

Bat Roost Disturbance Licence Application – Supporting Information

Claire McCarthy

11.1 I do not seek a derogation license but a roost disturbance license. As an Ecologist I require this license in the event that I may discover a potential bat roost during the course of my work. As I understand it there is no alternative to this license and I must possess it to legally enter/disturb a bat roost.

11.2 The actions permitted by this roost disturbance license will not be detrimental to the maintenance of bat populations. This license will be used in the context of conservation. This license will allow me to carry out my work as an Ecologist in the correct manner. I will use this license to enter potential bat roosts so that I may carry out surveys to ensure their protection following proposed development.

11.3 There are no specific measures or specific roost location for which I am making this application. All roost surveys carried out will be non-destructive and follow the guidelines set out in Marnell et al. (2022) and Collins (2023).

11.4 I have assisted Tom O'Donnell and Colm Breslin during several bat roost surveys while employed at O'Donnell Environmental. I began working at O'Donnell Environmental in November 2022 as a Junior Ecologist and I am now currently employed at O'Donnell Environmental as an Ecologist.

Bat related projects I was involved in to-date include (please see **Plates A-F** for photographic evidence):

- **Blarney Castle, Cork** - Investigation of Lesser Horseshoe Bat in Cork City. Hibernation roost location identified and surveyed with Tom O'Donnell and Colm Breslin.
- **Harper's Island, Cork** – Common pipistrelle roosting surveyed within bat boxes that were provided by Tom O'Donnell. Roost survey carried out with Tom O'Donnell and Colm Breslin.
- **Newhall Estate, Clare** – New Lesser Horseshoe Bat roost of roughly 20 individuals discovered and entered under the supervision of Tom O'Donnell and Colm Breslin. Emergence surveys and building inspections carried out on two occasions.
- **Sheskin Bantry, Cork** – Investigation of a Common Pipistrelle maternity roost which had relocated from one building on the property to the garage. Emergence survey and building inspection carried out under the supervision of Colm Breslin.
- **Fota House, Cork** – Discovery of a Brown Long-eared maternity roost within the attic space of Fota House. Multiple building inspections and emergence surveys carried out as part of a renovation project on the building, under the supervision of Tom O'Donnell and Colm Breslin. Successfully relocated the roost temporarily for the duration of works and bats were recorded returning to the original roost location using new bat access tiles installed in the roof.
- **Dunmanyway Convent, Cork** – Investigation of a Lesser Horseshoe maternity roost under the supervision of Colm Breslin.
- **Lissarda House, Cork** – Investigation of a Whiskered Bat and Brown Long-eared Bat roost within the outbuildings associated with the house. Building inspections and emergence surveys carried out under the supervision of Tom O'Donnell and Colm Breslin.
- **Roseville House, Ballinacurra, Cork** – Investigation of a Pipistrelle roost under the supervision of Tom O'Donnell and Colm Breslin.
- **Castlebank House, Clare** – Investigation of a Brown Long-eared roost in the outbuildings associated with this house. Building inspections and emergence surveys carried out under the supervision of Tom O'Donnell and Colm Breslin.
- **Structure in Foynes to Limerick Road Scheme, Limerick** – Investigation of a Lesser Horseshoe and Pipistrelle roost within the attic of an occupied structure. Surveys carried out under the supervision of Tom O'Donnell and Colm Breslin.
- **Farm Plan Scheme Property** – Investigation a Lesser Horseshoe Bat roost and a newly built roost provided as an alternative to the existing. Survey carried out under the supervision of Tom O'Donnell.
- **An occupied property in Cork** – Investigation of a property for the confirmation of a Pipistrelle roost within the building. The owner/occupier contacted O'Donnell Environmental for information, and we carried out an internal building inspection to confirm the presence of a Pipistrelle maternity roost. Survey carried out under the supervision of Tom O'Donnell and Colm Breslin.

In addition to learning appropriate roost survey techniques 'on-the-job' from Tom O'Donnell and Colm Breslin, I have read and understood relevant guidelines including Marnell et al. (2022) and Collins (2023) regarding roost surveys of both structures and trees.

I am also familiarising myself with all Irish bat species and identification characteristics following Roche et al. (2014) and Field Studies Council (2001). I am always learning 'on-the-job' and look forward to improving upon my skills throughout my employment at O'Donnell Environmental.



Plate A. Brown Long-eared bats which Tom O'Donnell and I discovered at Fota House, Co. Cork.



Plate B. Emergence count survey of a known Pipistrelle maternity roost in Cork with Tom O'Donnell and Colm Breslin.



Plate C. Internal inspection in search of a Pipistrelle maternity roost within the attic of a property in Cork.



Plate D. Internal Inspection of a known Lesser Horseshoe Roost in Co. Clare.

All photographs were taken under license by Tom O'Donnell and Colm Breslin.