SITE SYNOPSIS

SITE NAME: OLD DOMESTIC BUILDING, LETTIR

SITE CODE: 002040

This site consists of a derelict, two-storey building situated close to Glannaserha Wood, outside Kilgarvan, County Kerry. It is a breeding site for the Lesser Horseshoe Bat (*Rhinolophus hipposideros*), a species listed on Annex II of the E.U. Habitats Directive.

The bats use the roof area and gain access through gaps in a doorway and numerous broken windows. The bats hang directly from the roof timbers as there is no loft or attic area. The nearby wood provides suitable foraging habitat within a small radius of the day roost. The hibernation site for these bats is an Ice House within the nearby wood.

In July 1996, more than 200 bats were counted in the roost at Lettir, making it an internationally important site and one of the largest populations of Lesser Horseshoe Bat in the country.

The condition of the roof has deteriorated seriously in recent times so that the bats are roosting in quite bright light conditions and the roof timbers are beginning to rot. This may account for the drop in numbers from previous counts. Roof repair work requires to be carried out at the site in order to maintain it as a suitable breeding location for the species.

8.12.2009