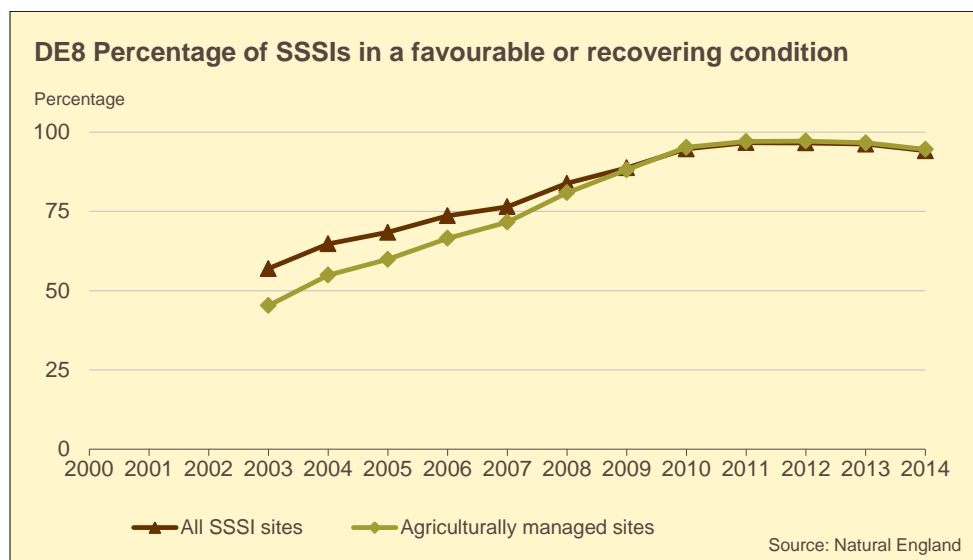


Observatory monitoring framework – indicator data sheet

Environmental impact: Biodiversity

Indicator DE8: SSSI condition

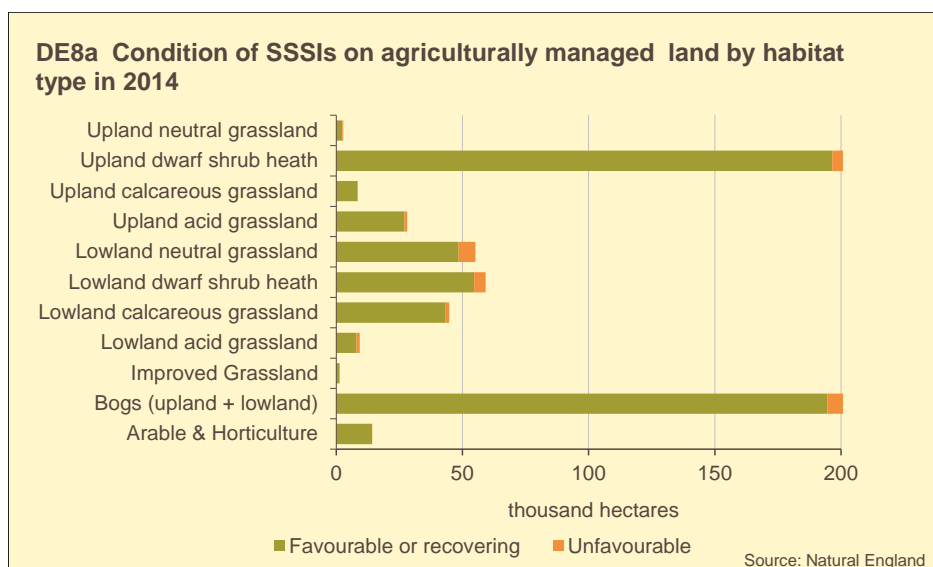
This indicator shows the state of nationally important wildlife sites: Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs), in England.



Since 2003, the proportion of agricultural sites in favourable or recovering condition has increased from 45% to 95%, whilst that for all SSSIs has increased from 57% to 94%.

Chart DE8a shows the areas, in thousand hectares, of agriculturally managed SSSIs in favourable and unfavourable condition, by habitat.

- Sites on bogs and upland heaths account for around two thirds of agriculturally managed SSSIs. Around 5% of the area of these sites is in an unfavourable condition;
- 99.8% of arable & horticulture sites are in a favourable condition, although they account for only 2.25% (by area) of agriculturally managed SSSIs.



DE8b Main agricultural reasons for unfavourable conditions on all SSSIs in 2014

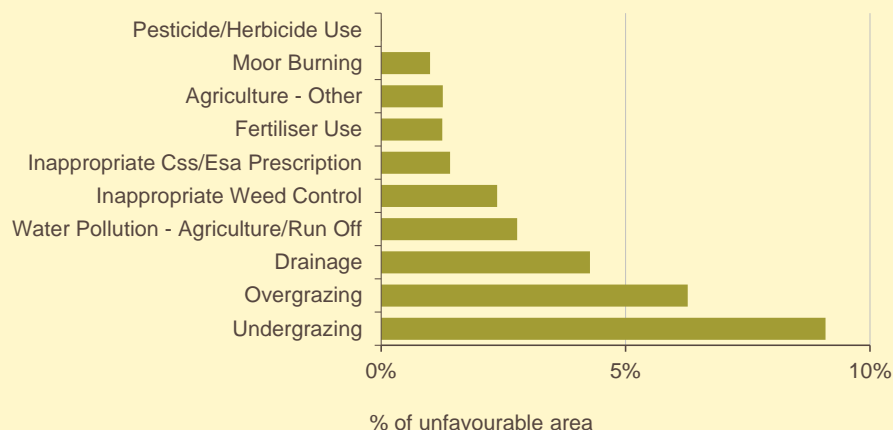


Chart DE8b shows the main agricultural reasons for the unfavourable condition of all SSSIs in England.

- 9% (by area) are in unfavourable condition due to undergrazing;
- 6% (by area) are in unfavourable condition due to overgrazing;
- 4% (by area) are in unfavourable condition due to drainage;
- 3% (by area) are in unfavourable condition due to water pollution from agriculture / run off.

This indicator was last updated in November 2014. The next update will be November 2015.

Further information and contact

Background information can be found in the accompanying fact sheet.

For further queries or information on this indicator contact Defra's Observatory team on +44 (0) 1904 455058 or email Observatory@defra.gsi.gov.uk

Observatory monitoring framework – indicator fact sheet

Environmental impact: Biodiversity

Indicator DE8: SSSI condition

<i>Indicator</i>	Favourable condition of important wildlife sites on farmland: agriculturally managed sites of special scientific interest (SSSIs)
<i>Data</i>	DE8 Percentage of SSSIs in a favourable or recovering condition on agriculturally managed sites and all SSSIs DE8a Condition of SSSIs on agriculturally managed land DE8b Main agricultural reasons for unfavourable conditions
<i>Geographic coverage</i>	England
<i>Years</i>	DE8: 2003 – 2014, DE8 a & b: 2014
<i>Source</i>	Natural England (NE)
<i>Origin of data</i>	Rolling programme of monitoring SSSIs
<i>Updates</i>	This will be updated annually and was last updated in November 2014. The next update will be November 2015.
<i>Background</i>	<p>This indicator shows the state of nationally important wildlife sites with habitats, in England, which are mainly under agricultural land management. The favourable category includes the areas of SSSI that were assessed as favourable, favourable recovered or unfavourable recovering condition at the end of September each year.</p> <p>An SSSI in a favourable or recovering condition means that the habitats and species are in a healthy state and are being conserved by appropriate management. SSSIs assessed as unfavourable mean there is a lack of appropriate management, or other damaging impacts which need to be addressed.</p> <p>The internationally designated Natura 2000 sites: Special Areas of Conservation (SAC), Special Protection Areas (SPAs) and Ramsar sites are all based on Sites of Special Scientific Interest.</p> <p>Agriculturally managed SSSIs exclude those on open water, sea shore, bare rock and woodland sites. That is, all those on predominately agriculturally managed land, in all 52% of the total area of SSSIs in 2014.</p>
<i>Statistical & methodological information</i>	<p>The data used in this indicator are extracted from that published by Natural England and shows the conditions of SSSIs as at 24 October 2014.</p> <p>Inspections by Natural England of all sites are on a rolling programme over 6 years. Data for sites inspected in a specific year replace the previous data for those sites.</p> <p>Monitoring is governed by standards agreed at UK level through the Joint Nature Conservation Committee (JNCC).</p>

*Further
information*

For further data on SSSIs, the Natural England website is at:

<http://www.naturalengland.org.uk/>

Biodiversity 2020: A strategy for England's wildlife and ecosystem services can be found at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/biodiversity-2020-a-strategy-for-england-s-wildlife-and-ecosystem-services>

A map of all SSSIs in England can be found at:

[http://www.magic.gov.uk/StaticMaps/Sites%20of%20Special%20Scientific%20Interest%20\(England\).pdf](http://www.magic.gov.uk/StaticMaps/Sites%20of%20Special%20Scientific%20Interest%20(England).pdf)