Bat Derogation Licence Supporting Document

St. Joseph's N.S.,
Carrabane, Athenry, Co. Galway

DOCUMENT DETAILS

Client:	**Client Name**
Project Title:	**St. Joseph's N.S., Carrabane, Athenry, Co. Galway**
Project Number:	**241127-b**
Document Title:	**Bat Derogation Licence Supporting Document**
Document File Name:	**DERBAT SI – F – 241127-b – 2025.10.14**
Prepared By:	**MKO** **Tuam Road** **Galway** **Ireland** **H91 VW84**

Planning and Environmental Consultants

Rev	Status	Date	Author(s)	Approved By
01	Final	14/10/2025	SF	CK

1. TABLE OF CONTENTS

TABLE OF FIGURES

2. INTRODUCTION

This report provides information in support of an application for a derogation under Regulation 54 & 4A of the European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations 2011, as amended. This application is specifically for:

- The destruction of resting (not breeding) place of a small roost (4 individuals) of soprano pipistrelle (*Pipistrellus pygmaeus*).

This document provides the necessary information to assess the application, in line with guidance provided by the NPWS and the European Commission.

2.1 Objective of the Proposed Works

The above derogation is required to facilitate a permitted development that is being undertaken by the Board of Management of St. Joseph's NS, Carrabane, in collaboration with Wejchert Architects.

Ecological surveys were carried out by MKO to prepare a robust ecological impact assessment for the planning application for a new school facility at Carrabane, Co. Galway. Planning was granted in July 2025 (Pl. Ref. 2560635). Pre-commencement bat surveys, in compliance with the conditions of a pre-existing felling licence (FLO06439) to clear the subject site, were carried out and identified a small tree roost within the expected felling area.

2.2 Statement of Authority

This derogation licence application has been prepared by Sara Fissolo. Sara is a Project Ecologist at MKO. She has five years' experience in ecological consultancy, specialising in producing impact assessments in relation to bats. Sara has overseen the scope of surveys carried out within the subject site, which were undertaken by Pat Roberts, David Mesarcik, Nora Szijarto, Nathan Finn, and Deepali Mooloo. The document was reviewed by Caroline Kelly, Senior Ecologist at MKO. MKO ecologists have relevant academic qualifications, licences and are qualified in undertaking surveys to the levels required.

3. BACKGROUND

3.1 Proposed Activity

The proposed activity relates to the felling of a plot of mixed woodland (1.58ha) owned by Carrabane National School (FLO06439). A tree felling licence valid for 5 years was obtained from DAFM in August 2023 (**Appendix 1**). The licence is in place to clear out the site to allow for a new public school to be constructed and replace the existing St. Joseph's N. S. Carrabane school.

3.2 Location

The subject site includes the site of the proposed school and the extent of the proposed footpath link to the village centre. The school site is located to the west of the L-3114 County Road in the townland of Carrowbaun. The school site is surrounded to the north and west by woodland. Kilconerion GAA club lies to south of the proposed school site. The identified bat roost is located within the existing woodland, in an ash tree (*Fraxinus excelsior*). The location of the site and the tree roost are shown in Figure 5.1.

3.3 Ownership

Carrabane National School (FLO06439).

3.4 Reason for Activity

The felling licence is in place to clear out the site to allow for a new public school to be constructed and replace the existing St. Joseph's N. S. Carrabane school.

Permission was sought for a new 2-Storey, 10 classroom primary school located on a site to the east of the centre of Carrabane village. An ecological impact assessment was prepared for the application. Planning permission was granted in July 2025 (Pl. Ref. **2560635**). The new school includes for classrooms, outdoor play/sports areas, new access and parking arrangements, a new footpath connection to the village and all associated site works.

The full development description, as per the public notices, is as follows:

'The Board of Management, St. Joseph's NS, Carrabane is applying to Galway County Council for permission for a new primary school on lands adjacent to Kilconieron GAA Club, in the townland of Carrowbaun, Athenry, Co. Galway. The proposed development includes: (a) new 2-storey ten classroom school; (b) new entrance from L-3114 road; (c) 27 no. car parking spaces and set down facilities; (d) new waste water treatment plant; (e) a heat pump compound (f) outdoor play/sports areas; (g) new footpath connection to village, including set-back of wall and lowering of sections of the wall along the R349 and provision of a pedestrian crossing; and (h) all associated works. There are a number of Recorded Monuments in the townland of Carrowbaun and a large ringfort (GA097:063) is located immediately west of the site and is partially within the land-take for the proposed school development.'

The development complies with policies and objectives outlined in the National Planning Framework – Ireland 2040, the RSES for the Northern and Western Regional Assembly 2020 - 2032, the Galway County Development Plan 2022-2028, and The Provision of Schools and the Planning System 2008. The development is considered to be consistent with the proper planning and sustainable development of the area.

3.5 Planning History

The successful planning application (Pl. Ref. 2560635) follows four similar applications for a new school on the same site. Pl. Ref. No. 15/621 which was withdrawn on 12/10/2015, Pl. Ref. No. 15/1606, PL. Ref No. 19/60 and PL. Ref. No. 22/1097 which were granted permission on the 28/11/2016, 26/07/2019 and the 30/11/2022 respectively.

4. PROPOSED WORKS

Clear felling (i.e. deforestation for the purpose of constructing a new school, and without replanting in lieu elsewhere) of Plot 1 in respect of certain forest lands at Carrowbaun, Co. Galway under felling licence TFL00943623.

Condition g) of the felling licence states that:

The granting of a felling licence does not exempt the holder from meeting any legal requirements set out in the Wildlife Acts 1976-2010 which protects all wild animals in Ireland.

An impact assessment was produced to inform the planning application for the school and proposed measures aimed at mitigating and compensating for the loss of the plot of woodland, where felling was unavoidable.

5. ECOLOGICAL SURVEYS AND SITE ASSESSMENT

5.1 Pre-existing Information

The National Biodiversity Data Centre (NBDC) was searched for records of flora and fauna for hectads M51 and M52. **Table 5-1** lists the bat species recorded within hectads M51 and M52.

Table 5-1: NBDC records for bat species

Common Name	Scientific Name	Protection*	Hectad:
Brown Long-eared Bat	*Plecotus auritus*	Annex IV	M51
Myotis spp.	*Myotis spp.*	Annex IV	M52
Daubenton's Bat	*Myotis daubentonii*	Annex IV	M51, M52
Natterer's Bat	*Myotis nattereri*	Annex IV	M52
Leisler's Bat	*Nyctalus leisleri*	Annex IV	M51
Whiskered Bat	*Myotis mystacinus*	Annex IV	M51
Pipistrelle spp.	*Pipistrellus pipistrellus sensu lato*	Annex IV	M51, M52
Soprano Pipistrelle	*Pipistrellus pygmaeus*	Annex IV	M51, M52

The ecological reports undertaken by MKO to inform the previous planning application (Pl. Ref. No. 19/60) were reviewed as part of the 2025 assessment. The existing woodland had been identified as having negligible roosting potential.

5.2 Status of species in local/regional area

Table 5-2 lists the status and threats of the species known to occur in the local area. The activity associated with this application (i.e. woodland felling) is considered a threat of medium importance. Soprano pipistrelle bats, associated with the roost identified, have a favourable conservation status.

Table 5-2 Irish Bat Species Conservation Status and Threats (NPWS, 2019). Pressures and Threats are ranked from medium importance (M) to high importance (H) in the 2019 Article 17 report.

Bat Species	Conservation Status	Principal Threats
Common pipistrelle *Pipistrellus pipistrellus*	Favourable	**A05** Removal of small landscape features for agricultural land parcel consolidation (M) **A14** Livestock farming (without grazing) [impact of anti-helminthic dosing on dung fauna] (M) **B09** Clear---cutting, removal of all trees (M) **F01** Conversion from other land uses to housing, settlement or recreational areas (M) **F02** Construction or modification (e.g. of housing and settlements) in existing urban or recreational areas (M)
Soprano pipistrelle *Pipistrellus pygmaeus*	Favourable	
Nathusius' pipistrelle *Pipistrellus nathusii*	Unknown	
Leisler's bat *Nyctalus leisleri*	Favourable	
Daubenton's bat *Myotis daubentoni*	Favourable	

Bat Species	Conservation Status	Principal Threats
Natterer's bat *Myotis nattereri*	Favourable	**F24** Residential or recreational activities and structures generating noise, light, heat or other forms of pollution (M) **H08** Other human intrusions and disturbance not mentioned above (Dumping, accidental and deliberate disturbance of bat roosts (e.g. caving) (M) **L06** Interspecific relations (competition, predation, parasitism, pathogens) (M) **M08** Flooding (natural processes) **D01** Wind, wave and tidal power, including infrastructure (M)
Whiskered bat *Myotis mystacinus*	Favourable	
Brown long-eared bat *Plecotus auritus*	Favourable	
Lesser horseshoe bat *Rhinolophus hipposideros*	Inadequate	

5.3 Survey Objective

Bat surveys (pre-planning) were carried out within the site to assess the suitability of the site for roosting, commuting, and foraging bats as well as to identify any important features for bats. An assessment was carried out on the basis of the information identified, which concluded:

No potential for large maternity roost to be using the site was identified, however trees within the woodland presented a suitable roost resource, particularly for opportunistic and transitional roosting. The removal of existing woodland will be completed as part of site clearance works, and will be undertaken in line with the Wildlife Acts as per licencing conditions, avoiding significant effects on roosting bats.

Due to the nature of transitional, opportunistic roosts, pre-commencement surveys were considered the best option to avoid any potential harm to roosting bats. As such, bat surveys (post-planning) were carried out prior to felling works starting, in the form of dusk surveys and/or inspections, as recommended by guidance (Reason and Wray, 2023). These were carried out in September 2025.

5.4 Description of Survey Area

The subject site (Grid Ref: E57356; N20057) currently comprises an area of mixed broadleaved and conifer woodland and is bounded to the east by a local road, the L3114 and a stone wall that is approximately 1.8m high and to the south by Kilconieron GAA pitches and the R349.

5.5 Survey Methodology

5.5.1 Pre-planning Methodology

Bat surveys were carried out at the Proposed Development site to inform the impact assessment and to inform the survey effort recommended prior to the permitted felling works taking place.

5.5.1.1 Bat Habitat Appraisal

A walkover survey of the Proposed Development site was carried out during daylight hours on the 16th of January 2025 by ecologists Nathan Finn and David Mesarcik. The trees and landscape features on the site were visually assessed for potential use as bat roosting habitats and commuting/foraging habitats using a protocol set out in BCT *Bat Surveys for Professional Ecologists: Good Practice Guidelines* (4th edn.) (Collins, 2023). The aim of the survey was to determine the presence of roosting bats and to identify features within the site that may be used by commuting and foraging bats.

Table 4.1 of the 2023 BCT Guidelines identifies a grading protocol for assessing structures, as well as commuting/foraging habitat for bats, which is described in **Table 5-3** below. The protocol is divided into five Suitability Categories: *High, Moderate, Low, Negligible and None*. Table 4.2 of the 2023 BCT Guidelines identifies a grading protocol to assess trees, which is divided into three Suitability Categories: NONE (No suitability), FAR (Further Assessment Required), and PRF (Potential Roosting Feature present). This initial tree grading protocol can inform a preliminary roost assessment (PRA) to determine the available tree-roosting resource within the proposed development site, depending on whether a PRF could accommodate a small number of bats (PRF-I) or a larger roost, including maternity roosts (PRF-M). More information on PRAs is provided below:

Table 5-3: Protocol for assessing the suitability of habitats within the Proposed Site for bats (abridged, Collins, 2023).

Suitability	Roosting Habitats	Commuting and Foraging Habitats
None	No habitat features on site likely to be used by any roosting bats at any time of the year. (i.e. a complete absence of crevices/ suitable shelter at all ground/ underground levels).	No habitat features on site likely to be used by any commuting or foraging bats at any time of the year (i.e. no habitats that provide continuous lines of shade/ protection for flight-lines, or generate/ shelter insect populations available to foraging bats).
Negligible	Negligible habitat features on site likely to be used by roosting bats; however, a small element of uncertainty remains as bats can use small and apparently unsuitable features on occasion.	No obvious habitat features on site likely to be used as flight-paths or by foraging bats; however, a small element of uncertainty remains in order to account for non-standard bat behaviour.
Low	A structure with one or more potential roost sites that could be used by individual bats opportunistically at any time of the year. However, these potential roost sites do not provide enough space, shelter, protection, appropriate conditions and/or suitable surrounding habitat to be used on a regular basis or by larger numbers of bats, i.e. unlikely to be suitable for maternity and not a classic cool/stable hibernation site but could be used by individual hibernating bats.	Habitat that could be used by small numbers of bats as flight-paths such as a gappy hedgerow or un-vegetated stream, but isolated, i.e. not very well connected to the surrounding landscape by other habitat. Suitable, but isolated habitat that could be used by small numbers of foraging bats such as a lone tree (not in a parkland situation) or a patch of scrub.
Moderate	A structure with one or more potential roost sites that could be used by bats due to their size, shelter, protection, conditions and surrounding habitat but unlikely to support a roost of high conservation status (with respect to roost type only, such as maternity and hibernation - the categorisation described in this table is made irrespective of species conservation status, which is established after presence is confirmed).	Continuous habitat connected to the wider landscape that could be used by bats for flight paths such as lines of trees and scrub or linked back gardens. Habitat that is connected to the wider landscape that could be used by bats for foraging such as trees, scrub, grassland or water.
High	A structure with one or potential roost sites that are obviously suitable for use by larger numbers of bats on a more regular basis and potentially for longer periods of time due to their size, shelter, protection, conditions, and surrounding habitat. These structures have the potential to support high conservation status which is established after presence is confirmed.	Continuous, high-quality habitat that is well connected to the wider landscape that is likely to be used regularly by bats for flight paths such as river valleys, streams, hedgerows, lines of trees and woodland edge. High quality habitat that is well connected to the wider landscape that is likely to be used regularly by foraging bats such as broadleaved woodland, tree-lined watercourses and grazed parkland. Site is close to and connected to known roosts.

5.5.1.1.1 *Preliminary Roost Assessment*

A Preliminary Roost Assessment survey was undertaken on the 16th of January 2025 to determine the presence of roosting bats, potential access points, roosting locations and the need for further survey work or mitigation. Further bat surveys were undertaken on the site on the 27th of January and 14th of

February 2025. The latter included tree climbing surveys by Pat Roberts (B.Sc., MCIEEM).

A souterrain feature to the southwest of the site had previously been identified during ecological surveys associated with previous planning applications. This feature was assessed for its potential to support roosting / hibernating bats. This structure was subject to preliminary roost assessments on the 16th and 27th of January, and the 14th of February. A systematic search of the interior was undertaken, aided by flashlights during all visits. The roost inspection performed on the 27th of January was aided by an endoscope. The structure was searched for evidence of bat use, including live and dead specimens, droppings, feeding remains, urine splashes, fur oil staining and noises.

All trees within the broadleaved woodland on site were assessed for their potential to support roosting bats during the multi-disciplinary ecological walkover survey. A total of 238 trees were assessed for roosting suitability in clusters and at feature level, in accordance with BCT Guidance (Collins, 2023), to inform the need for further surveys and assessment. Trees present within the Study Area were examined from ground level for the presence of rot holes, hazard beams, cracks and splits, partially detached bark, knot holes, gaps between overlapping branches and any other PRFs as outlined in *Bat Roosts in Trees* by Andrews (2018). Suitability for roosting was assessed according to Collins (2023).

PRFs in trees were either categorised as PRF-Is; those features that are only suitable for individual bats or very small numbers of bats either due to size or lack of suitable surrounding habitats; or PRF-Ms; features that could support multiple bats and may therefore be used as maternity colonies. Trees that could not be adequately assessed from ground level due to their height, canopy or presence of dense ivy obscuring potential PRFs were classified as FAR (Further Assessment Required).

Notes were initially compiled on any trees marked as PRF and FAR, including location and species. On the 14th of February, further inspections were conducted at height to further assess any trees previously marked as PRF-M. All PRFs were further assessed either with the use of ladder or by tree climbing. An assessment of all trees was completed.

5.5.1.2 Static Detectors Surveys

Three Two full spectrum SM4 bat detectors (Wildlife Acoustics, Maynard, MA, USA), were deployed during static surveys to record bat activity for a minimum 2-week period. The detectors were deployed on 27th January 2025 and collected on 14th February 2025.

One static detector was placed inside the souterrain to indicate whether the structure was being utilised by hibernating bats. One static detector was placed outside the souterrain, near the entrance to aid in identifying whether calls picked up on the detector inside the souterrain were coming from inside the souterrain. The static detector outside the souterrain was also used to detect any bat activity occurring within the woodland. One detector in the woodland was considered enough to represent the habitat on site as the site only consists of open woodland.

Settings used on our static detectors are those recommended by the manufacturer for bats, with minor adjustments in gain settings and band pass filters to reduce background noise when recording. Detectors are set to record from 30 minutes before sunset until 30 minutes after sunrise. The Song Meter automatically adjusts sunset and sunrise times using the Solar Calculation Method when provided with GPS coordinates. Static detector locations for the static detector surveys which have been completed are shown in **Figure 5-1** and presented in Table 5-4.

Table 5-4 Static Detector Locations

Detector ID	IG Reference	Habitat	Deployment	Collection
D01	M 57962 20083	Woodland	27/01/2025	14/02/2025
D02	M 57959 20084	Inside souterrain	27/01/2025	14/02/2025

5.5.2 Pre-felling Methodology

A pre-commencement survey was carried out between the 17th and 18th September 2025 in the form of a dusk emergence and a dawn re-entry survey. The surveys were undertaken by three surveyors, each equipped with full spectrum bat detectors (Batlogger M bat detector (Elekon AG, Lucerne, Switzerland)) and thermal cameras (1no. Pixfra Ranger R625 Thermal Imaging Monocular, 2no. Pixfra Arc A613 Thermal Monocular). Surveys were carried out in favourable weather conditions.

The aim of the surveys was to identify any potential bat roosts within the woodland prior to felling operations commencing. During the dusk survey, the surveyors were split between three areas of the woodland performing a night bat walkover (NBW) to observe and record any early activity indicative of potential roosting. During the dawn surveys, the three surveyors were mostly located to the north-western section of the woodland, to pinpoint the location of likely roosting activity identified during the dusk survey. The survey effort is summarised in Table 5-5 below and shown in Figure 5-1.

Table 5-5 Bat Activity survey effort

Date	Surveyors (initials)	Survey Type	Sunrise/Sunset	Start	End	Weather
17/09/2025	D.Mesarcik, D.Mooloo, N.Szijarto	Roost Emergence at Dusk (NBW)	19:44	19:29	21:15	14˚C, Dry, Light Breeze
18/09/2025	D.Mesarcik, D.Mooloo, N.Szijarto	Roost Re-entry at Dawn (NBW)	07:13	05:13	07:15	11 ˚C, Dry, Calm

5.5.3 Bat Call Analysis

All recordings were later analysed using bat call analysis software *Kaleidoscope Pro v.5.6.8* (Wildlife Acoustics, MA, USA). The aim of this was to identify, to a species or genus level, what bats were present at the proposed development site. Bat species were identified using established call parameters to create site-specific custom classifiers. All identified bat calls were also manually verified. Due to the large number of recordings, a random 1% sample of noise files was manually verified.

Echolocation signal characteristics (including signal shape, peak frequency of maximum energy, signal slope, pulse duration, start frequency, end frequency, pulse bandwidth, inter-pulse interval and power spectra) were compared to published signal characteristics for local bat species (Russ, 1999). *Myotis* species (potentially Daubenton's bat *(M. daubentonii)*, Whiskered bat *(M. mystacinus)*, Natterer's bat *(M. nattereri)*) were considered as a single group, due to the difficulty in distinguishing them based on echolocation parameters alone (Russ, 1999). The echolocation of Soprano pipistrelle *(P. pygmaeus)* and Common pipistrelle *(P. pipistrellus)* are distinguished by having distinct (peak frequency of maximum energy in search flight) peak frequencies of ~55 kHz and ~46 kHz respectively (Jones & van Parijs, 1993). Some overlapping is possible between these species: where no certainty could be achieved, calls were identified to genus level.

Individual bats of the same species cannot be distinguished by their echolocation alone. Thus, 'bat passes' was used as a measure of activity (Collins, 2023). A bat pass was defined as a recording of an individual species/species group's echolocation containing at least two echolocation pulses and of maximum 15s duration. All bat passes recorded in the course of this study follow these criteria, allowing comparison. Due to the volume of bat activity data recorded, where multiple bat passes were recorded within the same registration, rarer or harder to record species were identified. Underreporting of common species is possible using this method and is accounted for within the assessment.

Echolocation calls by Brown long-eared bats (*Plecotus auritus*) are intrinsically quiet and hard to record by static equipment. All data collected, including Noise files and Auto ID files, are checked to ensure all calls for this species have been captured. However, a level of underrepresentation is expected for this species and is accounted for in the assessment of activity levels.

5.6 Survey Results

5.6.1 Bat Habitat Appraisal

During the walkover survey on 16th January features within the site were assessed for their suitability to support bats. During this survey, habitats within the study area were assessed for their suitability for bats to roost, forage and commute. Connectivity with the wider landscape was also considered to determine habitat suitability.

With regard to foraging and commuting bats, the proposed works site is considered to have Moderate suitability. The site is characterized by good quality woodland habitat, which provides optimal foraging and commuting features, and is connected to suitable habitats, particularly to the north along forestry plantations, but lacks the habitat diversity and high roosting suitability of High potential habitats, and is somewhat isolated within the surrounding agricultural landscape. With regard to roosting bats, mature broadleaved trees throughout the site present suitable roosting spaces for bats, in varying capacity.

Details of the assessment of existing trees and a man-made structure for their suitability to host roosting bats are presented below.

5.6.1.1 Potential Roost Features

A souterrain feature was identified during previous surveys carried out in 2019 just outside the subject site. The souterrain was initially assessed as having *High* roosting potential on the walkover survey on 16th January due to its suitability for use as a hibernation roost. The structure, constructed of stonework has many suitable crevices for roosting bats. The feature allows in some light near the entrance but is dark at the back and in most crevices. The souterrain was subject to three preliminary roost assessments. A static detector was also placed in the souterrain to identify any bat calls originating from the structure. No signs of bat activity were identified during any of the three inspections and no bat calls were picked up on the static detector, which was deployed for a period of 18 nights. After interpreting the results of the surveys conducted on the structure, it is not thought that the structure is in use by hibernating bats, and the roosting suitability was reassessed as *Moderate* suitability due to its potential to be used by small numbers of bats as a satellite/transitional/night roost. There are no works planned on this structure as part of the school development.

There are no other man-made structures within the subject site.

Plate 5-1 Exterior of the souterrain.

Plate 5-2 Interior of the souterrain.

Trees

All trees within the site were assessed for roosting suitability during the survey on 16th January. There were 27 no. trees assessed as having PRFs. Three of these were assessed as being PRF-M on a precautionary basis but it was noted that a more detailed survey including a survey at height might discover these trees unsuitable to host a maternity roost. A further 41 trees were marked as FAR. All other trees within the site presented no roosting potential.

A detailed survey of the trees initially assessed as PRF-M was conducted on 14th February. During this survey, two of the three trees initially assessed precautionarily as PRF-M were assessed as None, as it was found that the suspected PRFs did not extend deep enough into the trees to support roosting bats. The other tree initially assessed as PRF-M was re-assessed as PRF-I as upon detailed inspection with a flashlight there was no evidence of bat roosting such as old droppings, and the hollow was not deemed large enough to support a maternity colony.

Figure 5-1 refers to the PRF trees identified within the site.

5.6.2 Static Detector Surveys

During the static detector surveys conducted on the nights of 27th January – 13th January only one bat call was identified. The bat call recorded was identified as being a *Myotis spp.* (picked up on the detector located outside the souterrain). No bat calls were recorded on the detector located within the souterrain.

5.6.3 Manual Activity Survey

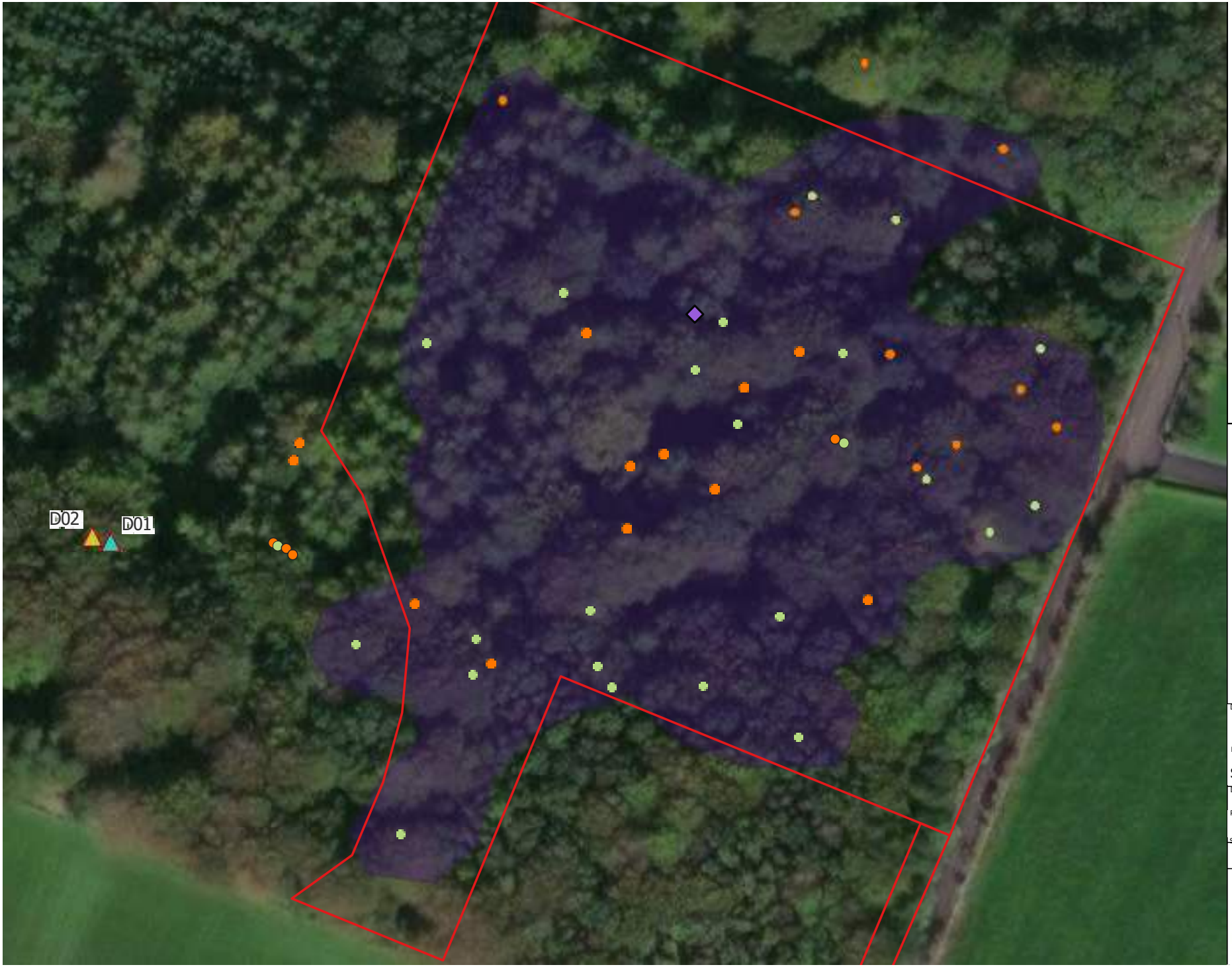
Following the manual activity survey carried out in September 2025, a small soprano pipistrelle tree roost was identified in the ash tree initially assessed as having PRF-M and then downgraded to PRF-I potential (Grid Reference: M 58068 20124). The general area of the roost was located during the dusk, as all bat activity recorded early in the survey was concentrated in the north-western section of the subject site. Limited activity was recorded elsewhere during this survey. During the dawn survey, the survey effort was concentrated in this area, and swarming activity by four soprano pipistrelles was observed surrounding the tree, with bats occasionally resting under the ivy of trees in its proximity, before eventually all converging onto the same tree and disappearing under the existing ivy, approximately 2.5 m above the ground.

Other bat species recorded during the surveys included *Myotis* spp, common pipistrelles and Leisler's bats, however soprano pipistrelles comprised the vast majority of activity recorded, and no other species were suspected to be roosting within the subject site. No other trees previously assessed as PRF or FAR where found to host roosting bats.

Plate 5-3 Identified tree-roost

5.7 Population size and class assessment

The subject site hosts a small population of roosting soprano pipistrelles and supports other bat populations of local importance. Based on the information identified within the desk study, and during dedicated surveys undertaken, the site is used by local bat populations for foraging, commuting and roosting purposes. As such, bat species have been identified as of Local Importance (Higher Value).



Map Legend

Red line boundary

Winter Static Detectors

D01

D02 (in souterrain)

Pre-planning Tree Assessement

Further Assessemer Required (FAR)

Potential Roosting Feature (PRF)

Pre-commencement survey 17.09-18.09.2025

Tree Roost

Activity survey coverage

N

Drawing Title

Bat Surveys

Project Title

St.Joeseph's School, Carrabar

Drawn By	Checked By
SF	SF
Project No.	Drawing No.
241127	Figure 5-1
Scale	Date
1:900	15/10/2025

MKO
Planning and Environmental Consultants
Tuam Road, Galway
Ireland, H91 VW84
[redacted]
Website:www.mkoireland.

6. EVIDENCE TO SUPPORT THE DEROGATION TESTS

The NPWS document, *Guidance on the Strict Protection of Certain Animal and Plant Species under the Habitats Directive in Ireland* - National Parks and Wildlife Service Guidance Series 1 (2021), was reviewed before undertaking this derogation application.

Article 16 of the Habitats Directive sets out three pre-conditions, all of which must be met before a derogation from the requirements of Article 12 or Article 13 of the Directive can be granted. These preconditions are also set out in Regulation 54 of the Regulations.

The preconditions are:

1. A reason(s) listed in Regulation 54 (a)-(e) applies
2. No satisfactory alternatives exist
3. Derogation would not be detrimental to the maintenance of a population(s) at a favourable conservation status.

It is believed that the pre-conditions for granting a derogation licence have been met, as follows:

6.1 Test 1 – Reasons for Seeking Derogation

Regulation 54(2) (a)–(e) states that a derogation licence may be granted for any of the reasons listed (a) to (e). We are of the opinion that the following reasons apply:

> *(c) In the interest 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.*

St. Joseph's N. S. Carrabane is currently sited in old and temporary buildings on a small site of approximately only 0.5 hectare (1.2 acres) on the R349 Athenry Road. This is a very restricted site that cannot meet the current and future needs of the school. The population served by St. Joseph's N.S. has been increasing in recent years. In addition, the close proximity of the new M6 motorway has also placed the area well within commuting distance of Galway City.

The school has received new teachers in accordance with recent growth in pupil numbers and there is a reliance on prefabricated classrooms. However, the restricted site cannot satisfactorily accommodate more prefabs due to its small size and the need to retain open play areas.

The current school site is landlocked by the R349 to the south, the local pub to the west, a dwelling house to the east, and a narrow strip of land adjoining a small housing estate to the north. This strip of land is a neighbouring farmer's only access to his lands. Accordingly, there are no suitable or available lands adjacent to the existing school that the Board of Management (BOM) could purchase. As a result, there is no space on site to accommodate the urgently needed school expansion and no space for sports or outdoor activities.

There is a very small astro-turf area on the current school site which, due to restrictions in space, had to be constructed on top of the existing Waste Water Treatment Plant. Currently, pupils play games in the Kilconieron GAA Club grounds, situated at the junction of the R349 and a local road (L3114). Whilst the distance is modest, pupils have to be taken to the sports grounds by bus for health and safety reasons. Initially, it was envisaged the pupils would walk to the GAA pitch along the R349. However, due to the busy, narrow and dangerous nature of the R349, the pupils are bussed to the facilities at considerable expense to the school.

The present site has no space for cars or a bus set down. The school bus has to park on the westbound lane of the R349 to drop-off and collect pupils. This requires the crossing of the main road and, taking into account other cars parking behind and in front of the bus, creates a potentially dangerous situation.

The current school accommodation includes an Autism Unit, which was established in conjunction with the Department of Education and Skills in 2008. The autism unit serves a very large catchment area between Loughrea and Athenry and is the only autism unit in a mainstream national school in this area. The BOM of Carrabane NS is very proud that the school caters for both mainstream and autistic children. However, the autism unit is currently housed in prefab accommodation that is wholly inappropriate for educating children with sensory needs.

The current school is not fit for purpose and is not conducive to a healthy and active learning environment. The site is very restricted in size and offers no potential for any expansion of school buildings. As noted above, there are no adjacent lands that could be acquired for expansion purposes. The school was therefore left with no option but to look elsewhere for a new site which would accommodate the required size of a ten-classroom school.

The subject woodland site is situated approximately 375 metres from the centre of Carrabane Village, as defined by the Planning Authority under the 2004 Carrabane Settlement Centre Boundary Report. The site was chosen owing to its availability, proximity to the centre of the village and its position adjacent to an existing community sports facility.

The subject site is within a reasonable and safe walking distance of the village core and is co-located adjacent to existing sport and recreation facilities, as well as a proposed community centre. The development includes the provision of a new high-quality footpath linking the proposed new school to the centre of Carrabane village. The new footpath serves to provide safe pedestrian connectivity between the centre of the village and the proposed new school, as well as the GAA grounds and the new community centre.

6.2 Test 2 – There is no Satisfactory Alternative

There are no satisfactory alternatives to the woodland felling to accommodate the school development.

A **do-nothing scenario** is considered unsatisfactory for the reasons highlighted above: there are no satisfactory available locations for the needed school to be built. In addition, the woodland is a forestry site and was planted with the eventual intention to be harvested.

Roost retention: The tree roost is located within the footprint of the school, in the central area of the site. The school design was determined to accommodate the 10-classroom requirements of the school and has been granted under three different planning applications. Felling of the tree cannot be avoided if the school is to be built to the density required, as such this is not a satisfactory alternative.

Alternative site: The site was chosen owing to its availability, proximity to the centre of the village and its position adjacent to an existing community sports facility. No other suitable options were available within the village.

6.3 Test 3 – Favourable Conservation Status

6.3.1 Conservation Status Assessment

Annex IV species must be maintained at Favourable Conservation Status or restored to favourable status if this is not the case at present. The net result of granting a derogation licence must be neutral or positive for the species in question.

An ecological impact assessment was carried out to assess the school development and its potential impacts on bats and other ecological receptors. Prior to mitigation, potential effects on bats were considered significant at the local scale, particularly where the proposed felling had the potential to result in physical harm of the local bat population. Following the implementation of the mitigation detailed below, while negative effects are expected due to the loss of habitat, no significant residual effect on bats at any geographic scale are anticipated.

Soprano pipistrelles are a bat species of favourable conservation status. The proposed activity is not expected to affect this status and as such granting of this derogation is expected to have a neutral effect on the species.

6.3.2 Mitigation Measures

The following mitigation and compensation measures have been proposed to attenuate any identified impacts on bats, in particular the loss of suitable roosting habitat within the woodland plot to be felled.

- Replanting is proposed as part of the design, as detailed in the landscape plan prepared by Colin Cooney Designs. Replanting on the site in line with the All Ireland Pollinator Plan will retain prey availability and will continue to provide commuting features, together with the remaining woodland edges.
- Prior to the commencement of felling works, a toolbox talk will be undertaken to ensure that all staff members are fully aware of the sensitivities of the site. The roost will be inspected prior to felling to ensure no roosting bats are present at the time of felling.
- Felling will occur outside the bat activity season (April to October) to limit potential for harm of any roosting bats.
- To account for the loss of opportunistic roosting resource within the site, it is proposed to install 12 bat boxes within the woodland edges and along the proposed school perimeters, with final locations being determined by a qualified ecologist once felling and construction works are complete. The provision of bat boxes, in the form of woodcrete bat boxes (e.g. Schwegler or similar) will ensure a variety of roosting options remain present across the site. Bat boxes will include a variety of available models to suit multiple species (i.e 2FF, 1FS, 1FW) and life cycle periods.
- Boxes will be mounted in groups of two or three per tree or tree cluster, at different orientations and heights, once generally oriented south and set up at a height of at least 3m, away from potential harm or tampering.

7. MONITORING THE IMPACTS OF THE DEROGATIONS

Monitoring is proposed during and following the proposed works:

- As a roost was identified within the site, felling operations will be supervised by a qualified ecologist. The roost will be inspected prior to felling to ensure no roosting bats are present at the time of felling.
- Monitoring of the bat boxes has been recommended and can be undertaken annually by a qualified ecologist or trained school staff member under licence, to verify upkeep by bats and potentially move unsuccessful boxes.
- NPWS will be informed once felling operations are concluded. A licence return will be submitted once works are completed or in the event that the licence expires prior to works being carried out.
- Once bat boxes are mounted within the site, NPWS will be informed. Any uptake of the boxes by bats will be reported to NPWS.

APPENDIX 1

FELLING LICENCE

An Roinn Talmhaíochta,
Bia agus Mara
Department of Agriculture
Food and the Marine

CARRABANE NATIONAL SCHOOL
CARRABANE NS
ATHENRY
CO GALWAY

TFL00943623

21/08/2023

Dear Carrabane National School,

I refer to your application for a Tree Felling Licence and I am pleased to enclose same.

If you are dissatisfied with this decision, it is open to you to appeal against it to the Forestry Appeals Committee (FAC), which operates independently of this Department. In accordance with the provisions of the Forestry Appeals Committee Regulations 2020 (S.I. No. 418 of 2020 as amended by S.I. No. 353 of 2021) a notice of appeal must be received **within the statutory 14 day deadline** and in a format required by the Committee.
The notice of appeal must be accompanied by the relevant fee and must include your name and address, grounds of appeal including the facts and contentions on which you intend to rely together with such documentary evidence that you wish to submit in support of your appeal. The fee for an appeal to the Forestry Appeals Committee is €200.

Submission of appeals

Forestry Appeals must be submitted on a notice of appeal form. The notice of appeal form is available on the Forestry Appeals Committee website: http://www.agriappeals.gov.ie/forestryappealscommittee/. Appeals must be submitted by post and the fee of €200 (payable by way of postal order, bank draft or cheque) must accompany the notice of appeal otherwise it cannot be accepted. The postal address is Forestry Appeals Committee, Agriculture Appeals Office, Kilminchy Court, Portlaoise, Co. Laois, R32 DTW5. The Notice of Appeal Form must be signed by the Appellant. **Appeals and payments that are not received within the statutory 14 day deadline cannot be accepted.**

Inspections of the plantation will be arranged at a later date to check on the utilisation of the licence.

Yours sincerely,

Ciaran Walsh

CIARAN WALSH
Felling Section, Forestry Division
DAFM, Johnstown Castle Estate
Co. Wexford
[redacted]

TFL00943623

AN ROINN TALMHAÍOCHTA, BIA AGUS MARA
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, FOOD AND THE MARINE

FORESTRY ACT 2014 - TREE FELLING LICENCE

Pursuant to the powers vested in him under the Forestry Act 2014, the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine hereby grants to the person specified in Schedule 1 (hereafter referred to as the Licensee) a licence authorising the felling of trees as specified in Schedule 2 subject to any conditions specified in any part of this licence.

This licence confers no title to the ownership of any land or trees specified herein. Where the licensee is not the owner of the land to which the licence relates, the conditions specified in the licence are binding on the owner of the land.

The authority granted under this licence does not remove the obligation on the licensee to abide by and fulfil the requirements of any other legislation.

During the period of the licence, the licence shall be for the benefit of the land and any owner thereof. (Under the Forestry Act 2014, "owner" is defined as "*in relation to trees or a forest, means (a) the freehold owner, (b) the leasehold owner (if any), or (c) the occupier for the time being, of the lands concerned and includes Coillte Teoranta*".)

Where the Licensee is not the owner as defined in the Forestry Act 2014, any conditions attached to this licence shall be binding on the owner.

Where an unexpired felling licence exists for any part of lands delineated in this Tree Felling Licence, it is important to note that this Tree Felling Licence will take precedence over the same areas delineated in the earlier licence.

The authority conferred by this licence will be exercisable for a period of 5 years from this date unless it is terminated by the Minister before the expiration of this period.

Signed on behalf of the Minister for Agriculture,
Food and the Marine

Ciaran Walsh

Date: 21/08/2023.

SCHEDULE 1: Licensee

Name of Licensee	Address of Licensee	Felling Licence Owner Number (FLO)	Company Registration Office Number (CRO No.)
CARRABANE NATIONAL SCHOOL	CARRABANE NS, ATHENRY, CO GALWAY.	FLO06439	

Townland	[illegible]	County
CARROWBAUN	KILCONIERIN	GALWAY

SCHEDULE 2 : Details of felling operations authorised under this licence and conditions attached to this licence

1. The authority conferred by this licence is to fell the tree species that are specified in Table 1 of this Schedule and are located within the boundaries of the land parcel(s) listed in Table 1 which are delineated on the attached ortho-photo map(s).

2. The land parcel number(s) listed in Table 1 of this Schedule identify the land parcel(s) delineated on the attached ortho-photo map(s). (NOTE:- Only the last 3 digits of the parcel ID number are displayed on the ortho-photo map(s), e.g., the number 12345678 in the table will appear on the associated ortho-photo map as 678).

3. The authority conferred by this licence is to fell trees of the species shown in Table 1 within the associated land parcel(s).

4. It is a condition of the licence that, within the boundary of each land parcel, any tree felling carried out under the authority conferred by the licence must be in accordance with the specification for the Harvest Type associated with the land parcel in Table 1 of this Schedule. Schedule 4 provides the specification of each Harvest Type which must be adhered to.

   Reason: In the interest of clarity and in the interest of sustainable forest management of the forest area licenced for felling.

5. It is a condition of the licence, to be known as the Replanting Condition, that each land parcel must be replanted in accordance with the replanting requirement for each Harvest Type. Schedule 3 lists the specific details of the replanting required under the Replanting Condition. Where the Minister through the authority granted under this licence is consenting to deforestation or to the permanent removal of single trees within any land parcel that is the subject of this licence but the Minister requires planting of an alternative site, the Replanting Condition shall be replaced with a condition called Alternative Planting Condition. In such circumstances, the Alternative Planting Conditions will be specified in this Schedule with the other conditions attached to this licence and it shall specify the requirements for the alternative site. (Deforestation takes the meaning defined in the Forestry Act 2014.)

   Reason: In the interest of clarity, the maintenance of national forest cover and in the interest of sustainable forest management of the forest area licenced.

6. During harvesting or reforestation works, only minor site level changes in the interest of environmental protection are permitted. The applicant must keep a record of any changes made.

   Reason: In the interest of the protection of the environment including aquatic habitats.

Table 1

Licence Information					
Plot No.	**Area (ha)**	**Species**	**Harvest Type**	**Harvest Year**	**Land Parcel Number**
1	1.5[illegible]	Sycamore	Clearfell	2023	55395017
		Scots pine	Clearfell	2023	55395017
		Norway spruce	Clearfell	2023	55395017
		Japanese Larch	Clearfell	2023	55395017
		Goat Willow	Clearfell	2023	55395017
		[illegible]	Clearfell	2023	55395017
		[illegible]	Clearfell	2023	55395017

Other conditions attached to this licence

(a) The licensee shall ensure that all felling and planting operations are carried out in accordance with Forestry and Water Quality, Forest Biodiversity, Forest Harvesting and the Environment, Forestry and Archaeology, Forestry and the Landscape and Forestry and Aerial Fertilisation guidelines and the Code of Best Forest Practice - Ireland and the Irish National Forest Standard published by the Department, except as may otherwise be required in order to comply with the following conditions

Reason: In the interest of clarity and protection of the environment during harvesting and, where applicable, during the replanting of the felled area.

(b) The licensee shall treat all conifer stumps with urea immediately upon tree felling where the soil type is mineral soil or where a peat soil is less than 25cm (excluding the litter layer). Treatment is not required where a conifer stand is being replanted with broadleaves, where the conifer is in a broadleaf stand is being removed or where broadleaves make up greater than 85% of the stand. The correct solution mixing rate is 1kg of fertiliser grade urea, 5 litres of water and one bottle of dye. Urea should not be applied to stumps with the buffer zones required by the Forestry and Water Quality Guidelines nor by the Forestiy and Freshwater Pearl Mussel Requirements.

Reason: In the interest of preventing infection by butt rot (Heterobasidion annosum) of the trees remaining following tree felling operations.

(c) The licensee shall, until the expiration of eleven years from the date on which the authority conferred by the licence ceases to be exercisable or ten years from the date of planting, whichever is the later, preserve, in accordance with good forest practice, the trees planted as instructed in Schedule 3 and shall for that purpose maintain in good repair and effective condition all fences and other protection necessary to protect such trees from being injured or destroyed by the trespass of any animals.

Reason: In the interest of the appropriate management, protection and maintenance of the forest area planted after trees within the licenced area have been felled.

(d) All aerial fertilisation of restocking sites requires prior written approval of this Department.

Reason: In the interest of sustainable forest management and protection of the environment.

(e) The public road network and associated roadside drainage must not be adversely affected whilst carrying out felling operations. The applicant may be held liable for any damage caused to a public road as a result of works and/or haulage operation associated with utilisation of this licence under the Roads Act 1993, Section 13(10)(a).

Reason: To protect the public road network and to clarify the extent of the permission in the interest of traffic safety and orderly development.

(f) In Ireland, the spread and propagation of species listed in the Third Schedule of S.I. No. 477/2011 European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations 2011 to 2021 is an offence. Under Section 49 (2), save in accordance with a licence granted under paragraph (7), any person who plants, disperses, allows or causes to disperse, spreads or otherwise causes to grow in any place throughout the State, any plant which is included in Part 1 of the Third Schedule, shall be guilty of an offence. Under Section 50 it is an offence to transport a vector material listed in Part 3 of the Third Schedule except under licence. The granting of a felling licence does not exempt the holder from meeting any of these legal requirements. Further information can be found at Invasive Species Ireland.

Reason: Legal obligations under the European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations 2011 to 2021 with regard to preventing the spread of Invasive species.

(g) The granting of a felling licence does not exempt the holder from meeting any legal requirements set out Wildlife Acts 1976 - 2010 which protects all wild animals in Ireland. Therefore, it is the responsibility of the landowner to ensure that where species are known to exist, on or near the project area and which are listed under the Wildlife Acts of 1976-2010, that these species are not impacted by the proposed forestry operations associated with this licence.

Reason: Legal obligations under the Wildlife Act with regard to the protection of wildlife.

(h) FELLING OPERATIONS MUST NOT COMMENCE UNTIL AT LEAST14 DAYS HAVE ELAPSED AFTER THE DATE OF SIGNATURE OF THIS LICENCE.

Reason: To allow for receipt of any appeals (from any party) by the Forestry Appeals Committee in relation to the granting of this licence.

(i) The enclosed Site Notice must be completed and erected in accordance with the Directions provided.

Reason: In the interest of providing a public notification in respect of the proposed felling operations and any associated replanting activity.

(j) Inspector's Conditions:-

- Condition: The felling project and all associated operations shall be carried out and completed in accordance with the measures set out in the Standards for Felling & Reforestation, the Felling & Reforestation Policy and, if reforestation is involved, the Environmental Requirements for Afforestation, as these apply to that operation.
Reason: In the interest of clarity and to ensure good forest practice and the protection of the environment, during felling, extraction and (if relevant) reforestation operations.

- Condition: Adhere to all conditions as set out in attached archaeological report.
Reason: In order to safeguard the archaeological monument near the site: and to ensure the identification, recording, further preservation and protection as appropriate, of any other archaeological remains (including low visibility or subsurface remains) that may exist within the site.

(k) Archaeological Conditions:-
1. Specifically, the area demarcated in YELLOW with RED hachuring around the ringfort (GA097-063), souterrain (GA097-063001) and house (GA097-063002), shall be treated as an operational exclusion zone throughout the works. That means an exclusion zone/setback of 30m in width from the outermost extent of the ringfort and no forwarding of timber shall occur within this area which is also precluded from use for storage of paving material, timber stacking, refuelling etc.
2. Any trees in this excluded area/setback around the ringfort (GA097-063), souterrain (GA097-063001) and house (GA097-063002) shall only be felled following a thorough field inspection by a suitably qualified archaeologist retained by the Licensee and the preparation with the forester of a plan outlining the most appropriate means to fell and remove trees from on and around the monument for the consideration of the Forest Service, DAFM, and National Monuments Service, DHLGH.
3. Specifically, to accord with the Mitigation proposed in Condition 5 of the grant of planning permission any de-stumping works in Plot 1 shall be archaeologically monitored by a suitably qualified archaeologist retained at the developer¿s own expense and under an Excavation Licence from the Department of Housing, Local Government, and Heritage.
4. The archaeologist concerned shall be allowed sufficient time by the developer to obtain the Excavation Licence for the archaeological monitoring prior to the commencement of any de-stumping works.
5. The developer shall notify Galway County Council in writing at least four weeks prior to commencement of any felling and de-stumping works under this Tree Felling Licence.
6. In the event archaeological remains are found during the course of de-stumping works, the archaeologist concerned shall be empowered to stop works and to deal with those newly discovered remains in accordance with archaeological mitigations proposed for such discoveries and those agreed in advance in writing with the local Planning Authority (Galway County Council).
7. A report on the archaeologically monitored de-stumping works on-site, including any such works so monitored arising of the execution of the Tree Felling Licences shall be submitted to the National Monuments Service, DHLGH, the Forest Service, DAFM, and Galway County Council.
This report can be a standalone document submitted on completion of this phase of the works or included in the overall archaeological report required to be sent to the relevant authorities on completion of the whole project.
8. See attached archaeological report and illustrative map for further details.
Reason: In order to safeguard the archaeological heritage on or contiguous to the site and in the area; and to ensure the identification, recording, further preservation and protection as appropriate, of any other archaeological remains

(including low visibility or subsurface remains) that may exist within the site.

SCHEDULE 3 : Replanting

1. Under the Replanting Condition the licensee is obliged to plant trees (of species in number and stocking rate, canopy percent etc.) within the boundaries of the land parcel(s) listed in Table 2.

   Reason: In the interest of the maintenance of national forest cover and in the interest of sustainable forest management of the forest area licenced for felling.

2. The land parcels listed in Table 2 below identify the land parcels delineated on the attached map(s) and ortho-photo maps(s). (NOTE:- Only the last 3 digits of the parcel ID number are displayed on the ortho-photo map(s), e.g., parcel number 12345678 in the table will appear on the associated ortho-photo map as 678.)

3. Under the authority conferred by this licence, the licensee must carry out replanting as outlined in Table 2, within a period of two years following each felling operation.

   Reason: In the interest of the maintenance of national forest cover and in the interest of sustainable forest management of the forest area licenced for felling.

4. Replanting must be in accordance with the general practice of good forestry and to the satisfaction of the Minister.

   Reason: In the interest of the maintenance of national forest cover, the interest of sustainable forest management of the forest area licenced for felling and in the interest of protection of the environment.

5. Where an Alternative Planting Condition is attached to this licence, this condition will be listed in Schedule 2.

Table 2

Plot No.	Area (ha)	No. of Trees to achieve minimum stocking requirement per hectare	Species	Restock Species Canopy %	Reforestation Objective	Land Parcel Number
Not Applicable						

SCHEDULE 4

Harvest Type	Harvest Type Description
Clearfell	The felling of all trees within the boundaries of the relevant land parcel or any subset of that land parcel. It is a condition attached to this licence and this Harvest Type that the area felled be replanted as specified in schedule 3 or an alternative area is planted as specified in Schedule 2 when an Alternative Planting Condition is attached to the licence.
Thinning	The felling of a portion of trees within the boundaries of the relevant land parcel or any subset of that land parcel to promote the growth and greater value of the remaining trees. Thinning is defined in the Forestry Act 2014 as *"the removal from a forest in accordance with good forest practice of excess or diseased trees, or trees of poor quality in order to improve the growth, health and value of the remaining trees".*
Tending	Within the boundaries of the relevant land parcel or any subset of that land parcel, the felling of trees in the early stages of forest development to promote growth of the remaining trees. This Harvest Type is thinning as defined in the Forestry Act 2014, which is *"the removal from a forest in accordance with good forest practice of excess or diseased trees, or trees of poor quality in order to improve the growth, health and value of the remaining trees".*
Continuous Cover Forestry	The felling of trees within the boundaries of the relevant land parcel or any subset of that land parcel to promote the natural regeneration of young trees. It is a condition of this licence that such natural regeneration must be managed in the manner specified in the Forest Management Plan submitted by the licensee and accepted by the Minister as part of the application for the licence. Such management may require planting trees where natural regeneration has not successfully achieved the required minimum stocking levels. The authority conferred under this licence is to fell no more than the number of trees specified for felling in the Forest Management Plan that has been accepted by the Minister.
Windblow	The clear felling of trees within the boundaries of the relevant forest land parcel or any subset of that land parcel following wind or storm damage. It is a condition attached to this licence and this Harvest Type that the area felled be replanted as specified in Schedule 3 or an alternative area is planted as specified in Schedule 2 when an Alternative Planting Condition is attached to the licence
Open space	The felling of all trees within the boundaries of the relevant land parcel in order, for example, to create an aquatic buffer zone.
Single Trees	The felling of individual or isolated trees within the boundaries of the relevant land parcel. It is a condition attached to this licence and this Harvest Type that replanting within the boundaries of the relevant land parcel is undertaken as specified in Schedule 3 or an alternative area is planted as specified in Schedule 2 when an Alternative Planting Condition is attached to the licence.
Line of Trees	The felling of a line of trees (for example in a hedgerow) within the boundaries of the relevant land parcel. It is a condition attached to this licence and this Harvest Type that replanting within the boundaries of the relevant land parcel is undertaken as specified in Schedule 3 or an alternative area is planted as specified in Schedule 2 when an Alternative Planting Condition is attached to the licence.

FELLING SITE NOTICE

Pursuant to a licence under Section 7 of the Forestry Act 2014 from the **Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine** in respect of tree felling.

At this Site[1]

Townland(s): _____

County: _____

Licence Number[2]**:** _____

Harvest Type	Description[3]	Area (ha)
Clearfell	The felling of all trees on an area with replanting afterwards.	
Thinning	The felling of a portion of trees from the canopy to promote growth and greater value in the remaining trees.	
Tending	The felling of undesirable trees in the early stages of forest development to promote growth in the remaining trees.	
Continuous Cover Forestry	The felling of a portion of trees from the canopy to promote the regeneration of young trees.	
Windblow	The felling of trees on a site following wind/storm damage with replanting afterwards.	
Open Space	The felling of trees to create small open areas within the forest, e.g. an aquatic buffer zone.	
		Number of trees
Single Trees	The felling of individual or isolated trees.	
Line of Trees	The felling of a line of trees, e.g. Hedgerow.	

Expected dates of commencement and conclusion of the tree felling [4]

_____ **TO** _____

The licence may be inspected free of charge, at the offices of the Forest Service, Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine, Johnstown Castle Estate, Co.Wexford between 09.00 and 16.00 Monday to Friday(excluding Public Holidays) or may be purchased, at a fee not exceeding the reasonable cost of doing so, by request in writing (by post or e-mail) from Felling Section, Forest Service, Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine, Johnstown Castle Estate, Co. Wexford; email felling.forestservice@agriculture.gov.ie.

Name of Agent (if applicable) [5] _____

Date of Erection of Notice: [6] _____

Directions for completing the Site Notice

1. The **location, townland(s) or postal address** to which the licence refers must be stated so as to identify the location of the site in question. Where the development extends to more than one townland, all townlands must be stated.

2. The licence number (on the top right hand corner of Page 1 of the licence must be provided).

3. A description of the **nature and extent of the tree felling** must be stated on the site notice. You must include the following in your development description -

   (a) Harvest type: clearfell, thinning, wind blow, CCF, etc

   (b) Extent of felling: number of trees to be felled or area (ha) of the felling site

4. The dates upon which the work will commence and end (approximate dates will suffice) must be provided.

5. If an agent was acting on the licensee's behalf details must be entered.

6. The date that the notice is **erected or fixed at the site** must be stated.

Directions for erecting the Site Notice

The Site Notice must be securely erected at the entrance from the public road to the land to which the licence relates or, where no entrance exists, at the point where it is proposed to create an entrance, so as to be **easily visible and legible by persons using the public road, and shall not be obscured or concealed at any time.**

The Site Notice must be clearly legible, affixed on rigid, durable material and secured against damage from bad weather and other causes.

The Site Notice must be maintained in position on the land concerned for so long as the felling of trees is carried out or timber extraction is ongoing. The notice must be renewed or replaced if it is removed or becomes defaced or illegible within that period.