



Wildlife and Farm Buildings

A need to know guide



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Project Officer

GLAS Farm Building Event
Tullamore Court Hotel
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Who, What, Where, When and Why?

Species most likely to be encountered and why!

Birds

Bats

Other Mammals

Insects and Invertebrates



Who, What, Where, When and Why?

Species most likely to be encountered and why!

Animals have 3 main needs – food, shelter and the opportunity to breed!



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On your Radar

You might need to reach out to the following organisations..

- The National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) – Ranger
- BirdWatch Ireland (BWI) – Policy or Conservation Team
- Bat Conservation Ireland (BCI)
- The National Biodiversity Data Centre
- The Vincent Wildlife Trust – Irish Office



Birds – Species Focus

What birds may you encounter and why?

Many species of birds will happily make human dwellings home.

Various species will occupy:

- Urban Buildings
- Rural Buildings
- Ancient Buildings





Birds and the law

What do you need to know...

- Birds are protected by law in the Republic of Ireland under the Wildlife Act 1976 and subsequent amendments.

In Addition

- The EU Habitats Directive has been transposed into Irish law with the European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations 2011.
- These laws are enforced by NPWS Rangers and the Gardaí when called upon.
 - All nesting species are protected
 - A derogation can be applied for to remove nests under certain circumstances (i.e. Health and Safety)



Conservation and Mitigation

Its all about timing or creating alternative sites

**Best Practice – Where possible
leave them be, especially if
they are not interfering with
ongoing activity or restoration
activities!**

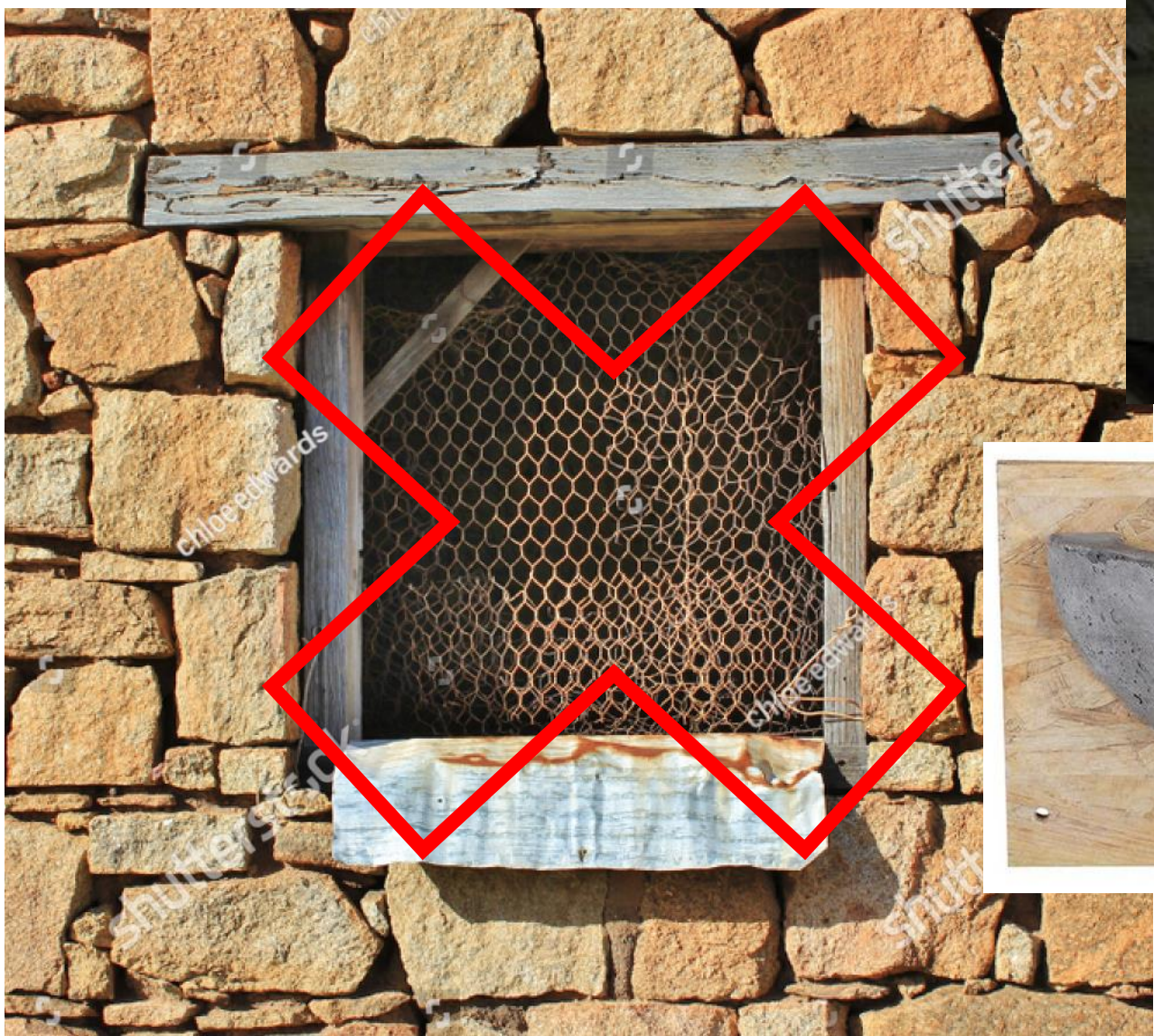
Conservation and Mitigation

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Conservation and Mitigation

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The New & Old



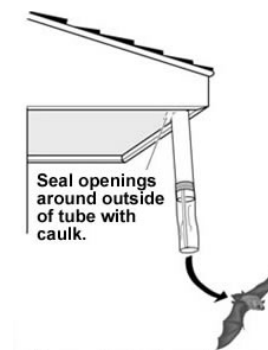
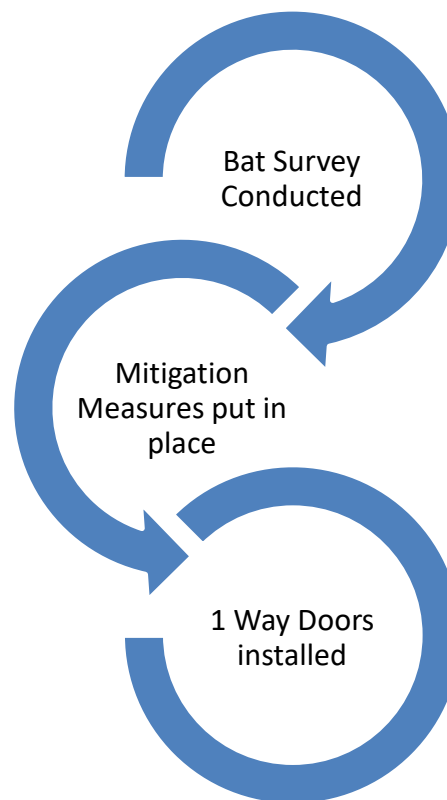
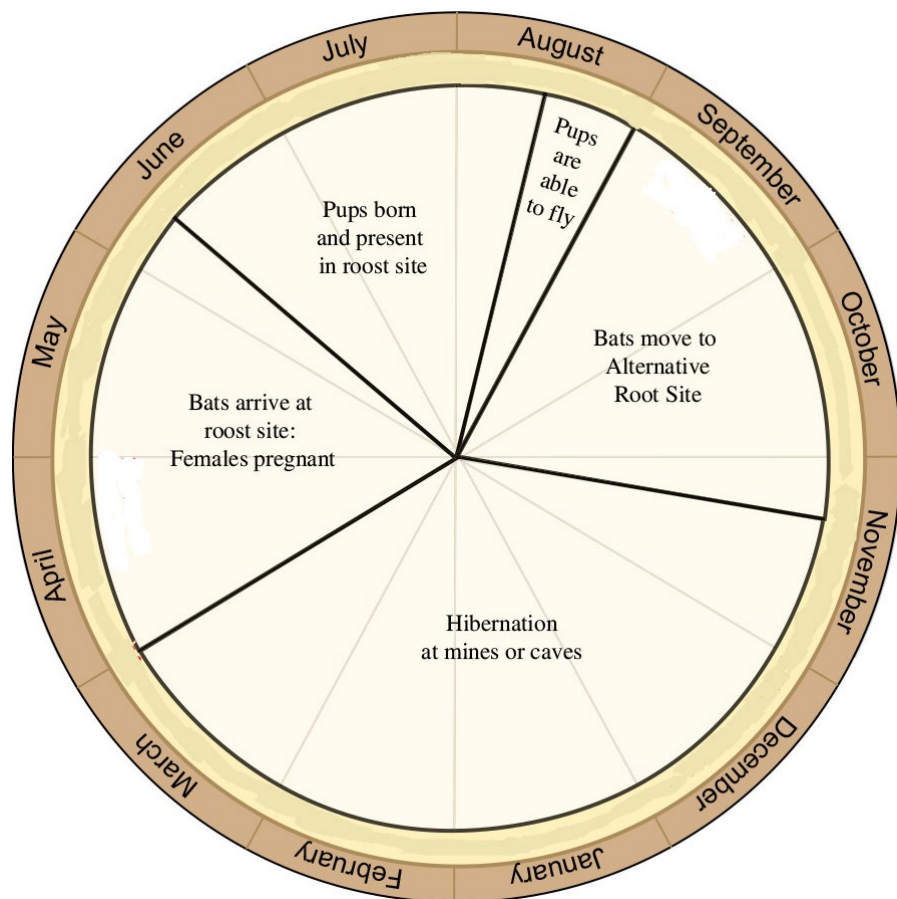
Bats – Species Focus

- There are 9 species of Bat found in Ireland
 - Bats may form roosts or maternity roosts in buildings.
 - Roosting locations include:
 - Attic Space
 - Gaps in masonry
 - Cellar spaces/Ice Houses
 - In confined spaces (behind fascia, under roof tiles etc).
-
- Most people live with bats without even realising - small roosts often go completely unnoticed!



Bats annual cycle

Bats have a annual cycle which steers mitigation measures





Bats and the law

What do you need to know...

- Bats are protected by law in the Republic of Ireland under the Wildlife Act 1976 and subsequent amendments.
- It is an offence to intentionally disturb, injure or kill a bat or disturb its resting place and any work on a roost must be carried out with the advice of the National Parks and Wildlife Service in the Republic
- In addition to domestic legislation bats are also protected under the EU Habitats Directive (92/43/EEC). The lesser horseshoe bat which is found in the Republic of Ireland only is listed in Annex II of the EU Habitats Directive, while all bat species are listed in Annex IV of the same Directive.

Conservation and Mitigation

There are options!

Bat Survey must be carried out

A number of recommendations may be made including:

- Carryout work during permitted period.
- Retaining roost access.
- Providing alternative roost close to existing.
- Provide new roosting opportunities etc



Conservation and Mitigation

Exercise caution

Other Considerations...

- Modern “felt”/waterproof membranes can be dangerous for bats.
- Many timber treatments are harmful to roosting bats. There are many that are not! Find a safe alternative, source pre-treated timber from suppliers.
- Don't entomb bats by accident, they can be roosting in tiny cavities in very small numbers!

Novia



Other Mammals

A quick mention...



Some Protected
&
Some Not!

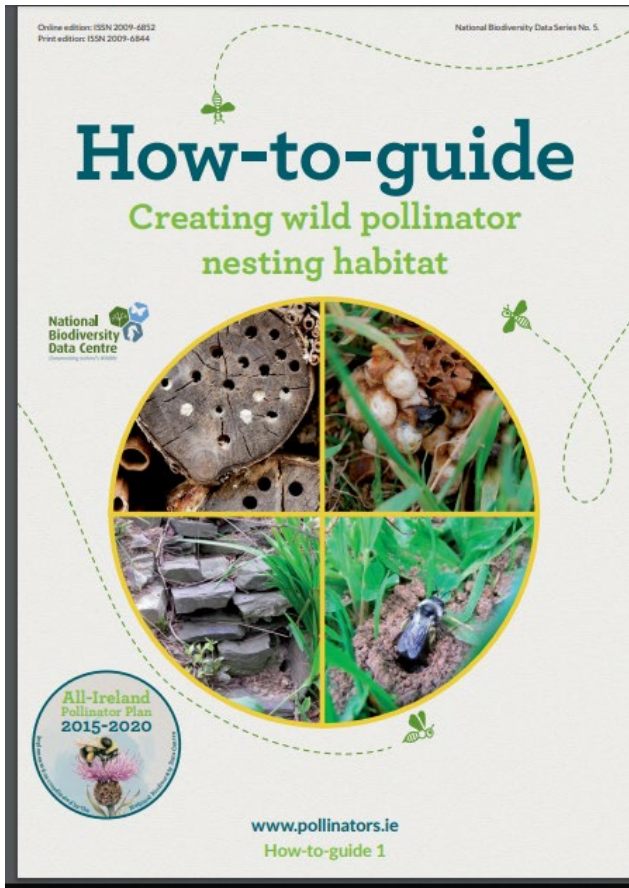


Insects and Invertebrates

- Bumble Bees (20)
- Solitary Bees (77)
- Honeybees (1)



Conservation and Mitigation



- Leave them be
- Follow advice of All-Ireland Pollinator Plan
- Don't spray herbicides/chemicals around farm buildings.
- Create alternative nest sites
- Call the local beekeeper in cases of honeybee swarm/hive
- Create foraging habitat (wildflower areas) around the farm.



Invasive Plant Species

....a short but important mention

- Introduced - Non native species
- Spread fast
- Cause harm to native plants & animals and can impact on buildings!
- Have massive impacts on the economy!
- Garden Escapes account for many of the trouble species:
- Rhododendron
- **Japanese Knotweed**
- Gunera



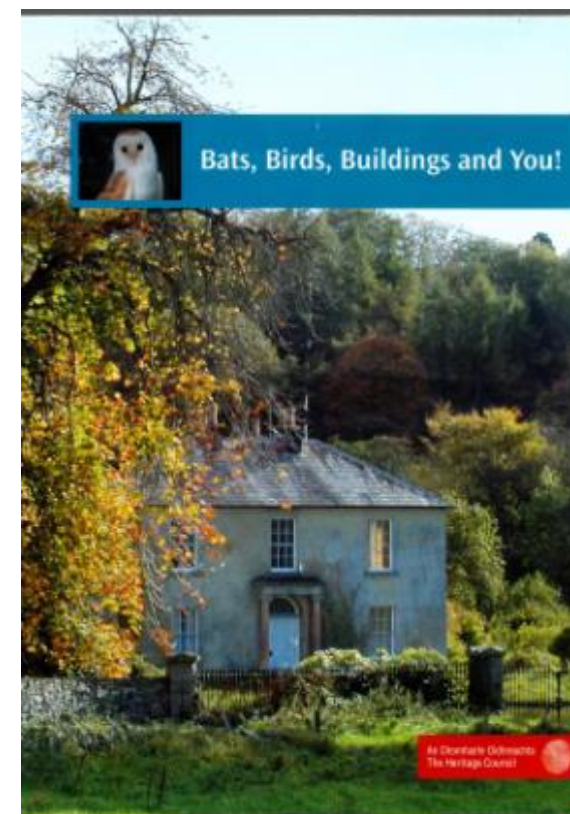
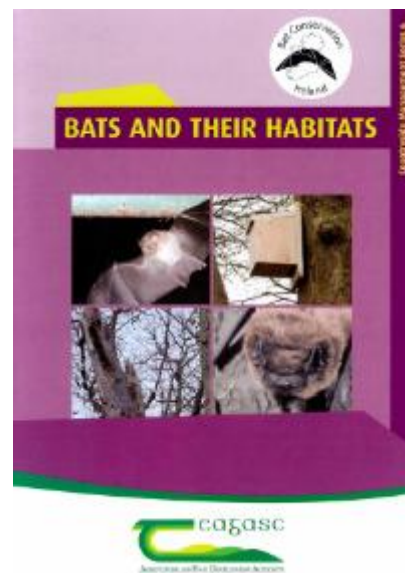
In Summary

A few things to bare in mind!

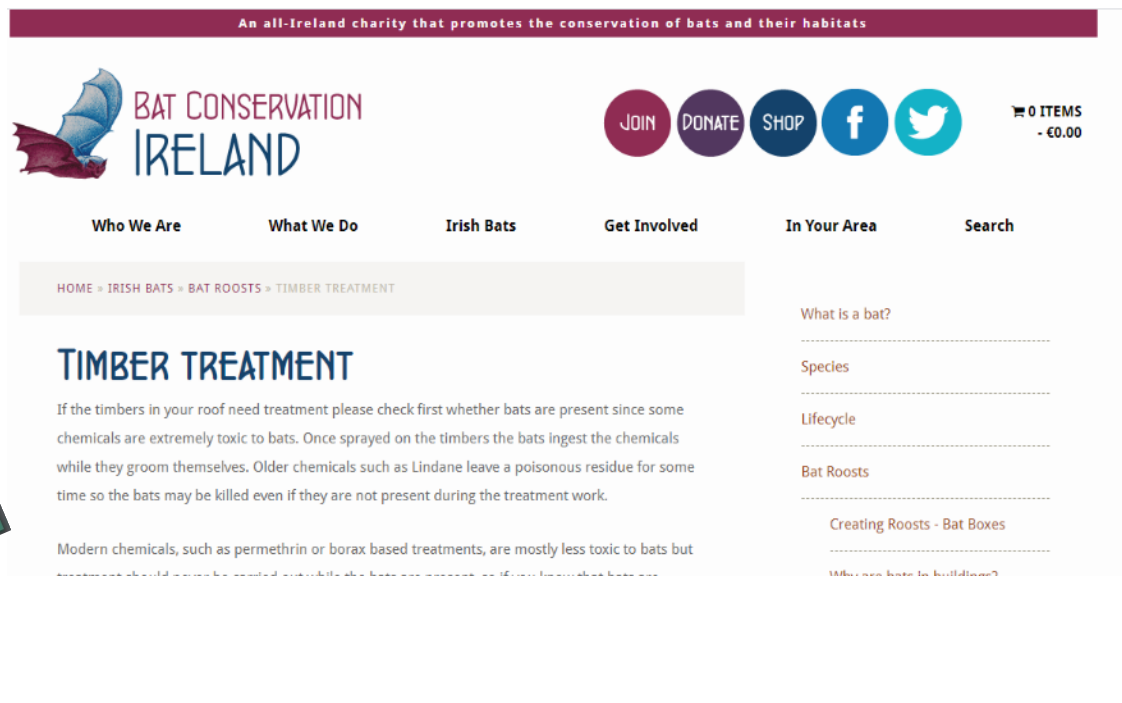
- The responsibility is on you to act within the law and get the relevant assistance where necessary.
- A derogation can be sought to carryout necessary works where required, this process is managed by the NPWS.
- Animal species are often more a nuisance than a threat to your building!
- In most situations mitigation is not as costly as many believe and the NPWS are very pragmatic!
- Reach-out to the relevant NGO for advice (they wont do the leg work).

Available Resources

Information is out there!



Information is out there!





BirdWatchIreland
protecting birds and biodiversity

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www.BirdwatchIreland.ie

Thank You!
Any Questions??





- www.pollinators.ie
- www.birdwatchireland.ie
- www.batconservationireland.ie
- www.vincentwildlife.ie
- www.invasivespeciesireland.com
- www.npws.ie



Other Considerations

