SITE SYNOPSIS

SITE NAME: LETTERFRACK HOSTEL

SITE CODE: 002080

This site is a mixed nursery roost of the Natterer's Bat (*Myotis nattereri*) and Brown Long-eared Bat (*Plecotus auritus*). Approximately 50 of each species hang from the roof of the Hostel in Letterfrack.

As the national population of the Natterer's Bat is estimated to be only several thousand, this site is of national importance. As most Brown Long-eared Bat colonies are small, this colony is of national importance also. This site is also important because it contains reasonable numbers of two bat species.

As both these species are dependent on woodland for foraging habitat, any changes in woodland in the vicinity of the building could adversely affect these colonies.

The owners of the church, the Benedictine Nuns, are aware of the bats in the church and are willing to allow them to use the loft area. The nuns plan to use the restored church as a venue for music recitals but it is unlikely that this will interfere with the nursery colony.

8.12.2009