

Views About Management

A statement of English Nature's views about the management of Phoenix United Mine 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

Bryophytes on metal rich substrates

Areas of Cornwall were once worked extensively for metals, particularly copper and tin. Areas of these former workings, including spoil tips, tracks, stream banks and buildings, now provide ideal habitats for many rare mosses and liverworts (bryophytes), such as Cornish Path Moss and Greater Copperwort. These specialised bryophytes and some lichen species grow where high levels of metals such as copper occur in the substrates, inhibiting the growth of many other plant species. However, the areas are surrounded by invasive vegetation such as gorse, willows, cotoneaster, rhododendron and rank grassland that may invade following amelioration of the toxic soils over time. These may need to be occasionally cut back to prevent encroachment. Disturbance of abandoned workings may be required within a cycle of 10-20 years or more to provide fresh metal-rich substrate. Buildings that support rare bryophytes should be preserved and maintained in such a way that the bryophyte interest is not damaged or destroyed.