SITE SYNOPSIS

SITE NAME: ST. JOSEPH'S MOUNTHEATON

SITE CODE: 002063

This bat site is located in buildings and a bridge belonging to St. Joseph's Abbey, west of Roscrea, just inside the border of Co. Offaly. These sites contain Brown Long-eared Bat (*Plecotus auritus*). It is possible that the bats are present all year round. Large numbers of bats are reported to have been disturbed or destroyed over twenty years ago so this is a very old roost. The bridge colony is estimated to number approximately 14 bats but the colony in the church buildings is probably larger and a nursery colony.

As most long-eared colonies are small, any site containing 50 or more bats is of national importance, particularly sites which have been used for many years. The present curate is well disposed towards the bats.

Brown Long-eared Bats are dependent on woodland so any changes to existing woodland around the site could adversely affect the colony by reducing the availability of suitable foraging grounds.

8.12.2009