



Report on the implementation of mitigation measures on the Castlelost church Restoration Project.



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Wildlife Surveys Ireland Ltd

Maio, Tierworker, Kells Co Meath

November 2024



Summary of report of bat survey June 5, 2024

Although the numbers of individual bats on this site are low, there are six of our nine species present, and two species – Daubenton's and brown long eared bats – are roosting within the underground chamber. The brown long eared bat may be using this area as a night perch, as it was only seen during the night. The Daubenton's bat was present within the stonework at dusk and dawn.

Six species of bat were recorded within the site.

Bat species found roosting

Daubenton's bat - *Myotis daubentonii*

Brown long eared bat – *Plecotus auritus*

Bat species found feeding and commuting

Common pipistrelle – *Pipistrellus pipistrellus* -

Soprano pipistrelle – *Pipistrellus pygmaeus* –

Leisler's bat – *Nyctalus leisleri*

Daubenton's bat - *Myotis daubentonii*

Natterer's bat *Myotis nattereri*

Brown long eared bat – *Plecotus auritus*

Results from the survey in 2023 of Castlelost church and castle

Bat species found roosting at Castle Lost Church

Brown long eared bat – *Plecotus Auritus*

Bat species found feeding and commuting on the church site

Common pipistrelle -*Pipistrellus pipistrellus*

Soprano pipistrelle –*Pipistrellus pygmaeus*

Leisler's bat – *Nyctalus Leisleri*

Brown long eared bat – *Plecotus Auritus*

Bat species found roosting at Castle Lost Castle



Soprano pipistrelle –*Pipistrellus pygmaeus* – roosting in 2 places

Natterer's bat – *Myotis nattereri*

Brown long eared bat – *Plecotus auritus*

Bat species found feeding and commuting on the site of the castle

Common pipistrelle -*Pipistrellus pipistrellus*

Soprano pipistrelle –*Pipistrellus pygmaeus*

Leisler's bat – *Nyctalus Leisleri*

Brown long eared bat – *Plecotus Auritus*

Natterer's bat – *Myotis Nattereri*

Recommendations and measures implemented

Recommendation

(1)The church is a roost of two species, and a derogation licence must be applied for prior to the commencement of any work on the site. Although the work on the exterior wall is away from the roost, the presence of scaffolding and people will impact the roost area .An ecologist must supervise the work.

The wildlife ranger must be contacted before commencement of any work.

Measures Implemented

Two derogation licences were issued to allow work to proceed.

DER-BAT-2024-142 valid from Sept 12 to December 31st, 2024

DER-Bat-2025-01 valid from January 1st, 2024 – April 30th, 2025

Damian Murtagh NPWS was contacted prior to commencement of the work.

The work was supervised by ecologist Donna Mullen, with site visits and weekly updates via WhatsApp.

Recommendation

(2) With the permission of the landowner, 2 2F Schwegler bat boxes could be placed near this site. These must be placed on trees, buildings, or poles, at least 3 meters high, with a clear drop below them – as bats must drop to fly. They must be placed in



a dark area. They can be purchased here - <https://www.veldshop.nl/en/schwegler-bat-box-2f.html?id=46351610>

In addition, cracks and crevices must be retained where possible. At least 30 crevices must be retained in each wall. Two Schwegler 2FR bat tubes must be built into the wall for restoration. (<https://www.veldshop.nl/en/bat-tube-1fr-and-2fr.html>)

Measures Implemented

A tree on the site was identified for the bat boxes, which have been purchased and installed.



It was not possible to purchase the Schwegler bat tubes, so a similar type – Vivara pro bat tubes, and Woodstone bat boxes have been ordered. I have successfully used these boxes in Meath and Leitrim.



Installed bat tubes

Each wall has at least 30 retained crevices of different depths and sizes.



Recommendation

(3) If bats are discovered at any stage of the building work, building work must cease and myself and the wildlife ranger must be contacted.

Measures Implemented

All stonework was undertaken carefully by hand.



On 26th September Donna Mullen discovered a brown long eared bat in the underground section of the church. This area was previously a roost and is not scheduled for stonework. The area was made safe from disturbance by people and animals. It was not present on a subsequent visit in October .Pallets blocking one of the roost exits on 25 October, were removed, and goats at the area were securely fenced.



Bat in crevices and retention of bat access



(4) No work can take place from May to September as bats may be breeding. Work on the nave must take place after Sept 1st as there is a nest present.

Measures Implemented

No work has taken place in the nesting season.

Recommendation

(5) To compensate for the loss of vegetation with the removal of ivy, some new hedgerows should be installed and allowed to grow tall, with the landowner's permission. These should be native and include native trees. A company such as Ramor landscaping can provide the hedge planting service - <https://www.ramorlandscaping.ie/>.

In addition, providing long swards of grass by fencing livestock out, would provide additional areas for the ghost moth and shrews which were noted in 2023.

Measures Implemented

Discussions with the landowner on habitat enhancement are ongoing.

Recommendation

(6) There are low light levels on sites, and this is crucial to the usage of the bats in the buildings. Lighting levels must remain low.

Measures Implemented

Lighting levels on site are low, with no external lighting.

Recommendation

(7) It is possible that the castle and church is used by bats as a hibernation or swarming site. A remote song meter mini could be placed in the underground section of the castle and church at intervals over the autumn and winter to see if there is bat activity.

Measures Implemented

Brown long eared bats have been found at intervals in the autumn. No Daubenton's bats were seen.

Recommendation

(8) No vegetation can be removed during the nesting season.

Measures Implemented

No vegetation was removed in the nesting season.



Conclusion

Gaps have been retained in the new stonework, and bat boxes have been built into the new stonework. There was no disturbance to the existing bat roost, and a brown long eared bat was seen continuing to use the roost during the building work.



Article 16 (Habitats Directive) - Returns Form

This returns form is for use in respect of:

Regulation 54 – Derogation Licence to protect wild fauna and conserving natural habitats

Licence Number: DER-BAT-2024-142

Licence Year: 2024

Licence Holder: Donna Mullen

Species (English & Latin)	No. of Individuals Affected	No. of Breeding Places	No. of Resting Places
Daubenton's bat - <i>Myotis daubentonii</i>	1		1
Brown long eared bat - <i>Plecotus auritus</i>	1		1

Licence Holder Signature: Donna Mullen | **Date:** 15

November 2024

Returns must be emailed to the following email address:

wildlife.reports@npws.gov.ie

