

Our File Ref: 7.5.10

Mr. Lee Armitage
DETR
Room 922
Tollgate House
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Bristol
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14/11/00

Dear Sirs,

SSSI's: Guidance on New Legislation

The Institution welcomes this initiative and supports the intent to strengthen protection of sites. The proposals seem adequate and sensible and having read them we do not have any specific comments to make.

We do, however, recognise that a key element in the success of these policies is not the legislation itself but the activities of English Nature through its various regional offices and the co-operation their staff are able to engender. Close monitoring of SSSI's is essential to their continued well being and investment at adequate levels in the quality, training and numbers of staff in English Nature must be maintained.

I trust you will find the above helpful.

Yours sincerely,



Dr. R. A. Fuller
Hon. Secretary