SITE SYNOPSIS

SITE NAME: BIRR (DOMESTIC DWELLING NO. 2, OCCUPIED)

SITE CODE: 000568

This site consists of a two-storey modern domestic dwelling which is used as a nursery site by over 200 Leisler's Bats (*Nyctalus leisleri*). The bats roost at the western gable end of the attic. A new trap door was fitted in the bathroom ceiling in 1993 to allow access to the roof for the removal of droppings.

This site is one of the biggest Leisler's Bat nursery colonies in Ireland and possibly in Europe. It was first discovered in 1989 and has increased in size every year since then.

At first the owners were not happy about having bats in the attic but are now more tolerant, particularly since the attic is cleaned at the end of each summer. This tolerance is an important consideration when trying to protect roosts of this species, the largest and possibly the noisiest of the seven Irish bat species. Although the Leisler's Bat is considered common in Ireland, the number of safe nursery roosts is small.

It is possible that the bats at this site move between this and another house, known as Birr Domestic Dwelling 1, over the course of a summer. Therefore, it is important to protect both houses.

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