

Camus Uachtair,
Casla,
Co. na Gaillimhe
09/04/2025

A chara,

To accompany my application to renew my bat roost inspection licence please see supporting information below as requested in item 11 of my application form.

Item 11.1 – I am a qualified ecologist who has been working continuously in Ireland since 2018. I have been surveying bats throughout my time as an ecologist as part of Bat Conservation Ireland programmes, planning applications, Ecological Impact Assessments, and biodiversity/community projects. I have previously held the following survey licences: DER/BAT 2020-41, DER-BAT-2024-37.

I am applying for this bat roost licence inspection, so that I can continue to provide high quality reports that will inform clients and competent authorities of protected species of bats which may occupy their properties. All discovered roosts will be reported to NPWS.

I require a bat roost inspection licence as most of the surveys I conduct are requested by planning authorities when works are to be undertaken on existing and/or derelict buildings.

Initially, all potential bat roosts (derelict buildings/barns etc) will be surveyed externally for access points/PRFs with handheld bat detectors and thermal imaging devices. This will be coupled with emergence surveys, nighttime activity surveys and/or static detector surveys to determine which bat species are present in the vicinity. This will give a good indication of whether or not bat species are roosting within the given structure – however it is not enough to know for sure if the structure contains a roost.

As these surveys are to accompany planning applications where demolition works or renovation works are proposed, it is absolutely necessary to determine beyond doubt whether or not bat roosts or resting places are present within the structure. In the absence of an internal inspection, we run the risk of missing a bat roost that could potentially result in the death of Annex II and Annex IV, and in population decline of certain bat species.

The only way to conduct a thorough survey is to enter the structure and inspect it within. As these structures may have bats within them there is potential for small-scale roost disturbance – this is why I need the licence.

The derogation is only needed for entering potential or unknown roosts to inform the survey whether or not bat species are present. The licence is solely to provide high quality data that will be supplied to NPWS and/or Planning Authorities.

Item 11.2 – I am seeking the licence, only to ascertain whether structures are being used as roosts. My work is in conservation, and the discovery of roosts will be reported on in the interest of conservation, and for the protection of species occupying the roosts.

As the actions of the derogation will inform Planning Authorities and NPWS on the presence/absence of roosts, it will actually be favourable to bat populations overall. In the absence of the derogation, we run the risk of missing bat roosts which could then be destroyed by construction and demolition works. The additional survey methods listed above will not be enough to determine with certainty whether or not a roost is present. Again, the licence is only needed to enter unknown or potential roosts that could be impacted/destroyed if a roost inspection is not conducted.

Item 11.3 – Survey efforts will follow the protocol in Bat Mitigation Guidelines (BCT, 2023), and in particular in Chapter 5 – Bat roost Inspection surveys – buildings, built structures, and underground sites. Best practice will always be followed (e.g. keeping noise to a minimum, limiting lighting etc.).

This licence is not for the removal or handling of bat species. In the event that bats are found within any of the structures, consultation will take place with NPWS to ensure that correct and appropriate measures are taken to safeguard the species.

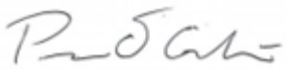
Item 11.4 – The roost inspection licence is only required to conduct accurate and valuable surveys, with results which will be reported back to the National Park and Wildlife Service. I have held this licence previously, with conservation of bat species always being of priority.

This licence is to ensure that an accurate and detailed survey will be conducted, to ensure that roosts are not accidentally destroyed due to lack of knowledge. It is purely for the protection of bat species that this licence is being sought.

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact me.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Mise le meas,



Piaras Ó Giobúin (B.Sc.)

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