



NPWS

An tSeirbhís Páirceanna
Náisiúnta agus Fiadhúlra
National Parks and Wildlife
Service

Application for Derogation Under Regulation 54 & 54A of the European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations 2011, as amended

Revision 2.0 – July 2025

- This form can be used by any individual or Company applying for a derogation under Regulation 54 of the European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations 2011 (“the Regulations”) or any individual applying on behalf of the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage under Regulation 54(A) of the Regulations.
- Note this application form is not for Domestic Dwelling Derogations (bats within private homes) which can be found here > ([3D Application Form](#))
- Please ensure that you answer questions fully in order to avoid delays and/or your application being rejected on the basis that it does not contain sufficient information and detail for the application to be considered further.
- Please read and familiarise yourself with the [NPWS Guidance on Applications for Regulation 54 Derogations for Annex IV species: Guidance for Applicants](#)
- Please read and familiarise yourself with the [European Commission's Guidance document on the strict protection of animal species of Community interest under the Habitats Directive](#)
- Please also note that the responses to these questions are supplementary to the documentation required for the NPWS to be in a position to consider your application. A complete application should include both the application form and an associated report. Failure to supply either will result in your application being returned and/or refused.
- In circumstances in which a derogation is given on foot of this application, the Applicant is responsible for ensuring compliance with the conditions of any such derogation, even though they may employ another person to act on their behalf. To carry out any activity without, or not in accordance with, a derogation granted under regulation 54 or 54A of the Regulations constitutes a criminal offence, subject to prosecution.
- If you experience any problems filling in this form, please contact the Wildlife Licensing Unit: reg54derogations@npws.gov.ie
- Please note – applications, associated reports and derogations will be published on the NPWS website and/or the Department's Open Data website.
- Where any applicant is applying for a derogation to carry out surveys, please ensure to list all qualified ecologists and trainees under their supervision. See section 1(c) of Part A.

Part A: The Applicant - Personal Details

These questions relate to the person responsible for any proposed works and who will be the **Applicant**.
If this application is being submitted on behalf of a third party, please also complete Part B below.

1. (a) Name of Applicant

Title (Mr/Mrs/Miss/Ms/Dr)	Forename(s)	Surname
Rev	Craig	McCauley
(b) Company Name, if applicable	c/o Church Committee Secretary, Janet Fletcher	
(c) Address Line 1	5 Castlesize Drive, Sallins, Co Kildare	
Address Line 2		
Town		
County		
Eircode		
(d) Contact number	Craig: 086 3978858, Janet: 087 8315996	
(e) Email address	secretary@naasunion.com	
(f) Address where works are to be carried out if different from (b) above.		
Address Line 1	St. John's Church	
Address Line 2	Main Street	
Town	Kill	
County	Kildare	
Eircode	W91CD66	

Details of Person Submitting Application on Behalf of Applicant/Derogation Holder

Information relating to the person (e.g. ecologist) responsible for submitting the application on behalf of the applicant should be entered below:

1. (b) Name of Person/Ecologist

Title (Mr/Mrs/Miss/Ms/Dr)	Forename(s)	Surname
Dr	Tina	Aughney
(b) Company Name	Bat Eco Services Limited	
Address Line 1	Ulex House, Drumheel	
Address Line 2	Lisduff	
Town	Virginia	
County	Cavan	
Eircode	A82XW62	
(c) Contact number	086 4049468	
(d) Email address	tina@batecoservices.com	
(e) Relationship to Applicant	Contracted bat ecologist	

For Survey Derogations Only

**1. (c) Please Indicate the Names to Appear on the Derogation Along with the Position Held
e.g. Supervisor/Trainee**

Forename(s)	Surname	Supervisor or Trainee
Shaun	Boyle	Supervisor

Part B: Species covered by the Derogation

1. **Species of Animal:** Please indicate which species is/are the subject of the application:

- Bat ☒
- Otter ☐
- Kerry Slug ☐
- Natterjack Toad ☐
- Dolphin ☐
- Whale ☐
- Turtle ☐
- Porpoise ☐

2. Please detail the exact species (scientific name): Brown long-eared bat (Plecotus auritus)

3. Please provide the maximum number of individuals affected* 42

4. Please provide the maximum number of breeding or resting sites affected* 1

5. Please provide the maximum number of eggs to be taken*

6. Please provide the maximum number of eggs to be destroyed*

*If no figures can be provided for the maximum number of individuals, breeding sites, resting places and eggs to be covered by the derogation please provide reasons why.

Please Note: the works are planned for September, at which time, the roost will have reduced in numbers. Therefore, the number of bats potentially disturbed by planned works will be less than the number of bats roosting in the structure during the summer months and quoted above.

This application is for disturbance as the works will provide access points for bats to return to roost post works and therefore the works will not destroy the roost.

7. **Species of Plant:** Please indicate which species is/are the subject of the application:

- Killarney Fern ☐
- Slender Naiad ☐
- Marsh Saxifrage ☐

8. If you previously received a derogation for any species of animal or plant, please state derogation number and confirm that you have made a return to NPWS on the numbers actually affected by that derogation.

Yes – returns have been made for all licences finished and received to-date.

9. **Proposed Dates for Activities:** Please indicate the timeframe that you propose to carry out the activities. Dates set by NPWS may differ from dates proposed here. *A derogation will only be issued with a start and end date within a calendar year.*

1st September 2025

Start Date:

31st December 2025

End Date:

Part C: Nature of the Derogation.

1. Please tick which prohibition(s) the application for a derogation relates to:

Regulation 51	
Deliberately capture or kill any specimen of the relevant species in the wild	<input type="checkbox"/>
Deliberately disturb these species particularly during the period of breeding, rearing, hibernation and migration	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Deliberately take or destroy eggs of the relevant species in the wild	<input type="checkbox"/>
Damage or destroy a breeding or resting place of such an animal, or	<input type="checkbox"/>
Keep, transport, sell, exchange, offer for sale or offer for exchange any specimen of the relevant species taken in the wild, other than those taken legally as referred to in Article 12(2) of the Habitats Directive.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Regulation 52	
Deliberately pick, collect, cut, uproot or destroy any specimen of these species in the wild, or	<input type="checkbox"/>
Keep, transport, sell, exchange, offer for sale or offer for exchange any specimen of these species taken in the wild, other than those taken legally as referred to in Article 13(1)(b) of the Habitats Directive.	<input type="checkbox"/>

Further information should be provided in the format set out in Part E: Template for Supporting Information

Part D: Derogation Tests

Note: The following summary information must be provided by the applicant in all cases, and will be used to determine if a derogation can be provided. Further information must be provided in the format set out in Part E: Template for Supporting Information

Test 1: Reason for the Derogation

1. Please tick which reason(s) below explains how this application qualifies under Regulation 54(2)(a-e) or Regulation 54A(2)(a-e) of the European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations: Please provide a summary of how the application meets the 3 conditions required to provide a derogation. Note that in all cases additional information must be provided (see Part E).

a.	In the interests of protecting wild flora and fauna and conserving natural habitats (proceed to 2a)	<input type="checkbox"/>
b.	To prevent serious damage, in particular to crops, livestock, forests, fisheries and water and other types of property (proceed to 2b)	<input type="checkbox"/>
c.	In the interests of public health and public safety, or for other imperative reasons of overriding public interest, including those of a social or economic nature and beneficial consequences of primary importance for the environment (proceed to 2c)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
d.	For the purpose of research and education, of re-populating and re-introducing these species and for the breeding operations necessary for these purposes, including artificial propagation of plants (proceed to 2d)	<input type="checkbox"/>

e.	To allow, under strictly supervised conditions, on a selective basis and to a limited extent, the taking or keeping of certain specimens of the species to the extent specified therein, which are referred to in the First Schedule (proceed to 2e)	<input type="checkbox"/>
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2a. In the interests of protecting wild flora and fauna and conserving natural habitats:

i) Please state the wild flora, fauna or habitats that require protection and /or conservation.

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ii) Please summarise how the interests of protection and conservation of the species/habitat concerned justify affecting another species under strict protection.

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2b) To prevent serious damage, in particular to crops, livestock, forests, fisheries and water and other types of property:

i) Please summarise the nature of the potential damage, why it is considered “serious” and how this outweighs the conservation interest of the species under strict protection.

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2c) In the interests of public health and public safety, or for other imperative reasons of overriding public interest, including those of a social or economic nature and beneficial consequences of primary importance for the environment:

i) Where the reason is for public health and public safety, summarise the evidence provided to support this reason (e.g. documentary evidence of the risk from a chartered structural engineer, tree surgeon, Garda Síochána, qualified health professional etc.)

<p>The purposed of the proposed works is to re-roof the church to reduce the deterioration of the structure and to prevent a health and safety issue as the church is an active place of worship and is</p>

an active graveyard accessible by members of the public. The church has undergone numerous “patch-work” repair over the years but it is now in a state that requires re-roofing. |

A letter has been provided by the conservation architect (this letter will be included as part of the overall supporting information package) and the following is an extract from this letter:

“Both slopes of the roof have areas where slipped slates show extensive nail failure. Other slates are damaged and cracked. Gutters are damaged in sections and lead flashings are also in need of repair. Moisture damage is visible in the interior of the church and areas of paint are damaged and flaking where water has penetrated into the church. Patch repairs have been carried out in the past but the areas in need of repair are widespread and re-slating of the roof is now overdue. If the church is not reroofed further damage will occur leading to loss of the interior features. Furthermore, if the roof continues to deteriorate it may become unsafe for parishioners and visitors to the site.

The roofing works will include removing the slates from both slopes of the roof, repairing the timber roof structure where necessary, renewing lead flashings and repairing gutters and downpipes, installing new battens and underlay and reslating the roof.”

Letter dated: 6th August 2025

Richard McLoughlin, Conservation Architect, Lotts Architecture and Urbanism

- ii) Where the reason is for “other imperative reasons of overriding public interest, including those of a social or economic nature and beneficial consequences of primary importance for the environment”, summarise the nature of the public interest and how this outweighs the conservation interest of the species under strict protection.

| As state above, the condition of the roof is now at a point that patch-up repairs are no longer viable. This is imperative to ensure that long-term structural integrity of the building and therefore reduce the Health & Safety concerns. The proposed works are necessary for the following reasons:

- Prevent continued deterioration of the roof which are currently a health and safety risk to the public using the grounds of the church and graveyard;
- Prevent continued damage to the interior of the church. This is a public interest for the church community using the church for their faith. It is important to ensure that the church community have access to the church for their meetings, masses etc.
- This church is a focal meeting point for the church community. It is also an important structure in the urban landscape fabric of the village of Kill. Therefore, the proposed works will benefit the social and economic needs of the village.

While the proposed works may cause temporary disturbance (for a short period of time and outside the main maternity and hibernation months – which means a much less potential impact) to any bats still roosting in the month September, the works will ensure the long-term stability of the structure for the colony. Mitigation will also ensure that the bats will have continued access to the church roof space post works. Therefore, the benefits of the proposed works will be of greater benefit for both biodiversity, the building, the church community and public interest. |

- 2d)** For the purpose of research and education, of re-populating and re-introducing these species and for the breeding operations necessary for these purposes, including artificial propagation of plants:

- i) Please summarise the objective(s) of the proposed activities making reference to those listed above and how the the purpose of such activities overrides the interests of strict protection of the species. ¹

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- 2e)** To allow, under strictly supervised conditions, on a selective basis and to a limited extent, the taking or keeping of certain specimens of the species to the extent specified therein, which are referred to in the First Schedule

- i) Please clearly state the objective of the activity and verify that this reason is being chosen as the objective of the activity does not match reasons a-d listed above.

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- ii) Please summarise how the activity will result in the taking or keeping of limited numbers of specimens of the species, how it will be applied on a selective basis and to a limited extent, and how it will be done under strictly supervised conditions.

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Test 2: Absence of Alternative solutions

- 2.** Please summarise the alternative solutions that have been considered and why these solutions are deemed unsatisfactory. This must include the option of the “do-nothing” alternative and evidence should be objective and robust. Note that in all cases further information must be provided in the format set out in Part E: Template for Supporting Information.

Alternative Solution	Reasons for “Unsatisfactory”
Do-Nothing	<div>This will cause the church roof to continue to deteriorate, which will increase the health and safety concerns, reduce the suitability of the church as a place of worship, reduce the suitability of the roof space as a bat roosting site and decrease the value of the church structure as an integral urban heritage building for Kill village.</div>

¹ Note that this reason may be appropriate for when research involves surveys that may cause disturbance of species under strict protection. But the sole purpose of the surveys should be for research and education or the other reasons listed above under 1d.

Temporary Patch-up work	<p>Patch-up works are not viable as the condition of the roof is at a point that re-roofing is now required.</p> <p>In addition, a grant has been received to assist with these expensive works and this grant will not be awarded for anything less than re-roofing. Therefore, this is not an option.</p> <p>In addition, this is not a viable option as it would only delay the inevitable requirement of having to re-roof as soon as possible.</p>

* Please insert additional rows above if needed

Test 3: Impact of a Derogation on Conservation Status

- Please summarise the possible impacts on the population of the species that is subject to this application, taking into account all the mitigation and/or compensation measures that are to be undertaken. Evidence that such mitigation has been successful elsewhere should be provided where relevant. Mitigation measures being relied upon must ensure that the derogation will not be detrimental to the maintenance of the populations of the species to which the Habitats Directive relates at a favourable conservation status in their natural range. Note that in all cases further information must be provided in the format set out in Part E: Template for Supporting Information.

In summary:

The proposed work plan will have minimal impact on the brown long-eared bat colony as it is being undertaken outside the maternity and hibernation months. Undertaking works in the autumn months is the ideal time to reduce impact.

Proposed Works: 1st September 2025

The proposed mitigation works will also ensure the safety of the bats during the works as Bat Eco Services staff will be present during the works. In addition, mitigation will ensure that bats will have new access points as well as retaining known access points so the colony will have access to the roof space post works. Therefore, there will be no impact on the local brown long-eared bat population.

Bat Mitigation Measures:

- Timing of works;
- Supervision by Bat Eco Services
- Partitioning of the roof space and phase of works into two sections to ensure that a roosting space, coupled with exit point, is provided for the colony at all times during works;
- New bat exit points (Bat Slates x2);
- Monitoring by static surveillance throughout the work period;
- Slow and careful removal of slates and ridge tiles.

Bat Eco Services will also undertake monitoring in 2026 and will make recommendations, to Bat Conservation Ireland, for the roost to be included in the Brown Long-eared Bat Roost Monitoring Scheme.

A full detailed explanation of the above is provided in the Supporting Bat Survey Report. Please consult this document for a full explanation of the procedures to be followed and the success of such in other similar projects.

The proposed works will not result in the loss of the bat roost. There will only be temporary disturbance, but at a time when a reduced number of bats will be using the roost space (i.e. autumn months). Therefore the works will not impact on the Conservation Status of brown long-eared bats.

Part E: Template for Supporting Information

This application form should provide a summary of the evidence that the applicant has provided. In all cases, it is necessary to provide separate supporting information so that the assessment of the application can be undertaken in a robust and comprehensive manner. Applicants should refer to guidance provided by the NPWS and the European Commission whilst preparing this application form and the supporting information.

It is essential that supporting information is prepared in a consistent manner using the template below so that NPWS officials assessing the application can locate the relevant evidence to determine if the three Tests can be met. Failure to provide sufficient evidence will result in the application being refused.

The structure of the Supporting Information should be as follows:

- 1) Table of Contents
- 2) Introduction
 - a. Objective of the proposed works (for example, as part of construction of a national road, repair of roofing, undertaking surveys etc.)
 - b. Name, qualifications and relevant experience of scientific staff, including trainees, (e.g. ecologist) involved in the preparation of the application and those responsible for carrying out the proposed activity.
 - c. If this application is for the carrying out of surveys that may cause disturbance, qualifications of all involved must be provided and trainees must be clearly identified.
- 3) Background to proposed activity including location, ownership, type of and need for the proposed activity, planning history, policy context, zoning in relevant Development plan (or equivalent), etc.
- 4) Full details of proposed activity to be covered by the derogation (including a site plan). The site may be inspected by an NPWS representative, so the details given should clearly reflect the extent of the project. This information will be used to compare site conditions with the Method Statement.
- 5) Ecological Survey and site assessment (Not required for applications to carry out surveys)
 - a. Pre-existing information on species at location and environs.
 - b. Status of the species in the local/regional area (relevant to the consideration of the impact on the population at the relevant geographic scale (Test 3))
 - c. Objective(s) of survey
 - d. Description of Surveys Area
 - e. Survey methodology (including evidence as to how the methodology represents best practice and is appropriate to the Objective). Methodology should include survey maps, details of timing, climate, equipment used and identify any uncertainties or difficulties encountered.
 - f. Survey results including raw data, any processed or aggregated data, and negative results as appropriate. Photographs and maps must be provided where site-specific features are referred.
 - g. Population size class assessment.
- 6) Evidence to support the Derogation Tests
 - a. Test 1 - Reason for Derogation:
 - i. There should be a clear explanation as to why a specific reason(s) has been selected in the application form.

- ii. Applicants are advised to read the guidance published by the NPWS '[Guidance on Applications for Regulation 54 Derogations for Annex IV species: Guidance for Applicants](#)' with specific reference to Section 3.1.
- b. Test 2 - Absence of Alternative Solutions
 - i. Applicants must list the alternatives to the proposed activity that have been considered, including the do-nothing alternatives in a clear and objective manner. A basic requirement is that these alternatives should be compared in terms of their impact on the species subject to strict protection. It should be clear to NPWS officials as to why the chosen approach has been selected.
 - ii. Applicants are advised to read the guidance published by '[Guidance on Applications for Regulation 54 Derogations for Annex IV species: Guidance for Applicants](#)' with specific reference to Section 3.2.
- c. Test 3 - Impact of a derogation on Conservation Status
 - i. Applicants should include details of the population at the appropriate geographic scale and an evaluation of how the proposed activity will affect the conservation status both before and after mitigation measures have been applied.
 - ii. Full and detailed descriptions of proposed mitigation measures that are relevant to the potential impact on the target species. Evidence that such mitigation has been successful elsewhere should be provided, where available.
 - iii. Applicants are advised to read the guidance published '[Guidance on Applications for Regulation 54 Derogations for Annex IV species: Guidance for Applicants](#)' with specific reference to Section 3.3.

7) Monitoring the impacts of the derogations

- a. Applicants must include details of how they propose to verify whether the derogations have been implemented correctly and whether they achieved their objective, using scientifically based evidence, and, if necessary, how the applicant will take corrective measures where required.
- b. Applicants should provide details of proposed reports to be submitted to the NPWS including the results of monitoring.
- c. Applicants are advised to read the guidance published by the European Commission "[Guidance document on the strict protection of animal species of Community interest under the Habitats Directive](#)" with specific reference to Section 3.4.

Part F. Declaration

I declare that all of the foregoing particulars are, to the best of my knowledge and belief, true and correct. I understand that the deliberate killing, injuring, capturing or disturbing of protected species, or damage or destruction of their breeding sites or resting places or the deliberate taking or destroying of eggs is an offence without a derogation and that it is a legal requirement to comply with the conditions of any derogation I may be granted following this application. I understand that NPWS may visit to check compliance with a derogation.

Please note that under Regulation 5 of the European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations 2011-2021 an authorised officer may enter and inspect any land or premises for the purposes of performing any of their functions under these Regulations or for obtaining any information which they may require for such purposes.

Signature of the Applicant

Dr Tina Aughney

Date

7th August
2025

Name in BLOCK LETTERS

Dr Tina Aughney

PRIVACY STATEMENT

See Privacy Statement at www.npws.ie/licences

npws.ie

Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage



An Roinn Tithíochta,
Rialtais Áitiúil agus Oidhreachta
Department of Housing,
Local Government and Heritage