

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

Citation for Special Area of Conservation (SAC)

Name: Wye Valley and Forest of Dean Bat Sites

Unitary Authority/County: Gloucestershire, Monmouthshire

SAC status: English part designated on 1 April 2005
Welsh part designated on 13 December 2004

Grid reference: SO521107

SAC EU code: UK0014794

Area (ha): 142.70

Component SSSI: Blaisdon Hall SSSI, Buckshraft Mine and Bradley Hill Railway Tunnel SSSI, Caerwood and Ashberry Goose House SSSI, Dean Hall Coach House and Cellar SSSI, Devil's Chapel Scowles SSSI, Llangovan Church SSSI, Mwyngloddfa Mynydd-Bach SSSI, Newton Court Stable Block SSSI, Old Bow and Old Ham Mines SSSI, Sylvan House Barn SSSI, Westbury Brook Ironstone Mine SSSI, Wigpool Ironstone Mine SSSI, Wye Valley Lesser Horseshoe Bat Sites SSSI

Site description:

This complex of sites on the border between England and Wales contains by far the greatest concentration of lesser horseshoe bats *Rhinolophus hipposideros* in the UK. In addition the site also supports large numbers of greater horseshoe bats *Rhinolophus ferrumequinum*. The entire site supports an exceptional breeding population of both species as the majority of sites within the complex are maternity roosts. The site also includes several disused mines which are used as hibernation roosts.


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:

- 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: UK0014794

Date of registration: 14 June 2005

Signed: 

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

The site is also entered in the Register of European sites for Wales, maintained by the National Assembly for Wales.