

**Natural England is...** to conserve and enhance England's natural environment - including its landscapes, biodiversity, geology and soils, natural resources, cultural heritage and other features of the built and natural environment. There are more than 4,000 SSSIs in England and these support many characteristic, rare and endangered species, habitats and geological features. More than 1,250 of these are notified for geological features, including more than 40 SSSIs designated for their caves. The total length of notified cave passage is believed to be more than 400 km and to comprise more than 75% of the entire length of cave passage in England.

**Natural England supports...** the scientific exploration of caves and work to discover new caves. Without this work we would have no information on the extent of caves, nor understand as much as we do about how cave systems have developed. Trips down known cave systems are also invaluable in keeping us informed of the condition of cave systems and alerting us to problems.

**However...** sometimes digging in caves or mines can inadvertently damage other features of special interest, for example spoil from digging might be dumped on rare plants, or cover important geological exposures. Sediments revealing valuable information on cave formation or archaeology could also be disturbed.

**Check out the map...** this leaflet shows all the SSSI's in the White Peak and includes those that have been notified for their cave features.

If you are digging in caves or mines that are on or near any of these sites, you will need to contact Natural England to check that these activities will not adversely affect any wildlife or geological features of interest. It may also be useful to discuss your proposals with Derbyshire Caving Association first. You should also have the permission of the land owner before you start digging on their land.



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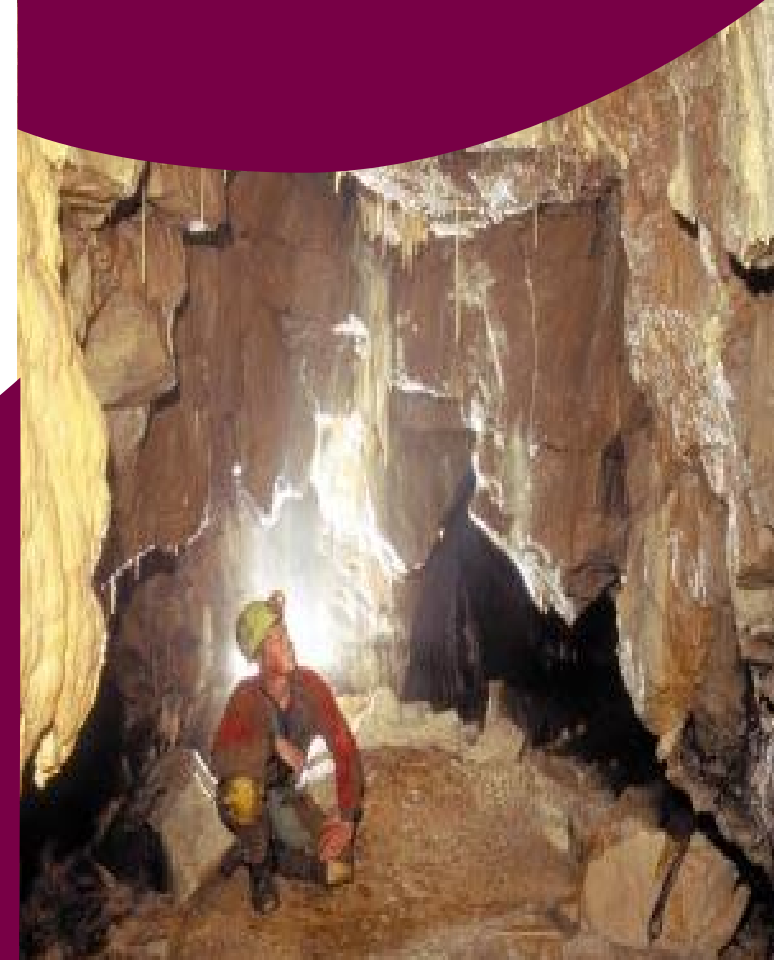


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## Do you dig Caves? on SSSIs

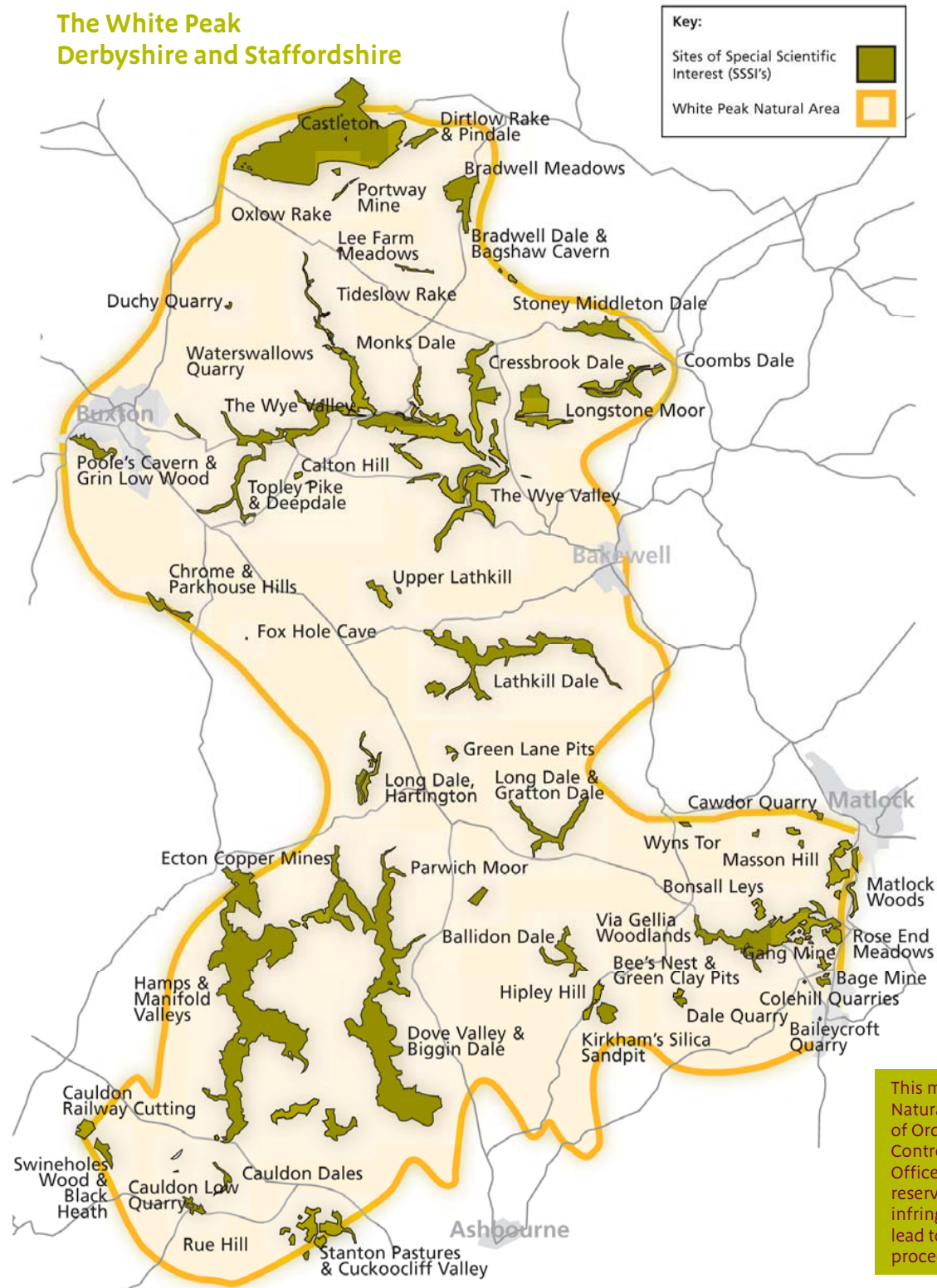


# Do you dig Caves? on SSSIs

## Cave Conservation Code

- Cave with care and within your abilities.
- Keep to marked routes and do not cross conservation tapes and barriers.
- Protect cave wildlife and do not disturb bats
- Do not pollute the cave and leave nothing behind
- Archaeological remains should not be disturbed
- Do not interfere with scientific equipment.
- Set a good example for others to follow
- Avoid touching or damaging formations.
- Take nothing but photographs
- Comply with access requirements
- Respect the rights and privacy of land owners
- Follow the national caving association Minimum Impact Caving Code

## The White Peak Derbyshire and Staffordshire



NATURAL  
ENGLAND

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