



The Designation of the West Pennine Moors as a Site of Special Scientific Interest

Cotton grass at Rivington Pike – all site pictures courtesy of Richard Berkmar



What is this presentation for



To inform interested people about:

- What Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) are
- How and why SSSIs get designated
- Why has the West Pennine Moors been chosen
- Where are we in the process



What are SSSIs



SSSIs are the country's very best wildlife and geological sites. They include some of the most spectacular and beautiful habitats; wetlands teeming with wading birds, winding chalk rivers, flower-rich meadows, windswept shingle beaches and remote upland peat bogs.

There are over 4,100 Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs) in England, covering around 8% of the country's land area.

How and why are they designated



- Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs) give legal protection to the best sites for wildlife and geology in England – Natural England has an SSSI notification strategy which sets out context in which we decide which areas to consider.
- Natural England now has responsibility for identifying and protecting the SSSIs in England under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended).

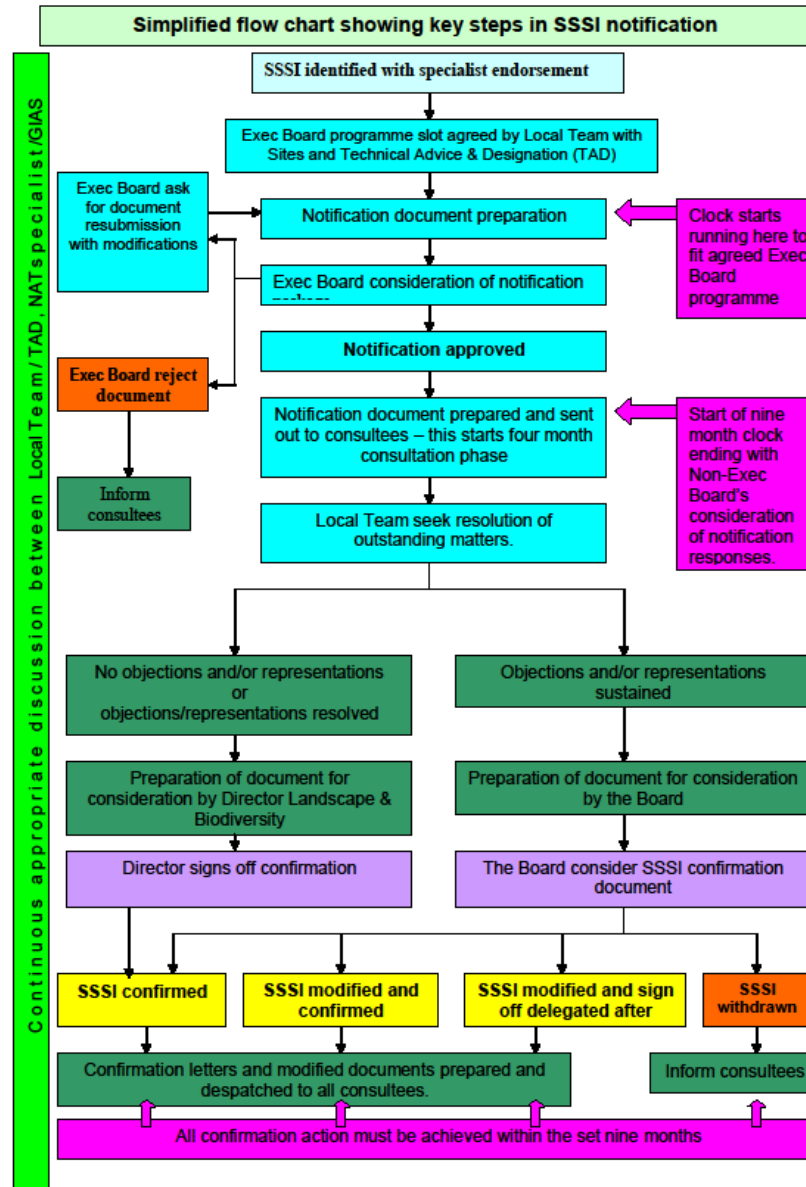


The West Pennine Moors – why here?



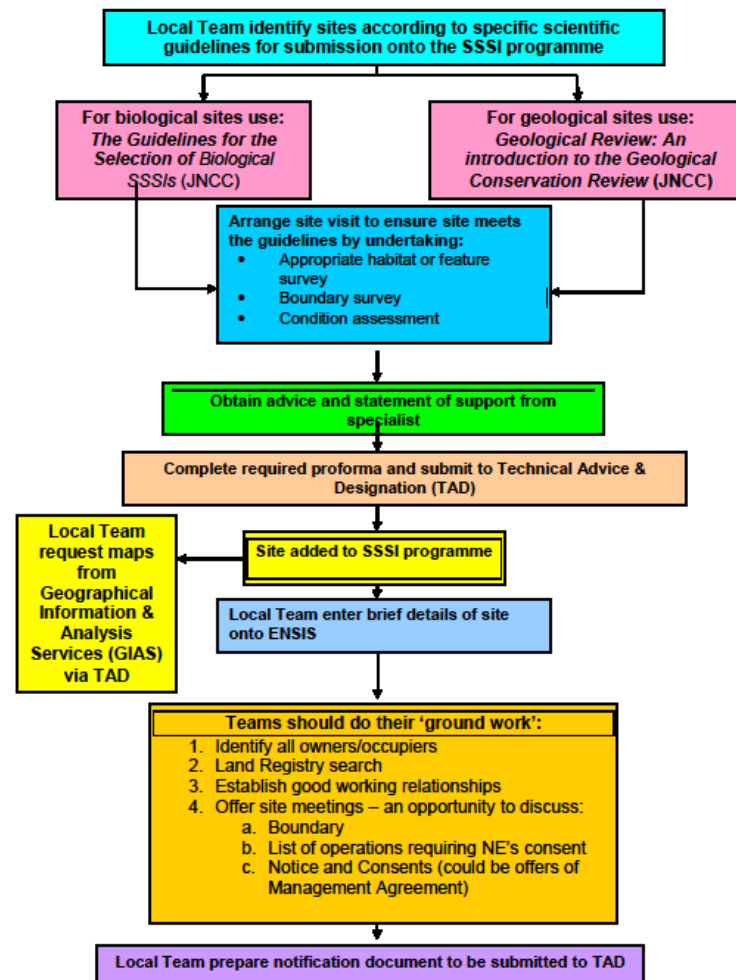
- Natural England were asked to look at this area by a consortium of local interests – ie the West Pennine Management Committee and several MPs
- It is an area rich in wildlife and important habitats
- It has excellent carbon storage capacity

How do we go about designating an SSSI?



Where are we now?

Pre-notification



What next?



- Wait for the survey to be completed as this will inform the boundary
- Collate all the other species data and produce a report for Natural England board (Feb. 2013)

