



NPWS

An tSeirbhís Páirceanna
Náisiúnta agus Fiadhúlra
National Parks and Wildlife
Service

National Parks and Wildlife Service
NEPS Building
Francis Street,
Ennis,
Co. Clare

Date: 15th May 2025

Re: Bat survey summary report of the old toilet block within Dromore Wood Nature Reserve, Ruan, Co. Clare.

A Chara,

Please find below a summary report of a bat survey of the old toilet block adjacent to the visitor centre within Dromore Wood Nature Reserve, Ruan, Co. Clare undertaken by NPWS Conservation Rangers Eamonn Twomey and Megan Lee.

Summary Report

The old toilet block structure at Dromore Wood Nature Reserve has been previously known as a roost for Daubenton bats (*Myotis daubentonii*). The structure falls within the proposed development area for a new toilet facility, so a dedicated bat survey has been undertaken to determine if the structure is still a roost for bat species.

Structure Inspection

A bat survey was carried out by NPWS Conservation Rangers Eamonn Twomey and Megan Lee on the 14/05/2025. The purpose of the survey was to assess the presence or absence of bat species within the structure. The survey was undertaken in accordance with the guidance for the Inspection of buildings as outlined in the Bat Mitigation Guidelines for Ireland - v2. Irish Wildlife Manuals No. 124 (2022).

An external inspection was conducted on the 14/05/2025 of the old toilet block structure in Dromore Wood. Several potential bat access points were identified along the roof ridge at the front and back of the structure. There was a small build-up of old bat droppings on timber panels at the back of the structure with a small amount of fresh bat droppings dotted around the front and back of the structure.

The suitability of the structure to be utilised by Lesser horseshoe bats (*Rhinolophus hipposideros*) was examined. The structure was determined to not be suitable for Lesser horseshoe bats due to a lack of wide direct open access points and lack of suitable roost spaces and opportunities within the structure for this species.



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As the structure has previously been known to contain a bat roost along with the presence of fresh dropping and suitable access and roosting potential for bat species a night emergence survey was conducted to determine if bat species are present.

Bat Emergences Survey

A bat emergence survey was carried out on the 14/05/2025. The weather conditions were favourable, Air Temperature was 18°C at the start of the survey dropping to 14°C at the end of the survey, there was some scattered Cloud cover, there was no Perception prior our during the survey and there was a moderate Force 3 NE breeze. Sunset was at 21:25 and the survey was carried for a duration of 90 minutes between 21:05 to 22:30. All emergence exit points were monitored by the Conservation Rangers during the survey time. Heterodyne bat detectors were used to identify any bat species present.

3 Soprano pipistrelle (*Pipistrellus pygmaeus*) were observed emerging form one of the access points at the front of the structure. These three bat emerged within close proximity between 21:45 and 21:46. No other bats emerged from the structure at the front or back of the structure during the survey. Other species of bats were recorded flying over the survey area but did not emerge from the structure, these included 4 passes of Daubenton's bat (*Myotis daubentonii*), 6 passes of Brown Long-eared bat (*Plecotus auritus*) and 6 Unknown *Myotis* species.

Conclusion

After examining and surveying the structure it is determined that the site is currently been used by Soprano pipistrelle (*Pipistrellus pygmaeus*) as a bat roost. The structure is likely to be a summer roost rather than a maternity roost. The adjacent Visitor Centre is a known maternity roost for Soprano pipistrelle (*Pipistrellus pygmaeus*).

As the structure is currently a roost for bats, a bat derogation licence will be required prior to the demolishing of the structure for the proposed development.

Yours sincerely,

Conservation Ranger