

Site Name: Old Domestic Building, Curraglass Wood SAC

Site Code: 002041

This site consists of a small, two-roomed, stone dwelling situated in Rossacrue Wood, approximately 6 km north of Kilgarvan, Co. Kerry. It is used as a nursery site by a colony of 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>)

The building is derelict and the bats gain access through an opening over a doorway at the rear and also through a window leading to a small loft. The bats hang from the roof timbers in the loft.

The surrounding woodland provides suitable foraging habitat within a small radius of the day roost site. This is of great importance to this species which avoids flying across open areas.

Since its discovery in 1991, remedial work on the building has been carried out to secure the site and make it more suitable for breeding bats. In addition, part of the ground floor was modified to create an artificial hibernating site which was used by 15 bats during December 1995.

In July 1996, approximately 100 Lesser Horseshoe Bats were counted, which makes this a site of international importance. 143 bats were recorded here in August 1999.

The site does not appear to be threatened at present, though any future removal of the surrounding woodland would be detrimental to the bats.