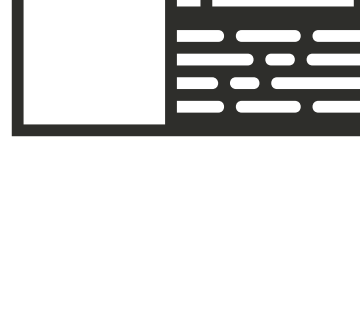


TOOLBOX TALKS

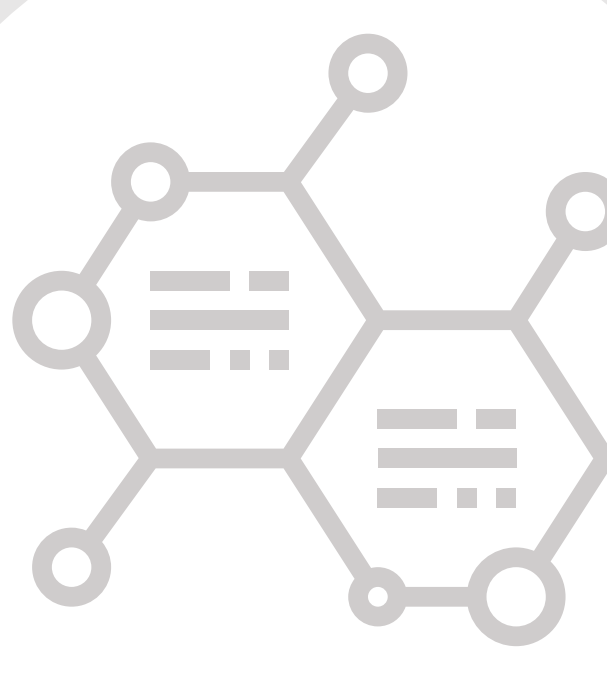


SITES OF SPECIAL SCIENTIFIC INTEREST

WHAT?

Sites of Special Scientific Interest, or SSSIs as they are often referred to, are nationally important habitat areas. They are legally protected to ensure that their wildlife or geological interest is conserved. There are over 4,100 such sites in England. More than 70% of these sites are also internationally important and are protected under European legislation as Special Protection Areas or Special Areas of Conservation. Some are also protected as National or Local Nature Reserves.

An SSSI can be harmed in many ways, such as trampling, cutting vegetation, excavation or tipping waste. They may even be damaged by works some distance away, through for example noise, dust or water pollution.



WHY?

AVOID PROSECUTION:

It is an offence to

- Undertake potentially damaging operations without consent from Natural England, Scottish Natural Heritage or the Countryside Council for Wales.
- Intentionally or recklessly damage or destroy any of the features of special interest of an SSSI, or disturbing wildlife for which the site was notified.

Prosecution could lead to a fine of up to £20,000 per offence and in some cases unlimited fines.

DO

If working on or near an SSSI, check to find out why the area is important and what activities may cause damage to it.

Only undertake works that have been given consent by the regulator.

Restore the works area to the condition it was in before works started.

Replant using only approved species that are native to the site.

Keep noise, dust and silt to a minimum if working within 250m of an SSSI.

Take photographs of work areas before during and after works are completed.

DON'T

DON'T clear vegetation unless you have permission.

DON'T remove any SSSI signs.

DON'T use pesticides in or near an SSSI.

DON'T tip any waste on an SSSI.

DON'T spread seeds or other plant matter within an SSSI.

DON'T pump silty water across an SSSI.

DON'T burn any materials on or near the site.

DON'T remove any plant or animal from the site.

DON'T alter drainage arrangements in any way, even improving drainage could harm wildlife.

DON'T use vehicles that are likely to damage the area, such as heavy plant.

TOOLBOX TALKS



FOR MORE INFORMATION OR IF YOU HAVE ANY CONCERNS CONTACT **YOUR SHEQ DEPARTMENT**