

**County:** Dorset      **Site Name:** Bryanston

**District:** North Dorset

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

**Local Planning Authority:** North Dorset District Council, Dorset County Council

**National Grid Reference:** ST 874070      **Area:** 0.3 (ha) 0.8 (ac)

**Ordnance Survey Sheet 1:50,000:** 194      **1:10,000:** ST 80 NE

**Date Notified (Under 1949 Act):** 1977      **Date of Last Revision:** –

**Date Notified (Under 1981 Act):** 1986      **Date of Last Revision:** –

**Other Information:**

Formerly called Bryanston Old Buildings.  
Site amended by deletion.

**Description and Reasons for Notification:**

The large roof space in the derelict 18th century kitchens at Bryanston is the only known breeding site for the greater horseshoe bat *Rhinolophus ferrum-equinum* in Dorset and the colony is one of only 7 remaining in Britain. In addition to the building being used for breeding in summer, juveniles use the old chimneys and a tunnel during the autumn and winter. The estimated national population of this species is some 2–3000 animals, confined to south-west England and west Wales.

The Bryanston site is of particular interest because it has been the subject of detailed study over the past 25 years. The data from this research forms the basis of much of our understanding of the reproductive behaviour and ecology of this species in Britain. The very rare Bechstein's bat *Myotis bechsteini* has also been recorded here.

The building was re-roofed in 1981 with financial assistance from the National Heritage Memorial Fund.