

Views About Management

A statement of English Nature's views about the management of Nightingale Valley 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

Buried interest sites form an important part of England's geological resource. Many of these sites contain geologically young deposits, formed during the last 2 million years, which provide important information about climatic variations and sea-level changes over this time. Most of these sites are located on land where the interest features are naturally buried beneath a cover of soil. In a few cases, sites have been purposely buried to prevent damage to the interest features but this is uncommon.

The key management principle for buried interest sites is to ensure that the interest features are not damaged and remain accessible for excavation. In many cases, the interest features consist of finely layered, soft sediment and disturbing this layering can cause damage. Activities which may cause direct or indirect damage to the interest features include deep ploughing, trenching and modifications to the drainage. Construction of buildings or other developments and planting of trees can also cause damage to the interest features and can inhibit access for future excavation.

Removal of the material of interest may cause irreparable damage, depending on the size and nature of the buried resource. A precautionary approach should be adopted before removing or allowing any material to be removed for any purpose, scientific or otherwise.

Vegetation management, involving removal of trees and scrub, may be required to maintain access to the features of interest on some sites. Removal of roots should be undertaken with caution as this could disturb the layering in the buried sediments.