

**Site Name: Newgrove House SAC**

**Site Code: 002157**

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> )
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This site, situated near Tulla, Co. Clare, consists of the remains of a former mansion called Newgrove House, as well as some of the surrounding countryside. It is used as a hibernating site by the Lesser Horseshoe Bat.

All that remains of the house is sections of the underground cellars, one of which is used by the bats as it is accessible, humid and remains at a constant temperature. The entrance to the cellar is well concealed by vegetation and partially blocked with timber pallets. There is a short drop into a passage which extends for approximately 20 m before becoming blocked. Midway along this passage there is a small opening into a side chamber which is the preferred hibernation site of the bats. All the bats hang from a low roof in this section of the cellar.

The surrounding countryside is a mixture of pasture, hedgerows and some mixed woodland and scrub. A former lake, Newgrove Lake, has been completely reclaimed. The proximity of suitable foraging habitat in the area around the hibernation site is important as Lesser Horseshoe Bats are often active in hibernacula in autumn and spring.

In February 1996, more than 150 Lesser Horseshoe Bats were recorded at this site, making it a site of international importance.

This site is not threatened at present.