

Other biodiversity considerations

Other biodiversity issues can arise that are not directly addressed by the Environmental Considerations and in some cases may require a specific report. For example:

- ,if applications are in areas within the range of the Marsh Fritillary butterfly and, if a field assessment identifies that an area may be potential habitat, a survey for Marsh Fritillary is required. Potential habitat is indicated by the presence of Devil's Bit Scabious between ankle and knee height. If larval webs are found, the area is excluded from the application.
- If applications are within the range of the Kerry Slug (sandstone geology in West Cork or Kerry) and a field assessment identifies that an area may be potential habitat, a survey for Kerry slug is required. If the species is found to be present, a derogation licence from NPWS will be required.
- If applications contain old buildings or underground places such as souterrains, caves and mines, they may be potential bat habitats. This should be considered and incorporated into the project design. Other features within applications that may be utilised by bats, either as roosting, foraging or for commuting, include existing mature trees, areas of scrub, aquatic zones and their associated setbacks and hedgerows. The programme includes measures to retain/enhance these features and this will also prove beneficial to bats. The design of the application should look to increase connectivity within the application where possible e.g. linkage of open areas both within the application and to areas outside or enhancement of hedgerows.
- In relation to aquatic habitats and aquatic species, or species that depend on aquatic habitats, some of which may be protected under Annex II or Annex IV of the Habitats Directive, measures to protect water quality will also provide protection to these species and habitats. As such a specific ecology report is not required.
- If there is a population of a species protected under the Flora (Protection) Order 2022 (S.I. of 2022) known to be present within the application, then an Ecology survey map be required. See NPWS FPO Map Viewer for more information (Maps and Data | National Parks & Wildlife Service (npws.ie))