

**CYNGOR CEFN GWLAD CYMRU
COUNTRYSIDE COUNCIL FOR WALES**

SITE OF SPECIAL SCIENTIFIC INTEREST CITATION

MONMOUTHSHIRE

NEWTON COURT STABLE BLOCK

Date of Notification: 1998
National Grid Reference: SO 522143
O.S. Maps: 1:50,000 Sheet Number: 162
1:10,000 Sheet Number: SO 51
Site Area: 0.23 ha

Description:

The Newton Court Stable Block site which is of special interest for its breeding colony of the greater horseshoe bat *Rhinolophus ferrumequinum* is located on a south-east facing bluff above the town of Monmouth, overlooking the River Wye and immediately adjacent to the Wye Valley Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty.

The site comprises a stable block, courtyard and an area of adjacent woodland. The roof space of the stable block is an important breeding site for the rare and endangered greater horseshoe bat. For the period 1991/1996 the roost regularly supported between 50 and 100 adults and flighted juveniles. The site includes the emergence cover provided by a line of trees alongside an adjacent court, and a small area of woodland.

Newton Court Stable Block is the only breeding roost for this species in Monmouthshire and one of only three known in Wales.

The greater horseshoe bat has declined substantially in numbers and range in Britain and Europe this century and has now disappeared from much of its former range in southern Britain. In view of the recent decline of the species in western Europe, it has been given special protection by the Habitats and Species Directive.

The site is also used by a small number of lesser horseshoe bats *Rhinolophus hipposideros*.

Remarks:

Greater horseshoe and lesser horseshoe bats are listed in Annex II of the Habitats and Species Directive and on Schedule 5 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981

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