

Site name:	Ratty River Cave SAC 002316
County:	Clare
	Site Specific Conservation Objective (SSCO) Ecological Attributes
	[1303] Lesser horseshoe bat (<i>Rhinolophus hipposideros</i>)
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
	Site Specific Conservation Objective (SSCO) Ecological Attributes
	[8310] Caves not open to the public
8310	Caves not open to the public (8310) is integrally linked to lesser horseshoe bat (<i>Rhinolophus hipposideros</i>) (1303) as part of the habitat for the species; therefore, a separate conservation objective has not been set for the habitat in Ratty River Cave SAC

No.	Ecological Requirements (Attributes as per SSCO)	Pressure /Threat (EU Code 2025)	Pressure/Threat Ranking	EU Conservation Measure Type (EU Code 2025)	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	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 (Ratty River Cave Special Area of Conservation 002316) Regulations 2016.	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
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 burning, topping, clearing scrub or rough vegetation or reseeded if not covered by other regulations.	European Union Habitats (Ratty River Cave Special Area of Conservation 002316) Regulations 2016.	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	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
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	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 (Ratty River Cave Special Area of Conservation 002316) Regulations 2016.	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
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	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
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	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 (Ratty River Cave Special Area of Conservation 002316) Regulations 2016.	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
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	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	Prohibits disturbing or destruction of breeding/resting places/roosts.	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
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	PF02 Construction or modification (e.g. of housing and settlements) in existing built-up areas	Medium	MF01 Managing the impacts of converting land for construction and development of infrastructure	Statutory	Regulation controlling unconsented development at this site.	S.I. NO. 600/2001 - Planning and Development Regulations 2001, as amended	Local Authority (Clare County Council)/An Coimisiún Pleanála	2001+	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	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 (Ratty River Cave Special Area of Conservation 002316) Regulations 2016.	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
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	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
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	PM02 Flooding	Medium	MM02 Minimise/prevent impacts of geological and natural catastrophes	Statutory	Consent is required for any activity including water abstraction, sinking of boreholes and wells if not covered by other regulations.	European Union Habitats (Ratty River Cave Special Area of Conservation 002316) Regulations 2016.	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	All/Other Relevant Threats and Pressures		MF10 Other measures related to residential, commercial, industrial and recreational infrastructures, operations and activities	Statutory	Works are restricted which would capture or kill bats, damage or destroy their roosts or disturb them at important parts of their life cycle.	European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations 2011	Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage (DHLGH)/ National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS)	2011+	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	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.	Lesser Horseshoe Bat Species Action Plan 2022-2026	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
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	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	DAFM BISS Conditionality Farm inspection's (Cross Compliance)	Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine (DAFM)	2011+	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		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	Ireland's Climate Action Plan 2024	All Government Departments	2024+	All government plans and policy documents are cognisant of these protections.
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		MA03 Maintain existing extensive agricultural practices and agricultural landscape features	Administrative	Annual monitoring of roosts at roosts at each site to track population trends, occupancy and roost condition.	Lesser Horseshoe Bat Species Action Plan 2022-2026	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
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		MH03 Reduce impact of other specific human activities	Statutory	Control of activities, if not covered by other regulations, which could negatively impact on Ratty River Cave.	European Union Habitats (Ratty River Cave Special Area of Conservation 002316) Regulations 2016.	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