

# Bat Survey Licence 2025 Supporting Document

**Prepared for:** Wildlife Licencing Unit, National Parks and Wildlife Services.

**Purpose:** To inform the re-application process for bat survey licence.

**Prepared by:** Colm Breslin BSc (Hons).

**Date:** 12/02/2025.

The purpose of this supporting document is to outline information necessary for the re-application for a bat survey derogation licence application for the 2025 calendar year. Specifically, the following questions have been addressed as outlined within the 'Application for Derogation Licence' document (see **Table 1**):

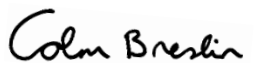
**Table 1 - Derogation License Checklist**

<p><b><i>Explanation as to why the derogation licence sought is the only available option for works and no suitable alternative exists as per Regulation 54 of the European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations.</i></b></p> <p>Colm Breslin intends to apply for a personal bat survey/roost disturbance licence. This licence application is intended to be year-round for all bat species across all counties in the Republic of Ireland.</p> <p>As an Ecologist, previously bat-licenced in the 2023 and 2024 calendar years, this licence is required in day-to-day work to survey and research protected bat species potentially encountered across projects. These surveys are intended for the best interest of wildlife to better help developers comply with National and EU legislation.</p> <p>Alternative solutions were considered, and none are available in this instance. The alternative/'do-nothing scenario' in this instance is remaining without licence to appropriately survey bat species through entering their roosting spaces. Surveys would therefore required to be non-invasive. The results from non-invasive surveys may lead to inaccurate results (species, numbers etc.) and resultant improper assessment mitigation. This would serve to potentially negatively impacts protected bat species.</p>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<p><b><i>Evidence that actions permitted by a derogation licence will not be detrimental to the maintenance of the populations of the species to which the Habitats Directive relates at a favourable conservation status in their natural range as is required under Section 54(2) of the European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations.</i></b></p> <p>Under the actions of this licence, if granted, appropriate and thorough survey of protected bat species will be facilitated. This will ensure the appropriate level of mitigation is applied to developments based on the high-confidence of results gathered.</p> <p>It is considered with best available information that the proposal will not be detrimental to the maintenance of the bat populations at a favourable conservation status in their natural range and that the proposal will not have a detrimental effect on the local bat populations.</p>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

<p><b><i>Details of any mitigation measures planned for the species affected by the derogation at the location, along with evidence that such mitigation has been successful elsewhere.</i></b></p> <p>There are no site-specific measures or specific roost location for which this application applies to. All roost surveys carried out will be non-destructive and minimally invasive, with cognisance to guidelines set out in Marnell et al. (2022) and Collins (2023).</p>	☒
<p><b><i>As much information as possible to allow a decision to be made on this application.</i></b></p> <p>Colm Breslin BSc (Hons) has been a bat-licensed surveyor for the previous two calendar years under the following licences: DER/BAT 2023-59; DER/BAT 2024-09 of which all licence returns are up to date. Additionally, Colm was licensed for the capture and handling of bat species (C182/2023; C03/2024).</p> <p>Colm has extensive on-the-job experience in bat roost surveys and bat handling, for which he is licensed also. Under the previous survey licences, Colm has undertaken a wide range of roost surveys across the Republic of Ireland targeting a wide range of bat species, including Lesser Horseshoe Bat. A portion of this work has been undertaken within Special Areas of Conservation including the Newhall and Edenvale Complex SAC (2091).</p> <p>In addition to learning appropriate roost survey techniques ‘on-the-job’ from Tom O’Donnell, Colm has read and understood relevant guidelines including Marnell et al. (2022) and Collins (2023) regarding roost surveys of both structures and trees.</p> <p>Listed below are select examples of work undertaken by Colm Breslin in relation to protected bat species:</p> <p><b>Foynes to Limerick Motorway</b> – undertook surveys targeting structures proposed for demolition as part of major infrastructural road scheme. Surveys followed best-practice guidance and appropriate mitigation measures implemented dependant on the results of surveys. The demolition of structures was supervised by the named bat-licensed ecologist Tom O’Donnell in addition to Colm Breslin.</p> <p><b>Fota House</b> – undertook bespoke surveys targeting the known Brown Long-eared Bat maternity colony in advance of proposed reroofing works. The results of surveys and targeted mitigation resulted in the successful return of the maternity colony following the completion of works, with the population status remaining unchanged as a result.</p> <p><b>Blarney Castle</b> – conservation research undertaken in collaboration with NPWS and Cork City Council targeting the elusive Lesser Horseshoe Bat population surrounding Cork City. The results of this work resulted in the identification and protection of a new Lesser Horseshoe Bat roosting location within Blarney Castle dungeon.</p>	☒

I hope the above satisfies the information requirements outlined in Question 11 of the application process.

Regards,  
Colm Breslin BSc (Hons)



12<sup>th</sup> February 2025