

HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

Executive Decision Record

Decision Maker:	Executive Member for Culture and Recreation
Date:	9 September 2010
Title:	The Condition of Hampshire County Council Managed Sites of Special Scientific Interest
Reference:	1970
Report From:	Director of Culture, Communities and Rural Affairs

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1. The decision:

- 1.1. The continued resourcing of SSSIs is supported and their value recognised in supporting the rich biodiversity of Hampshire, achieving the aims of the Corporate Biodiversity Action Plan and Hampshire County Council's Aalborg commitments.
- 1.2. The management of the SSSIs and other sites of biodiversity importance are considered in the context of the wider countryside and in support of the Biodiversity Opportunity Areas.
- 1.3. All sites are managed with consideration of the Ecosystem Services they provide, among which is their value to the people of Hampshire, and by engaging local communities in their management.

2. Reason for the decision:

- 2.1. Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs) are the country's very best wildlife and geological sites. Hampshire County Council manages 2,012 hectares (4,972 acres) of SSSI, most of this by the Countryside Service. Habitats are constantly changing and, if left unmanaged, it will be to the detriment of the SSSIs in the majority of cases. Management plans written in consultations with local communities, Natural England and other partners will ensure that sites are managed appropriately.
- 2.2. Whilst many believe that such special wildlife to be found on SSSIs have an intrinsic value in themselves, it is becoming increasingly recognised that natural environments provide wider benefits to society, and our continuing prosperity. These are known as Ecosystem Services.

2.3. When planning how sites are managed, it is important to consider the wider countryside in which they sit and how the biodiversity they contain can benefit and contribute toward the wider countryside as well as local communities.

3. Other options considered and rejected:

3.1. To take no action on maintaining the sites.

4. Conflicts of interest:

4.1. Conflicts of interest declared by the decision-maker:

None.

4.2. Conflicts of interest declared by other Executive Members consulted:

None.

5. Dispensation granted by the Standards Committee: none.

6. Reason(s) for the matter being dealt with if urgent: not applicable.

7. Statement from the Decision Maker:

Approved by:

Date:

9 September 2010

**Executive Member for Culture and Recreation
Councillor Mrs. M. Snaith-Tempia**