Conservation Objectives for : Coole-Garryland Complex SAC [000252]

1303 Lesser Horseshoe Bat *Rhinolophus hipposideros*

To maintain the Favourable conservation condition of the Lesser Horseshoe Bat in Coole-Garryland Complex SAC, which is defined by the following attributes and targets:

Attribute	Measure	Target	Notes
Population per roost	Number	Minimum number of 218 bats for the summer roost with roost id. 226 (in NPWS database). See map 8	A figure of 100 bats for summer roosts and 50 bats for winter roosts was set as a minimum qualifying standard (MQS) when SACs were being selected for Lesser Horseshoe Bat (*Rhinolophus hipposideros*). NPWS endeavour to conduct annual counts at each qualifying roost. Qualified means from the 2019-2023 summer data have been calculated whereby the year with the highest maximum count and the year with the lowest maximum count were removed and the mean of the remaining years was calculated. This mean is set as the target figure for the summer roost. See the conservation objectives supporting document for Lesser Horseshoe Bat (NPWS, 2024) for further information
Summer roosts	Condition	No decline	Coole-Garryland Complex SAC has been selected for Lesser Horseshoe Bat because of the presence of one internationally important summer roost (roost id. 226 in NPWS database). Damage or disturbance to the roost or to the habitat immediately surrounding the roost will lead to a decline in its condition (Marnell et al., 2022). See the conservation objectives supporting document for Lesser Horseshoe Bat (NPWS, 2024) for further information
Auxiliary roosts	Number and condition	No decline	Lesser Horseshoe Bat populations will use a variety of roosts during the year besides the main summer maternity and winter hibernation roosts. Such additional roosts within the SAC may be important as night roosts, satellite roosts, etc. Night roosts are also considered an integral part of core foraging areas and require protection (Knight and Jones, 2009). In addition, in response to weather conditions for example, bats may use different seasonal roosts from year to year; this is particularly noticeable in winter. A database of all known Lesser Horseshoe Bat roosts is available on the National Biodiversity Data Centre website. It is important to note that further unrecorded roosts may also be present within this SAC. See the conservation objectives supporting document for Lesser Horseshoe Bat (NPWS, 2024) for further information
Extent of potential foraging habitat	Hectares	No significant decline within 2.5km of qualifying roosts	Lesser Horseshoe Bat normally forage in woodlands/scrub within 2.5km of their roosts (Schofield, 2008). See map 8 which shows a 2.5km zone around the above roosts and identifies potential foraging grounds. See the conservation objectives supporting document for Lesser Horseshoe Bat (NPWS, 2024) for further information
Linear features	Kilometres	No significant loss within 2.5km of qualifying roosts. See map 8	This species follows commuting routes from its roost to its foraging grounds. Lesser Horseshoe Bat will not cross open ground. Consequently, linear features such as hedgerows, treelines and stone walls provide vital connectivity for this species within 2.5km around each roost (Schofield, 2008). See the conservation objectives supporting document for Lesser Horseshoe Bat (NPWS, 2024) for further information

Light pollution	Lux	No significant increase in artificial light intensity adjacent to named roosts or along commuting routes within 2.5km of those roosts. See map 8	Lesser Horseshoe Bat are very sensitive to light pollution and will avoid brightly lit areas. Inappropriate lighting around roosts may cause abandonment; lighting along commuting routes may cause preferred foraging areas to be abandoned, thus increasing energetic costs for bats and reducing reproductive success at a population level (Schofield, 2008; Stone, 2013). See the conservation objectives supporting document for Lesser Horseshoe Bat (NPWS, 2024) for further information