

COUNTY: AVON

SITE NAME: COMBE DOWN AND BATHAMPTON DOWN MINES

DISTRICT: BATH CITY/WANSDYKE

Status: Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) notified under Section 28 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 as amended

Local Planning Authority: AVON COUNTY COUNCIL, Bath City Council, Wansdyke Council

National Grid Reference: ST 777653 + Area: 6.22 (ha.) 15.37 (ac.)
ST 759624
ST 748625
ST 755622
ST 767624
ST 768624
ST 770625

Ordnance Survey Sheet 1:50,000: 172 1:10,000: ST 76 SW, ST 76 SE

Date Notified (Under 1981 Act): 1991 Date of Last Revision: –

Other Information:
A new site.

Description and Reasons for Notification:

Combe Down and Bathampton Down Mines are disused, underground stone workings, a number of which are interconnected, situated on the outskirts of Bath. They provide important hibernation sites for the rare and endangered Greater Horseshoe bat *Rhinolophus ferrumequinum*, being used by significant numbers of animals from more than one breeding site.

The mine entrances allow the bats to use the underground systems, in addition to providing essential ventilation, an important feature of bat hibernation sites.

The mines are also important hibernation sites for a number of other bat species; the Lesser Horseshoe *Rhinolophus hipposideros* commonly occurs, and the Brown Long-eared *Plecotus auritus*, Natterers *Myotis nattereri*, Whiskered *M. mystacinus* and Daubentons *M. daubentoni* have also been regularly recorded.

All species of bat are protected under Part 1 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 as amended.