

Views About Management

A statement of English Nature's views about the management of Sandy Lane Pit, Barham Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI).

This statement represents English Nature's views about the management of the SSSI for nature conservation. This statement sets out, in principle, our views on how the site's special conservation interest can be conserved and enhanced. English Nature has a duty to notify the owners and occupiers of the SSSI of its views about the management of the land.

Not all of the management principles will be equally appropriate to all parts of the SSSI. Also, there may be other management activities, additional to our current views, which can be beneficial to the conservation and enhancement of the features of interest.

The management views set out below do not constitute consent for any operation. English Nature's written consent is still required before carrying out any operation likely to damage the features of special interest (see your SSSI notification papers for a list of these operations). English Nature welcomes consultation with owners, occupiers and users of the SSSI to ensure that the management of this site conserves and enhances the features of interest, and to ensure that all necessary prior consents are obtained.

Management Principles

Sandy Lane Pit is a partially active quarry. Active quarries form a very important part of the geological resource of England for two reasons. Firstly, many of these sites are in areas where natural geological exposures are rare or absent. Secondly, these sites often provide much better exposure of geological features than comparable natural exposures, because quarrying has revealed vertical rock sections not visible in natural outcrops.

There are two main management principles for active quarries. The first is to maintain exposure of the geological features during the working life of the quarry. The second is to ensure that representative sections of exposure are retained once works have ceased. Exposure is usually maintained when the quarry is active as a natural consequence of the extraction process. However, positive management during the working life of the quarry may be required to ensure that important sections are not concealed by, for example, quarry waste or buildings.

In planning restoration and after-use of the quarry, it is important to consider geological conservation at an early stage. After-use should include the maintenance of exposures which are sufficiently extensive to demonstrate the important geological interest.

It is desirable for scientific researchers to have access to important geological exposures during the working life of the quarry, where health and safety considerations allow safe access. This is particularly important on sites where scientifically interesting fossil or mineral material is being extracted and which would be permanently lost if not examined and collected.