



the National Trust
for Scotland
a place for everyone

Bat Conservation Action Plan 2009-2013

- 1). The Trust will aim to have at least 8 permanent staff with summer bat licences and at least 2 permanent staff with hibernacula licences **by the end of 2013**. At least 2 of these staff must be located in northerly properties. Training to support this aim will be identified in relevant staff work plans.
- 2). The Trust will continue to have one person who will act as a lead contact for national bat conservation issues and to co-ordinate the NTS bat database. This person will aim to continue to sit on the UK Bat BAP Steering Group.
- 3). An NTS Bat Conservation Steering Group **will be established in 2009** to act as a forum for the resolution of bat issues across the Trust. The Group will include the following: National Lead Contact; one licensed staff member from Countryside South & North Groups; a buildings team representative; a gardens team or forester representative; and a Scottish Natural Heritage representative.
- 4). NTS will organise an internal seminar to discuss bat issues **by the end of 2013**.
- 5). An upgraded National NTS Bat Database will be established **by the end of 2009** and maintained so that all staff can quickly ascertain the status of bat information and the presence of bat roosts on each property.
- 6). A **prioritised survey programme** will be established to ensure that all NTS properties have had a systematic check of all buildings and structures for bats **by the end of 2013**. The programme will also aim to locate potential tree roosts on properties where forestry work is planned which will affect mature trees.
End of 2011 – Complete remaining surveys in former West & South Regions;
End of 2012 – Complete remaining surveys in former NE Region;
End of 2013 – Complete surveys in former H&I Region.
Surveys will aim to identify bat roost locations, bat species present and key bat habitats (for feeding, movement).
- 7). A **focussed annual roost monitoring programme** will be established on at least 10 regular roost locations across NTS properties, **commencing in 2010**. This work will be in close liaison with the Bat Conservation Trust in order to feed into national monitoring programmes and is also in recognition of the fact that bats are now an UK Biodiversity Indicator. Annual bat monitoring transects will be established on at least 7 appropriate routes across NTS properties, **commencing 2010**. The transects will aim to inform habitat management work within the Trust.
- 8). All known roosts will be checked, and findings recorded, **at least once every 10 years** for signs of activity.
- 9). The Trust will ensure that all building and development work will include an assessment for bats during the planning stages and, if appropriate, immediately prior to the commencement of works. The legal exclusion of bats and the creation of alternative bat roosts will be sought **ONLY** after all other means to conserve them *in situ* have been exhausted. An assessment for bats on properties listed for potential disposal will be carried out prior to sale.
- 10). The Trust will contribute to wider bat conservation through appropriate habitat management on our properties as the opportunity arises during management planning work and through educational programmes *e.g.* guided bat walks, thistle camps.
- 11). A small leaflet will be produced for all NTS staff **by the end of 2009**, informing them about bats, bat roosts and the law, and what procedures should be followed in the Trust when finding bats.
- 12). An annual meeting involving NTS, the Bat Conservation Trust, and at least 3 Bat Groups will be established, **commencing in 2010**, in order to foster good working relationships between the Trust and other groups working in bat conservation in Scotland.
- 13). Scotland's first formal bat reserve at Threave will be established **by the end of 2011**.
- 14). A report on the implementation of this plan should be produced **before the end of 2013**.