

APPLICATION FOR EXTENSION TO DEROGATION LICENCE DER-BAT-2024-148

On behalf of Tipperary County Council, I wish to apply for an extension to the existing derogation licence DER-BAT-2024-148 (The Old Farm Building, Town Park, Thurles, Co. Tipperary). The current licence expires on 31st December 2024. Re-roofing works are scheduled to commence on 2nd January 2025. Re-roofing works will be completed by mid-April 2025.

In August 2024, a bat survey conducted by Ecofact recorded 5 Common pipistrelles roosting in the building (see report attached).

The re-roofing work and construction of the internal roost unit within the roof space will be supervised on site by Dr Caroline Shiel.

This licence is being applied for Under Regulation 54(2)(C) of the European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations:

(c) In the interests of public health and public safety, or for other imperative reasons of overriding public interest, including those of a social or economic nature and beneficial consequences of primary importance for the environment

a.	In the interests of protecting wild flora and fauna and conserving natural habitats
b.	To prevent serious damage, in particular to crops, livestock, forests, fisheries and water and other types of property
c.	In the interests of public health and public safety, or for other imperative reasons of overriding public interest, including those of a social or economic nature and beneficial consequences of primary importance for the environment
d.	For the purpose of research and education, of re-populating and re-introducing these species and for the breeding operations necessary for these purposes, including artificial propagation of plants
e.	To allow, under strictly supervised conditions, on a selective basis and to a limited extent, the taking or keeping of certain specimens of the species to the extent specified therein, which are referred to in the First Schedule

Report Checklist: Please append a detailed report to support this application and ensure that it contains the following information:

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.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
11.2	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.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
11.3	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.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
11.4	As much information as possible to allow a decision to be made on this application.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Alternatives explored are (a) leave as a derelict building, (b) restore the building with compensatory roost included (c) restore the building without accommodating the bats. Option

b was considered to be most appropriate as it allows the building to be brought back into use, while retaining a roost site for the Common pipistrelles within the roof space.

The proposed works will not be detrimental to the maintenance of the populations of Common pipistrelle bats 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.

Caroline Shiel

Dr Caroline Shiel

28/11/24