

Site name:	Lough Cutra SAC 000299
County:	Galway
	<b>Site Specific Conservation Objective (SSCO) Ecological Attributes</b>
	<b>[1303] Lesser horseshoe bat (<i>Rhinolophus hipposideros</i>)</b>
1	Population per roost
2	Winter roosts
3	Summer roosts
4	Auxiliary roosts
5	Extent of potential foraging habitat
6	Linear features
7	Light pollution

No.	Ecological Requirements (Attributes as per SSCO)	Pressure /Threat (EU Code 2025)	Pressure/ Threat Ranking	EU Conservation Measure Type (EU Code 2019-2024)	Measure Category	Conservation Measure	Delivery mechanism	Public Authority with statutory responsibility	Implementation timeframe	Integration with high level plans/policy:
1	1. Population per roost, 2. Winter Roosts, 3. Summer roosts, 4. Auxiliary roosts, 5. Extent of potential foraging habitat, 6. Linear features, 7. Light pollution	PA04 Removal of small landscape features for agricultural land parcel consolidation (hedges, stone walls, rushes, open ditches, springs, solitary trees, etc.)	Medium	MA03 Maintain existing extensive agricultural practices and agricultural landscape features	Contractual	Dry Stone Wall Maintenance (736 metres) as part of the Agri-Climate Rural Environment Scheme (ACRES).	Agri-Climate Rural Environment Scheme (ACRES)	Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine (DAFM)	2022+	CAP Strategic Plan
2	1. Population per roost, 2. Winter Roosts, 3. Summer roosts, 4. Auxiliary roosts, 5. Extent of potential foraging habitat, 6. Linear features, 7. Light pollution	PA04 Removal of small landscape features for agricultural land parcel consolidation (hedges, stone walls, rushes, open ditches, springs, solitary trees, etc.)	Medium	MA02 Restore small landscape features on agricultural land	Statutory	Consent is required for construction, removal or alteration of fences, stone walls, hedgerows, banks or any field boundary other than temporary electric fencing if not covered by other regulations.	European Union Habitats (Lough Cutra Special Area of Conservation 000299) Regulations 2017.	Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage (DHLGH)/ National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS)	2003+	All government plans and policy documents are cognisant of these protections
3	1. Population per roost, 2. Winter Roosts, 3. Summer roosts, 4. Auxiliary roosts, 5. Extent of potential foraging habitat, 6. Linear features, 7. Light pollution	PA04 Removal of small landscape features for agricultural land parcel consolidation (hedges, stone walls, rushes, open ditches, springs, solitary trees, etc.)	Medium	MA02 Restore small landscape features on agricultural land	Statutory	Consent is required for burning, topping, clearing scrub or rough vegetation or reseeding if not covered by other regulations.	European Union Habitats (Lough Cutra Special Area of Conservation 000299) Regulations 2017.	Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage (DHLGH)/ National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS)	2003+	All government plans and policy documents are cognisant of these protections
4	1. Population per roost, 2. Winter Roosts, 3. Summer roosts, 4. Auxiliary roosts, 5. Extent of potential foraging habitat, 6. Linear features, 7. Light pollution	PA04 Removal of small landscape features for agricultural land parcel consolidation (hedges, stone walls, rushes, open ditches, springs, solitary trees, etc.)	Medium	MA02 Restore small landscape features on agricultural land	Statutory	Restrictions on cutting, burning or otherwise destroying vegetation including hedges between March 1st and August 31st.	Wildlife Act, 1976 (as amended)	Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage (DHLGH)/ National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS)	1976+	All government plans and policy documents are cognisant of these protections
5	1. Population per roost, 2. Winter Roosts, 3. Summer roosts, 4. Auxiliary roosts, 5. Extent of potential foraging habitat, 6. Linear features, 7. Light pollution	PA10 Livestock farming (without grazing)	Medium	MA09 Manage the use of natural and synthetic fertilisers as well as chemicals in agriculture for plant and animal production	Statutory	The spread of organic and chemical fertilisers or soiled water is restricted on land that is waterlogged, is flooded or likely to flood, is snow-covered or frozen.	European Union (Good Agricultural Practice for Protection of Waters) Regulations 2022	Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage (DHLGH)	2022	All government plans and policy documents are cognisant of these protections
6	1. Population per roost, 2. Winter Roosts, 3. Summer roosts, 4. Auxiliary roosts, 5. Extent of potential foraging habitat, 6. Linear features, 7. Light pollution	PA10 Livestock farming (without grazing)	Medium	MA Measures related to agricultural practices and agriculture-related habitats	Contractual	88% uptake of eligible participants (24) in the voluntary Agri-Climate Rural Environment Scheme (ACRES).	Agri-Climate Rural Environment Scheme (ACRES)	Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine (DAFM)	2022+	CAP Strategic Plan
7	1. Population per roost, 2. Winter Roosts, 3. Summer roosts, 4. Auxiliary roosts, 5. Extent of potential foraging habitat, 6. Linear features, 7. Light pollution	PB09 Clear-cutting, removal of all trees	Medium	MB05 Adapt/change forest management and exploitation practices	Statutory	Consent is required for the felling of trees or removing timber, including dead wood if not covered by other regulations.	European Union Habitats (Lough Cutra Special Area of Conservation 000299) Regulations 2017.	Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage (DHLGH)/ National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS)	2003+	All government plans and policy documents are cognisant of these protections
8	1. Population per roost, 2. Winter Roosts, 3. Summer roosts, 4. Auxiliary roosts, 5. Extent of potential foraging habitat, 6. Linear features, 7. Light pollution	PB09 Clear-cutting, removal of all trees	Medium	MB05 Adapt/change forest management and exploitation practices	Statutory	A clear-fell licence is required to fell or remove trees at this site.	Forestry Act 2014	Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine (DAFM)	2014+	All government plans and policy documents are cognisant of these protections
9	1. Population per roost, 2. Winter Roosts, 3. Summer roosts, 4. Auxiliary roosts, 5. Extent of potential foraging habitat, 6. Linear features, 7. Light pollution	PF01 Conversion from other land uses to built-up areas/PF02 Construction or modification (e.g. of housing and settlements) in existing built-up areas	Medium	MA07 Restoration of Annex I agricultural habitats (incl. re-establish and improve)	Statutory	Regulation controlling unconsented development at this site.	S.I. NO. 600/2001 - Planning and Development Regulations 2001, as amended.	Local Authority (Galway County Council)	2001+	All government plans and policy documents are cognisant of these protections
10	1. Population per roost, 2. Winter Roosts, 3. Summer roosts, 4. Auxiliary roosts, 5. Extent of potential foraging habitat, 6. Linear features, 7. Light pollution	PF01 Conversion from other land uses to built-up areas/PF02 Construction or modification (e.g. of housing and settlements) in existing built-up areas	Medium	MA07 Restoration of Annex I agricultural habitats (incl. re-establish and improve)	Statutory	Consent is required for modification of caves and/or their entrances if not covered by other regulations.	European Union Habitats (Lough Cutra Special Area of Conservation 000299) Regulations 2017.	Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage (DHLGH)/ National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS)	2003+	All government plans and policy documents are cognisant of these protections
11	1. Population per roost, 2. Winter Roosts, 3. Summer roosts, 4. Auxiliary roosts, 5. Extent of potential foraging habitat, 6. Linear features, 7. Light pollution	PF02 Construction or modification (e.g. of housing and settlements) in existing built-up areas	Medium	MF10 Other measures related to residential, commercial, industrial and recreational infrastructures, operations and activities	Statutory	Consent is required for the alteration, renovation or removal of buildings, ruins or other structures, if not covered by other regulations.	European Union Habitats (Lough Cutra Special Area of Conservation 000299) Regulations 2017.	Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage (DHLGH)/ National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS)	2003+	All government plans and policy documents are cognisant of these protections
12	1. Population per roost, 2. Winter Roosts, 3. Summer roosts, 4. Auxiliary roosts, 5. Extent of potential foraging habitat, 6. Linear features, 7. Light pollution	PF12 Residential, commercial and industrial activities and structures generating noise, light, heat or other forms of pollution	Medium	MF07 Reduce/eliminate pollution (incl. noise, light, heat, soil pollution) from industrial, commercial, residential and recreational areas and activities	Statutory	Consent is required for developing or consenting to the development or operation of commercial recreational/visitor facilities or organised recreational activities, if not covered by other regulations.	European Union Habitats (Lough Cutra Special Area of Conservation 000299) Regulations 2017.	Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage (DHLGH)/ National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS)	2003+	All government plans and policy documents are cognisant of these protections
13	1. Population per roost, 2. Winter Roosts, 3. Summer roosts, 4. Auxiliary roosts, 5. Extent of potential foraging habitat, 6. Linear features, 7. Light pollution	PM07 Natural processes without direct or indirect influence from human activities or climate change	Medium	MM02 Minimise/prevent impacts of geological and natural catastrophes	Statutory	Consent is required for the Introduction, or re-introduction, of plants or animals not found in the area, if not covered by other regulations.	European Union Habitats (Lough Cutra Special Area of Conservation 000299) Regulations 2017.	Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage (DHLGH)/ National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS)	2003+	All government plans and policy documents are cognisant of these protections
14	1. Population per roost, 2. Winter Roosts, 3. Summer roosts, 4. Auxiliary roosts, 5. Extent of potential foraging habitat, 6. Linear features, 7. Light pollution	PM02 Flooding	Medium	MM02 Minimise/prevent impacts of geological and natural catastrophes	Statutory	Assessment and management of flood risk.	European Communities (Assessment and Management of Flood Risks) Regulations 2010	Office of Public Works (OPW)	2010+	All government plans and policy documents are cognisant of these protections
15	1. Population per roost, 2. Winter Roosts, 3. Summer roosts, 4. Auxiliary roosts, 5. Extent of potential foraging habitat, 6. Linear features, 7. Light pollution	All/Other Relevant Threats and Pressures		MA07 Restoration of Annex I agricultural habitats (incl. re-establish and improve)	Contractual	ACRES: Conservation results based scoring of habitat (utilised in >30% of terrestrial habitat in Lough Cutra SAC). is subject to conservation results based scoring of the habitat as part of the Agri-Climate Rural Environment Scheme – Co-operation Project (ACRES CP).	Agri-Climate Rural Environment Scheme (ACRES) Scorecards	Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine (DAFM)	2022+	CAP Strategic Plan
16	1. Population per roost, 2. Winter Roosts, 3. Summer roosts, 4. Auxiliary roosts, 5. Extent of potential foraging habitat, 6. Linear features, 7. Light pollution	All/Other Relevant Threats and Pressures		MA Measures related to agricultural practices and agriculture-related habitats	Contractual	Production of an accredited Farm Sustainability Plan by 100% of participants in the Agri-Climate Rural Environmental Scheme (ACRES).	Agri-Climate Rural Environment Scheme (ACRES)	Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine (DAFM)	2022+	CAP Strategic Plan
17	1. Population per roost, 2. Winter Roosts, 3. Summer roosts, 4. Auxiliary roosts, 5. Extent of potential foraging habitat, 6. Linear features, 7. Light pollution	All/Other Relevant Threats and Pressures		MA Measures related to agricultural practices and agriculture-related habitats	Contractual	Landscape Actions to target environmental issues highlighted in the scorecards for results-based payments in Agri-Climate Rural Environment Scheme – Co-operation Project (ACRES CP).	Agri-Climate Rural Environment Scheme (ACRES) Landscape Actions	Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine (DAFM)	2026+	CAP Strategic Plan
18	1. Population per roost, 2. Winter Roosts, 3. Summer roosts, 4. Auxiliary roosts, 5. Extent of potential foraging habitat, 6. Linear features, 7. Light pollution	All/Other Relevant Threats and Pressures		MA05 Adapt mowing, grazing and other equivalent agricultural activities (e.g. burning)	Contractual	Livestock fencing (128 metres) - conservation measure complementing results based habitat scoring in Agri-Climate Rural Environment Scheme – Co-operation Project (ACRES CP).	Agri-Climate Rural Environment Scheme (ACRES) Environmental actions (Non-Productive Investments - NPIs)	Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine (DAFM)	2024+	CAP Strategic Plan

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19	1. Population per roost, 2. Winter Roosts, 3. Summer roosts, 4. Auxiliary roosts, 5. Extent of potential foraging habitat, 6. Linear features, 7. Light pollution	All/Other Relevant Threats and Pressures		MA03 Maintain existing extensive agricultural practices and agricultural landscape features	Administrative	Monitoring and reporting of relevant farm activity at the SAC. Direct inspections for DAFM Conditionality compliance or via other state Authorities (via Cross Reporting) to Integrated Controls Division in DAFM.	<u>DAFM BISS Conditionality Farm inspections (Cross Compliance)</u>	Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine (DAFM)	2011+	All government plans and policy documents are cognisant of these protections
20	1. Population per roost, 2. Winter Roosts, 3. Summer roosts, 4. Auxiliary roosts, 5. Extent of potential foraging habitat, 6. Linear features, 7. Light pollution	All/Other Relevant Threats and Pressures		MS03 Restoration of habitat of species from the directives	Administrative	Production of an overarching Lesser Horseshoe Species Action Plan to engage stakeholders to support landscape level changes.	<u>Lesser Horseshoe Bat Species Action Plan 2022-2026</u>	Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage (DHLGH)/ National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS)	2022-2026	All government plans and policy documents are cognisant of these protections
21	1. Population per roost, 2. Winter Roosts, 3. Summer roosts, 4. Auxiliary roosts, 5. Extent of potential foraging habitat, 6. Linear features, 7. Light pollution	All/Other Relevant Threats and Pressures		MS03 Restoration of habitat of species from the directives	Administrative	Annual monitoring of roosts at roosts at each site to track population trends, occupancy and roost condition.	<u>Lesser Horseshoe Bat Species Action Plan 2022-2026</u>	Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage (DHLGH)/ National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS)	2022-2026	All government plans and policy documents are cognisant of these protections
22	1. Population per roost, 2. Winter Roosts, 3. Summer roosts, 4. Auxiliary roosts, 5. Extent of potential foraging habitat, 6. Linear features, 7. Light pollution	All/Other Relevant Threats and Pressures		MJ01 Implement climate change mitigation measures, MJ02 Implement climate change adaptation measures	Administrative	A roadmap of actions to assist in the achievement of climate change objectives by no later than the end of the year 2050.	<u>Ireland's Climate Action Plan 2024</u>	All Government Departments	2024+	All government plans and policy documents are cognisant of these protections.
23	1. Population per roost, 2. Winter Roosts, 3. Summer roosts, 4. Auxiliary roosts, 5. Extent of potential foraging habitat, 6. Linear features, 7. Light pollution	All/Other Relevant Threats and Pressures		MH03 Reduce impact of other specific human activities	Statutory	Control of activities, if not covered by other regulations, which could negatively impact on Lough Cutra SAC.	<u>European Union Habitats (Lough Cutra Special Area of Conservation 000299) Regulations 2017.</u>	Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage (DHLGH)/ National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS)	2003+	All government plans and policy documents are cognisant of these protections