

COUNTY: Norfolk

SITE NAME: EATON CHALK PIT

DISTRICT: Norwich

Status: Site of Special Scientific Interest [SSSI] notified under Section 28 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981

Local Planning Authority: Norwich City Council

National Grid Reference: TG 209064

Area: 0.16 [ha] 0.38 [ac]

Ordnance Survey Sheet 1:50,000: 134

1:10,000: TG 20 SW,
1:1.250: TG 20 06 SW

Date Notified [Under 1949 Act]: 1968

Date of Last Revision: –

Date Notified [Under 1981 Act]: 1986

Date of Last Revision: –

Other Information:

Reasons for Notification:

This site consists of a series of abandoned chalk mines that were probably excavated in the early part of the nineteenth century. The undisturbed tunnels are now used by various species of bat which hibernate underground during the winter months. The bats have been closely monitored for many years and the site forms an important research site for long-term studies in bat ecology. Nationally, bat populations have shown severe declines in recent years and are given special protection under the 1981 Wildlife and Countryside Act.

The tunnels are used principally by Daubenton's Bat *Myotis daubentoni*, Natterer's Bat *M. nattereri* and Brown Long-eared Bat *Plecotus auritus*. Up to 40 bats use the site with peak numbers occurring in January. A metal grille has been placed over the cave entrance to protect the bats from unauthorised interference. The surrounding woodland in the chalk-pit influences the micro-climate within the bat caves and thus forms an integral part of the interest of the site.