

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

SITE OF SPECIAL SCIENTIFIC INTEREST CITATION

POWYS **BUCKLAND COACH HOUSE & ICE HOUSE**

Date of Notification: 1985,1989

National Grid Reference: SO132215

O.S. Maps: 1:50,000 Sheet number: 161
1:25,000 Sheet number: SO 12

Site Area: 1ha

Description:

The site comprises a long-disused stable block and coach house, an old ice house and an adjacent area of woodland and scrub. The stable block and coach house provide an important breeding site for lesser horseshoe bats *Rhinolophus hipposideros*, and the ice house is used by the colony as a hibernaculum in winter and as a night roost in summer.

The lesser horseshoe bat is known to be extremely susceptible to disturbance and has declined in numbers and range in Britain and Western Europe in recent decades. The close proximity of breeding and hibernation sites at this location is exceptional and ensures a high degree of site fidelity. With around 200 bats breeding here and most of them hibernating in the ice house, this site is one of the most important for this species in Britain and the only known breeding site in Brecknock.

An area of adjacent woodland and scrub is included as lesser horseshoe bats display a clear preference for sites where emergence into dense cover is possible, following traditional flight paths to their feeding areas.

Remarks:

The site lies within the Brecon Beacons National Park.

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