ENGLISH NATURE

COUNTDOWN 2010
SAVE BIODIVERSITY

Target 2010

The condition of England's SSSIs in 2005 owned and managed by business

working towards *Natural England*
for people, places and nature

The condition of England's SSSIs in 2005 owned and managed by business

English Nature is the government agency responsible for protecting and managing the 4,118 Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs) in England. SSSIs contain our best wildlife and are protected through a legislative framework. They are owned and managed by individuals and organisations in the public and private sector. English Nature maintains data on the condition of all SSSIs, as part of the UK's commitments to biodiversity reporting. This allows us to assess and compare the condition of sites at different spatial scales and by sector. English Nature will be targeting companies who own or manage SSSIs and working with them to improve performance. Our 2003 business supplement reviewed the overall performance of the water sector, which collectively has the biggest corporate impact on SSSIs. This current 2005 report updates the information for water companies and gives a breakdown, by company, of the condition of their SSSIs.

How are companies in general doing?

The October 2005 analysis of English Nature's data on the condition of Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs) in England shows that:

- 81 companies own or manage 84,500 hectares of SSSI land (approximately 8% of the total SSSI land in England).
- The water sector, with 16 water companies owning or managing 40,000 hectares of SSSI land (approximately 4% of the total SSSI land in England), has the biggest direct influence on SSSIs.
- Other FTSE sectors with exposure to SSSI landholdings, include Transport, Construction and Building Materials, Electricity, Leisure, Entertainment and Hotels, and Steel and Other Metals.
- 71% of SSSI land owned/managed by companies is in favourable or recovering condition (ie that special habitats and species are in a healthy state and are being conserved for the future by appropriate management). This is a 14% improvement on the December 2003 figures. The improvement is largely due to Associated British Ports (ABP) long-term lease of the Humber Estuary from the Crown Estate, where the land is all in favourable condition. Without the inclusion of ABP 55% of sites in company ownership are in favourable condition – a 2% improvement on December 2003.
- Agriculture is the land use with by far the biggest impact on SSSIs. Overgrazing, inappropriate moor burning, undergrazing and lack of scrub control account for 72% of all SSSI land in unfavourable condition (ie sites are not being adequately conserved and species and habitats are in poor condition). Although agricultural based SSSIs are primarily owned by individual farmers, Food Producers and Processors and Food and Drug Retailers have a vital part to play in addressing this issue through their supply chain and purchasing decisions.

Who is this report relevant to?

The information in this report will be of use to:

- Companies who wish to benchmark their performance against others within their sector.
- Industry associations in measuring the biodiversity performance of their members.

- City investors and financial institutions in developing Socially Responsible Investment criteria and judging company performance.
- English Nature in prioritising which sectors and companies need targeting in relation to SSSI management.
- Defra in monitoring the business contribution to the Public Service Agreement target that 95% of SSSIs should be in favourable or recovering condition by 2010, and progress against the business indicators in the England Biodiversity Strategy.
- Wider stakeholders such as environmental Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) and consumer groups.

"To certain companies in certain sectors – such as extractive companies – biodiversity is already a significant business issue that is well recognised by the leading companies. It is likely that biodiversity-related risks will become more acute and more widespread across all sectors, as biodiversity rises up the agenda as an environmental and public policy issue.

(This report) identifies nine sectors as high risk, indicating that most companies in these sectors will be exposed to biodiversity risks and that risks faced by companies in these sectors are likely to be significant ….construction & building materials, electricity, food & drug retailers, food producers and processors, forestry & paper, leisure & hotels, mining, oil & gas and utilities."

Is biodiversity a material risk for companies? An assessment of the exposure of FTSE sectors to biodiversity risk, F&C (September 2004)

Improving performance

Companies who own or manage SSSIs have a legal requirement to protect and enhance those sites through their company operations. Failure to manage sites properly can incur financial penalties (directly and through public inquiries), impact on the relationship with English Nature as a regulator and damage company reputation. Environmental NGOs and local community groups have launched a number of high profile campaigns where there is potential or actual damage to SSSIs – notable examples have arisen in relation to the development of ports and extraction of peat and water.

English Nature works with individual companies and their representative bodies to minimise the business risks associated with managing sites and to help meet the Government's targets for SSSIs.

"As a stakeholder for companies that are materially impacted by biodiversity issues, English Nature would expect to see disclosures ….Indicating that the company understands the issue, has processes to manage it and has embedded these in existing management systems."

English Nature response to the Operating and Financial Review Working Group on Materiality, September 2003

Managing SSSIs – Network Rail

Network Rail owns and maintains 21,000 miles of track across Britain and is one of the UK's largest landowners, with an estate of 57,000 hectares. As part of this landholding, Network Rail owns all or part of 317 SSSIs in England. Railway land is often relatively undisturbed and acts as a wildlife corridor through areas where habitats may have been lost through intensive agriculture practices or urban development.

Network Rail has been working closely with English Nature, using the Remedies database[1], to obtain an accurate assessment of the condition of its SSSIs. The majority of Network Rail's SSSIs are in favourable condition and the company is working with English Nature to prioritise and specify what actions are necessary on other sites. In addition Network Rail is working to ensure that these improvements and actions for SSSIs will be integrated into the guidelines for the day-to-day maintenance of the railway.

Another challenge for Network Rail is ensuring that maintenance teams and contractors fully understand conservation obligations and that sites are properly considered during maintenance and renewal works. In addition to a Biodiversity Action Plan, made available to all staff and contractors, which provides guidance on site and species protection, Network Rail has a biodiversity toolkit, guidance notes, an environment handbook and several training videos. To ensure that protected sites are considered during work planning, the precise locations of all these sites are referenced through the company intranet on a GIS mapping system and also in the Network Rail Hazard Directory which is available to all contractors. Finally, all Network Rail SSSI boundaries are marked with clearly visible warning signs for track workers.

England Biodiversity Strategy (EBS)

Working with the grain of nature (England Biodiversity Strategy, Defra 2002)[2], the Government's strategy for managing biodiversity over the next five years, sets out how biodiversity considerations can become embedded in all the main economic sectors. The engagement of business is a cross-cutting theme with a vision of "business automatically engaging in managing and reporting on biodiversity as an integral part of its processes and activities." Companies managing landholdings, operations and supply chains in ways that help to achieve biodiversity targets are key to achieving this vision. This theme has a business led steering group representing food retailers, leisure, construction and transport sectors, trade associations, NGOs and government. An objective for the engagement of business in the England Biodiversity Strategy (EBS) is to increase the proportion of SSSI designated land owned/managed by companies which is in favourable condition.

[1] For each unit in adverse condition English Nature has identified the 'remedy' to the problem, ie the mechanism available to bring the unit into favourable condition and who is responsible for its delivery. A land owner can access the remedies for any unfavourable units through a secure intranet site.

[2] For EBS and baseline assessment of indicators see http://www.defra.gov.uk/wildlife-countryside/biodiversity/biostrat/indicators/b1.htm

"SSSIs are the most important part of England's biodiversity. Companies own or have an indirect influence on many of these SSSIs. This report means for the first time we can begin to quantify the overall impact of business on SSSIs, and therefore focus on where business can make the most difference in improving the quality of these vital parts of our natural landscape. The report also highlights some important examples of business best practice in managing SSSIs."

Mike Barry. Head of Corporate Social Responsibility, Marks & Spencer
Chair, Business and Biodiversity Steering Implementation Group, England Biodiversity Strategy

How does English Nature work with business

English Nature has a corporate objective to "achieve wide recognition of the contribution nature makes to sustainable development, and the role of biodiversity as a key test of sustainability". One of the actions required to meet this objective is a service to help companies that own or manage SSSIs in England to report on the condition of their sites. The figures for business are calculated using English Nature's data for 81 companies in the FTSE 350[3], public bodies with statutory responsibilities as defined by the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 (ie privatised utilities) and other large companies with an impact on SSSIs.

English Nature's assessment for December 2003 showed that 57% of company SSSIs were in favourable condition, slightly less than the average of 58% for all SSSIs[4]. As at October 2005 this has significantly improved to 71% sites in favourable condition against an average of 70% for all SSSIs.[5]

Corporate reporting on SSSIs

Developing meaningful, outcome related targets for biodiversity is difficult for any business and is exacerbated by difficulties in accessing data that is robust, spatially available and obtainable from an independent central source. English Nature's data on SSSIs is unique in that it meets all these requirements and companies which own or manage SSSIs are keen to use it as a performance measure in their corporate social responsibility or environmental reports.

"Business has a key role in sustainable development – by taking account of their economic, social and environmental impacts, tackling the key sustainable development challenges, and generating wealth and jobs…. It is the action taken by business themselves that will deliver a supply of products and services that are clean, resource efficient, and fair to communities and employees. These include building stakeholder confidence by being more open and transparent through reporting against meaningful key performance indicators and targets."

Securing the future: delivering UK sustainable development strategy, Defra (March 2005)

---

[3] The FTSE 350 index covers the performance of the FTSE 100 and FTSE 250 shares. It monitors the performance of the top 100 publicly quoted companies by market capitalisation (market value) on the UK stock market. It is weighted to take account of the largest and smallest sized companies within the hundred and is updated throughout the day. The FTSE 250 monitors the performance of 250 medium-sized companies that together comprise this index. The initials stand for Financial Times Stock Exchange; completing the range of indices is a joint venture between the Financial Times newspaper and the London Stock Exchange.

[4] *England's best wildlife and geological sites – the condition of Sites of Special Scientific Interest in England 2003: Business supplement*

[5] *Target 2010 – The Condition of England's SSSIs in 2005*

Some companies, particularly utilities such as water, electricity and telecommunications have links to a large number of sites because they have pipes and cables that connect supplies across large areas of land. As these companies do not have direct ownership of this land we would not expect them to report on the condition of these sites. However, as part of best practice, we would expect the companies to encourage the owners of the land their infrastructure crosses to manage their sites properly and for the companies to make sure their maintenance procedures do not lead to pollution incidents or disturbance of wildlife.

Data confidentiality

Information on the location, biodiversity features and condition and management of individual SSSIs is publicly available on English Nature's website but the names of owners or managers of sites are confidential. We publish data on named companies with their agreement. Where data is published (either by English Nature or as part of company CSR reporting) we hope that companies will communicate it to their wider stakeholders, including city investors and NGOs, to show their commitment to biodiversity and to act as a benchmark for others within their sector.

Frequency of reporting

Every two years we will review the corporate and sectoral breakdowns of our SSSI data, presented in this report in Charts 1–6, and publish the updated results on English Nature's website. This will allow us to monitor sectoral trends and prioritise future work programmes.

Corporate breakdown of SSSI data

The October 2005 data from English Nature shows that 84,500 hectares of land, owned or managed by companies, is in favourable or recovering condition. This means that 71% of land owned or managed by FTSE 350 and public bodies with statutory responsibilities is currently meeting the Government's Public Service Agreement target. This is 1% above the national average for all SSSIs. The main identified reasons for 29% of sites failing to meet the target are coastal erosion, invasive species, scrub control, under and over-grazing and diffuse pollution. Some of these reasons will be outside of a company's control and require a range of legislative, policy and funding decisions across Government and partnership working. When data is published for individual companies we will make it clear what issues each company is facing in managing their sites.

Charts 1 and 2 show the percentage of SSSI land in favourable or recovering condition (ie meeting the Government's Public Service Agreement target) for all companies and for the FTSE 350. The figures show that compared to all companies, those owned/managed by FTSE 350 are in a slightly worse condition than for business overall. Chart 2 includes the public bodies with statutory responsibilities that are listed in the FTSE 350.

Chart 1 Percentage of SSSI land owned/managed by all companies meeting/failing the PSA target (October 2005)

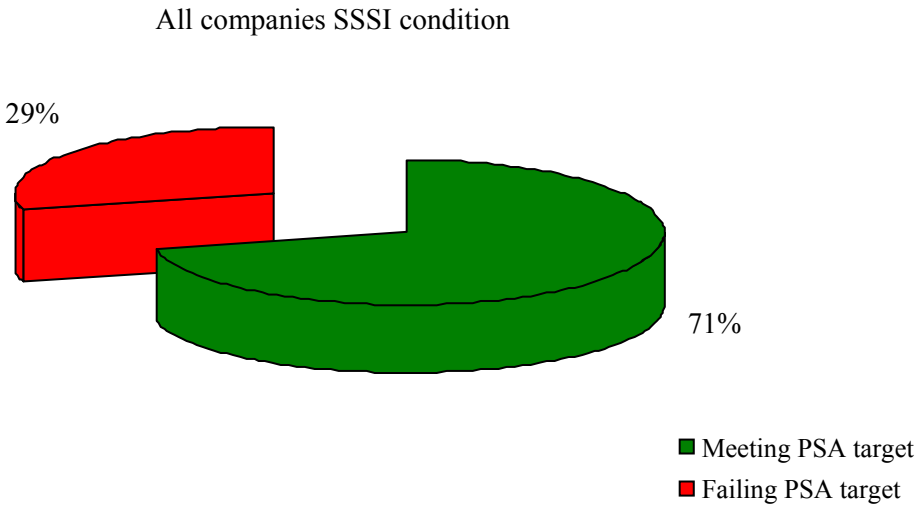
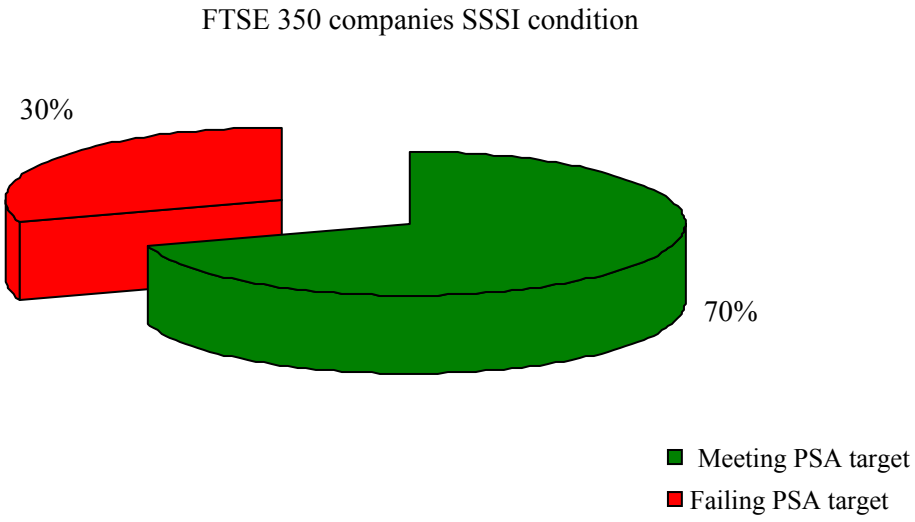


Chart 2 Percentage of SSSI land owned/managed by FTSE 350 meeting/failing the PSA target (October 2005)



Sectoral breakdown of SSSI data

Because of the nature of their operations different business sectors will have different impacts on biodiversity. English Nature's research[6] shows that businesses in the following FTSE sectors have the greatest impact (either through direct land management or the supply chain): Food Producers and Processors; Food and Drug Retailers; Water; Transport; Oil and Gas; Chemicals; Leisure, Entertainment and Hotels and Construction and Building Materials.

English Nature's SSSI condition report, *England's best wildlife and geological sites – The condition of Sites of Special Scientific Interest in England in 2003,* shows that agriculture has by far the greatest impact on SSSIs (by area) than any other land use. This is reinforced by *Target 2010 – The Condition of England's SSSIs in 2005* which shows that overgrazing, moor burning and drainage and ditch management are the top causes of unfavourable condition. The intensification of agricultural land is a major contributing factor. Even though they may not own SSSI land, Food Producers and Processors and Food and Drug retailers potentially have a huge impact on biodiversity in England through sourcing their products.

We have reviewed the FTSE sectors and grouped them into 'English Nature economic sectors' which more accurately reflect the impacts on biodiversity. Charts 3 and 4 show, by revised English Nature sectors and FTSE sectors, the impact on SSSI land (by area) and the proportion of sites (green bars) in favourable or recovering condition.

[6] English Nature's sector analyses are available at http://www.english-nature.org.uk/about/sector/default.htm Biodiversity tests for key economic sectors – *English Nature Research Report* No. 404

Chart 3 Condition of SSSIs by English Nature sector (October 2005)

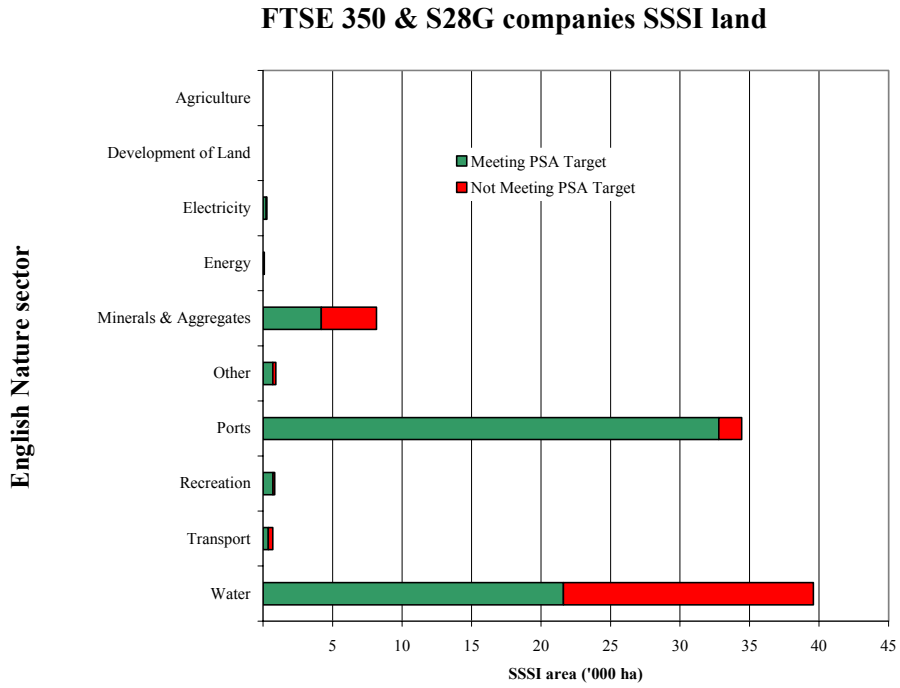
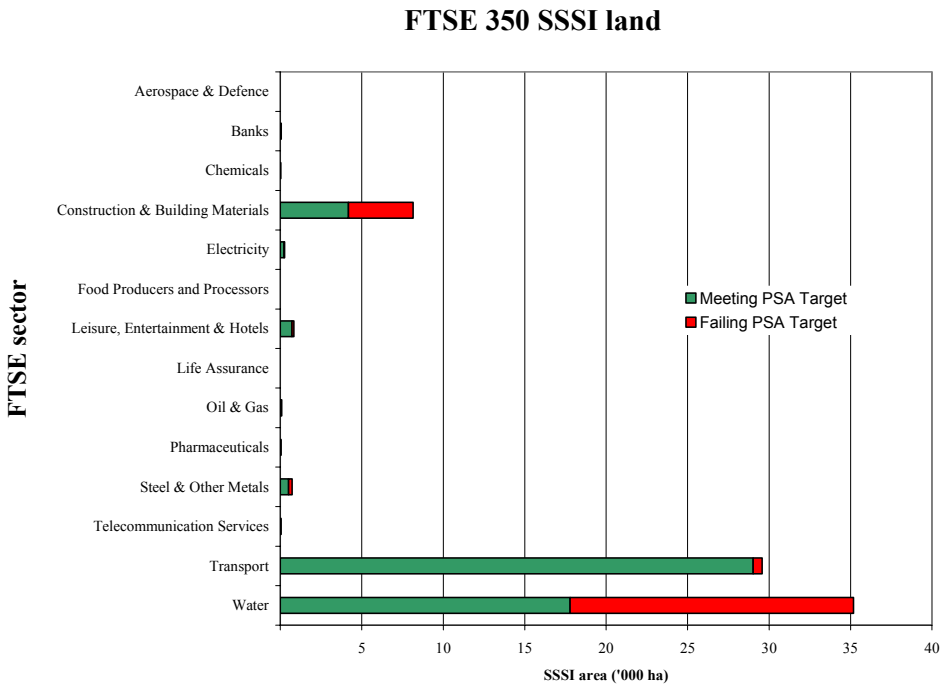


Chart 4 Condition of SSSIs by FTSE sector (October 2005)



Charts 3 and 4 show that, by area, companies in the water sector have the biggest influence on SSSIs. They own or manage 40,000 hectares of SSSI land (approx 4% of total SSSI area), of which 55% is in favourable or recovering condition. The agriculture sector does not feature in the above charts as, from the 81 companies on which the data is based, none are in the FTSE 350 or are a public body with a statutory responsibility.

Charts 5 and 6 show, by English Nature and FTSE sector, the percentage of land owned or managed by each sector. Under English Nature sectors Water dominates, followed by Ports, Transport and Minerals & Aggregates. In terms of FTSE sectors Water, Transport and Construction & Building Materials have the most influence.

Chart 5 Percentage of SSSI land owned/managed by English Nature sector (October 2005)

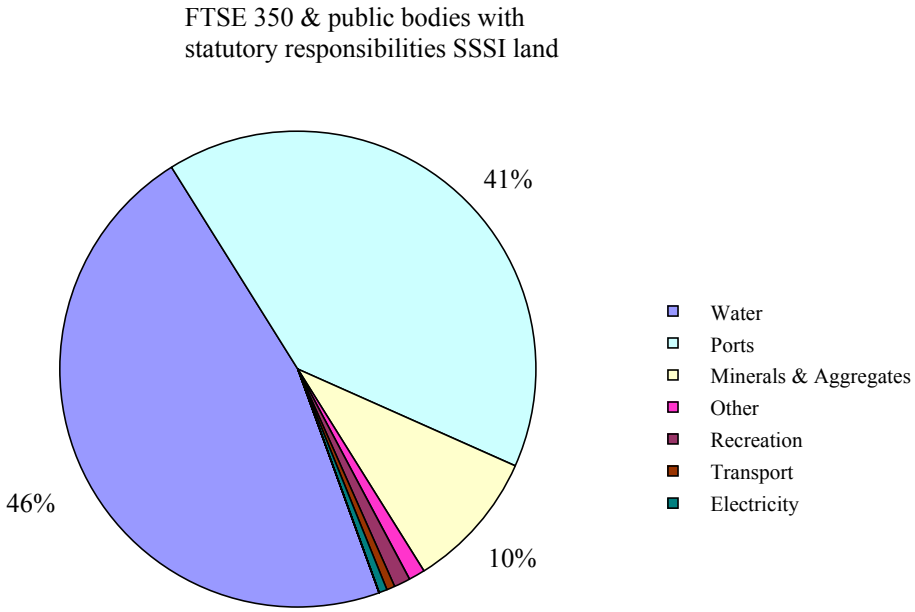
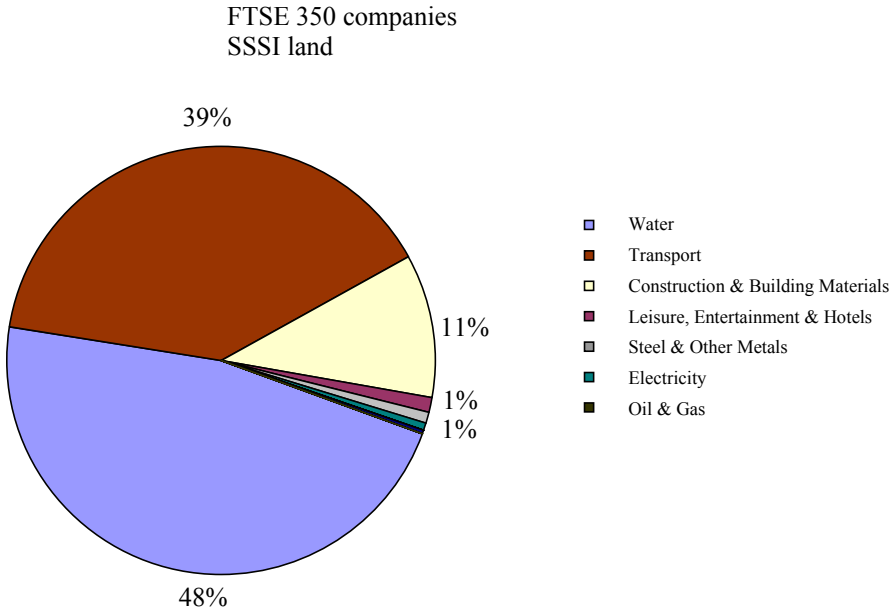


Chart 6 Percentage of SSSI land owned/managed by FTSE sector (October 2005)



"As part of the overarching Memorandum of Understanding, English Nature, the Quarry Products Association and the Silica and Moulding Sands Association recognise the benefits of working together to conserve and enhance biodiversity and geodiversity. Each party supports the concept of sustainable development and regard sensitive minerals extraction and a diverse natural environment as important indicators of success.

The quarrying industry is a major land steward and has a long association with nature conservation, with around 700 sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs) being associated with quarrying. Whilst quarrying can have an effect on nature conservation, for instance through habitat loss, responsible management of both operational and non operational areas, and restoration schemes which incorporate nature conservation objectives, have helped to create thousands of hectares of important wildlife habitat and around 500 nationally important geological exposures."

English Nature, the Quarry Products Association and the Silica and Moulding Sands Association Terrestrial Operations Memorandum of Understanding, 27 June 2005

Company land owned or managed by the water sector: breakdown of SSSI data

As the Charts 3–6 show, the water sector has the most direct influence on SSSI land. Water companies abstract vast quantities of water from rivers and underground and return most of this to the environment as treated sewage effluent – so environmental quality and biodiversity should be at the heart of their businesses. They are key partners for English Nature, and it is important that we work closely with them to maximise their contribution to nature conservation targets. Through partnerships with water companies and other regulators we aim to achieve:

- Action to restore all 40,000 hectares of SSSI land owned or managed by water companies to favourable or recovering condition.
- Water companies, as public bodies with statutory responsibilities, fulfilling their duty to further and enhance the conservation of all SSSIs through their operational activities.
- Full implementation of agreed AMP3 and AMP4 schemes[7] and investigations, and parallel action on control of diffuse pollution from agricultural and urban sources.
- Major contributions to Biodiversity Action Plan priority habitats and species targets on water company landholdings outside protected areas.
- Securing action to ensure appropriate water flows or levels in SSSIs where these are influenced by water company abstractions.
- Innovation in response to the future demands of the Water Framework Directive.

The water industry takes its sustainability responsibilities seriously and has developed a water industry sustainability framework and indicators. Water UK's 'Towards Sustainability' is a framework based around the industry's key areas of influence under the themes of Governance, strategic planning and management; Environment; Society; Employees; Assets and Finance. The 2003–2004 report is the fifth in an annual series, and the second using a full set of indicators. It shows a gradually improving picture, with some key challenges for the future.[8]

[7] The water industry's Asset Management Programme identifies and provides funds for a range of infrastructural improvement works including environmental enhancement

[8] http://www.water.org.uk/home/news/press-releases/water-industry-facing-up-to-the-challeng/final-report-03-04.pdf

Annex A shows the company breakdown of information for the 10 companies in the water sector, (from a total of 16) who have agreed that we can publish their names and data. This data is not intended to be used as a 'league table' as the challenges faced by each company can be very different, depending on factors such as activities on land near to SSSIs which may not be under water company control (for example, agricultural runoff causing diffuse pollution, overgrazing or invasive species). Equally we cannot at present capture the offsite impacts of a company – ie how their operations might be affecting the wider natural environment or an SSSI they do not own or manage. Stakeholders should consider a company's performance on SSSIs within this wider context and take account of Biodiversity Action Plans, strategies and specific projects when assessing company performance.

We also need to bear in mind the number of SSSIs and area that water companies are managing. It is obviously easier for a company with one site, solely in its ownership, to meet the PSA target than a company with many fragmented sites covering a large land area. English Nature's own monitoring of sites also needs to be considered as SSSIs are assessed at least once on a six year cycle and not annually. Where there are management issues on a site assessment will be more frequent. **What we should be looking at is trends over time and a commitment by companies to meet the target of 95% of sites in favourable condition by 2010**.

The total area of land managed by the 16 water companies is 39,597 hectares. The area meeting the PSA target is 21,607 hectares. 55% of water company owned SSSIs are currently meeting the Government's PSA target.

For each company we have set out:

- The company name.
- The source of data (we need spatial data of company landholdings to match against our SSSI boundaries to give accurate information).
- The number of SSSIs and site units. Each SSSI is split into units for management and reporting purposes. Units are based on the special flora or fauna of the site, for example woodland or wetland or administrative boundaries. A small SSSI may have only one unit but large sites can have many units.
- The area of the units (hectares).
- The condition of the units by area (hectares). A unit is said to be meeting the PSA target if it is in favourable or unfavourable recovering condition. If it is classed as unfavourable no change, unfavourable declining, part destroyed or destroyed it is said to be failing to meet the PSA target.[9]
- A summary of the percentage of SSSI land owned/managed by the company meeting and failing the PSA target.
- A commentary from the company to explain their approach or issues they need to resolve to meet the PSA target.

[9] The categories for condition are agreed across England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland through the Joint Nature Conservation Committee (JNCC). This is known as Common Standards Monitoring. Further information is available from JNCC's website www.jncc.gov.uk/page-2217

Helping companies meet the PSA target

Meeting the PSA target requires close partnership working between the companies, English Nature and other partners. Companies take many different approaches to site management – some have voluntary agreements such as Network Rail's Site Management Statements, others such as Hanson have a Memorandum of Understanding. Many have Biodiversity Action Plans and others recognise that sustainable long term solutions in the wider environment are required to deliver biodiversity targets (United Utilities example below).

United Utilities Sustainable Catchment Management Programme (SCaMP)

United Utilities (UU) is a major landowner in the North West of England. Much of this land is of high conservation importance, but a substantial part of it is currently in poor condition, and in need of remedial action. The Sustainable Catchment Management Programme (SCaMP) aims to protect and improve SSSI status, improve water quality, enhance biodiversity and ensure a sustainable future for the company's agricultural tenants.

United Utilities has secured funding to carry out this work from the regulator OFWAT for two areas of land, Bowland and the Peak District. SCaMP aims to help land in these areas currently in unfavourable condition reach the Government's SSSI target of 95% in favourable condition by 2010, and all SSSI land within the SCaMP areas being protected from possible future deterioration. SCaMP has been developed in association with the RSPB, who will be key partners to United Utilities in delivering the work together with English Nature and United Utilities tenants.

The programme involves working with tenant farmers in the two areas to develop and implement whole farm plans. These plans will identify updates to farm infrastructure to ensure that it is capable of supporting sustainable land management practice; low impact farming systems; restoration of catchment hydrology; and re-create habitats for a range of threatened wildlife. The programme identifies specific benefits for designated site protection and restoration, wildlife enhancement, water quality protection and improvement.

These actions are very much in line with the Government's agricultural policies and changes to the EU Common Agricultural Policy. United Utilities believes that moving in this direction, with support both from the company in the form of investment in infrastructure and from agri-environment grant schemes, will be the key to future sustained farm viability and environmental improvements.

Remedies

For each site unit in unfavourable condition English Nature has identified the reason why. These reasons may be overgrazing, inappropriate scrub control, or coastal squeeze to name but a few. To deliver favourable condition, remedies need to be identified to address these reasons. A 'remedy' consists of the mechanism that can be used to deliver favourable condition and the organisation which can put these in place, by a certain date. For example, the remedy for 'overgrazing' is not the obvious 'reduce grazing pressure', rather the mechanism that will bring this about, such as the Higher Level Scheme of Environmental Stewardship. Likewise for 'inappropriate scrub control' on land owned by a company, it may be that 'direct management' by the company can tackle this. All site unit owners

or managers, and public bodies, are given the opportunity of agreeing or objecting to the proposed remedy and the financial year in which the management action will take place. Companies can view their remedies over a secure web-based link to help prioritise future action and resources.

Future reporting

English Nature will continue to work with the water companies to improve SSSI condition and to report on progress annually, for those companies listed in Annex A, and to include all 16 water companies in future reporting. For January 2008 we will revise the FTSE sectors and English Nature economic sectors to reflect the FTSE re-classification introduced in January 2006. We will also present a breakdown of companies in the transport sector.

English Nature to Natural England

Following publication of the draft Natural Environment and Rural Communities Bill (February 2005), English Nature, the Rural Development Service and the Countryside Agency's Landscape, Recreation and Access Division are working towards integration as a single body – *Natural England* by October 2006. It will have responsibility for enhancing biodiversity, landscapes and wildlife in rural, urban, coastal and marine areas; promoting access, recreation and public well-being and contributing to the way natural resources are managed. Our future assessments of the condition of SSSIs in company ownership will be *Natural England* publications.

Further contacts and information

For enquiries on English Nature's business and biodiversity programme please contact Helen Doran, Sustainability Adviser on Tel: 01733 455206 e-mail: helen.doran@english-nature.org.uk.

Companies requiring data on SSSIs, spatial mapping, and site condition please contact Louise Amos, Data and Reporting, Tel: 01733 455201 e-mail: louise.amos@english-nature.org.uk or Paul Myland Tel: 01733 455122 e-mail: paul.myland@english-nature.org.uk. Further information on Remedies and access to the secure Remedies website can be requested from remedies@english-nature.org.uk. Information on individual sites is available from English Nature's website or the relevant Conservation Officer in English Nature's Area Teams (contact details available on English Nature's website www.english-nature.org.uk).

Annex A Company land owned or managed by the water sector: breakdown of data (October 2005)

Water Company	Source of data	No. SSSIs	No. SSSI units	Area of ownership (ha)	Area meeting PSA target (favourable and unfavourable recovering)	% meeting PSA target	Area failing PSA target (unfavourable no change, unfavourable declining, part destroyed, destroyed)	% failing PSA target	Commentary
Anglian Water	Spatial	26	75	2869.7	2757.5	96.1	112.2	3.9	Anglian Water is very pleased to be meeting the current PSA target and has recently agreed a new internal target to aim to have 95% of our SSSIs in favourable condition by 2010. Anglian Water takes its responsibility towards SSSI management very seriously and is already working on the sites falling below the target with English Nature. For example, a three year agreement to restore Dereham Rush Meadow, Norfolk, to favourable condition is in its final stage. This has involved staged and complex removal of scrub and secondary woodland from a delicate wetland ecosystem. A similar restoration plan for Tetney Blow Wells, Lincolnshire, is to be implemented later this year. Anglian Water will continue to work closely with English Nature and the Local Wildlife Trusts to ensure the most appropriate management of our SSSIs. Contact: Andy Brown abrown5@anglianwater.co.uk www.anglianwater.co.uk
Bournemouth and West Hampshire Water	Spatial	5	17	197.8	118.4	59.8	79.3	40.2	One of BWH's sites accounts for most of the area not in favourable or recovering condition. The site has been subject to commercial quarrying for many years. The quarrying company is restoring the site to a permanent water body and BWH will assume responsibility for the site once the work is complete. Another major issue for the company

									is the presence of crassula (Australian swamp stonecrop – an invasive species) which affects many water bodies within the region to the detriment of native plants and species. BWH takes its responsibilities for managing SSSIs in its control very seriously and is working with its neighbours and other stakeholders to develop long-term plans for the management of the site currently subject to quarrying. Contact: Roger Harrington Roger.Harrington@bwhwater.co.uk www.bwhwater.co.uk
Bristol Water	Spatial	6	19	905.6	905.6	100	0.0	0.0	Bristol Water is delighted with the favourable condition of its sites. The company has been a keen champion of wildlife for many years and is a past winner of an English Nature South West Region award for good management. Bristol Water will continue to protect and enhance habitats on its land and will co-operate with others to deliver environmental benefits for the wider countryside. Contact: Jeremy Williams Jeremy.Williams@bristolwater.co.uk www.bristol-water.co.uk
Essex and Suffolk	Spatial	5	16	1384.8	1272.4	91.9	112.4	8.1	The areas of unfavourable condition relate to water bodies in the Broads. Studies are ongoing to confirm the causes and diffuse pollution is known to be a major factor (inputs of diffuse nitrate and phosphorus). ESW works in partnership with English Nature, the Environment Agency and the Broads Authority on sites and the management plan for the next five years will be extended to consider catchment management issues with the aim of resolving some of the water quality problems. Contact: Miranda Davis Miranda.Davis@eswater.co.uk www.eswater.co.uk

Severn Trent Water	Spatial	24	62	499.2	300.5	60.2	198.71	39.8	Of the 24 SSSIs in Severn Trent Water's ownership, just three account for 90% of the area in unfavourable condition. All three are lowland reservoirs in Leicestershire with catchments outside the company's control. Freshwater diffuse and direct pollution have been identified as the main causes of adverse condition, presumably from agricultural run-off. Severn Trent, English Nature, the Environment Agency and Leicestershire and Rutland Wildlife Trust have been working in partnership for several years to identify ways of addressing the effects of the pollution in the reservoirs, as well as reduce the problem at source Contact: Andy Warren Andy.Warren@severntrent.co.uk www.stwater.co.uk
Southern Water	Spatial	96	322	909.92	664.1	73	245.8	27	Southern Water (SW) have a project to develop and agree SSSI Conservation Management Plans (CMPs) with English Nature who have advised which sites to prioritise within the programme. SW's objective is to complete CMPs for 35 SSSIs across Hampshire, Kent, Sussex and the Isle of Wight by December 2006. As a major landowner, SW is working with English Nature to achieve the objective of 95% of SSSIs in favourable condition by 2010. Of all SW sites, English Nature has identified 15 which require attention. SW have written CMPs for these 15 priority sites – those identified as being in 'declining status' – and are in the process of implementing these on a site-by-site basis. SW is working with English Nature to agree remedies, and programme necessary works. CMPs for the remaining 20 sites in favourable status will be produced by July 2006. These CMPs form part of

									SW's SSSI Project to ensure that all SSSIs are in 'favourable status' by 2010 Contact: Adela Hepworth Adela.Hepworth@southernwater.co.uk www.southernwater.co.uk
Thames Water	Spatial	20	43	1301.46	1278.9	98.4	22.56	1.6	Although the percentage of the SSSI land area failing to meet the PSA target is very low, Thames Water are not complacent and regard 98% in favourable condition as a minimum standard. Thames Water are working with English Nature to improve those SSSIs with areas in unfavourable condition. Contact: Andy Tomczynski Andy.Tomczynski@thameswater.co.uk www.thames-water.com
United Utilities	Spatial	60	324	17479.6	10373.7	59.4	7105.8	40.6	United Utilities (UU) are committed to improving the status of SSSIs and have been proactive in drawing up management plans with English Nature and seeking funding to enable improvements. UU are working with their tenants to maximise income from all available grant schemes including ESA and Countryside Stewardship to fund moorland improvements including varying grazing regimes, exposures, grip blocking and heather seeding. UU are also working with Moors for the Future to re-vegetate areas of bare peat in the Dark Peak. UU was granted funding through the price review for the Sustainable Catchment Management Project (SCaMP). This project is aimed at securing the long term sustainable management of its owned catchments. SCaMP will work with tenants to produce farm plans which will protect and improve water quality, enhance biodiversity and ensure a sustainable future for the company's agricultural tenants. SCaMP will operate in the UU owned Peak District and Bowland estates Contact: Kate Snow kate.snow@uuplc.co.uk

									www.unitedutilities.com/?OBH=3035
Wessex Water	Spatial	18	54	339.4	283.1	83.4	56.3	16.6	Wessex Water (WW) is a good way towards meeting English Nature's targets for SSSIs, however, WW is aware that there is still work to be done. The majority of SSSIs are small and widely distributed. WW has an active ongoing programme for reviewing each site to regularly assess its condition and this underpins a management programme designed to ensure WW contributes to achieving the PSA target. This is set against the backdrop of delivering statutory responsibilities both as a strictly regulated water and sewerage business and as an environmentally responsible company. Contact: Dan Green dan.green@wessexwater.co.uk www.wessexwater.co.uk
Yorkshire Water	Spatial	56	350	12291.01	2736.3	22.3	9554.75	77.7	The Yorkshire Water SSSIs are predominantly upland water catchments. The units still in unfavourable status are as a result of two or more reasons involving overgrazing, burning, drainage and air pollution. The figures are typical in the context of other moorland sites, and show the degree of challenge to meet the PSA target by 2010. Currently 18% of remedy mechanisms identified by English Nature have been assigned to Yorkshire Water. English Nature, the Environment Agency and Defra account for 76% of the remaining remedy mechanisms. Whilst remedies fall to a number of agencies, the solution requires co-ordinated effort, alignment and engagement with agricultural and sporting interests. A multi-agency workshop in December 2005 helped to further refine and target the effort of

									the successful joint Yorkshire Water/ English Nature SSSI Steering Group. SSSI management plans are in production, a joint delivery project is being established and membership of the Steering Group expanded to include the Environment Agency and Defra. Contact: Miles Foulger miles.foulger@yorkshirewater.co.uk www.yorkshirewater.com

ENGLISH NATURE

English Nature, the Rural Development Service and the Countryside Agency. Working in partnership to conserve and enhance our landscapes and natural environment, to promote countryside access and recreation as well as public well-being, now and for future generations.

This is one of a range of publications published by:
External Relations Team
English Nature
Northminster House
Peterborough PE1 1UA

www.english-nature.org.uk

Printed on Evolution Satin, 75% recycled post-consumer waste paper, elemental chlorine free.

ISBN 1 85716 918 2

Catalogue code ST13.0

Designed and printed by statusdesign.co.uk, 0.5M.

The Countryside Agency
Landscape Access Recreation

Rural Development Service

Front cover photographs:
Top left: Goss and Tregoss Moors SSSI, Cornwall.
Paul Glendell/English Nature 25,769
Middle left: Port of Felixstowe – Orwell Estuary SSSI, Suffolk.
Peter Wakely/English Nature 9,451
Bottom left: Huntsman's Quarry SSSI, Gloucestershire.
Peter Wakely/English Nature 19,320
Main: Cowgreen Reservoir, Upper Teesdale SSSI, Durham.
Peter Wakely/English Nature 8,226