SITE SYNOPSIS

SITE NAME: CLOONLARA HOUSE

SITE CODE: 000028

This bat site is located in a three-storey domestic dwelling house and contains over l00 Leisler's Bats (*Nyctalus leisleri*) during the summer months. The main stairway of the house leads to a large room in the attic where a partition wall separates the room from the roosting site of the bats. The bats roost in the fascia boards and roof space at one of the gable ends.

The Leisler's Bat is the largest bat to occur in Ireland. Body measurements include forearm 40-45mm, head and body 50-60mm, wingspan 300mm and weight 12-20g. It is distinguished from other species by the presence of a post-calcarial lobe, short rounded ears and a mushroom-shaped tragus. The Leisler's Bat is considered common in Ireland which has probably the largest population of this species in Europe. Nursery colonies of up to several hundred are known. Colonies are usually found in old buildings with large fascia boards. Leisler's Bats are not found in underground sites during winter time so it is presumed they hibernate in small numbers in cool parts of buildings and in trees. Leisler's Bats are easily seen early in the evening foraging high over waterways and trees.

The present owner is fairly tolerant of the bats despite the strong odour which can accompany the build-up of droppings during a hot summer.

Although the number of bats at this site has declined in recent years, it is still one of the biggest nursery sites in Ireland and in Europe. It is a site of international importance.

4.11.2009