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Kiltyclogher - Bat Survey Findings

To: Harry Bent, DHB Architects
From: Christopher Doyle: Flynn Furney Environmental Consultants.
Date: 30/01/2024
Re: Bat hibernation Survey on derelict building in Kiltyclogher, Co. Leitrim.

Background

This memo serves to outline the findings of a hibernation survey carried out on the morning of the 26th of January 2024 in Kiltyclogher. The two story, four room structure in question was surveyed by a suitably qualified ecologist from Flynn Furney, with access and support provided by a member of Leitrim County Council.

A previous survey, carried out in September 2023, found direct evidence of bats using the building as a roost, and so it was proposed that the site may be suitable as a hibernation roost.

Both the ground floor and the first floor of the building were inspected. The first floor and the attic space were accessed with the use of an extendable ladder. As far as was practical, the entirety of the structure was examined.

Findings

No hibernating bats were observed, either visually or audibly. Despite this, the ground of all four rooms was littered with indirect evidence, including butterfly and moth wings, beetle elytra (wing cases) and bat droppings, some of which still appeared relatively fresh (i.e., had not completely dried out).

No gaps or services were identified as having recently been used by bats, indicated by staining such as fur-oil smearing or urine splashing, though many such gaps were unobstructed by spider webs or loose material and were too numerous to examine exhaustively,

Evaluation

The building is slightly humid but dry, which makes for ideal hibernacula and roost potential. The fact that bats were observed here previously and the that abundant evidence of feeding exists within the building, indicates that, if not in use as a hibernation site, this area is used by local bat populations and may act as a temporary, satellite or breeding roost at different times of the year.

Further, anecdotal evidence provided by the local heritage officer on the morning of the survey indicated that there are existing bat populations in at least two local buildings in the village.

Recommendations for Further Action



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National Parks and Wildlife Services will be contacted and informed of the roosting site and the proposed intentions. A Derogation License will likely be required for the development, with mitigation terms set out by the NPWS.

Further summer emergence surveys are recommended for the site to determine the type of roost if possible.



Figure 1: Beetle elytra and droppings.





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Figure 2: Insect wings and droppings on the ground floor.



Figure 3: Bat droppings on the ground floor.



Figure 4: Insect wings and droppings on the first floor.



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Figure 5: Ladder used to access attic space.



Figure 6: View of attic space.



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Figure 7: Droppings caught in spider webs along the wall on the first floor.