

BROWN LONG-EARED BAT

Plecotus auritus (Linnaeus, 1758)

Order: Chiroptera

medium sized bat, distinctive long ears, light brown dorsal fur and paler ventral fur.

Preferred Habitat—open woodland-deciduous and coniferous, sheltered valleys, parkland and gardens.

Roosting – buildings, trees and bat boxes and caves.

Diet – moth specialist.

Image



Brown long-eared bats occur across Europe except northern Scandinavia

CONSERVATION STATUS – the brown long-eared bat is listed as a priority species for conservation on the UK BAP (UKBP, 2007). It is widespread throughout Britain and Ireland except for the Scottish islands. In winter it is regularly found in underground sites in mainland Britain but rarely discovered in Ireland (BCT, 2001). Population monitoring data are inconclusive but may suggest a long-term downward decline (BCT, 2006).

Survey Methods

Roost surveys

Cat and road kills

Did you know?

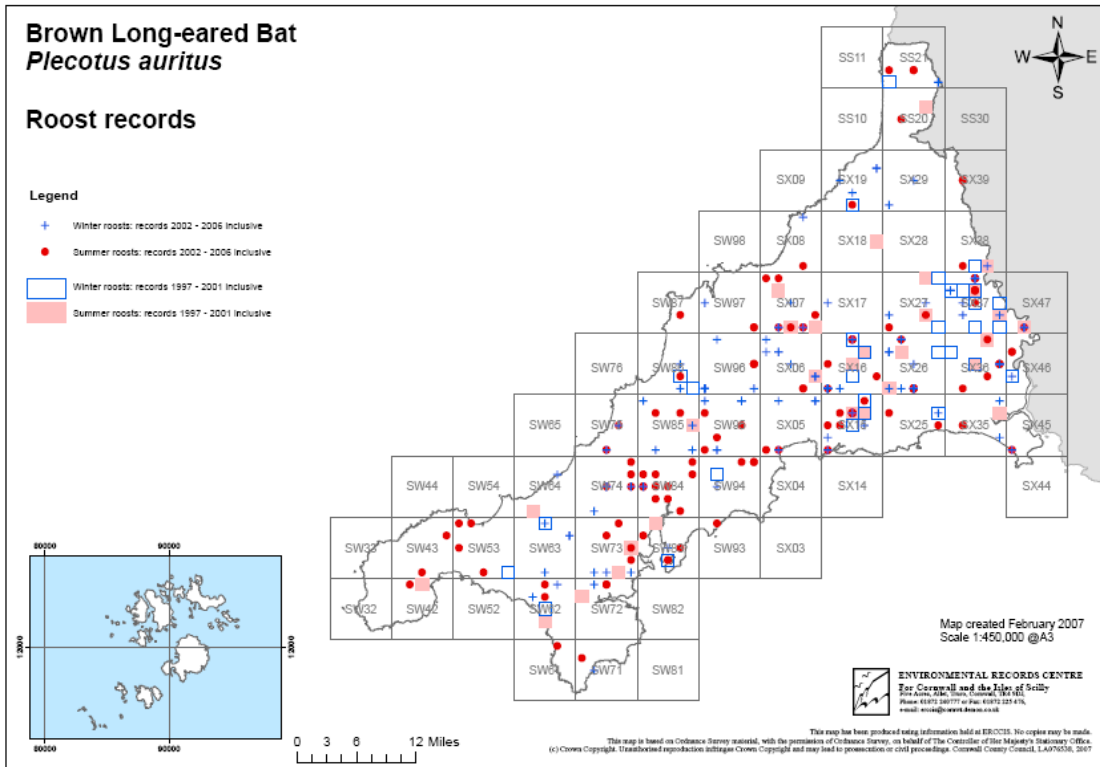
When they are resting, brown long eared bats fold their ears back like ram's horns.

They often 'glean' prey from the surface of leaves and may feed on insects on the ground which is why they are often caught by cats.

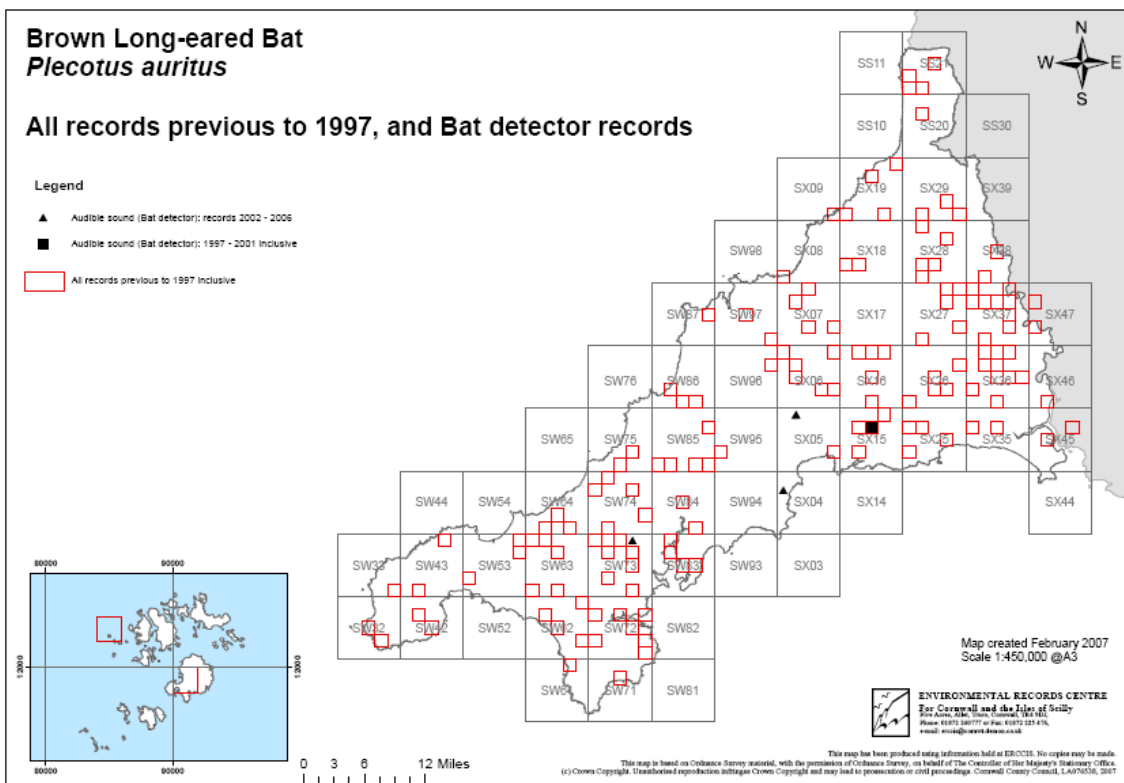
Local distribution and key sites

The maps show that the Brown Long-eared Bat is common and widespread across Cornwall with a few gaps (West Penwith and Bodmin Moor). There are few audible records displayed in the first map; this is because the Brown Long-eared Bat is difficult to detect with a bat detector. Whilst generally under recorded the maps show a fair representation of species distribution.

Key references



Number of records per date class
 2002 to 2006 inclusive 232
 1997 to 2001 inclusive 101
 All records previous to 1997 290
Total bat roost records 333



Number of records per date class
 2002 to 2006 inclusive 5
 1997 to 2001 inclusive 2
 All records previous to 1997 290
Total bat detector records 7