

Bat Derogation Licence Supporting Document

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

Project: Lissardagh House Renovation, Co. Cork.

Purpose: To inform a bat derogation licence application.

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Date: 01/04/2025

To whom it may concern,

The purpose of this document to support the derogation licence application process for the above named project following surveys conducted in 2023 and 2024. Following consultation with the Wildlife Licencing Unit, this document details the response to the following question under Regulation 54. Alternative solutions are considered below and detailed as to their suitability.

Question 11.1:

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.

Answer Q11.1:

a) Leave Lissardagh House as it currently exists

Leaving Lissardagh House was considered suitable for the short term. At the time of surveys in 2023 and 2024, degradation to the roof and coverings (slate, leadwork, fascia, soffit etc.) were noted as a result of minor gaps throughout. The attic space was also noted to accumulate moisture which is predicted to adversely affect the roofing structure in the future. Under a 'do-nothing scenario' it was considered that Lissardagh House would be become unsuitable for bat species and eventually lost as a roosting space in the medium (7-15 years) or long term (>15 years) (EPA, 2022).

This solution was not considered suitable, and alternative options are required.

b) Exclude bats entirely from Lissardagh House

Exclusion of bats entirely from the attic space of Lissardagh House would result in the complete loss of maternity roosting of species such as Whiskered Bat, considered important locally. Under this scenario, a net loss in high-quality roosting spaces will occur the local bat population.

This solution was not considered suitable, and alternative options are required.

c) Compartmentalise the attic space for bat species

The entirety of the attic space of Lissardagh House is currently accessible to bats. The existing roof structure provides an abundance of roosting and access/egress opportunities for a large variety of bat

species, with discrete species-specific roosting spaces noted throughout. Under a previously granted derogation (DER/BAT 2024-74) which has since expired, bat compartments were suggested in order to confine bats to specific sections of the attic. This is no longer considered a viable mitigation considering the number of species involved and complexity of the existing roof structure.

This solution was not considered suitable, and alternative options are required.

d) Repair Lissardagh House and leave the attic in it's entirety for bat species

The mitigation for the proposed works involve leaving the attic in it's entirety for bat species as it currently exists. The proposed works consist of maintenance only and will be largely external. Through application of mitigation measures outlined in the original supporting document for this derogation application (namely seasonal avoidance, supervision of works and provision of permanent bat access/egress), no loss in roosting space will occur as a result of the proposed works.

Both during and following the completion of works, the roosting space for bats within Lissardagh House will be retained as it currently exists, providing a variety of roosting spaces for a high diversity of bat species.

Option 'd' was considered the most suitable option in this instance, and is reflected in the proposed design.

Should you have any further queries, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Regards,



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