

LEGALLY PROTECTED AREAS

Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs) are nationally important habitat areas that are legally protected. Many SSSIs are also internationally important and are protected under European legislation. 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.

It is illegal to undertake potentially damaging operations or disturb wildlife on or near a SSSI without consent from Natural England, Scottish Natural Heritage or Natural Resources Wales. 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 or tip any waste in or near an SSSI.
- ✗ **DON'T** spread seeds or other plant matter within an SSSI.
- ✗ **DON'T** pump silty water across an SSSI.
- ✗ **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.

