



Site Name: Old Domestic Building, Dromore Wood SAC

Site Code: 000353

This site consists of a large, three-storey stone building situated in Dromore Wood, approximately 9 km west of Kenmare, Co. Kerry. It is an important hibernation site of the Lesser Horseshoe Bat.

The site is a Special Area of Conservation (SAC) selected for the following habitats and/or species listed on Annex I / II of the E.U. Habitats Directive (* = priority; numbers in brackets are Natura 2000 codes):

[1303] Lesser Horseshoe Bat (<i>Rhinolophus hipposideros</i>)

This site is one of the very few artificial hibernation sites for this species in Ireland. It was created by modifying an unused cellar in the building and was soon colonised by bats. The site appears to satisfy the necessary temperature and humidity requirements of this species during hibernation as the number of bats using the site has been increasing each year since the work was undertaken. The hibernation site is surrounded by mostly coniferous forestry which provides suitable foraging habitat for the bats. This forestry is included in the site.

More than 200 bats were seen in the hibernation site in winter 1995/96, making the site one of international importance.

In the past a nursery roost existed in an out-building within 0.5 km of this hibernation site, but renovation work carried out in 1995 resulted in the exclusion of the bats from this traditional breeding site.

There appear to be no immediate threats facing the bats' hibernation site. Removal of the woodland would be detrimental to the bats and is a potential future threat.