

# EC Directive 92/43 on the Conservation of Natural Habitats and of Wild Fauna and Flora

## Citation for Special Area of Conservation (SAC)

**Name:** Chilmark Quarries  
**Unitary Authority/County:** Wiltshire  
**SAC status:** Designated on 1 April 2005  
**Grid reference:** ST974310  
**SAC EU code:** UK0016373  
**Area (ha):** 10.41  
**Component SSSI:** Chilmark Quarries SSSI, Fonthill Grottoes SSSI

### Site description:

This complex of abandoned mines and subterranean follies in central-southern England is regularly used by an important assemblage of bat species as a hibernation site. The extensive system of undisturbed mines, with their constant temperature and humidity, and the varied construction of the grottoes, provide suitable conditions for large numbers of wintering bats. The site is considered to be one of the best areas in the United Kingdom for Bechstein's *Myotis bechsteinii*, barbastelle *Barbastella barbastellus* and greater horseshoe bats *Rhinolophus ferrumequinum* and supports a significant population of lesser horseshoe bats *R. hipposideros*. The surrounding woodland, grassland and open water habitats also provide a valuable roosting, breeding and feeding area for bats.

**Qualifying species:** The site is designated under **article 4(4)** of the Directive (92/43/EEC) as it hosts the following species listed in Annex II:

- Barbastelle bat *Barbastella barbastellus*
- Bechstein's bat *Myotis bechsteinii*
- Greater horseshoe bat *Rhinolophus ferrumequinum*
- Lesser horseshoe bat *Rhinolophus hipposideros*

This citation relates to a site entered in the Register of European Sites for Great Britain.

Register reference number: UK0016373

Date of registration: 14 June 2005

Signed: *Trew Salmon*

On behalf of the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs