

11/8/25

To whom it may concern

I am applying for this licence to facilitate supervision of trainee bat ecologists and NPWS rangers in roost survey techniques.

I first trained and licensed to net, handle and ring bats (Natural England) in 1994. I completed a Ph.D. in Bat Ecology from University of Warwick, the work included handling and ringing over 100 common pipistrelles in Warwickshire. Graduated in 1997. I have worked on Irish bats since 1997 starting with a survey of potential lesser horseshoe bat roost sites for the Vincent Wildlife Trust in 1997. Since then I have mainly carried out non-invasive bat detector survey work but I have been a trainer on multiple bat detecting and handling workshops since 1998 (and for Bat Conservation Ireland since 2004) and have been involved in training many NPWS Conservation Rangers and others how to handle and identify bats. I submit my bat occurrence records to the Bat Conservation Ireland National Bat Database – this is forwarded to NBDC every 5-6 years.

At Bat Conservation Ireland we are running a number of workshops to train in conservation rangers and other wildlife professionals in the month of September and depending on the location and roosts present there may be a possibility of demonstrating bat roosts in the field to trainees. Should we enter roosts this will only be on a supervised basis with small numbers of people at any one time.

I would also like to enter bat roosts from time to time to update our National Bat Database records and ensure that we have correct information on bat distributions and occurrences. This is only when/if opportunity arises and if I can ensure minimal disturbance to the bats present.

Thanks in advance

Dr Niamh Roche MCIEEM