

Part E: Supporting Information

1) Table of Contents

Introduction

Background

Proposed Activity

Ecological survey and site assessment

Evidence to support the Derogation Tests

Monitoring the impacts of the derogations

2) Introduction

a. To block up the openings in the wall / soffit that is letting bats in. A roofer will be hired by the company owner to do the work.

b. Robert O'Dwyer conservation ranger with the National Parks & Wildlife Service. MSc. Ecology and Conservation. Three years working as a conservation ranger which included bat call outs, bat handling, emergence surveys, and derogation licence applications / assessments of properties for licence applications. Previous experience working as an ecological consultant for RPS and Veon Ecology, which included extensive bat work. Roofer yet to be sourced by school.

c. NA

3) Background

Westport Art and Music School run an Art and music school for children in the building. They are not the owners but rent the building. The original structure is one hundred or more years old. It was a toy store between the 1950s and 1970s. Located in central Westport on Shop Street. The owner of the building is a Mr. Jerome Kelly.

4) Proposed Activity

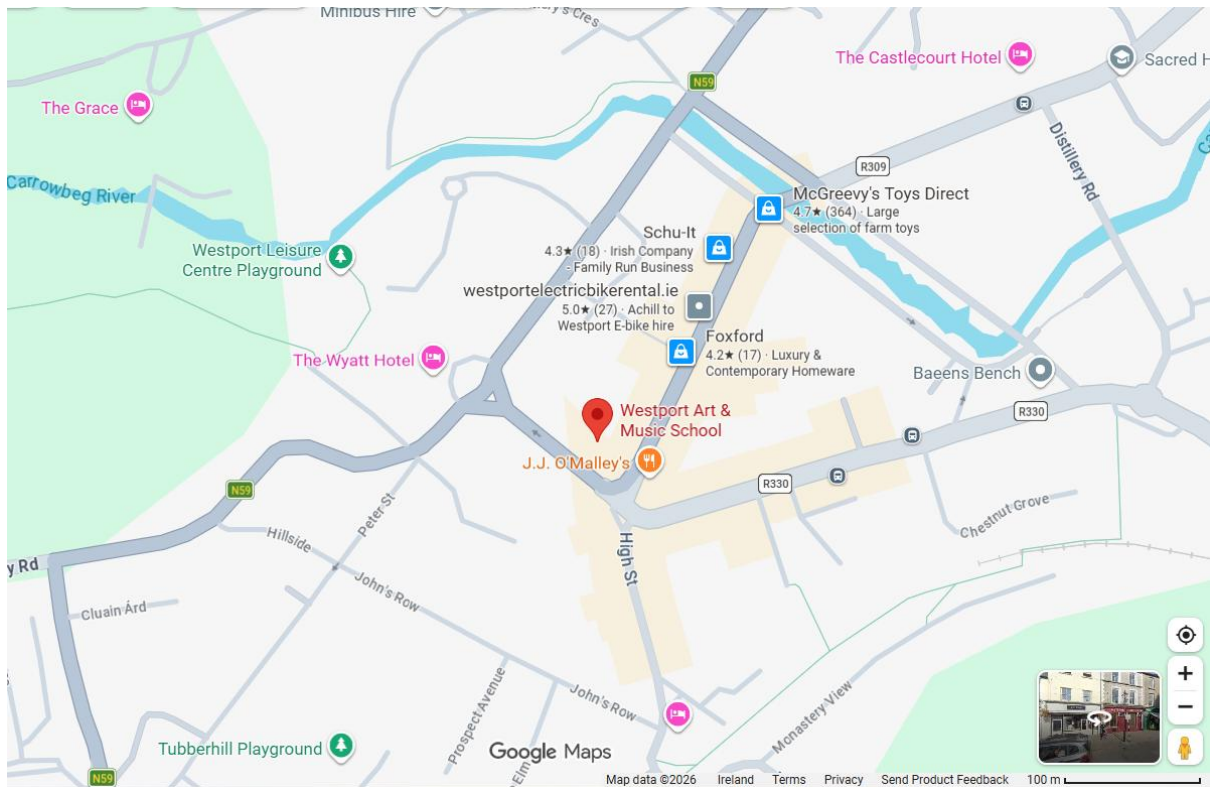
Initial assessment by conservation ranger - July 2026 (completed).

Emergence survey by conservation ranger - July 2026 (completed).

Conservation ranger to confirm bats have vacated roost – August 2026.

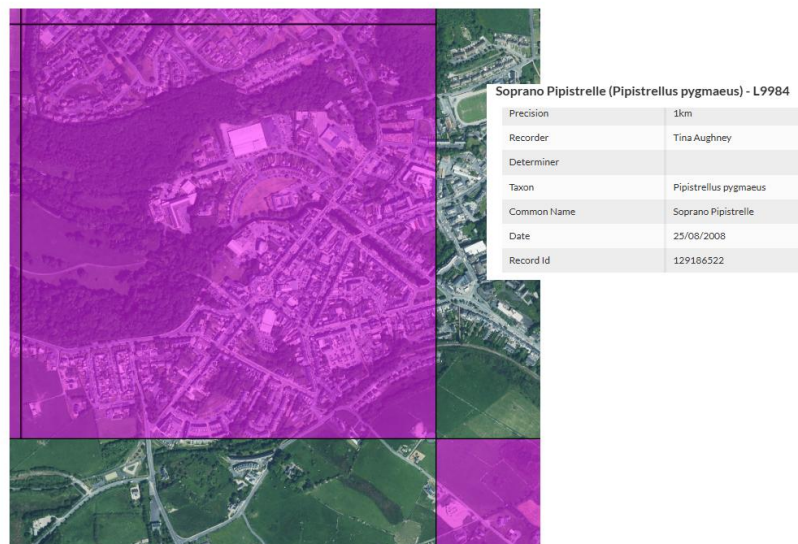
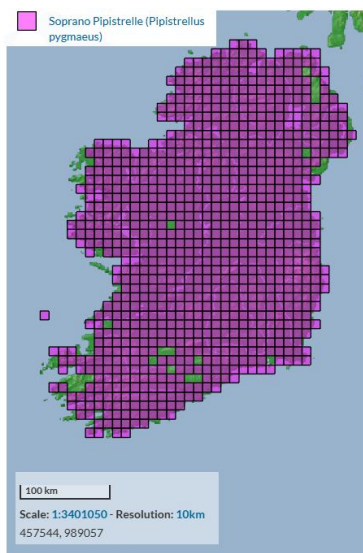
Roofer to block up roost – August – December 2026.

Bat boxes installed as mitigation - August – December 2026.



5) Ecological survey and site assessment

a. & b.



c. To identify the species and count the numbers in the roost.

d. Urban

e.

Emergence survey

Surveyed from just below balcony. Sunset 10:08pm. Survey period 10pm to 11:30pm. Calm, dry, 16C. Area lit up due to open pub below. Anabat scout bat detector used with auto tuning.

f.

248 bats emerged with a frequency range 52 to 58 KHz indicating soprano pipistrelles.



g.

Large maternity roost.

6) Evidence to support the Derogation Tests

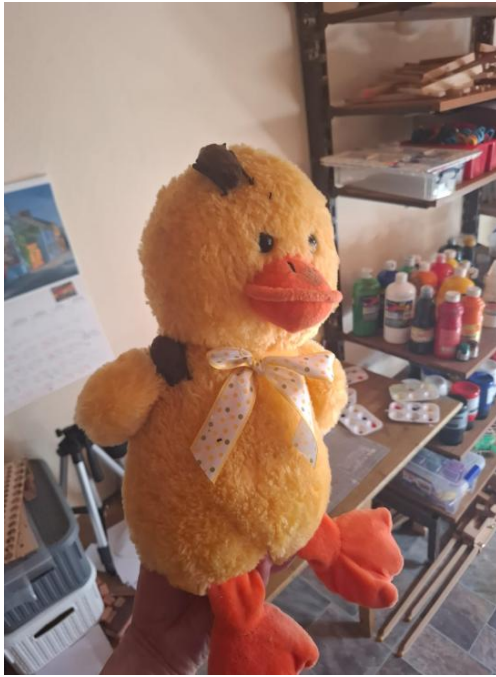
a. Test 1 – Reason for Derogation

The converted attic is used to teach kids arts and crafts. The smell from the roost is quite strong and overpowering in the attic. Additionally, the bats make a lot of noise and are in the attic space when they leave the roost due to it being too warm in the roost. These conditions are unhygienic for teaching children. The space is already quite stuffy with no ac and the presence of the bats makes it even more comfortable for the kids and teachers. There is potential lost income for the company if the kids continue to be afraid to use the space

**Bat roost behind
wooden panels**



Location of bat roost in converted attic space. A lot of noise was coming from here and a strong smell.



25/06/2026 bats in converted attic space on children's toys.



26/06/2026 bats in converted attic space given water by CR Robert O'Dwyer. Bat on top left deceased.



08/07/2026 Bats found on balcony by CR Robert O'Dwyer having been left out by art school. They said seven were dead when they found them. Bat on middle right was still alive. CR O'Dwyer put it back up in the roost after giving it some water.

b. Test 2 – Absence of Alternative Solutions

Do-Nothing

Many bats will continue to enter the converted attic space and die from overheating. The smell will still be strong in the room and the noise from the roost will still scare the kids.

Clean up the attic space and be more proactive with finding bats while they are still alive

It is an art school. They can't put everything in storage to be taken out of storage each time there is a class. They also don't have the time to be searching for bats every day as they have to prepare for the classes and then give them.

Best approach

Once the bats have left in the autumn, block up the roost and add bat boxes.

c. Test 3 – Impact of a derogation on Conservation Status

Soprano pipistrelle is one of Ireland's most common and widespread bat species. Its population trend is officially classified as stable to significantly increasing. With its conservation status as Least

Concern. Blocking up this roost will not have a significant impact on the population in this country. Additionally, if bat boxes are put up in the same location, particularly maternity bat boxes, then members of this colony should be able to return to the same site and raise their pups next year.

7) Monitoring the impacts of the derogations

CR Robert O'Dwyer will visit the site after the roofers have done their work and before bats are likely to return to the area in 2027 to ensure bat boxes have been installed.

After this in 2027 CR Robert O'Dwyer will carry out an emergence survey in the breeding season to see if the bat boxes are being used.