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Noctule Bat

Nyctalus noctula

Quick facts

Order Chiroptera

Conservation status

GB *Least concern*

RE CE E V NT **LC** DD

England *Least concern*

Scotland *Least concern*

Wales *Least concern*

Global *Least concern*

GB trend *Unknown*

Size

Head & body 37 - 48 mm

Forearm 48 - 58 mm

Wingspan 320 - 400 mm

Weight 18 - 40 g

Britain's second-largest bat (after the extremely rare greater mouse-eared bat) has ginger fur and rounded ears. It is widely distributed throughout England and Wales, is found in south-west Scotland, and is absent from Northern Ireland.

Habitat

Broadleaved woodland, wetlands, grasslands. Absent from uplands and poorly-wooded areas.

Behaviour

Large, fast-flying bat capable of commuting long distances. Generally first bat to emerge in evening, flying high and straight towards foraging areas. Has a distinctive musky smell. Summer roosts usually in broadleaved trees or Scots pine, sometimes bat boxes mounted on trees, less commonly in buildings. Hibernation preferences not well understood.

Diet & Feeding

Wide variety of insect prey caught on the wing including crickets, dung beetles, moths, flies.

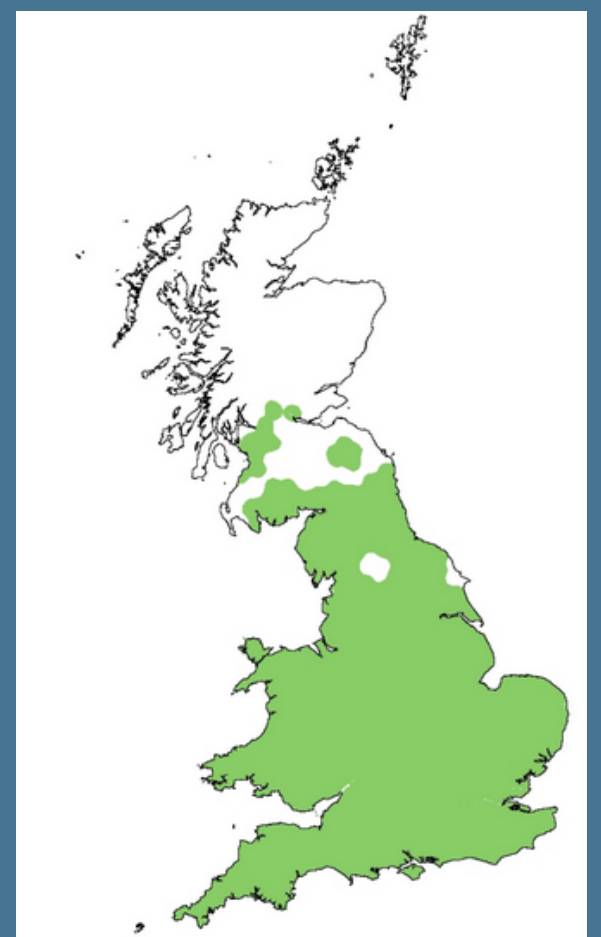
Reproduction

Density of maternity roosts in Great Britain and in each individual country is uncertain.

Conservation & Threats

One of the primary species killed by wind turbines, but unclear whether this affects local populations. Unknown if changes in agricultural practices or land use changes have an impact on this species. It has been suggested that, as an early-emerging species, it may benefit from artificial night lighting, but there is no evidence of higher noctule activity in lit areas.

Range



Mammal
SOCIETY