



**Site Name: Knockanira House SAC**

**Site Code: 002318**

Knockanira House is situated approximately 8 km south-west of Ennis, Co. Clare. The site consists of a two storey building with a single storey section to the rear. It contains an important maternity roost 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> )
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At Knockanira House SAC the Lesser Horseshoe Bats roost in the attic of the single storey section of the building, but also to a lesser extent in the main attic. In September 2002, 107 bats were counted using this breeding site, making it a site of international importance.

Although the house is unoccupied it remains in relatively good condition and the conservation status of the bats there seems secure. A number of out-buildings around the house, however, have fallen into disrepair and Lesser Horseshoe Bats no longer use them. The foraging areas and the winter roost of bats at Knockanira House remain unknown.