



NATURAL ENGLAND

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**CONSERVATION OBJECTIVES and DEFINITIONS OF FAVOURABLE
CONDITION for DESIGNATED FEATURES OF INTEREST:**

**These Conservation Objectives relate to all designated features on the SSSI,
whether designated as SSSI, SPA, cSAC or Ramsar features.**

Name of Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI)	
HUISH COLLIERY QUARRY	
Names of designated international sites	
Candidate Special Area for Conservation (cSAC)	
Special Protection Area (SPA)	
Ramsar :	
Relationship between site designations	

Version Control information		
Status of this Version (Draft, Consultation Draft, Final)	Draft	
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Date of this version:	06 Septemebr 2007	
Date of generic guidance on favourable condition used:	Geological 2001	
Other notes/version history :		
Quality Assurance information		
Checked by	Name:	Date:
	Signature	

Conservation Objectives and definitions of Favourable Condition: notes for users

Conservation Objectives

SSSIs are notified because of specific biological or geological features. Conservation Objectives define the desired state for each site in terms of the features for which they have been designated. When these features are being managed in a way which maintains their nature conservation value, then they are said to be in 'favourable condition'. It is a Government target that 95% of the total area of SSSIs should be in favourable condition by 2010.

Definitions of Favourable Condition

The Conservation Objectives are accompanied by one or more habitat extent and quality definitions for the special interest features at this site. These are subject to periodic reassessment and may be updated to reflect new information or knowledge; they will be used by English Nature and other relevant authorities to determine if a site is in favourable condition. The standards for favourable condition have been developed and are applied throughout the UK.

Use under the Habitats Regulations

The Conservation Objectives and definitions of favourable condition for features on the SSSI may inform the scope and nature of any 'appropriate assessment' under the Habitats Regulations. An appropriate assessment will also require consideration of issues specific to the individual plan or project. The habitat quality definitions do not by themselves provide a comprehensive basis on which to assess plans and projects as required under Regulations 20-21, 24, 48-50 and 54 - 85. The scope and content of an appropriate assessment will depend upon the location, size and significance of the proposed project. English Nature will advise on a case by case basis.

Following an appropriate assessment, competent authorities are required to ascertain the effect on the integrity of the site. The integrity of the site is defined in para C10 of PPG9 as the coherence of its ecological structure and function, across its whole area, that enables it to sustain the habitat, complex of habitats and/or the levels of populations of the species for which it was classified. The determination of favourable condition is separate from the judgement of effect upon integrity. For example, there may be a time-lag between a plan or project being initiated and a consequent adverse effect upon integrity becoming manifest in the condition assessment. In such cases, a plan or project may have an adverse effect upon integrity even though the site remains in favourable condition.

The formal Conservation Objectives for European Sites under the Habitats Regulations are in accordance with para. C10 of PPG 9, the reasons for which the European Site was classified or designated. The entry on the Register of European Sites gives the reasons for which a European Site was classified or designated.

Explanatory text for Tables 2 and 3

Tables 2 and 3 set out the measures of condition which we will use to provide evidence to support our assessment of whether features are in favourable condition. They are derived from a set of generic guidance on favourable condition prepared by EN specialists, and have been tailored by local staff to reflect the particular characteristics and site-specific circumstances of individual sites. Quality Assurance has ensured that such site-specific tailoring remains within a nationally consistent set of standards. The tables include an audit trail to provide a summary of the reasoning behind any site-specific targets etc. In some cases the requirements of features or designations may conflict; the detailed basis for any reconciliation of conflicts on this site may be recorded elsewhere.

Conservation Objectives

The Conservation Objectives for this site are, subject to natural change, to maintain the following habitats and geological features in favourable condition (*), with particular reference to any dependent component special interest features (habitats, vegetation types, species, species assemblages etc.) for which the land is designated (SSSI, cSAC, SPA, Ramsar) as individually listed in Table 1.

Habitat Types represented (Biodiversity Action Plan categories)

[Not applicable at this site]

Geological features (Geological SiteTypes)

DISUSED QUARRIES, PITS AND CUTTINGS (ED)

(*) or restored to favourable condition if features are judged to be unfavourable .

Standards for favourable condition are defined with particular reference to the specific designated features listed in Table 1, and are based on a selected set of attributes for features which most economically define favourable condition as set out in Table 2 and Table 3:

Table 1 Individual designated Special Interest Features

BAP Broad Habitat type / Geological Site Type	Specific designated features	Explanatory description of the feature for clarification	SSSI designated interest features	cSAC designated interest features	SPA bird populations dependency on specific habitats			Ramsar criteria applicable to specific habitats			
					Annex 1 species	Migratory species	Waterfowl assemblage	1a Wetland characteristics	2a Hosting rare species &c	3a 20000 waterfowl	3c 1% of population
DISUSED QUARRIES, PITS AND CUTTINGS (ED)	Lower Jurassic (Lower Lias) succession	Absence of Sinemurian group tells us about complex events surrounding deposition of Lias in the Radstock area	*								

NB. 1). Features where asterisks are in brackets (*) indicate habitats which are not notified for specific habitat interest (under the relevant designation) but because they support notified species. 2) The requirements of species (including SPA bird species) are reflected in the Conservation Objectives for habitat features on which they depend. In some specific situations, direct population measures for species may also be used to provide supporting information to confirm habitat quality measures.

Table 2 Habitat Features - Extent Objectives

Conservation Objective for habitat extent	To maintain the designated habitats in favourable condition, which is defined in part in relation to a balance of habitat extent (extent attribute). Favourable condition is defined at this site in terms of the following site-specific standards:
Extent - Dynamic balance	On this site favourable condition requires the maintenance of the extent of each designated habitat type. Maintenance implies restoration if evidence from condition assessment suggests a reduction in extent.

Habitat Feature (BAP Broad Habitat level, or more detailed level if applicable)	Estimated extent (ha) and date of data source/estimate	Site Specific Target range and Measures	Comments
Not applicable			

Audit Trail
Rationale for habitat extent attribute (Include methods of estimation (measures), and the approximate degree of change which these are capable of detecting).
Rationale for site-specific targets (including any variations from generic guidance)
Other Notes

Table 3 Site-Specific definitions of Favourable Condition

CONSERVATION OBJECTIVE FOR THIS HABITAT / GEOLOGICAL SITE-TYPE	To maintain the DISUSED QUARRIES, PITS AND CUTTINGS (ED) at this site in favourable condition, with particular reference to relevant specific designated interest features. Favourable condition is defined at this site in terms of the following site-specific standards:
Site-specific details of any geographical variation or limitations (where the favourable condition standards apply)	
Site-specific standards defining favourable condition	

Criteria feature	Attribute	Measure	Site-specific Targets	Comments	Use for CA?
DISUSED QUARRIES, PITS AND CUTTINGS (ED)	Exposure of features of interest	Visual/fixed-point photography	The features of interest are exposed or can practically be re-exposed if required		Y
	Vegetation	Visual/fixed-point photography	Vegetation is not obscuring or damaging the features of interest		Y
	Tipping or landfill	Visual/fixed-point photography	There is no unconsented tipping or landfill obscuring or damaging the features of interest		Y
	Tree planting	Visual/fixed-point photography	There is no unconsented tree planting obscuring or damaging the features of interest		Y
	Engineering works	Visual/fixed-point photography	There are no engineering works, including inappropriate restoration works, obscuring or damaging the features of interest		Y
	Planning condition observation	Visual/fixed-point photography	Planning conditions and restoration agreements or plans are being observed on site		Y

Geological specimen collecting	Visual/fixed-point photography	There is no irresponsible or inappropriate specimen collecting	Y
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Audit Trail

Rationale for limiting standards to specified parts of the site

Rationale for site-specific targets (including any variations from generic guidance)

Rationale for selection of measures of condition (features and attributes for use in condition assessment)

(The selected vegetation attributes are those considered to most economically define favourable condition at this site for the broad habitat type and any dependent designated species).

Other Notes