

Greater Horseshoe Bat (*Rhinolophus ferrumequinum*)

Areas and status: Found in southwest England and south Wales. Dramatic declines in 20th C years but numbers have started to increase. Individuals and small colonies recorded at edges of UK range in North Wales and Sussex.

Woodland type: Broadleaved Woodland, Wood Pasture

Preferred habitat niches: Usually roost in buildings/caves. Main foraging area typically within 3km of maternity roost over meadows, grazed pasture, wetland features, woodland. Veterans, deadwoods, open areas, edges, wood-pasture, parkland, scrub.

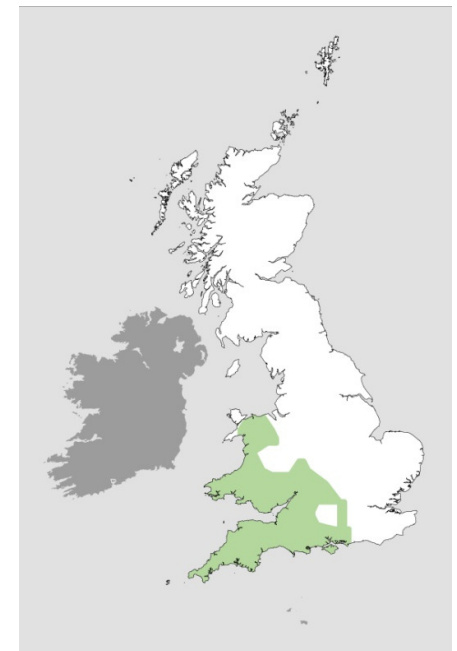
Potential habitat management issues associated with decline:

- Loss of roost sites
- Loss of woodland
- Loss of linear landscape features (hedges, shelterbelts, rows of riparian trees, etc.) linking roosting and foraging sites.
- Use of endectocides (for treatment of parasites) in cattle



©Gareth Jones

Potential habitat management solutions:	
Prescription	Comment
Minimal intervention	Protect existing/potential roosts; these will be in built structures such as houses, barns and military fortifications in spring, summer and autumn; ice houses, tunnels, mines, caves, cellars and military fortifications as hibernation sites in winter. Do not carry out operations which create high levels of disturbance close to known roosting sites. If this work is essential, liaise with local SNCO office.
Rides, Glades	Cut rides, glades, edges and other open areas (Zone 2 and/or 3) but retain patches of tall herbs, cut these on 3-5yr rotation.
Grazing	Encourage cattle grazing in summer within 1km of roost – dung attracts prey (avoiding use of endectocide treatments that reduce dung fauna).
Deadwood	Retain standing and fallen deadwood
Connectivity	Manage woodland on landscape-scale to ensure good links with foraging areas and roosting sites. Connect suitable habitat/foraging areas within 3km of roost sites. Protect networks of mature hedgerows, tree lines, woodlands, meadows and wetlands
Woodland creation (Natural regeneration, Native species and/or Variable density)	Retain/enlarge woodland with suitable edge and ride features. Create woodland on areas of low ecological value to enlarge existing woodland, link nearby woods and create additional foraging habitat. Allow natural regeneration or plant a diverse mix of locally native trees and shrubs.



■ Current distribution

Source: Bat Conservation Trust