SITE SYNOPSIS

SITE NAME: OUGHTERARD NATIONAL SCHOOL

SITE CODE: 002082

This site consists of a two-storey primary school which is used as a nursery site by approximately 300 Leisler's Bat (*Nyctalus leisleri*). The bats roost in two sites in the roof.

This site is probably the largest Leisler's Bat nursery colony in Ireland and possibly in Europe. It was first discovered in 1992 and has increased in size every year since then.

The children and teachers are happy having the bats in the school and the school management has been persuaded to allow the bats to stay, providing droppings are removed regularly.

This tolerance 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 numbers of safe nursery roosts are small.

8.12.2009