



Talland Barton Farm SSSI

***Notification under section 28 of the Wildlife
and Countryside Act 1981***

Issued by Natural England's Cornwall, Devon and Isles of Scilly Team on 29th October
2009.

Contact points and further information

This notification document is issued by Natural England's Cornwall, Devon and Isles of Scilly Team. Our address for correspondence is:

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Your contact point for enquiries relating to this notification is Richard Glasson.

A second document (*Talland Barton Farm SSSI - supporting information*) is available on request from the address above. This contains information and extracts from relevant documents that have been used in the decision to notify this SSSI.

The date of notification of Talland Barton Farm SSSI is 29th October 2009

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1. Summary

- 1.1 This document explains why Talland Barton Farm is notified by Natural England as a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI).
- 1.2 Talland Barton Farm SSSI is a nationally important site by reason of the following features of special interest: population of the critically endangered many-fruited beardless-moss *Weissia multcapsularis* and an assemblage of nationally rare and nationally scarce bryophytes (mosses and liverworts). Four of the bryophytes (including many-fruited beardless-moss) are listed as priority species in the UK Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP).
- 1.3 The annexes to this document comprise the legal papers that detail the interest and the management required to maintain that interest. You have a right to make representations or objections to this notification. Part 3 of this document explains how to do this.
- 1.4 Natural England's consent is required by owners and occupiers before any of the operations listed in *Annex 3* can be carried out. We will work closely with owners and managers, as well as other bodies, to ensure that existing operations and new works that are not considered likely to damage the special features of the SSSI can be carried out.

2. The legal background

- 2.1 Talland Barton Farm SSSI is notified under section 28 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 as substituted by Schedule 9 to the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000.
- 2.2 Part 9 of this notification document contains the following legal documents required by section 28 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981:
 - a citation detailing the reasons for notification (*Annex 1*)
 - a statement of Natural England's views on the management of the SSSI (*Annex 2*)
 - a list of operations requiring Natural England's consent (*Annex 3*)
 - a map identifying the land subject to this notification (*Annex 4*).
- 2.3 This notification has several effects. The key ones can be summarised as follows:
 - owners and occupiers must give Natural England notice before carrying out, causing or permitting to be carried out any of the activities in the list of operations at *Annex 3*;
 - owners of land included in the SSSI have a legal obligation to notify Natural England within 28 days if the ownership or occupancy of the land changes;
 - it is an offence for any person intentionally or recklessly to destroy or damage the special features of the SSSI or to disturb any of the fauna;
 - other public bodies must consult Natural England before carrying out or authorising any works that may damage the SSSI.

If you require any further information or advice on how this notification affects you, please do not hesitate to contact Natural England at the address shown at the beginning of this notification document.

3. Making representations

- 3.1 You have a legal right to make objections and representations about this notification. Any representations or objections should be made in writing by **1st March 2010** to Natural England's Cornwall, Devon and Isles of Scilly Team at the address shown on page 2. You may wish to seek legal or independent advice and your representative may wish to write to us on your behalf.
- 3.2 The Cornwall, Devon and Isles of Scilly Team will consider your objections or representations and will try to resolve them. Any unresolved objections or representations will be considered by the Board of Natural England within nine months of this notification. If

you wish to emphasise any of your objections or representations to the Board in person, you should tell us when you write to us. You will then be advised of the date and location of the Board meeting. Following consideration of objections and representations, the Board of Natural England may confirm or withdraw all or part of this notification.

- 3.3 Natural England has a policy of openness, which reflects our obligations under the Environmental Information Regulations 2004 and the Freedom of Information Act 2000. This legislation provides a legal right of access to information held by public bodies. This means that we will provide information on how we make our decisions on SSSIs to any person on request. This includes details of objections and representations received. We will assume, therefore, that your representation or objection can be made publicly available unless you indicate with clear and valid reasons which (if any) part(s) of these you wish to be excluded from this arrangement. However, you should be aware that the requirements of the legislation may mean that we cannot comply with your request that this information be withheld. We do, however, respect people's privacy and will take all reasonable steps to consult you before reaching a decision on disclosure of the information.

As an individual or organisation with an interest in Talland Barton Farm SSSI, your information will be stored and processed on a computer database that will be operated within the Data Protection Act 1998. This Act gives individuals the right to know what data we hold on them, how we use it and to which third parties it is disclosed. For the purposes of the Data Protection Act, the data controller is Natural England, Northminster House, Peterborough, PE1 1UA.

4. Reasons for notification

- 4.1 Talland Barton Farm SSSI is of special interest by reason of the following nationally important features:

- **Many-fruited beardless-moss *Weissia multicapsularis***
Exposed patches of un-shaded, stony soil on steep banks beside paths and tracks in Talland Barton Farm SSSI support a population of the many-fruited beardless-moss, which is only known from two extant localities, both in Cornwall. This UK BAP priority species is critically endangered in Britain and globally.
- **Assemblage of nationally rare and nationally scarce bryophytes**
A combination of these species includes five nationally rare and one nationally scarce species of moss. The bryophytes grow on exposed patches of un-shaded, stony soil on steep banks beside paths and tracks, and thin soil on the ledges of a small disused quarry. The assemblage includes four bryophytes listed as priority species in the UK BAP: many-fruited beardless moss, Portuguese pocket-moss *Fissidens curvatus*, wedge-leaved screw-moss *Tortula cuneifolia* and Wilson's pottia *Tortula wilsonii*.

5. Interests that do not currently meet the SSSI selection guidelines

Much of the vegetation in the pasture is unimproved neutral grassland of the National Vegetation Classification (NVC) type MG5 crested dog's-tail *Cynosurus cristatus* – common knapweed *Centaurea nigra* grassland. However, it lacks several of the key indicator species and is not sufficiently species-rich to be considered of special interest. The grassland does still have some conservation value and should be managed to maintain its interest, consistent with the requirements of the special bryophyte features of the SSSI.

6. Site boundaries and relationships with other SSSIs

- 6.1 The boundary has been drawn to include land supporting the features of special interest and those areas required to ensure the long-term sustainability of these features.
- 6.2 The boundary of the SSSI has been drawn to follow the nearest physical feature on the ground where possible. A variety of easily identifiable features have been used to define the boundary, including hedgerows and other field boundaries. Further clarification of the precise location of the boundary in specific parts of the SSSI can be obtained from Natural

England's Cornwall, Devon and Isles of Scilly Team at the address on page 2 of this document.

- 6.3 Talland Barton Farm SSSI comprises a cliff-top pasture field grazed by horses. The important bryophyte species are found growing on banks running around and through the field and in an old quarry in the north of the site.
- 6.4 The only other SSSI in England that is of special interest for many-fruited beardless-moss is Carricknath Point to Porthbean Beach SSSI, which lies on the south coast of Cornwall approximately 40 km to the south-west of Talland Barton Farm SSSI. The populations at these two sites fluctuate but are of broadly similar size. There are no other known locations globally for this species, following its extinction at a site in south-west France.
- 6.5 A further seven SSSIs in Cornwall are of special interest for their bryophyte assemblages, the nearest being Draynes Wood SSSI, which lies on the southern fringe of Bodmin Moor approximately 16 km to the north of Talland Barton Farm. None of these sites has the same combination of nationally rare and nationally scarce species as that occurring at Talland Barton Farm.

7. Management of the SSSI

- 7.1 This notification includes at *Annex 2* a statement of the management that Natural England considers is needed to conserve and enhance the features of special interest. Different management may be appropriate in different parts of the site and this statement is not intended to detail the exact requirements at specific locations. The statement is intended to explain how we can work with and support owners and managers in continuing to achieve positive management of the SSSI.
- 7.2 This notification also includes a list of the operations requiring Natural England's consent at *Annex 3*. Some of the operations may already be taking place and where they do not cause any damage they will be given consent. We will work with landowners and managers to agree lists of such existing and planned activities, which can be approved.
- 7.3 Where an operation has been granted a consent, licence or permission from another public body a separate consent will not generally be required from Natural England. However, other public bodies are required to consult Natural England before such consents, licences or permissions are issued.
- 7.4 In particular, we recognise the important roles of the owners and managers of the land in managing this site. We will work with them to develop means to secure the sustainable management of Talland Barton Farm SSSI.

8. Supporting information

- 8.1 The detailed information, which has been used to assess the importance of this SSSI, is available on request from the address on page 2 of this document.

9. Legal Documents

- 9.1 Attached at *Annexes 1 - 4* are the legal documents, which are required by section 28 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981.

Annex 1

Citation

This is a legal document on which you have a right to make objections or representations, as explained in part 3 of this notification document

Site name: Talland Barton Farm SSSI **Unitary Authority:** Cornwall

Status: Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) notified under Section 28 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 substituted by Schedule 9 to the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000.

Local Planning Authority: Cornwall Council

National Grid reference: SX227515 **Area:** 2.03 ha

Ordnance Survey Sheet: 201 **1:10,000:** SX 25 SW

Notification Date: 29th October 2009

Reasons for notification:

Talland Barton Farm is a nationally important site for a population of the many-fruited beardless-moss *Weissia multcapsularis*, a critically endangered species known from only two sites globally, and for its assemblage of nationally rare and nationally scarce bryophytes.

General description:

Talland Barton Farm is located on the south coast of eastern Cornwall. The site is a single pasture field sloping west and south-west to the top of a low sea-cliff of Devonian rocks (Whitsand Bay Formation). The same rocks are exposed in a small disused quarry inside the northern end of the site, close to its boundary with Talland churchyard. The pasture comprises grassland of the National Vegetation Classification (NVC) type MG5 crested dog's-tail *Cynosurus cristatus* – common knapweed *Centaurea nigra* grassland on mainly acidic to neutral soils that has not been affected by agricultural improvement. Steep banks beside paths and tracks expose patches of unshaded stony soil that are important for supporting the bryophyte assemblage.

Talland Barton Farm is one of only two extant sites globally where the critically endangered many-fruited beardless-moss *Weissia multcapsularis* is known to occur, with several colonies growing on the steep banks in the site. Many-fruited beardless-moss has shown a long-term decline in Britain and is no longer present at the only locality from which it has been recorded in continental Europe (western France).

In addition to many-fruited beardless-moss, the assemblage of bryophytes growing on the steep banks in the SSSI includes the nationally rare Portuguese pocket-moss *Fissidens curvatus*, Wilson's pottia *Tortula wilsonii* and a pygmy-moss *Acaulon mediterraneum*. Thin soil on ledges of the small quarry supports the nationally rare wedge-leaved screw-moss *T. cuneifolia* and the nationally scarce dog screw-moss *T. canescens*. Both of these species have shown a long-term decline in Britain.

The extraordinary richness of the site for rare and scarce bryophytes probably arose from its favourable topographic, soil and climate conditions. However its richness has apparently been maintained because of the long history of traditional grazing management of the pasture, without any inputs of artificial fertilisers or herbicides, or any nutrient inputs from surrounding land.

Annex 2

Views about Management

This is a legal document on which you have a right to make objections or representations, as explained in part 3 of this notification document.



Views About Management

Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 Section 28(4) as inserted by
Schedule 9 to the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000

A statement of Natural England's views about the management of Talland Barton Farm Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI)

This statement represents Natural England's views about the management of the SSSI for nature conservation. This statement sets out, in principle, our views on how the site's special conservation interest can be conserved and enhanced. Natural England has a duty to notify the owners and occupiers of SSSI of its views about the management of the land.

Not all of the management principles will be equally appropriate to all parts of the SSSI. Also, there may be other management activities, additional to our current views, which can be beneficial to the conservation and enhancement of the features of interest.

This Statement does not constitute consent for any of the 'operations requiring Natural England's consent'. The written consent of Natural England is required before carrying out any of those operations. Natural England welcomes consultation with owners, occupiers and users of the SSSI to ensure that the management of this site conserves and enhances the features of interest, and to ensure that all necessary prior consents are obtained.

Management Principles

All of the species that make up the assemblage of nationally rare and nationally scarce bryophytes (mosses and liverworts) at Talland Barton Farm SSSI require patches of open soil with little or no shade from other plants. These conditions will be maintained on banks beside paths and tracks if adequate levels of grazing are continued in the field. Any scrub that develops on the banks should be carefully removed using hand tools. The small quarry beneath the churchyard will need to be kept clear of scrub, brambles and ivy through careful removal of woody plants using hand tools.

In view of the extreme rarity and critically endangered status of many-fruited beardless-moss *Weissia multcapsularis*, assessment of the effectiveness of sensitive management for this species requires specialist knowledge of bryophytes. Reasons for the decline of many-fruited beardless-moss include agricultural intensification, especially increased soil nutrient levels due to fertiliser application and the abandonment of grazing which have resulted in the species being shaded out by taller more rank vegetation. Habitat management in the form of grazing or other light disturbance is required to maintain the open substrates which this species requires. Encroaching vegetation such as grasses, brambles, gorse and other rank vegetation may need to be controlled through a combination of cutting and spot application of an appropriate herbicide.

Date Notified: 29th October 2009

Annex 3

List of operations requiring Natural England's consent

This is a legal document on which you have a right to make objections or representations, as explained in part 3 of this notification package.

Operations requiring Natural England's consent

Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 Section 28 (4)(b) substituted by Schedule 9 to the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000

The operations listed below may damage the features of interest of Talland Barton Farm SSSI. Before any of these operations are undertaken you must consult Natural England, and may require our consent.

It is usually possible to carry out some of these operations in certain ways, or at specific times of year, or on certain parts of the SSSI, without damaging the features of interest. If you wish to carry out any of these activities please contact your Natural England Area Team who will give you advice and where appropriate issue a consent. Please help us by using the 'notice form' (provided at notification and available on request) to ask us for consent to carry out these operations.

In certain circumstances it will not be possible to consent these operations, because they would damage the features of interest. Where possible the Area Team will suggest alternative ways in which you may proceed, which would enable a consent to be issued. To proceed without Natural England's consent may constitute an offence. If consent is refused, or conditions attached to it, which are not acceptable to you, you will be provided with details of how you may appeal to the Secretary of State.

Standard reference number	Type of operation
1	Cultivation, including ploughing, rotovating, harrowing, and re-seeding.
2	Grazing and alterations to the grazing regime (including type of stock, intensity or seasonal pattern of grazing).
3	Stock feeding and alterations to stock feeding practice.
4	Mowing or cutting vegetation and alterations to the mowing or cutting regime (such as from haymaking to silage).
5	Application of manure, slurry, silage liquor, fertilisers and lime.
6	Application of pesticides, including herbicides (weedkillers) whether terrestrial or aquatic, and veterinary products.
7	Dumping, spreading or discharging of any materials.
8	Burning and alterations to the pattern or frequency of burning.
9	Release into the site of any wild, feral, captive-bred or domestic animal, plant, seed or micro-organism (including genetically modified organisms).
10	Killing, injuring, taking or removal of any wild animal, including dead animals or parts thereof), or their eggs and nests, including pest control and disturbing them in their places of shelter.
11	Destruction, displacement, removal or cutting of any plant or plant remains, including tree, shrub, herb, hedge, moss or turf.
12	Tree and woodland management and alterations to tree and woodland management (including planting, felling, pruning and tree surgery, thinning, coppicing, changes in species composition and removal of fallen timber).
13a	Drainage (including the use of mole, tile, tunnel or artificial drains).
13b	Modification of the structure of watercourses (springs, ditches, dykes, drains), including their banks and beds, as by re-alignment, re-grading, damming or dredging.

Standard reference number	Type of operation
13c	Management of aquatic and bank vegetation for drainage purposes.
14	Alterations to water levels and tables and water utilisation (including irrigation, storage and abstraction from existing water bodies and through boreholes). Also the modification of current drainage operations.
15	Infilling or digging of ditches, dykes, drains, ponds, pools, marshes or pits.
19	Erection or repair of sea defences or coast protection works, including cliff or landslip drainage or stabilisation measures.
20	Extraction of minerals, including shingle, hard rock, sand and gravel, topsoil, subsoil, shells and spoil.
21	Destruction, construction, removal, rerouting or regrading of roads, tracks, walls, fences, hardstands, banks, ditches or other earthworks, including soil and soft rock exposures or the laying, maintenance or removal of pipelines and cables, above or below ground.
22	Storage of materials.
23	Erection of permanent or temporary structures, or the undertaking of engineering works, including drilling.
24a	Modification of natural or man-made features and clearance of boulders, large stones, loose rock or scree.
26	Use of vehicles or craft.
27	Recreational or other activities likely to damage or disturb the features of special interest or their habitats.

Notes

- i. This is a list of operations appearing to Natural England to be likely to damage the special features of the SSSI, as required under section 28 (4) (b) of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 substituted by Schedule 9 to the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000.
- ii. Where an operation has been granted a consent, licence or permission from another authority separate consent will not be required from Natural England. However, other authorities are required to consult Natural England before such consents, licences or permissions are issued.
- iii. Any reference to 'animal' in this list shall be taken to include any mammal, reptile, amphibian, bird, fish, or invertebrate.

Date notified: 29th October 2009

National Grid reference: SX 227515

Annex 4

Map(s) showing the land notified

This is a legal document on which you have a legal right to make objections or representations, as explained in part 3 of this notification document.

(map to be inserted here)