

Conservation Objectives for : Caherglassaun Turlough SAC [000238]

1303 Lesser Horseshoe Bat *Rhinolophus hipposideros*

To maintain the favourable conservation condition of Lesser Horseshoe Bat in Caherglassaun Turlough SAC, which is defined by the following list of attributes and targets:

Attribute	Measure	Target	Notes
Population per roost	Number	Minimum number of 20 bats for the winter roost (roost id. 246 in NPWS database). See map 3	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 (<i>Rhinolophus hipposideros</i>). Where roosts fall below this figure, the MQS is generally used as the target figure. This site, however, is subject to regular natural flooding which on occasion leads to significant bat mortality. In addition, the site appears to be linked to the nearby Garryland roost. On this basis, a lower target figure (20 bats) is considered justified for the winter roost (roost id. 246 in NPWS database) in Caherglassaun Turlough SAC. See the conservation objectives supporting document for lesser horseshoe bat (NPWS, 2018) for further information on all attributes and targets
Winter roosts	Condition	No decline	Caherglassaun Turlough SAC has been selected for lesser horseshoe bat because of the presence of one internationally important winter roost (roost id. 246 in NPWS database). Damage or disturbance to the roost or to the habitat immediately surrounding it will lead to a decline in its condition (Mitchell-Jones et al., 2007)
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. NB further unrecorded roosts may also be present within this SAC
Extent of potential foraging habitat	Hectares	No significant decline within 2.5km of qualifying roost	Lesser horseshoe bats normally forage in woodlands/scrub within 2.5km of their roosts (Schofield, 2008). See map 3 which shows a 2.5km zone around the above roost and identifies potential foraging grounds
Linear features	Kilometres	No significant loss within 2.5km of qualifying roosts. See map 3	This species follows commuting routes from its roost to its foraging grounds. Lesser horseshoe bats 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)
Light pollution	Lux	No significant increase in artificial light intensity adjacent to named roost or along commuting routes within 2.5km of the roost. See map 3	Lesser horseshoe bats 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 (Schofield, 2008)