**DESCRIPTION**

This is a large bat (by UK standards) and the second largest found in Scotland. It emerges from its roost up to half an hour before sunset. It is similar in appearance and in its echolocation calls to the closely related noctule bat (and is likely to have been mis-identified as noctule in the past.)

**STATUS** – a European protected species.

**DISTRIBUTION MAP**

Until recently there were very few records of the species, all of which were concentrated in the Glen Trool/ Cree Valley/ Newton Stewart area. However recent research (led by John Haddow) has greatly added to our knowledge of roosting sites and to the known distribution of the species. This work is ongoing.

Current knowledge suggests an east-west split between the distribution of Leisler’s bat and noctule, with Leisler’s bat occurring mostly in southwest and west Scotland and noctule found mainly in the southeast and an area around Dumfries.

There is only one known maternity colony to date, using a number of different tree roosts within Culzean Country Park in South Ayrshire, but there will be other maternity roosts in trees throughout its likely range in Scotland.

Key to map
Blue spots – Noctule records
Red spots – Leisler’s records

**THREATS**

1. Lack of knowledge about the species’ range, distribution in Scotland and roost preferences
2. It is a high flying bat and relatively more vulnerable to injury associated with wind turbines.

**ACTION REQUIRED**

1. More survey in Scotland for this species.
2. Pre- and post-construction monitoring at wind farm sites.
3. Retention of veteran trees and planting of mixed woodland to ensure long term availability of roosts in future.

**FURTHER READING/LISTENING**

Bat Conservation Trust website (Please note the information on the BCT website has not been updated since the recent work by John Haddow in 2011, 2012)

**MSP SPECIES CHAMPION**

Graeme Pearson MSP
Member for: South Scotland
Party: Scottish Labour