SITE SYNOPSIS

SITE NAME: CASTLETOWNSEND (GATE LODGE)

SITE CODE: 000084

This site is a nursery roost of the Leisler's Bat (*Nyctalus leisleri*). Approximately 140 bats roost in the rear attic of this small lodge, most of the bats along the main ridge beam and wall plate. They exit from the gable apex. The Office of Public Works had repairs carried out on the tiling at the gable end used by the bats but the exit point was not disturbed. This site was once though to be the largest Leisler's Bat colony in the world and said to contain 800 bats. Only a fraction of that number use the lodge now but it is still a site of international importance, as Ireland is the world stronghold for this species.

Although the present caretaker does not welcome the bats, this can be considered a safe site. Owner tolerance, to whatever degree, is an important consideration when trying to protect roosts of this species, the largest and possibly the noisiest of the seven bat species. Although the Leisler's Bat is considered common in Ireland, the number of safe nursery roosts is small.

4.11.2009