

<b>Bridge Reference</b>	82
<b>Road Reference</b>	R253
<b>Bridge Name</b>	Lacklea Bridge
<b>County</b>	Donegal
<b>Grid Reference</b>	54.792351, -8.1784574
<b>No. of Spans</b>	2
<b>Date of survey</b>	2022 and 07/05/24
<b>Species Recorded</b>	Daubenton's bats, Dipper
<b>Bat Grade</b>	3 – Nursery roost of Daubenton's bats
<b>Recommendations</b>	Derogation Licence from NPWS required. Further surveys required

**Description:** Lacklea Bridge is a lovely two arch masonry bridge spanning the Owenea River. It is situated approximately 6.5 km east of Glenties on the R253 regional road.

Lacklea Bridge spans the Owenea River which is designated as a Special Area of Conservation SAC (Site No 00197 - West of Ardara/Maas Road SAC). NPWS and IFI are to be kept informed of all works planned for Lacklea Bridge.

Lacklea Bridge was first surveyed in 2022. A nursery roost of Daubenton's bats was recorded in a crevice under the eastern arch. No works were conducted on Lacklea Bridge in 2022.

The nursery roost of Daubenton's bats is still present in a crevice under the eastern arch of the bridge. The number of bats present is estimated to be 8-10. There are 4 crevices marked for retention for bats under the eastern arch. The bats are currently in the marked crevice closest to the upstream face of the arch. These bats may move position to a larger crevice prior to the birth of the young in June.

Four crevices were also marked for retention under the western arch (one crevice c. 0.5m in from the upstream face, one crevice mid-way under the arch at the apex, one crevice behind the downstream facing stones and one crevice c. 1m in from downstream face).

An active dipper's nest with nestlings was recorded on a ledge under the western arch. This ledge should be retained. An old dipper's nest was recorded on the upstream pier.

There are sycamore saplings growing out of the upstream bridge wall which should be removed. The stonework is in poor condition close to the downstream face of the eastern arch.

No signs of otter were recorded in the vicinity of the bridge but they are present on this watercourse.

No invasive plants were recorded in the vicinity of the bridge.



Photo 1 – view across Lacklea Bridge looking east



Photo 2 – upstream parapet wall



Photo 3 – upstream elevation of bridge



Photo 4 – stump of sycamore tree growing close to upstream bridge wall



Photo 5 – Active dipper’s nest with nestlings on ledge under western arch



Photo 6 – close up of dipper’s nest



Photo 7 – old dipper’s nest on ledge under eastern arch



Photo 8 – 3 crevices marked for retention for bats under eastern arch. In 2020 the nursery roost was located in the centre crevice. In 2024, 8-10 bats were recorded in the crevice closest to the upstream face of the bridge



Photo 9 – fissure running around arch barrel close to downstream face of eastern arch



Photo 10 – Daubenton's bats in crevice in 2020