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Wildlife Licensing Unit,  
Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage  
National Parks and Wildlife Service  
Wildlife Licensing Unit, R. 2.03  
90 North King Street  
Smithfield  
Dublin 7 D07 N7CV

Re: Application for derogation licence at Ardgroom Inward, Beara, Co. Cork

Dear Sir/Madam,

DixonBrosnan have completed an application for a derogation licence at Ardgroom Inward, Beara, Co. Cork on behalf our clients Erika and Volker Herrmann. Detailed bat surveys were completed at the site in 2022 and 2024. Repeat bat surveys were completed in 2025 to assess the current usage of the site by bats. The results of the 2025 survey as summarised in this letter.

A daytime search of buildings within the applicant's ownership were carried out on the 22nd of September 2025 and static detectors (Elekon M2 bat detectors) were deployed within three buildings within the boundary of the site. Results of these surveys are discussed below:

#### Building 1

Building 1 is a two-storey old farmhouse with slate roof and concrete walls located to the west of Building 2. Lesser Horseshoe droppings were recorded in small storage rooms which are accessed from the upstairs landing. One Lesser Horseshoe Bat was recorded roosting at this location during the daytime survey on the 11<sup>th</sup> of May 2024. Staining on the walls and droppings in the western upstairs bedroom indicate usage by pipistrelle bats. A static detector (Elekon Batlogger) was left *in situ* from the 11<sup>th</sup> to the 13<sup>th</sup> of May 2024. It recorded sporadic signals for Lesser Horseshoe bat throughout the survey period. The results indicate that this farm house continues to be used as a night-time roost by

this species. The presence of one Lesser Horseshoe bat during the day, on one of the survey days, suggests temporary usage as a day roost. The presence of droppings and staining indicates that this building continues to be used as a pipistrelle roost.

A survey of the building on the 22<sup>nd</sup> of August 2025 recorded one Lesser Horseshoe in an upstairs hot press where a single bat was also recorded during the day in 2024. An Elekon Batlogger (B18) was left upstairs in situ from August 22<sup>nd</sup> to August 23<sup>rd</sup> 2025. Only limited bat activity was recorded between 22.41 on August 22<sup>nd</sup> and 3.05 on August 23<sup>rd</sup> with one faint signal for Lesser Horseshoe Bat at (1.24 on August 23<sup>rd</sup>) and some brief and sporadic signals for Pipistrelle. It is noted that pipistrelle probably emerge from the outside of the building and would not necessarily be picked up on an internal detector. The minimal signals for Lesser horseshoe suggest that outside of its use as a daytime roost for one bat, usage at night was limited in extent.



Plate 1. Exterior of Building 1.



Plate 2 Hot press and cupboard used by Lesser Horseshoe bat.

### *Building 3*

Building 3 is an old stone shed with a slate roof and natural stone walls. While this building is located within the proposed development site, there are no works proposed to this building. The windows and doorway of this building are open. It is proposed that this building will be used as specifically as roosting habitat for bats. Details on the works to be completed in relation to this structure are detailed in the derogation application (**Appendix 1**). An initial daytime assessment of this building did not record any roosting bats. An Elekon Batlogger (Bl6) was left in situ from August 22<sup>nd</sup> to August 23<sup>rd</sup> 2025.

A review of the data from the Elekon bat logger (BL6) indicates that bat activity was recorded from 21.09 on August 22<sup>nd</sup> to 1.09 on August 23<sup>rd</sup>. Pipistrelle activity was limited in extent with one signal recorded at 21.09 on August 22<sup>nd</sup> and 16 signals were also recorded from 23.23 to 23.27 on August 22<sup>nd</sup> 2025. This is probably indicative sporadic foraging around the building or sporadic usage of the building at night. Three brief signals for a myotis bat were recorded at 23.16, 23.35 and 23.40 which is probably indicative of occasional nighttime usage of the structure.

The most common species recorded was Lesser Horseshoe bat which was recorded throughout the survey period. The first signal was recorded at 21.09 on August 22<sup>nd</sup> and the last signal was recorded at 1.02 on the 23<sup>rd</sup> of August 2025. In the intervening period approximately 650 signals were recorded for Lesser Horseshoe bat which indicates continued usage as a night roost.



Plate 3. Exterior of Building 3.



Plate 4. Interior of Building 3

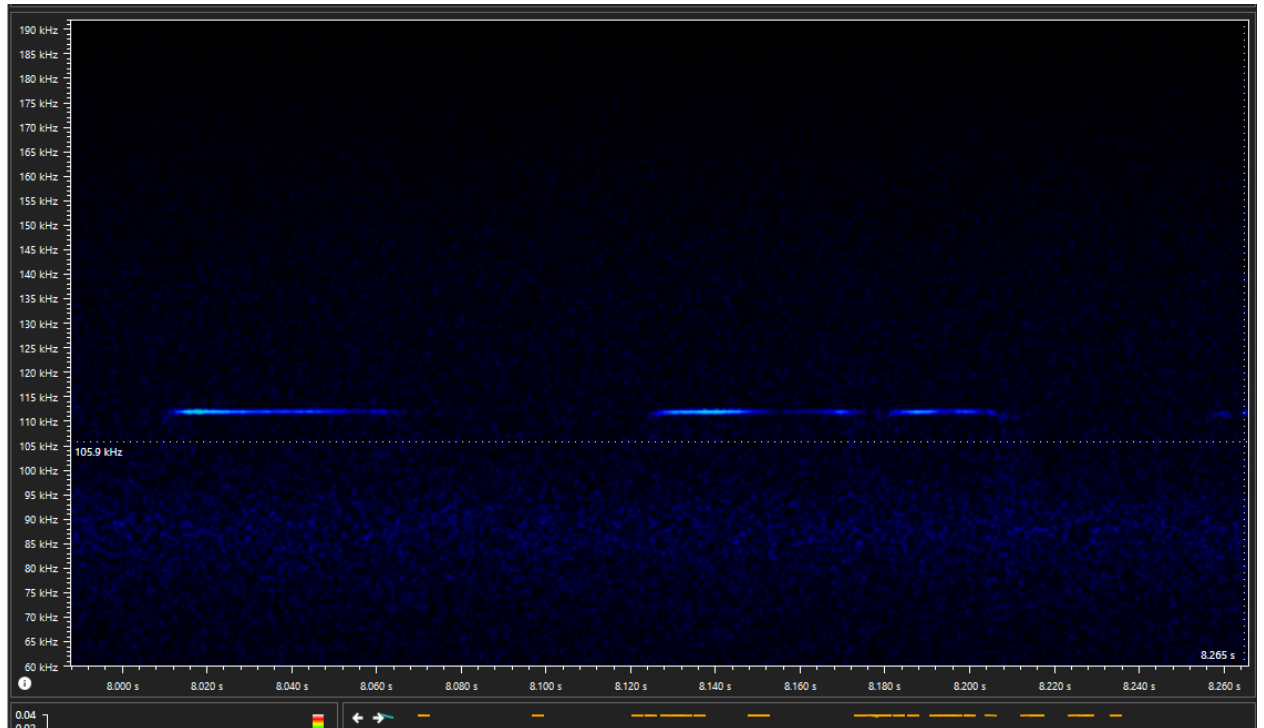


Figure 1. Sonogram Lesser Horseshoe bat

#### Building 4

Building 4 has a corrugated iron roof and natural stone walls. A review of the data from the Elekon bat logger (BL3) indicates that bat activity was recorded from 20.54 on August 22<sup>nd</sup> 2025 to 6.10 on August 23<sup>rd</sup>. Two brief signals were recorded early in the survey period at 20.54 which were indicative of a myotis bat, however the signals were indistinct and identification uncertain. A brief signal for a myotis bat was also recorded at 2.06 on August 23<sup>rd</sup>. A brief signal for a pipistrelle bat was recorded at 21.32 and 15 additional signals for a mixture of common and soprano pipistrelle were recorded during the survey period. There was extensive Lesser Horseshoe activity throughout the survey period from 21.49 on August 22 to 4.49 on August 23<sup>rd</sup>. Approximately 1400 signals were recorded which is indicative of continuous activity. It is noted that the front of this building is open and some of the signals may relate to bats foraging in proximity to the building, however it is considered probable that this building is used as a night roost.



Plate 5. Interior of building 4 in 2025



Plate 6. Interior of building in 2024

### *Conclusions*

The original survey report (Dr. Tina Aughney 2022) assessed bat usage as indicated below in Table 1. A summary of 2022 data alongside 2024 and 2025 data is included in Table 1.

Original survey Tina Aughney 2022	DixonBrosnan surveys 2024-2025
Building 1 (farm house): Day roost for soprano and common pipistrelles and night roost for lesser horseshoe bat, soprano pipistrelles and common pipistrelles.	Subsequent surveys by DixonBrosnan indicate that Building 1 (farm house) continues to be used as a day roost by Soprano and Common Pipistrelle. One Lesser Horseshoe bat was detected during the day in 2024 and 2025 which indicates some limited usage as a day roost. Activity during the nighttime was limited but some usage is assumed.
Building 2 (Dormer bungalow): Maternity roost for common pipistrelles.	No significant change. Second emergence point at front of building recorded.
Building 3 (Shed): Day roost and night roost for lesser horseshoe bat, soprano pipistrelles and common pipistrelles.	Data indicates usage primarily as a night roost for Lesser Horseshoe Bat. Some usage by Soprano Pipistrelle and Common Pipistrelle but limited in extent. Brief signals for Myotis bat may indicate some limited usage.
Building 4 (Garage): Day roost for Natterer's bat and night roost for lesser horseshoe bat.	Use by Lesser Horseshoe bat as a night roost was strongly indicated by the 2025 data. 2

Overall, the data indicates that the buildings within the site continues to be used by a variety of bat species. The main change was the presence of one lesser horseshoe in building 1 indicating that this building is used as a day roost. However, the community of bats using the site and the nature of this usage has not significantly changed. The primarily value of the site is as a night roost for Lesser Horseshoe which is listed on Annex II of the Habitats Directive and which is listed as a QI for the Kenmare River SAC. Detailed mitigation measures were specified in the original bat survey report by Dr. Tina Aughney. This involved using Building 3 as a dedicated roosting sites for bats with appropriate mitigation. Notwithstanding some minor changes to the nature of the bat activity subsequently recorded at the site the mitigation measures recommended in that report remain valid and it is intended that they will be implemented in full as specified in that report.

Yours sincerely,



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Director: Carl Dixon BSc (Ecology), MSc. (Ecological Monitoring)