

Site Name: Kilkishen House SAC

Site Code: 002319

Kilkishen House is an 18th century, two-storey over basement mansion situated approximately 7 km north of Sixmilebridge in Co. Clare. It contains an important winter 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>)

At Kilkishen House SAC, 78 Lesser Horseshoe Bats were counted in November 2001, making it a site of international importance. Most of these were hibernating in the basement, but some were also present in the attic. The building also contains a colony of Natterers' Bats and acts as a summer roost for a smaller number of Lesser Horseshoe Bats (19 were counted emerging from the building in June 1999). The exact foraging areas used by the bats have yet to be established, but areas of woodland and wetland nearby would provide suitable habitat.

Renovation of the house, if undertaken sensitively, may benefit the Lesser Horseshoe Bat population by improving the conservation status of the attic. However, special measures may be required to ensure that disturbance or heat seepage do not make the important roosting areas in the basement less suitable for bats.