



NPWS

An tSeirbhís Páirceanna
Náisiúnta agus Fiadhúlra
National Parks and Wildlife
Service

Application for Derogation Under Regulation 54 & 54A of the European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations 2011, as amended

Revision 2.0 – July 2025

- This form can be used by any individual or Company applying for a derogation under Regulation 54 of the European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations 2011 (“the Regulations”) **or** any individual applying on behalf of the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage under Regulation 54(A) of the Regulations.
- Note this application form is not for Domestic Dwelling Derogations (bats within private homes) which can be found here > ([3D Application Form](#))
- Please ensure that you answer questions fully in order to avoid delays and/or your application being rejected on the basis that it does not contain sufficient information and detail for the application to be considered further.
- Please read and familiarise yourself with the [NPWS Guidance on Applications for Regulation 54 Derogations for Annex IV species: Guidance for Applicants](#)
- Please read and familiarise yourself with the [European Commission's Guidance document on the strict protection of animal species of Community interest under the Habitats Directive](#)
- Please also note that the responses to these questions are supplementary to the documentation required for the NPWS to be in a position to consider your application. A complete application should include both the application form and an associated report. Failure to supply either will result in your application being returned and/or refused.
- In circumstances in which a derogation is given on foot of this application, the Applicant is responsible for ensuring compliance with the conditions of any such derogation, even though they may employ another person to act on their behalf. To carry out any activity without, or not in accordance with, a derogation granted under regulation 54 or 54A of the Regulations constitutes a criminal offence, subject to prosecution.
- If you experience any problems filling in this form, please contact the Wildlife Licensing Unit: reg54derogations@npws.gov.ie
- Please note – applications, associated reports and derogations will be published on the NPWS website and/or the Department’s Open Data website.
- Where any applicant is applying for a derogation to carry out surveys, please ensure to list all qualified ecologists and trainees under their supervision. See section 1(c) of Part A.

Part A: The Applicant - Personal Details

These questions relate to the person responsible for any proposed works and who will be the **Applicant**. **If this application is being submitted on behalf of a third party, please also complete Part B below.**

1. (a) Name of Applicant

Title (Mr/Mrs/Miss/Ms/Dr)	Forename(s)	Surname
Mr		
(b) Company Name, if applicable	Morvagh Ltd	
(c) Address Line 1	Muckross Road	
Address Line 2	Cahernane	
Town	Killarney	
County	Kerry	
Eircode	V93 E78W	
(d) Contact number	[REDACTED]	
(e) Email address	[REDACTED]	
(f) Address where works are to be carried out if different from (b) above.		
Address Line 1		
Address Line 2		
Town		
County		
Eircode		

Details of Person Submitting Application on Behalf of Applicant/Derogation Holder

Information relating to the person (e.g. ecologist) responsible for submitting the application on behalf of the applicant should be entered below:

1. (b) Name of Person/Ecologist

Title (Mr/Mrs/Miss/Ms/Dr)	Forename(s)	Surname
Mr	John	Curtin
(b) Company Name	Eire Ecology	
Address Line 1	8a Saint Patrick Street	
Address Line 2		
Town	Portumna	
County	Galway	
Eircode	H53 X571	
(c) Contact number	[REDACTED]	
(d) Email address	[REDACTED]	
(e) Relationship to Applicant	Ecological consultant	

For Survey Derogations Only

1. (c) Please Indicate the Names to Appear on the Derogation Along with the Position Held e.g. Supervisor/Trainee

Forename(s)	Surname	Supervisor or Trainee
John	Curtin	Supervisor
Rowan	Curtin	Trainee

Part B: Species covered by the Derogation

1. **Species of Animal:** Please indicate which species is/are the subject of the application:

- Bat
- Otter
- Kerry Slug
- Natterjack Toad
- Dolphin
- Whale
- Turtle
- Porpoise

2. Please detail the exact species (scientific name): Pipistrellus pygmaeus

3. Please provide the maximum number of individuals affected* 1

4. Please provide the maximum number of breeding or resting sites affected* 1

5. Please provide the maximum number of eggs to be taken* 0

6. Please provide the maximum number of eggs to be destroyed* 0

*If no figures can be provided for the maximum number of individuals, breeding sites, resting places and eggs to be covered by the derogation please provide reasons why.

7. **Species of Plant:** Please indicate which species is/are the subject of the application:

- Killarney Fern
- Slender Naiad
- Marsh Saxifrage

8. If you previously received a derogation for any species of animal or plant, please state derogation number and confirm that you have made a return to NPWS on the numbers actually affected by that derogation.

Numerous (recent; DER-BAT-2025-312)

9. **Proposed Dates for Activities:** Please indicate the timeframe that you propose to carry out the activities. Dates set by NPWS may differ from dates proposed here. *A derogation will only be issued with a start and end date within a calendar year.*

Start Date:	1 st September 2026	
End Date:	31 st December 2026	

Part C: Nature of the Derogation.

1. Please tick which prohibition(s) the application for a derogation relates to:

Regulation 51	
Deliberately capture or kill any specimen of the relevant species in the wild	<input type="checkbox"/>
Deliberately disturb these species particularly during the period of breeding, rearing, hibernation and migration	<input type="checkbox"/>
Deliberately take or destroy eggs of the relevant species in the wild	<input type="checkbox"/>
Damage or destroy a breeding or resting place of such an animal, or	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Keep, transport, sell, exchange, offer for sale or offer for exchange any specimen of the relevant species taken in the wild, other than those taken legally as referred to in Article 12(2) of the Habitats Directive.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Regulation 52	
Deliberately pick, collect, cut, uproot or destroy any specimen of these species in the wild, or	<input type="checkbox"/>
Keep, transport, sell, exchange, offer for sale or offer for exchange any specimen of these species taken in the wild, other than those taken legally as referred to in Article 13(1)(b) of the Habitats Directive.	<input type="checkbox"/>

Further information should be provided in the format set out in Part E: Template for Supporting Information

Part D: Derogation Tests

Note: The following summary information must be provided by the applicant in all cases, and will be used to determine if a derogation can be provided. Further information must be provided in the format set out in Part E: Template for Supporting Information

Test 1: Reason for the Derogation

1. Please tick which reason(s) below explains how this application qualifies under Regulation 54(2)(a-e) or Regulation 54A(2)(a-e) of the European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations: Please provide a summary of how the application meets the 3 conditions required to provide a derogation. Note that in all cases additional information must be provided (see Part E).

a.	In the interests of protecting wild flora and fauna and conserving natural habitats (proceed to 1a)	<input type="checkbox"/>
b.	To prevent serious damage, in particular to crops, livestock, forests, fisheries and water and other types of property (proceed to 1b)	<input type="checkbox"/>
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 (proceed to 1c)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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 (proceed to 1d)	<input type="checkbox"/>
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 (proceed to 1e)	<input type="checkbox"/>

1a. In the interests of protecting wild flora and fauna and conserving natural habitats:

i) Please state the wild flora, fauna or habitats that require protection and /or conservation.

N/A

ii) Please summarise how the interests of protection and conservation of the species/habitat concerned justify affecting another species under strict protection.

N/A

1b) To prevent serious damage, in particular to crops, livestock, forests, fisheries and water and other types of property:

i) Please summarise the nature of the potential damage, why it is considered “serious” and how this outweighs the conservation interest of the species under strict protection.

N/A

1c) 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:

i) Where the reason is for public health and public safety, summarise the evidence provided to support this reason (e.g. documentary evidence of the risk from a chartered structural engineer, tree surgeon, Garda Síochána, qualified health professional etc.)

The proposed development will provide guest house accommodation for tourism purposes.

Strategic Alignment with the "Key Town" Mandate

Killarney is formally designated as a Key Town in the Kerry County Development Plan (KCDP) 2022-2028. The project directly facilitates the Council's objective KA 12 to deliver significant new units within the town boundary, supporting the 30% population growth target by 2040.

Diversification of the "Authentic" Killarney Tourism Offer

Per Policy Objective KA 9, the plan explicitly seeks to "Enhance and Extend the 'Authentic' Killarney Offer". This development supports the Killarney Destination Experience Development Plan (KDEDP) goals of increasing the average length of stay. This translates to higher direct spend in Killarney's retail and hospitality sectors, supporting the local workforce.

Proportionality and Biodiversity Enhancement

The design has considered all environmental aspects and provides a Manor type setting with significant landscaping and biodiversity enhancement. Given that the efforts proposed will ensure the overall negative impacts on the affected bat populations will be negligible, the benefits to the public in this instance outweigh the conservation interest of the bat species. By integrating native planting and structured habitats, the project achieves a net gain for local ecology while fulfilling a critical socio-economic need.

Implementation of Compact Growth

The KCDP prioritises the reuse of underutilised or infill sites to achieve Compact Growth (Objective KCDP 3-4). The economic revitalisation of this site provides a "beneficial consequence of primary importance" by turning underproductive land into a contributor to the local tax base.

Conclusion

The proposed construction is a strategic implementation of the Kerry County Development Plan. The economic benefits—specifically regarding regional growth targets, tourism yield, and compact urban regeneration—coupled with a design that ensures negligible impact on protected species, constitute an overriding public interest justifying the derogation licence. |

- ii) Where the reason is 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”, summarise the nature of the public interest and how this outweighs the conservation interest of the species under strict protection.

|| N/A |
|

- 1d) 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:

- i) Please summarise the objective(s) of the proposed activities making reference to those listed above and how the the purpose of such activities overrides the interests of strict protection of the species. ¹

N/A

- 1e)** 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

- i) Please clearly state the objective of the activity and verify that this reason is being chosen as the objective of the activity does not match reasons a-d listed above.

N/A

- ii) Please summarise how the activity will result in the taking or keeping of limited numbers of specimens of the species, how it will be applied on a selective basis and to a limited extent, and how it will be done under strictly supervised conditions.

N/A

Test 2: Absence of Alternative solutions

- 2.** Please summarise the alternative solutions that have been considered and why these solutions are deemed unsatisfactory. This must include the option of the “do-nothing” alternative and evidence should be objective and robust. Note that in all cases further information must be provided in the format set out in Part E: Template for Supporting Information.

Alternative Solution	Reasons for “Unsatisfactory”
Do-Nothing	<p>The “do nothing” option would not deliver the permitted development or meet policy objectives for sustainable development in Kerry. The existing changing room building is a redundant, deteriorating structure that no longer serves a functional purpose for the hotel.</p> <p>Economic Impact: Under the "do-nothing" scenario, the building remains an underutilised asset, directly</p>

¹ Note that this reason may be appropriate for when research involves surveys that may cause disturbance of species under strict protection. But the sole purpose of the surveys should be for research and education or the other reasons listed above under 1d.

	<p>contradicting Kerry County Development Plan objectives for Compact Growth and the efficient use of hotel-zoned lands.</p> <p>Ecological Risk: As a derelict structure, the building is prone to further structural decay. Relying on a single, deteriorating roost for a lone Soprano Pipistrelle (<i>Pipistrellus pygmaeus</i>) is not a sustainable long-term conservation strategy, as the eventual natural collapse of the structure would result in an unmanaged loss of habitat </p>
<p>Renovation or Retention of the Existing Structure Retaining the changing room in its current form was deemed unfeasible.</p> <p> </p>	<p>Operational Conflict: The footprint of the obsolete building is required to facilitate the four cottage-style guest houses. These units are essential to meeting the hotel's strategic goal of diversifying the "Authentic Killarney" accommodation offer.</p> <p>Structural Limitation: The current structure is not compatible with the high-performance thermal and safety standards required for a higher quality accommodation. Attempting to renovate while preserving the specific roosts would likely lead to accidental disturbance of nesting works or failure to meet building regulations.</p> <p> </p>
<p>The Chosen Solution: Strategic Relocation and Enhancement</p> <p> </p>	<p>The proposed demolition combined with the construction of the cottages, represents the only viable solution that achieves the necessary economic objectives while providing an ecological net gain.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Habitat Improvement: The installation of two integrated Schwegler BEB Wall Systems into the southern aspects of Cottages 1 and 4 offers a permanent, healthy, stable, and purpose-built habitat. ▪ Strategic Consideration: Unlike the incidental roost in the changing room, these boxes are specifically positioned to facilitate the roosting of outcrops and trees known to be favored foraging and commuting sites for the local bat population. ▪ Proportionality: Given that only a single Soprano Pipistrelle roost is affected, and multiple more significant roosts on the hotel grounds remain fully protected and unaffected, the demolition is a proportionate action when weighed against the overriding public interest of regional tourism growth.

* Please insert additional rows above if needed

Test 3: Impact of a Derogation on Conservation Status

3. Please summarise the possible impacts on the population of the species that is subject to this application, taking into account all the mitigation and/or compensation measures that are to be undertaken. Evidence that such mitigation has been successful elsewhere should be provided where relevant. Mitigation measures being relied upon must ensure that the derogation 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. Note that in all cases further information must be provided in the format set out in Part E: Template for Supporting Information.

The estimated soprano pipistrelle population is 1.2-2.7million in the Republic of Ireland with a substantial increase in population over the previous 20 years. The number of Soprano Pipistrelle using the building was 1. As such the roost state is noted as a satellite roost, with a value of "local higher value". Without mitigation, the demolition of the building could result in the mortality of a Soprano Pipistrelle bat, if timed inappropriately. This would result in an adverse effect on the conservation status of the local population of Soprano Pipistrelle bat but would not be significant on a national or regional scale.

Numerous other Soprano Pipistrelles were noted flying within the site and are known to roost in the main hotel. The conservation status of the bats in this location is known as favourable by the NPWS

With the implementation of the mitigation measures as set out in section 6 of the attached report, using established guidelines (see Magnell 2022), the proposed development will not be detrimental to the maintenance of populations of bat species at a favourable conservation status in their natural range (as required under Section 54(2) of the European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations), either locally or nationally, provided that a dedicated roost for the proposed development is established in a suitable location. This will have a positive effect on the population of bat species locally.

Mitigation and enhancement measures include;

- Remove trees between the 10th of September and the 31st of December 2026 under the supervision of a R.E.O. With the building in place (Note that in this 5 year period it is unlikely any bats are present) and bats have been taken over winter bats to a pre-erected temporary bat box.
- Proceed with development.
- Install two integrated two-swing leg bat wall systems (EcoBat) at these sites. These will be fitted into the southern aspect of the garage and a further two and three trees known to be favoured by bats.

Part E: Template for Supporting Information

This application form should provide a summary of the evidence that the applicant has provided. In all cases, it is necessary to provide separate supporting information so that the assessment of the application can be undertaken in a robust and comprehensive manner. Applicants should refer to guidance provided by the NPWS and the European Commission whilst preparing this application form and the supporting information.

It is essential that supporting information is prepared in a consistent manner using the template below so that NPWS officials assessing the application can locate the relevant evidence to determine if the three Tests can be met. Failure to provide sufficient evidence will result in the application being refused.

The structure of the Supporting Information should be as follows:

- 1) Table of Contents
- 2) Introduction
 - a. Objective of the proposed works (for example, as part of construction of a national road, repair of roofing, undertaking surveys etc.)
 - b. Name, qualifications and relevant experience of scientific staff, including trainees, (e.g. ecologist) involved in the preparation of the application and those responsible for carrying out the proposed activity.
 - c. If this application is for the carrying out of surveys that may cause disturbance, qualifications of all involved must be provided and trainees must be clearly identified.
- 3) Background to proposed activity including location, ownership, type of and need for the proposed activity, planning history, policy context, zoning in relevant Development plan (or equivalent), etc.
- 4) Full details of proposed activity to be covered by the derogation (including a site plan). The site may be inspected by an NPWS representative, so the details given should clearly reflect the extent of the project. This information will be used to compare site conditions with the Method Statement.
- 5) Ecological Survey and site assessment (Not required for applications to carry out surveys)
 - a. Pre-existing information on species at location and environs.
 - b. Status of the species in the local/regional area (relevant to the consideration of the impact on the population at the relevant geographic scale (Test 3))
 - c. Objective(s) of survey
 - d. Description of Surveys Area
 - e. Survey methodology (including evidence as to how the methodology represents best practice and is appropriate to the Objective). Methodology should include survey maps, details of timing, climate, equipment used and identify any uncertainties or difficulties encountered.
 - f. Survey results including raw data, any processed or aggregated data, and negative results as appropriate. Photographs and maps must be provided where site-specific features are referred.
 - g. Population size class assessment.
- 6) Evidence to support the Derogation Tests
 - a. Test 1 - Reason for Derogation:
 - i. There should be a clear explanation as to why a specific reason(s) has been selected in the application form.

- ii. Applicants are advised to read the guidance published by the NPWS '[Guidance on Applications for Regulation 54 Derogations for Annex IV species: Guidance for Applicants](#)' with specific reference to Section 3.1.
- b. Test 2 - Absence of Alternative Solutions
 - i. Applicants must list the alternatives to the proposed activity that have been considered, including the do-nothing alternatives in a clear and objective manner. A basic requirement is that these alternatives should be compared in terms of their impact on the species subject to strict protection. It should be clear to NPWS officials as to why the chosen approach has been selected.
 - ii. Applicants are advised to read the guidance published by '[Guidance on Applications for Regulation 54 Derogations for Annex IV species: Guidance for Applicants](#)' with specific reference to Section 3.2.
- c. Test 3 - Impact of a derogation on Conservation Status
 - i. Applicants should include details of the population at the appropriate geographic scale and an evaluation of how the proposed activity will affect the conservation status both before and after mitigation measures have been applied.
 - ii. Full and detailed descriptions of proposed mitigation measures that are relevant to the potential impact on the target species. Evidence that such mitigation has been successful elsewhere should be provided, where available.
 - iii. Applicants are advised to read the guidance published '[Guidance on Applications for Regulation 54 Derogations for Annex IV species: Guidance for Applicants](#)' with specific reference to Section 3.3.

7) Monitoring the impacts of the derogations

- a. Applicants must include details of how they propose to verify whether the derogations have been implemented correctly and whether they achieved their objective, using scientifically based evidence, and, if necessary, how the applicant will take corrective measures where required.
- b. Applicants should provide details of proposed reports to be submitted to the NPWS including the results of monitoring.
- c. Applicants are advised to read the guidance published by the European Commission "[Guidance document on the strict protection of animal species of Community interest under the Habitats Directive](#)" with specific reference to Section 3.4.

Part F. Declaration

I declare that all of the foregoing particulars are, to the best of my knowledge and belief, true and correct. I understand that the deliberate killing, injuring, capturing or disturbing of protected species, or damage or destruction of their breeding sites or resting places or the deliberate taking or destroying of eggs is an offence without a derogation and that it is a legal requirement to comply with the conditions of any derogation I may be granted following this application. I understand that NPWS may visit to check compliance with a derogation.

Please note that under Regulation 5 of the European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations 2011-2021 an authorised officer may enter and inspect any land or premises for the purposes of performing any of their functions under these Regulations or for obtaining any information which they may require for such purposes.

Signature of the Applicant

| 

Date

| 22/04/2026

Name in BLOCK LETTERS

| John Curtin on behalf of Morvagh Ltd

PRIVACY STATEMENT

See Privacy Statement at www.npws.ie/licences

npws.ie

Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage



An Roinn Títhíochta,
Rialtais Áitiúil agus Oidhreachta
Department of Housing,
Local Government and Heritage