



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
Ms	Melanie	McQuade
(b) Company Name, if applicable	Westmeath County Council	
(c) Address Line 1	Aras an Chontae	
Address Line 2	Mount Street	
Town	Mullingar	
County	Co. Westmeath	
Eircode	N91 FH4N	
(d) Contact number	0044 9332098	
(e) Email address	Melanie.mcquade@westmeathcoco.i	
(f) Address where works are to be carried out if different from (b) above.		
Address Line 1	Castlelost Medieval Church Site	
Address Line 2	Castlelost	
Town	Rochfortbridge	
County	Co. Westmeath	
Eircode	..	

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
Mr	Donna	Mullen
(b) Company Name	Wildlife Surveys Ireland Ltd.	
Address Line 1	Golashane Nature Reserve	
Address Line 2	Maio, Tierworker	
Town	Kells	
County	Wex Meath	
Eircode	A82VE86	
(c) Contact number	0877454233	
(d) Email address	batsurveydm@gmail.com	
(e) Relationship to Applicant	Consultant ecologist / bat specialist	

For Survey Derogations Only

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

[illegible]

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*) Duabenton's bat (*Myotis Daubentonii*) |

3. Please provide the maximum number of individuals affected* | 2 |

4. Please provide the maximum number of breeding or resting sites affected* | 2 |

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.

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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.

DER-BAT-2024-142 valid from Sept 12 to December 31st, 2024
DER-Bat-2025-01 valid from January 1st, 2024 – April 30th, 2025
Returns were sent to NPWS and the derogation returns report is attached |

- 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.*

Start	1 st September	Date:
End	31 st December 2025	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	☐
Deliberately disturb these species particularly during the period of breeding, rearing, hibernation and migration	☒
Deliberately take or destroy eggs of the relevant species in the wild	☐
Damage or destroy a breeding or resting place of such an animal, or	☒
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.	☐
Regulation 52	
Deliberately pick, collect, cut, uproot or destroy any specimen of these species in the wild, or	☐
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.	☐

**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)	☐
b.	To prevent serious damage, in particular to crops, livestock, forests, fisheries and water and other types of property (proceed to 2b)	☐
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)	☒
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)	☐
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)	☐

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.)

Part of the roost area has collapsed, leaving a gap at least 40 cm wide. This area is very unstable, and much of the upper walls of the building have unstable stonework – several parts of it have collapsed and there is stonework on the ground. The area is used by the local community group on a daily basis and the collapsing building is a safety issue.

- 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.

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

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.

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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	The	
	building is a ruin and parts of it are collapsing.	
Alternative timing	Earlier in the year (May to July) may affect breeding bats but would probably have similar impacts to the current schedule	

	and would most probably avoid disturbance until after the young are reared.
	Later in the year would have a similar impact as the work will continue over several consecutive months. It would also bring repairs further into the following year and would begin to approach the breeding season of 2026.

* Please insert additional rows above if needed

Test 3: Impact of a Derogation on Conservation Status

3. 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.

Mitigation

- See report(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. An ecologist must supervise the work. The work must not commence in the underground area or that part of the church until the swallow chicks have fledgedThe wildlife ranger must be contacted before commencement of any work.

(2) As one access area will be blocked ,a bat access brick must be fitted in this area, to allow bat access if the other exits are inadvertently blocked .It can be purchased from –

<https://www.nhbs.com/1fe-schwegler-bat-access-panel?bkfno=183033>

or<https://www.veldshop.nl/en/ans-3-bat-box.html>

It must be used without the back plate to allow access into the roost area.As an alternative, a gap can be retained in the existing area.

These have been used successfully in Golashane Nature Reserve in Meath.

In addition, cracks and crevices must be retained where possible. At least 15 crevices must be retained in each wall. Bat tubes have successfully been used by Daubenton's bats in Gubalaun Abbey, Rossinver, Leitrim. Two Schwegler 2FR bat

tubes must be built into the walls for restoration. (<https://www.veldshop.nl/en/bat-tube-1fr-and-2fr.html>)

(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.

(4) No work can take place from May to September as bats may be breeding. Crevices must be checked carefully with a torch and/or fibrescope before repointing.

(5) Providing long swards of grass by fencing livestock out of the church area, would provide bat feeding and additional areas for the ghost moth and shrews which were noted in 2023. It is important that adequate fencing is used to keep livestock out of the church area.

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

(7) No vegetation can be removed during the nesting season. **Evidence that actions permitted by a derogation licence 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 as is required under Section 54(2) of the European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations. Data from The Status of EU Protected Habitats and Species in Ireland SPECIES ASSESSMENTS Volume 3 2019**

Daubenton's bat

5 Range within the biogeographical/marine region concerned.

5.1 Surface area 74,200 km²

5.2 Short-term trend Period 2007–2018

5.3 Short-term trend Direction stable

8.2 Sources of information <i>Optional</i>	
8.3 Additional information <i>Optional</i>	Light pollution has been identified as a particular concern for <i>Myotis</i> bats such as Daubenton's bat (Matthews <i>et al.</i>, 2015; Voigt <i>et al.</i> 2018). F24 has been selected to represent this pressure, although lighting from industrial developments and roadway developments also contribute to the problem. Despite some growing awareness of light pollution this pressure is likely to continue into the future and it is also listed as a threat. Ranking of importance is based on expert opinion on likely impact of the pressure on the species. Removal of riparian vegetation, bridge repairs and drainage works may also provide some cause for concern for this species and these issues merit further study. There is no evidence to date of an impact on Daubenton's bat distribution due to these issues and hence they are not listed in 8.1.

10 Future prospects		
10.1 Future prospects of parameters	a) Range	<u>Good</u> / Poor / Bad / Unknown
	b) Population	<u>Good</u> / Poor / Bad / Unknown
	c) Habitat of the species	<u>Good</u> / Poor / Bad / Unknown

The Daubenton's bat is widespread across all parts of the country and Range is assessed as Favourable as there is no evidence of any decline since the Directive came into force. Recent estimates for this species suggest a population size in the order to 57,000-79,000 animals. Ongoing monitoring indicates that the population is stable or even slightly increasing and there is no evidence of decline in suitable habitat. Although some pressures/threats have been noted, there is no indication of any major pressures currently impacting on the species and future prospects are considered good. Overall, the species is assessed as Favourable and the overall trend is demonstrating an on-going increase. There were no qualifiers for Favourable assessments in 2013.

 Current Distribution (804 cells)
 Current Range (742 cells)
 Favourable Reference Range (742 cells)

Brown long eared bat

5 Range within the biogeographical/marine region concerned.

5.1 Surface area 62,200 km²

5.2 Short-term trend Period 2007–2018

5.3 Short-term trend Direction stable

8.3 Additional information -As this bat regularly roosts in old buildings (e.g., churches) it can come into conflict with roost owners. The loss of roosts in mature trees due to felling, light pollution and the absence of data on swarming and winter sites are also concerns. However, there is no evidence that any of these issues are impacting on distribution or population and hence they are not listed as medium or important threats for this species.

10 Future prospects		
10.1 Future prospects of parameters	a) Range	<u>Good</u> / Poor / Bad / Unknown
	b) Population	<u>Good</u> / Poor / Bad / Unknown
	c) Habitat of the species	<u>Good</u> / Poor / Bad / Unknown
10.2 Additional information <i>Optional</i>	The dedicated roost-based monitoring programme provides evidence of a significant increase in the population; there is no evidence of any decline in Range or Habitat. In general the Future prospects of these parameters are considered to be good.	

11 Conclusions	
Assessment of conservation status at end of reporting period	
11.1 Range	<u>Favourable (FV)</u> / Inadequate (U1) / Bad (U2) / Unknown (XX)
11.2 Population	<u>Favourable (FV)</u> / Inadequate (U1) / Bad (U2) / Unknown (XX)
11.3 Habitat for the species	<u>Favourable (FV)</u> / Inadequate (U1) / Bad (U2) / Unknown (XX)
11.4 Future prospects	<u>Favourable (FV)</u> / Inadequate (U1) / Bad (U2) / Unknown (XX)

Article 17 report format 2013-2018

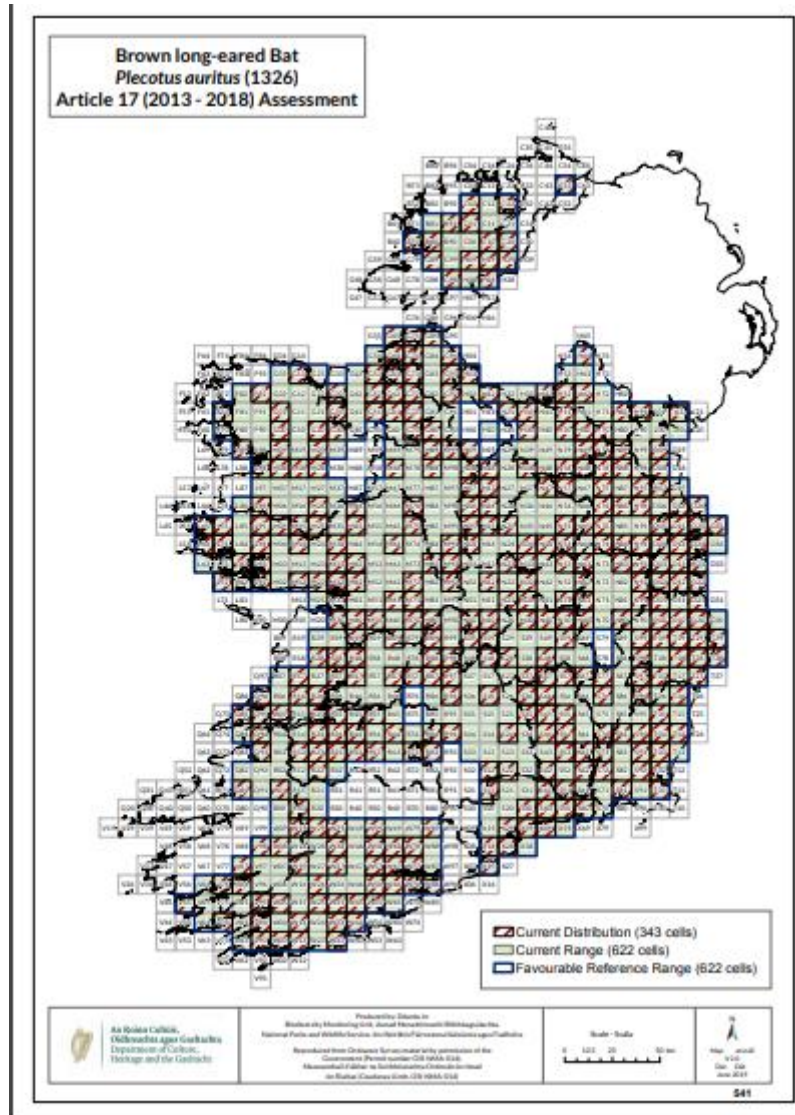
538

1326 Brown Long-eared Bat (*Plecotus auritus*)

11.5 Overall assessment of Conservation Status	<u>Favourable (FV)</u> / Inadequate (U1) / Bad (U2) / Unknown (XX)
11.6 Overall trend in Conservation Status	Indicate the trend (qualifier) for FV, U1 and U2: <u>improving</u> / deteriorating / stable / unknown

11.8 Additional information - Recent estimates put the Irish population of brown long-eared bats at 60,000-100,000 animals. Monitoring data suggests a recent significant

increase in numbers and both Range and Habitat are considered to be stable and Favourable. There is no indication of any major pressures currently impacting the population and Future prospects are considered good. Overall, the species is assessed as Favourable and the overall trend is demonstrating an on-going increase. There were no qualifiers for Favourable assessments in 2013.



Impacts after mitigation

(1) Loss of feeding and commuting habitat. The addition of areas of long grass will reduce the impact to a slight long-term negative impact.

(2) Loss of roosting habitat. The addition of bat boxes will reduce the impact to a slight long term negative impact on individual 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**

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Date

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Name in **BLOCK LETTERS**

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PRIVACY STATEMENT

See Privacy Statement at www.npws.ie/licences

