, with bats featuring in their "just do one thing" activities sheet for schools, and through input and funding for the "Explore the World of Bats" education pack. "

Wind turbine Publication

Natural England has published a Technical Information Note, 'Bats and Onshore Wind Turbines'. This guidance, based on the Eurobats publication, has been written to help planners and wind turbine operators consider the potential adverse impacts to bats when assessing proposals for wind turbine development. It applies to bats and their activity in the wider countryside and does not specifically address turbines proposed near protected sites, particularly those designated due to important bat populations. Such situations will require more extensive work in order to assess impacts on those populations. This note will be updated as

more evidence becomes available, particularly the findings from research currently being undertaken, with support from the British Wind Energy Association.

The note can be downloaded from www.naturalengland.org.uk. Go to 'Publications' and search for 'TIN051'.

BCT held a turbines and bats workshop in 2007 funded by Defra. This was well attended by experts from the turbine industry and bat conservation and research.

Scotland

SNH continued to provide the majority of the funding for the BCT Scottish Bat Officer. SNH also provided financial support to the National Trust for Scotland to facilitate:

- Bat surveys on NTS properties, e.g the Castles & Gardens Bat Project which involved 71 volunteers and trainers across Scotland;
- The work of the NTS Ranger Service which includes the bat conservation initiatives at various NTS properties;
- Direct training of NTS staff to undertake bat work and promote bat conservation.

The SNH booklet "Bats and People" was revised and re-printed and they published the following technical report:

- Bat Conservation Trust (2006). *A review of the success of bat boxes in houses*. Scottish Natural Heritage Commissioned Report No. 160 (ROAME No. F01AC310).

Scottish Bat Officer

The Dundee City Bat project is coordinated by the Scottish Bat Officer. The results were analysed to produce a Dundee City "Bat Hot spots" map. The project led to the formation of the Dundee city bat group who continued to survey the city during 2008. The Scottish Bat Officer has also worked with Perth Bat group and the local ranger service to develop plans for a similar Project in Perth to be carried out over 2009.

Raising awareness

25 bat events were organised in Scotland around European Bat weekend. In the period since 2008 the Scottish Bat Officer gave 4 radio interviews and was involved in the production of 8 newspaper, magazine and British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC) news website articles.

Training others

The Scottish Bat Officer has delivered training talks and courses to several specialist interest groups including; Natural History Societies, Police Wildlife Crime Officers, Engineers, Biodiversity officers, Planners, Architects, Arborists and bat workers.

Conferences, workshops and events

Papers were presented at nine industry conferences in 2008 including the National Federation of Roofing Contractors, building engineers, the Property Care Association, chartered surveyors, the lighting industry (including the prestigious Charles Marques Memorial Lecture) the Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings (SPAB) and Cadw (Historic environment service of the Welsh Assembly).

In addition, in 2008 a BCT project officer has worked collaboratively with the Construction Industry Environmental Forum (CIEF) to organise, chair and present at two half day conferences on 'Putting Biodiversity into sustainable construction'.

A facilitated workshop on bat care/rehabilitation was held in March 2007. This was attended by a number of key bat carers, along with a vet and a representative from the Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (RSPCA). The notes of this workshop will be used to develop new guidelines for vets and bat carers.

A BCT stand was present for the three days of the Ecobuild Exhibition in Earls Court which generated a lot of interest as the only non-commercial wildlife organisation present.

In 2007 a two-day mitigation conference was held on the subject of bat mitigation attended by consultants.

Wales

The Welsh Project Officer continued to promote bat conservation in Wales in 2008 by attending the public events, producing weekly updates for bat workers in Wales and providing support for bat groups.

A one-day Wales Batworkers Event was held in October 2008 in Llandrindod Wells with over 80 delegates. A Welsh Bat Conference and Workshop, including training in sound analysis, was held in Aberystwyth in June 2008.

Gwynedd Council organised a training session for Local Authority Planners on bats and the planning system.

Northern Ireland

All-Ireland Daubenton's Waterways Scheme

The All-Ireland Daubenton's Waterways Scheme has been carried out yearly since 2006.

Despite poor weather conditions prevailing through much of the 2009 survey season, a considerable body of bat survey work was completed. Training courses were held at 3 locations in Northern Ireland as part of the All Ireland Daubenton's Bat Waterway Monitoring Scheme.

Gibraltar

Bat evenings for the public and youth groups have been organised by the GONHS. European Bat Night is also celebrated locally by the GONHS in order to raise awareness on bat conservation issues.

BCT's Bat Surveys – Good Practice Guidelines

In 2007 BCT's Bat Surveys – Good Practice Guidelines were launched. The final version is available via BCT's website free of charge at http://www.bats.org.uk/pages/professional_guidance.html The guidelines have been endorsed by the Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management (IEEM).

England and Wales

The Environment Agency have published, "Guidance for Works Affecting Watercourses, Protection and Enhancement for Bats". This is available as a PDF file at: <http://publications.environmentagency.gov.uk/epages/eapublications.storefront/45b9f28900bf6f62273fc0a8029606e7/Product/View/GEAN1205BJZP-E-E>

Bats and Lighting

A Bats and Lighting document was produced by the ILE and BCT aimed at bat workers and lighting engineers (available on BCT http://www.bats.org.uk/pages/professional_guidance.html and ILE websites). Progress has been made towards joint research with the lighting industry.

10. Responsible bodies, in accordance with Article III.5 of the Agreement, nominated for the provision of advice on bat conservation and management

2006 - 2009

Natural England

Countryside Council for Wales

Scottish Natural Heritage

Department Of Environment Northern Ireland

Joint Nature Conservation Committee

Bat Conservation Trust (BCT).

Environment Department of the States of Guernsey.

La Societe Guernesiaise.

Nature Conservancy Councils (Gibraltar).

Gibraltar Ornithological and Natural History Society.

11. Additional action undertaken to safeguard populations of bats

Most actions undertaken to safeguard populations are recorded under other headings.

Rabies

Two Daubenton's bats tested positive to EBLV2 under the Veterinary Laboratories Agency (VLA)'s passive surveillance in 2008.

- The first bat was submitted to the VLA, after carers became concerned about its behaviour. The bat had been in care in SE England since August 2007. We understand that good practice guidelines were followed at all times. Bat workers were notified on 9th May 2008; with a reminder that bats used for public relations purposes at events or shown to the public should not be handled by members of the public and that any bat worker who presents bats should wear protective gloves when handling bats. Due to the nature of this particular case, we also recommend that Daubenton's bats *Myotis daubentonii* should not be taken to public events.
- The second bat was found at a site in Shropshire in October 2008. This was the second case of EBLV2 at this site - the first was in autumn 2007 - therefore a protocol for dealing with dead bats was already in place. During a meeting between the BCT, the HPA, Animal Health, Defra, English Heritage and the VLA, representatives agreed that this protocol had proved effective and that measures in place prevented contact with bats.

White-nose Syndrome

In response to suspect cases of white-nose syndrome announced in Europe in November 2008, BCT produced guidelines for bat workers and cavers and set-up a national surveillance programme as a pre-cautionary measure in the last quarter of 2008.

The guidelines informed bat workers:

- what to look for;
- how to record and where to send data; and
- how bat workers and others can minimise the risk of WNS spreading by modifying their behaviour in hibernacula.

These guidelines were circulated by BCT to NBMP volunteers as part of the hibernation survey packs, sent to bat workers in the bat worker bulletin and put on the BCT website. Defra and BCT will be exploring how to work with other European partners towards a co-ordinated approach to this issue.

Wales

CCW continued to fund a project investigating the diet of *B. barbastellus*. This project is also funded by Natural England.

Welsh bat groups continued to take part in the annual lesser horseshoe bat roost count using non-intrusive standardised methods. Results were fed into the National Bat Monitoring Programme.

The Species Challenge Fund funded by CCW included a project to create bat habitat close to a newly created artificial hibernation site. The Snowdonia National Park and Gwynedd Bat Group trained volunteers in bat detecting and recording survey transects to contribute to a mammal Atlas for the Park. The volunteers also used acoustic lures and harp traps to try to track down elusive bat species.

The North Wales Wildlife Trust (NWWT) received funding for a survey of rare woodland mammals.

The NWWT fund supported a pilot study for a survey for *M. bechsteinii* in Wales and found sites meeting the criteria for survey.

A project in Snowdonia National Park trained new volunteers and brushed up skills of the more experienced people in bat detecting and recording, survey methodology and bat sound analysis to contribute to a mammal Atlas for the Park.

12. Recent and ongoing programmes (including research and policy initiatives) relating to the conservation and management of bats. In the case of research, summaries of completed projects should be provided, giving references where possible and acknowledging the sources of funding.

Bats and Breathable membranes

There are concerns over the impact of breathable roofing membranes on roosting bats, including anecdotal reports of bats having died after becoming entangled by fibres, or abandoning roosts. To address these concerns, a four-year partnership study between BCT and the School of Construction Management and Engineering at the University of Reading was launched in 2009. The work will be undertaken by a Ph.D. research student and will investigate the properties of the 48 breathable membranes currently available in the UK and the traditional BS747 bitumastic roofing felt.

***Myotis bechsteinii* Survey**

This species has a close association with semi-natural woodlands but is difficult to survey for using standard monitoring techniques. A new survey technique has been developed which allows systematic sampling of this species for the first time. The technique uses an acoustic lure (the Sussex Autobat), to relay synthesised social calls of bats. Bechstein's bats *Myotis bechsteinii*, whilst in territorial mode will respond to the Autobat, allowing them to be caught in a harp trap (Greenaway *et al.*, 2001).

This method is being used as the basis of a 3.5 year project (which began in September 2007) to assess the distribution of Bechstein's bat *Myotis bechsteinii* across its UK range and evaluate the potential for future population monitoring. This is an invasive technique and as such is conducted under a strict project licence. The protocol is designed to limit the possible stress and intrusiveness of the work.

Landscapes for Lessers

CCW and BCT worked jointly on Phase 2 of the Landscapes for Lessers project that commenced at the end of 2007 and was completed in February 2009. Reports on Phases 1 and 2 of the project are available via the BCT website. The project proposes a holistic approach to horseshoe bat conservation (primarily for the lesser horseshoe bat *Rhinolophus hipposideros*) focussing on the maintenance, creation of, and improvements to roost sites, flight lines and foraging habitats at a landscape scale. It uniquely links work in rural, semi-urban and urban environments, providing many opportunities for innovation and inclusion in conservation. Phase 3 of the project also aimed to benefit other species and habitats of importance in the landscape.

BCT submitted a LIFE+ bid for European funding to roll out the "Landscapes for Lessers" project to the whole of Wales. Field work was undertaken as part of CCW's Ecological Connectivity project in September 2009 to identify areas used by greater and lesser horseshoe bats from at a site in the Conwy Valley, north Wales – the location of the furthest north records for the greater horseshoe bat.

In 2007 Gwynedd Council, Pembrokeshire Coast National Park and CCW started a pilot project for the Review of Consents to consider the impacts of developments on the *R. hipposideros*. The Review provides guidelines for local authorities to consider the impacts on SACs for projects that were given approval before this was a requirement under the Habitats Regulations.

Welsh Agri-environment Scheme Monitoring

The Welsh Assembly Government has contracted a multi-partner consortium (RSPB, BCT, Butterfly Conservation, Plant Life and Wildlife Trusts) to examine the impact of the Welsh higher level success agri-environment scheme, Tir Gofal, on agricultural biodiversity.

Conservation biology of the grey long-eared bat, *Plecotus austriacus*

This is a scientific partnership between BCT and University of Bristol and is funded by the Vincent Wildlife Trust. Grey long-eared bats *Plecotus austriacus* are extremely rare in Great

Britain. The pre-breeding population might be as low as 1000 individuals, and three colonies in Dorset and one in Devon have become extinct in the past 40 years. This project focuses on foraging and roosting habitat requirements, genetic integrity and competition with the brown long-eared bat.

Lighting – the impact of artificial lighting on foraging and commuting bats.

CCW is part-funding a research project on the impact of artificial lighting on the foraging and commuting behaviour of bats in the UK, with a focus on Lesser horseshoe bats - implications for conservation management by Emma Stone at the University of Bristol. See Stone E.L. Jones, G. and Harris S (2009) *Street Lighting Disturbs Commuting Bats*,. *Current Biology* 19, 1123–1127, July 14, 2009

Barbastelle Bats

Matt Zeale from Bristol University has completed his final year of fieldwork for his research into the dietary and roosting ecology of barbastelle bats.

Daubenton's Bat Waterway Monitoring Scheme: Northern Ireland

In total, 209 waterway sites were surveyed in all 32 countries in 2009. Of these 209 sites, 35 waterway sites were located in Northern Ireland. This constitutes the highest number of completed surveys in any year to-date Over 2,000 'sure' Daubenton's bat passes were recorded on the 35 waterway sites. BCI carried out a mapping exercise with Daubenton's presence/absence data. This mapping can be carried out on an individual site, river, catchment or county level.

The Car-based Bat monitoring Scheme: Northern Ireland

This project aims to be the primary tool for monitoring roadside populations of common pipistrelle, soprano pipistrelle and Leisler's bats in Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland. Funding was provided by the Northern Ireland Environment Agency (NIEA) for 2006 to carry out surveys within Northern Ireland as part of an overall All-Ireland survey for the two countries under the management of BCI.

EBLV

SNH has continued its monitoring programme of European Bat Lyssavirus (EBLV) seroprevalence in Scottish bats. This work involved testing blood (for EBLV2 antibody) and saliva (for EBLV2 virus) from 240 *Myotis daubentonii*.

Bats and Windturbines

University of Bristol and BCT undertook, on behalf of Defra, a feasibility study to review literature on the impact of windturbines on bat populations and develop a project specification for research to determine whether UK wind farms are associated with bat mortality. The feasibility study was completed in May 2009. Subsequently Defra have tendered for a research project to undertake fieldwork.

Modelling Daubenton's *Myotis daubentonii* bat distribution

This partnership project between BCT and the EA began in 2007. Work continued on this project in 2008 to link bat survey data with habitat and landscape features. NBMP Waterway Survey data were analysed alongside River Habitat Survey data in order to understand more accurately the factors governing occurrence and density. The study showed that biological water quality, river width and the presence of trees are all important predictors of Daubenton's bat *Myotis daubentonii* numbers, and the NBMP Waterway survey delivers a cost effective waterbody environmental quality index.

Bats as Indicators -UK Biodiversity Indicator

BCT worked to promote and develop a bat indicator for inclusion in the UK biodiversity indicators (see <http://www.jncc.gov.uk/page-1824>). In May 2008 the minister approved a proposal for bats as an indicator.

European Environment Agency (EEA Contract Developing Bats as Indicators)

In 2008, BCT undertook a project on behalf of EEA entitled: "Streamlining European 2010 Biodiversity Indicators (SEBI 2010): Developing a methodology for using bats as indicator species; and testing the usability of GBIF (Global Biodiversity Information Facility) data for use in 2010 biodiversity indicators". This contract involved gathering information on bat surveillance programmes operating in countries across Europe, assessing the suitability of the data they provide for inclusion in an indicator and proposing a methodology. The study concluded that there are sufficient countries within the European Union (EU) that are undertaking appropriate surveys to produce a European Indicator.

Conservation biology of the grey long-eared bat, *Plecotus austriacus*

This is a Scientific Partnership Project between BCT and University of Bristol and is funded by the Vincent Wildlife Trust. No study of substance has been conducted in recent years on the grey long-eared bat, *Plecotus austriacus* in the UK. Research on other bats has been influential in guiding management practices for species such as greater horseshoe bats *Rhinolophus ferrumequinum*. The method appears to have been highly successful: for example greater horseshoe bats *Rhinolophus ferrumequinum* in Devon maternity roosts increased by approximately 58%.

A similar research project has just been completed at Bristol on lesser horseshoe bats *Rhinolophus hipposideros* (Knight 2008), and the findings will be used to inform BAP and Environmental Stewardship schemes involving this species. The project assessed whether agri-environment schemes have made a positive contribution to the conservation of the Greater horseshoe bat *Rhinolophus ferrumequinum*. This was done by remapping the area in a 4 km radius around important roosts that were first mapped in 1994/5 to see whether these areas are now being managed more favourably for the bats. Agri-environment schemes have encouraged the better management of hedgerows, so these were surveyed to see whether they are more suitable for the bats to hunt along. A survey of farmers measured their attitude to the bats and their enthusiasm for taking part in bat conservation efforts. This work was funded by NE and the mapping has been carried out by the Farming and Wildlife Advisory Group. NE also analysed the distribution of agri-environment schemes to see if work to encourage farmers in these areas has resulted in a greater than average uptake of the schemes.

Modelling Daubenton's bat distribution

A new partnership project with the Environment Agency began in 2007 to link bat survey data with habitat and landscape features. NBMP Waterway Survey data were analysed alongside River Habitat Survey data in order to understand more accurately the factors governing occurrence and density.

Impact of roads on bats

Studies at the University of Leeds have begun to examine the impact of roads on bats. A PhD study (collaboration between University of Leeds and CCW) began in October 2009. Bat activity is being monitored along transects adjacent to major roads to determine their influence on activity, taking into account variables such as habitat and weather. In 2010 the study will focus on collecting data that will examine the influence of noise and light from roads.

Work is also being undertaken, via MSc and PhD research projects on the effectiveness of mitigation to assist bats to cross roads.

Research on microturbines

Research is underway at Stirling University to investigate possible effects of micro-turbines on wildlife including bats. The work aims to identify situations where problems associated with micro-turbines may arise, and to quantify any risks to wildlife involved. This information will then be used for guidance on siting micro-turbines to minimise any risk to wildlife whilst maximising energy efficiency.

The influence of farming practices on bat populations within agricultural landscapes in Scotland

A PhD studentship at University of Stirling is currently investigating the impact of Scottish agri-environment scheme prescriptions on bats and their invertebrate prey. The purpose of the research is to investigate the influence of farming practices on bat populations within agricultural landscapes, and specifically to assess the contribution that current agri-environment schemes, as operated within Scotland, are making in providing a suitable foraging resource for bats.

Pipistrellus nathusii

In September 2009 a survey was piloted for this species involving walked transects around lakes. The principle aim is to carry out the first systematic UK-wide distribution survey of Nathusius' pipistrelle *Pipistrellus nathusii*. In time it is hoped the data will also shed light on migratory patterns and any changes in abundance across the UK during the species' autumn migration.

13. Consideration being given to the potential effects of pesticides on bats, and their food sources and efforts to replace timber treatment chemicals which are highly toxic to bats

2006 – 2009

Scotland

SNH continued to advise the use of only those compounds that have been approved for use as such, i.e. permethrin/cypermethrin or boron-based compounds. A list of approved products is available and periodically updated.

2008 -2009

BCT had a stand at the National Pest Technician's Association's national Pest Tech Event (the largest one-day Pest Control Exhibition held in Europe for pest controllers, product manufacturers and distributors). The stand helped to raise awareness of the impacts to bats from pest control.

2008

The Wildlife Incident Investigation Scheme (WIIS) was operated by the four UK agriculture departments. The results of field investigations where pesticide poisoning is suspected were co-ordinated by the Chemicals Regulation Directorate (formerly the Pesticides Safety Directorate) of the Health and Safety Directorate (HSE).

During 2008 one bat case was reported to the scheme. In that case it was suspected that a timber treatment may have caused the death of a bat which was found in a water tank, but the analysis that was carried out was negative.

2007

UK

In the first quarter of 2007 BCT met with the Chief Executive Officer of the British Pest Control Association and contributed an article about bats on the British Pest Control Associations' website.

The Wildlife Incident Investigation Scheme (WIIS) was operated by the four UK agriculture departments and was co-ordinated by the Pesticides Safety Directorate then an executive agency of Defra. Although there are some local differences in detail, the basic operation of the Scheme is the same throughout the UK. Field investigations are carried out into cases where it is suspected wildlife has been affected by pesticides. Post mortem examinations of casualties are undertaken and samples analysed for pesticide residues. The results are used in reviews of the conditions of approval of the pesticides concerned. Evidence of illegal use (whether a deliberate attempt to poison wildlife or an unapproved method of use against the proper target species) may lead to prosecution or other enforcement action. During 2007, no cases involving bats were reported to the scheme.

D. FUNCTIONING OF THE AGREEMENT

14. Co-operation with other Range States

2009

iBats

The 1st International Indicator Bats Global Monitoring Workshop was held in Savadisla, Tordaszentlaszlo, Romania from 15-18th May 2009 and new volunteers were trained in the iBats monitoring method.

During 2009, volunteers have collected data from Romania, Bulgaria, Ukraine, Russia and Hungary. In Romania. Of the 32 volunteers registering with the project, 24 participated in the surveys. The uploading of data to the web portal is ongoing and the uploading and sonogram analysis was completed in Spring 2010.

Rabies

The UK has a European Bat Lyssavirus (EBLV) Working Group. Guidelines for bat workers and handlers have been produced. BCT and Defra continue to work closely with the Health Protection Agency (HPA) offices, Animal Health offices on bat bite issues and incidents.

2008

The UK convened a meeting on Bats as Indicators. The purpose of this group is evolving into an information exchange /support network for countries interested in developing bats as indicators. For example, in countries where particular sectors such as agriculture, forestry etc are rigidly compartmentalized the idea of using species as indicators is very outside the culture and it is useful to have a place to go for information on what has been developed elsewhere. The group supported the idea of an international workshop on indicators at a later date.

Monitoring Bat Biodiversity in Bulgaria and Romania

Since 2006, a project has been funded by Defra, the Rufford Lange Foundation and Bat Conservation International to monitor bat biodiversity in Bulgaria and Romania. The project is led by the Zoological Society of London with the aim to generate long-term data on biodiversity indicator species to assess the impact of national development and global change. The project works with existing in-country networks, offering training in bat monitoring techniques, development monitoring protocols and creating training materials. Volunteers have been sent out to monitor bat species along national road networks to provide an initial baseline with which future monitoring surveys can be compared. The partnership between BCT and ZSL has been important and is a good example of bringing voluntary action by citizens to benefit wider scientific research and local biodiversity. The project has established a network of surveyors in Romania and Bulgaria, made good contacts with national road authorities and has enhanced channels of communication between these two parties.

Gibraltar

None in Europe but GONHS has carried out work in Northern Morocco as part of the Gibraltar EU interregg Project.

Northern Ireland

In 2006 Bat Conservation Ireland developed bat monitoring in the Republic of Ireland. Their survey, based on the National Bat Monitoring Programmes' Daubenton's Waterway Survey greatly increased the number of sites sampled in the Republic and in Northern Ireland, the results of which contribute to UK population trends for the species.

15. Measures taken to implement Resolutions adopted by Meetings of Parties

England, Wales and Scotland

Bats and wind-turbines

See Section 12

Bats as Indicators

Work undertaken between 2007 and 2009 by BCT on developing a methodology for a bat biodiversity indicator (see EEA project description in section 12) is a direct agreement with the aims of the Intergovernmental Working Group (IWG) on bats as Bio-indicators. Members of the IWG were contacted for information.

Pan European Monitoring of Bats in Underground Sites Projects

With further funding from Defra, BCT lead on a feasibility study on the Pan European Monitoring of bats at underground sites in 2008. 27 countries signed up to the first phase.

Aims of the project will be:

- To provide population indices for European bat species on a regular basis;
- To identify important underground sites and provide information to assist in their protection;
- To raise awareness, enhance information exchange, build capacity and increase volunteer engagement;
- To contribute towards delivering obligations (e.g. under the European Commission (EC) Habitats Directive); and
- To measure and assist in predicting the effect of future global change on bat biodiversity.