

COUNTY: DEVON

SITE NAME: BULKAMORE IRON MINE

DISTRICT: SOUTH HAMS

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

Local Planning Authority: South Hams District Council, Devon County Council

National Grid Reference: SX 749632

Area: 8.4 (ha.) 20.75 (ac.)

Ordnance Survey Sheet 1:500,000: 202

1:10,000: SX 76 NE

Date Notified (Under 1949 Act): –

Date of Last Revision: –

Date Notified (Under 1981 Act): 1994

Date of Last Revision: –

Other Information:

A new site.

Description:

Bulkamore Iron Mine is a large disused mine system, consisting of a main chamber with numerous linked mine shafts, adits, and tunnels. These underground workings are used as a winter hibernation site by large numbers of the rare and endangered greater horseshoe bat *Rhinolophus ferrumequinum*, and are considered to be the second most important hibernation site in South West England for this species.

This site is one of three major South Devon hibernation sites in close proximity to an important breeding roost, used by increasing numbers of greater horseshoes.

The mine is also used by smaller numbers of greater horseshoes during the summer months, and throughout the year by other bat species, including lesser horseshoe *Rhinolophus hipposideros* and natterer's *Myotis nattereri*.