

## Noctule (*Nyctalus noctula*)

**Areas and status:** Widespread in England, Wales and southern Scotland.

**Woodland type:** Lowland Broadleaved Woodland, Wood-pasture and Parkland

**Preferred habitat niches:** High forest, veteran trees, wet woodland, deadwood, wood-pasture, parkland, glades, rides, edges, scrub mosaic and open spaces. The noctule roosts, breeds and hibernates in tree cavities. It forages extensively over pastures, parkland, hedgerows, scrub and wetlands and woodland; it is a fast high flier able to travel long distances. It has a typical nightly foraging radius of 4km.

### Potential habitat management issues associated with decline:

- Loss of roost sites due to inappropriate management of trees, e.g. over-zealous tidying of woodland and felling
- Declines in abundances of prey items due to loss of woodlands, agricultural intensification, etc.



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Potential habitat management solutions:	
Prescription	Comment
Deadwood	Retain standing and fallen deadwood and where suitable retain surrounding understorey growth.
Minimal intervention	Protect existing/potential roosting sites. Retain dead and dying trees, trees with cavities or woodpecker holes, storm damaged trees. Do not carry out operations which create high levels of disturbance close to known roosting sites.
Rides, Glades	Manage rides, glades and woodland edges; also disturbed ground/open areas. Rotational cutting of these areas (Zone 2 and/or 3) herb-rich.
Drainage	Retain/enhance wetlands and wet woodland. In areas of low ecological interest, block off ditches and culverts and create ponds and scrapes.
Connectivity	Manage woodland on landscape-scale to ensure good links with foraging areas and other roosting sites. Protect networks of mature hedgerows, tree lines, woodlands, meadows and wetlands, as well as foraging areas (herb-rich meadows, wetlands, heathland) close to roosts.
Woodland creation (Natural regeneration, native species, variable density)	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.
Bat boxes	If wood has few existing roosting opportunities, assess the use of bat boxes (consider impacts on other species).



Current distribution  
Source: Bat Conservation Trust