

Objective

To determine if bats are using the structure as a roost.

Statement of authority

The Preliminary Roost Assessment will be conducted by Cormac Loughran CEnv MIEEM MSc. Cormac is Director of Blackstaff Ecology Ltd and has worked as a professional Ecologist for the past 21 years. Prior to this Cormac was also employed as a Ranger for 9 years and thus has worked in the ecology sector for 30 years. Cormac has previously held derogation licences for bats in both England, Northern Ireland and Ireland. These have all been in relation to bats (or various species).

A full CV has been appended.

Background

The application comes on the back of a recent tender issued by OPW for an Ecologist to carry out a daytime Preliminary Roost assessment of a bridge structure located at Ballyteigue Kilmore: **52.2267, - 6.5665**. Full details provided by OPW have been appended. The OPW have stated that the bridge is in a poor state of repair and is in urgent need of repair.



Photo 1 – Bridge structure to be surveyed

Proposed Activity

A Preliminary (daytime) Roost Assessment will be completed using a torch (and if necessary) an endoscope to investigate the potential for the bridge to be used by roosting bats. No surveys or other ecological investigations have been conducted to date.

A derogation licence is required as the OPW have stated that a single bat has been noted previously during an engineering inspection of the bridge (see schematic of the proposed works below).

Request from OPW

Dear Sir/Madam,

OPW requires a daytime preliminary roost assessment of a bridge in Co. Wexford in the townland of Ballycross. It is a requirement that the consultant holds an active survey licence for disturbance of bats.

See attached a design drawing of the works and photo. This bridge is in critical need of repair. The proposed start date of the works is late September.

Please offer a fee proposal for a daytime preliminary roost assessment by close of business Wednesday 13th August, with scope for further surveys if required following the preliminary roost assessment.

OPW would require recommendations from the consultant considering the proposed works and any roost potential. These recommendations do not have to be in report format.

Can you advise in your response when you would be able to complete the site survey.

Any queries please contact me on the phone number below.

Regards,

Muireann

— —

Muireann Cotter

Environment Section

— —

Oifig na nOibreacha Poiblí

Office of Public Works

An Baile Nua, Baile Átha Troim, Co na Mí, C15 K8V0

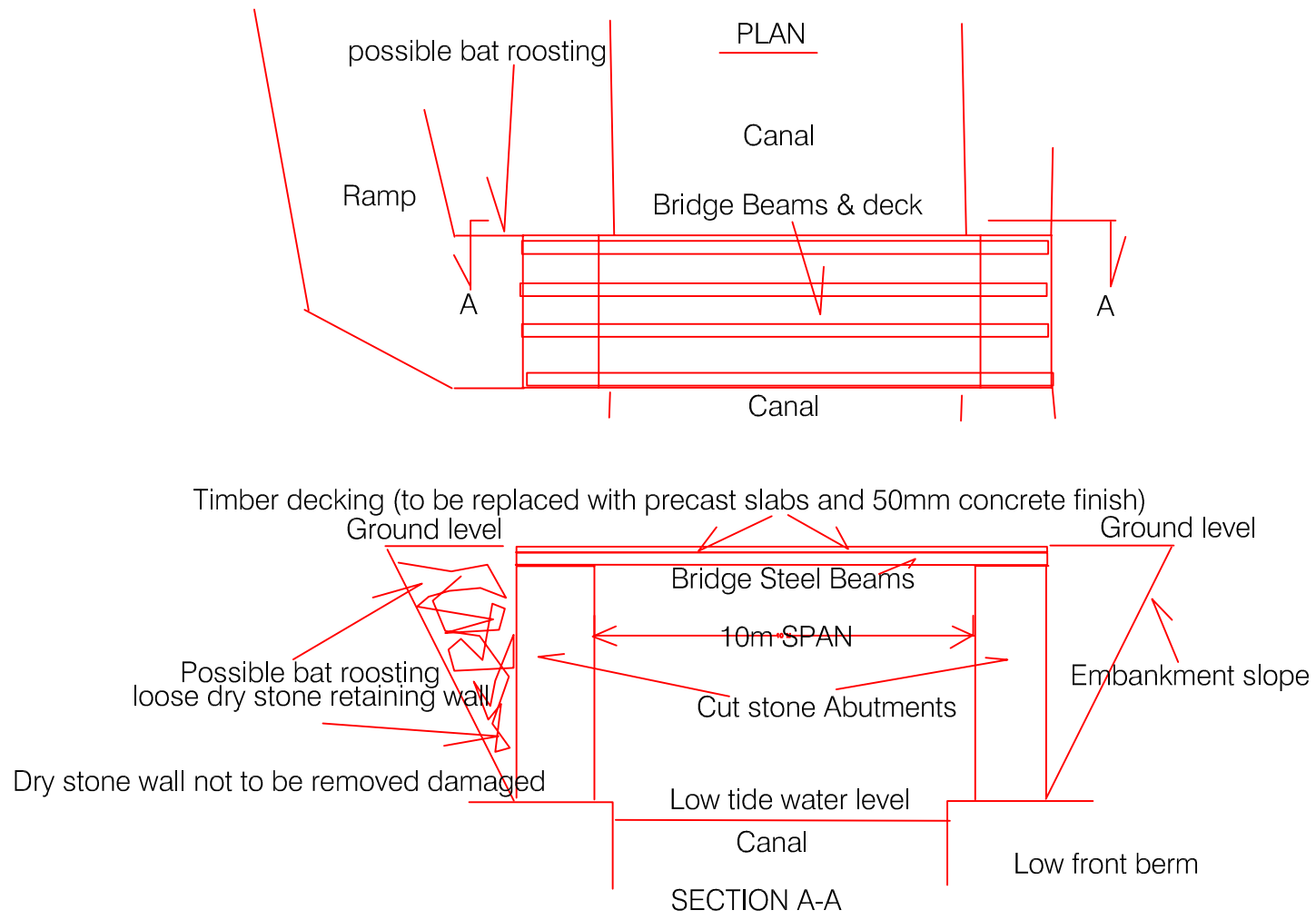
Newtown, Trim, Co Meath, C15 K8V0

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<https://gov.ie/opw>

Appendix 1 – Description of Works (Schematic)



1. Remove existing timber decking by hand
2. Lift out old steel beams with chains attached to excavator
3. Replace old steel beams with new steel beams, lifted in with excavator/chains
4. Place precast concrete slabs across new steel beams, lifted in with excavator and chains.
5. Place reinforcement mesh and pour 50mm layer of concrete on precast slabs.
6. All joints will be sealed to ensure no leakage from poured 50mm concrete layer.

Appendix 2 – CV (Cormac Loughran)

Curriculum Vitae



www.blackstaff.ie
cormac@blackstaff.ie
085 7680260

Cormac Loughran *CEnv MCIEEM MSc* Director

Cormac is a Chartered Environmentalist (CEnv) and a full member of CIEMM who has worked as an ecological consultant since 2004 and who (since 2009) has specialised in providing bat surveys and Ecological Clerk of Works supervision for private developers. His work also involves the production of ecology chapters for Environmental Impact Assessments (EIA), along with the associated bat survey reports. Cormac first starting working with bats in 1995 while working as a trainee Ranger on The National Trust's Crom Estate in Co Fermanagh. This 2000-acre estate has a number of historic buildings and at least 10 significant bat roosts. Since becoming a consultant in 2004 Cormac has written numerous bat reports for a wide variety of development projects. These are often in addition to the impact assessment chapters and include the development of construction phase mitigation.

In addition, he has extensive experience in undertaking and completing JNCC Phase 1 & NVC phase 2 habitat surveys; Active Peat Assessments (APA); protected species surveys (bat surveys (including automated monitoring), badger, otter, pine marten, red squirrel, smooth (common) newt & common (viviparous) lizard); and bird surveys (vantage point watches, Brown & Shepherd upland wader surveys).

Cormac has obtained licences for the following species in Northern Ireland – Bats (soft-stripping of buildings), bats (endoscopy), white-clawed crayfish, smooth newt and common lizard.

Cormac is also currently providing EcoW (Ecological Clerk of Works) advice during construction of numerous houses containing minor roosts. In addition to this Cormac has (along with his ten strong team at Blackstaff Ecology Ltd) completed post-construction (bat) monitoring at numerous development sites.

Prior to his sixteen-year involvement in consultancy work, Cormac worked for several NGO's; these included; The National Trust, the RSPB, the Mourne Heritage Trust and the Ulster Wildlife. During his 9 years as a Warden/Ranger Cormac worked on the day-to-day habitat management of a number of important SAC's, SPA's and NNR's. He has experience writing and implementing management plans for native woodland, heathland, blanket bog, wetland and coastal dune systems.

Professional History:

Blackstaff Ecology Ltd

2013 to Present Director & Principal Ecologist

AECOM

2006 to 2012 Ecologist > Senior Ecologist > Principal Ecologist > Associate Director

Marenco Ltd

2005 to 2006: Ecologist

RPS Group PLC

2004 to 2005 Ecologist

The National Trust

2000 to 2004 Area Ranger South Down

Mourne Heritage Trust

1998 to 2000 Area Ranger Mourne Mountains

The National Trust

1995 to 1998 Trainee Ranger/Warden

Crom Estate, Co Fermanagh

Academic Training:

- MSc (with Distinction) in Environmental Management, University of Ulster, Coleraine (2009)
- Post Graduate Diploma Environmental Management, University of Ulster, Coleraine (2003)

Affiliations:

- Chartered Environmentalist (CEnv)
- Full Member of the Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management (MCIEEM)

Relevant Experience:

Completed Bat Training Course (BLTC) 2012

This was a training programme to consolidate skills and experience for those with a wide range of backgrounds in bat consultancy including those seeking bat survey licences and those wanting to update and consolidate their bat survey skills.

This specialist training was based around two compulsory residential field courses (North Wales (winter element) and Devon (summer element) and a training diary of bat work experience. The course is co-written and taught by Dr Sandie Sowler, MCIEEM, FLS and Richard Crompton, CEnv, MCIEEM, FLS.

The training is based on two key elements: A training diary or log of experience, and two residential field courses – one during the colder months of the year and one during the bats' active season.

Soft-strip- endoscopy buildings

- The National Trust – Crom farm shed demolition. Obtained a licence to supervise the removal of a tin roof on the sides of a large complex of farm sheds to facilitate the construction of a new Rangers Office. Erected a bat box prior to works commencing and two bats that were found were placed into the bat box and works were completed to the satisfaction of NIEA and the Trust.
- Carried out numerous small scale works for single dwellings in the countryside for private homeowners. Soft strip, bat box erection and endoscopy of at least a dozen small projects in the North.
- The National Trust (Crom Estate) September 2021. Carried out endoscopy survey with a trained climber on six 250 year old oaks. Licence was obtained from NIEA to survey deep cracks on limbs overhanging a number of new paths. Tree were subject to modest deadwood removal for health and safety reasons. Bats are a feature of the ASSI and the site is also an SAC. Other works are on-going in relation to felling of dead Ash/Ash dieback disease.
- The National Trust (Castle Coole); undertook a full season bat survey for the Trust of this historic demesne near Enniskillen (report has been provided in link to email).
- Windfarms & Single Wind Turbines (numerous). During 2020/21 carried out bat carcass searches and carcass removal trials at 5 windfarms and 50 single wind turbines using trained personnel and trained scent dog. Works are on-going, as is the scent training with a second search dog.
- McAdamDesign: NIS for proposed town centre enhancement works in Athlone. Assessed the potential impacts of the scheme on the Lough Ree SPA & SAC, as well as the River Shannon Callows SAC/Middle Shannon Callows SPA.
- RES (Avonbeg/Enniscorthy): Ecological clerk of works supervision to satisfy Planning Conditions prior to the commencement of construction of a proposed new solar energy array Enniscorthy, Co. Wexford. Work included preconstruction mammal surveys for protected species and ECoW supervision during vegetation clearance (and the facilitation of orchid root translocation). This work is currently on-going during March 2021.
- RES (Gorey/Banoge): Ecological clerk of works supervision to satisfy Planning Conditions prior to the commencement of construction of a proposed new batter storage area near Gorey, Co. Wexford. Work included preconstruction mammal surveys for protected species and ECoW supervision during vegetation clearance (and the facilitation of orchid root translocation). This work is currently on-going during March 2021.
- ERG (Craiggore/Derry): Ecological clerk of works supervision to satisfy Planning Conditions prior to the commencement of construction of a proposed windfarm. Work included preconstruction mammal surveys for protected species and ECoW supervision during vegetation clearance (under licence to protect a badger sett). Work has moved on to actual construction and this ECoW supervision contract has been on-going for 18 months.
- ERG (Evishagaran/Dungiven): Ecological clerk of works supervision to satisfy Planning Conditions prior to the commencement of construction of a proposed windfarm. Work included preconstruction mammal surveys for protected species and ECoW supervision during vegetation clearance (due to the presence of active blanket bog (an EU Priority Habitat) immediately adjacent to the works area). Work has moved on to actual construction and this ECoW supervision contract has been on-going for 12 months.
- Capital Dynamics (Castlegore, Co. Antrim): Ecological clerk of works supervision to satisfy Planning Conditions prior to the commencement of construction of a proposed windfarm. Work included preconstruction habitat management works for curlew and tree surveys for bats as well as ECoW supervision during vegetation clearance. Preconstruction work is complete and construction is due to commence imminently. This contract has been on-going for 12 months. In addition, a full suite of bird monitoring surveys has also been on-going for the last 10 months.
- NTR (Ora More, Co. Fermanagh): Ecological clerk of works supervision to satisfy Planning Conditions prior to the commencement of construction of a proposed windfarm. Work included preconstruction mammal surveys for protected species and ECoW supervision during vegetation clearance (under licence to protect common lizard & smooth newt). Work is now complete and supervision was 28 months in duration.
- Gaelectric (Cregganconroe): Ecological clerk of works supervision to satisfy Planning Conditions prior to the commencement of construction of the Cregganconroe Windfarm. Construction of this windfarm is 50% complete.
- Gaelectric (Inishative): Ecological clerk of works supervision to satisfy Planning Conditions prior to the commencement of construction of the Inishative Windfarm. Construction of this windfarm is 50% complete.
- Gaelectric (Corby Knowe): Ecological clerk of works supervision to satisfy Planning Conditions prior to the commencement of construction of the Corby Knowe Windfarm. Construction of this windfarm is at the site enabling stage.
- RES (Murley Mountain): Full suite of ecology surveys (bats, pine marten, otters, habitats & lizards) and EclA for a proposed windfarm in County Tyrone. Work on this project also included Appropriate Assessment under the Habitats Directive and a Habitat Management Plan to improve the nature conservation interest of the site during the operational lifetime of the windfarm (approx 25yrs).
- EoN: Pine marten surveys for a proposed windfarm on Forestry Commission land near Inverness, Scotland. Surveys included a training element for several ecologists due to the extension area to be covered and the need for several personnel to cover the survey area thoroughly.

Appendix 3 – Previous Derogation Licence



An Roinn Tithíochta,
Rialtas Áitiúil agus Oidhreacht
Department of Housing,
Local Government and Heritage

Licence No.: DER/BAT 2021 – 130

**EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES (BIRDS AND NATURAL HABITATS) REGULATIONS,
2011 (S.I. No 477 of 2011)**

DEROGATION LICENCE

Granted under Regulation 54 of the European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations 2011, hereinafter referred to as “the Habitats Regulations”.

The Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage, in exercise of the powers conferred on him by Regulation 54 of the Habitats Regulations hereby grants to **Healy McKeown Architect** supervised by **Cormac Loughran of Blackstaff Ecology Ltd**, a licence. It is stated that:

(A) In the interests of protecting wild flora and fauna and conserving natural habitats.

(B) There is no satisfactory alternative, and the action authorised by this licence will not be detrimental to the maintenance of the population of **bats** referred to below at a favourable conservation status in their natural range.

The licence is issued in respect of the following **bat species**:

- | | |
|------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| • natterer's bat | <i>Myotis nattereri</i> |
| • soprano pipistrelle | <i>Pipistrellus pygmaeus</i> |

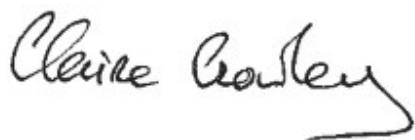
. This licence authorises the following:

- (a) Roost disturbance;
- (b) Damage or destruction of breeding sites or resting places;
- (c) Actions authorised within the licence

This licence is subject to the terms and conditions set out overleaf.

Terms and Conditions

1. This licence is granted solely to allow the activities specified in connection with the **demolition works** located at **Stone Cottage, Clooneen, Co. Mayo** for **Healy McKeown Architects**.
2. All activities authorised by this licence, and all equipment used in connection herewith, shall be carried out, constructed and maintained (as the case may be) so as to avoid unnecessary injury or distress to any species of **BAT**.
3. This licence may be modified or revoked, for stated reasons, at any time.
4. The mitigation measures outlined in the application report (**Bat Survey Report, pgs.13-14**), together with any changes or clarification agreed in correspondence between NPWS and the agent or applicant, are to be carried out. Strict adherence must be paid to all the proposed measures in the application.
5. No work can begin before **November 29th 2021** and must be completed by **March 31st 2022**.
6. The works will be supervised by a licensed bat specialist **Cormac Loughran**.
7. This licence shall be produced for inspection on a request being made on that behalf by a member of An Garda Síochána or an authorised NPWS officer appointed under Regulation 4 of the Habitats Regulations.
8. The local National Parks and Wildlife Service field officer **Sam Birch**, Sam.Birch@housing.gov.ie , **0858007697** should be contacted prior to the commencement of any activity, and if bats are detected on site during the course of the work, under the terms of this licence.
9. A report shall be submitted to Wildlife Licensing Unit, National Parks and Wildlife Service Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage, R. 2.03, 90 North King Street, Smithfield, Dublin 7, D07 N7CV on completion of the actions which this licence authorises, describing the activities carried out in pursuance of this licence.



Claire Crowley

(a person authorised by the Minister to sign on his behalf)

29/11/2021

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



NOTES (1 to 2).

- This licence is granted for the period specified and subject to compliance with the conditions specified. Anything done other than in accordance with the terms of this licence may constitute an offence.
- This licence applies to **bats** and to no other species.