

Site Name: Old Domestic Buildings, Rylane SAC

Site Code: 002314

This site is situated approximately 5 km north-west of Tulla, Co. Clare and consists of two old domestic buildings, approximately 1 km apart, and adjacent sheds and hedgerows.

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>)

At Old Domestic Buildings, Rylane SAC the northern of the two cottages is disused and the bats enter the building through a space above one of the windows. They roost in the upper portion of the building, hanging from the roof timbers. The nearby sheds may provide transitional roosting areas for small numbers of Lesser Horseshoe Bat. They also appear to be used occasionally by other bat species. In the summer of 1999, 113 Lesser Horseshoe Bat were counted at this site, making it a site of international importance.

In the second roost, 1 km to the south, bats use the attic in summer and hang from an old stone archway between the attic spaces in the winter. During the summer of 2004, a total of 103 Lesser Horseshoe Bat were recorded here, and 20-30 bats have been counted here in winter.

Extensive hedgerows in the immediate area of both roosts provide suitable commuting routes for the bats, but full details of the foraging areas and winter roost used by this population have yet to be established.

Renovation of the northern cottage is the most likely threat to this site.