



Site Name: Kildun Souterrain SAC

Site Code: 002320

Kildun Souterrain lies approximately 2.5 km north-east of Cong in Co. Mayo. It contains an important hibernation site 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>)

Kildun Souterrain is situated within an area of Hazel (*Corylus avellana*) and Ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*) woodland which grows over limestone. The number of bats using this site has been gradually increasing over the years. In January 2001, 69 bats were counted here making it a roost of international importance.

Much of the surrounding natural habitat has been reclaimed and further reclamation may lead to disturbance of the bats. The soil that covers the souterrain has been eroded by trampling cattle and this allows some light to enter the roost. This could impact on the microclimate of the souterrain.

The summer roosting location of the bats is unconfirmed, as is the extent of the foraging area.