



**Godrevy Head to St Agnes Site of Special Scientific Interest,  
Cornwall  
("the SSSI")**

## **CONSENT OF NATURAL ENGLAND**

**Section 28E(3)(a) of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981  
(as amended)**

To: National Trust (c/o Steve Sudworth, Lead Ranger)

Of: Wayside Studio, St Agnes, TR5 0SU

You have Natural England's consent to carry out, cause or permit to be carried out the operations as described and specified in your notice dated 15/01/2025 as attached at Annex 1 (the "Notice").

For the avoidance of doubt, this consent covers the period 01/09/2025 – 31/01/2026 as requested in your Notice.

**Signed for Natural England:**

**Print name:** Sophia Fraser **Date:** 16/04/2025

### **Important information about this consent**

If you wish to change the proposed operations or their location or to carry out additional operations for which consent has not yet been granted, or if a time period set out above has expired, you must give further written notice to Natural England. Before doing so, you can seek advice from Natural England.

You may face enforcement action if you carry out or permit unauthorised operations which destroy, damage or disturb the notified features of special scientific interest.

Before undertaking or permitting the operations specified in this consent, you may also need to get additional permissions from other authorities. For example, the consented operations might also require planning permission from the Local Planning Authority, a permit from the Environment Agency or a licence from the Forestry Commission. This operation may also constitute a project under the EIA (Agriculture) Regulations (find out when you need to apply for an environmental impact assessment (EIA) screening or consent decision to change rural land use by using this [guidance](#)).

It is your responsibility, as the grantee of this consent, to ensure that no other permissions or consents, whether of a public or a private nature, are needed and, if any are needed, to acquire them before you exercise this consent.

This is Natural England's consent only, and it does not allow you to undertake or permit the specified operations without first having obtained all of the necessary permissions needed to undertake the operation lawfully. If you do not obtain all of the permissions you require, and carry out the work anyway, you may face enforcement action from other authorities or parties.

As the grantee of this consent, you are responsible for carrying out the consented operation(s) safely and in all ways according to the law.



**If you have any queries or concerns over this consent, please contact our Farm and Conservation Advice Service at [ProtectedSites@naturalengland.org.uk](mailto:ProtectedSites@naturalengland.org.uk)**

Reference number of operations from SSSI notification documents, for Natural England's use only: 26; 27



# Notice of proposal to cause, carry out or permit operations requiring Natural England's consent on a site of special scientific interest (SSSI)

Owners and occupiers of land within a SSSI should use this form to give notice of a proposed operation on a SSSI that needs Natural England's consent.

Complete all sections including the declaration on the final page, and send this Notice along with any accompanying information to: [ProtectedSites@naturalengland.org.uk](mailto:ProtectedSites@naturalengland.org.uk)

If you need advice or support before you submit your Notice, [contact Natural England](#). Natural England can in some circumstances [offer advice](#) if you need help with your proposal, with drafting the notice form, or if you need advice quickly (in less than 28 calendar days).

## Part 1: Where you intend to carry out, cause or permit the operations

### Name of SSSIs

Name all of the SSSIs where operations are proposed to be carried out. If you do not know the name of the SSSI where you will carrying out your operations, you can find this by visiting the [MAGIC map system](#).

Godrevy Head to St Agnes SSSI

### Details of land on which operations are intended to be carried out, caused or permitted.

You should provide details of the exact location of where you will gain access and carry out operations within the SSSI. You can provide one or more of the following:

- OS grid references (find [OS grid references](#))
- field parcel details
- a screenshot of a map or aerial photograph that shows the exact location



## Part 2: What operations you intend to carry out, cause or permit

### List all operations you intend to carry out, cause or permit

You should refer to the relevant 'List of Operations Requiring Natural England Consent' (ORNEC) for the named SSSIs. If you do not have a copy of the ORNEC list for the SSSIs, you can find this on the [designated sites system](#).

Recreational flying of unpowered model aircraft at St Agnes Head, outside of the bird breeding season. Launching and landing will take place within the three heathland areas marked on the map in green above, flying within the airspace marked in red lines.

## Part 3: How you intend to carry out each operation

### Describe how you, or someone you are permitting, intend to undertake your proposed operations.

This proposal is for British Model Flying Association affiliated groups to operate radio controlled slope soaring model gliders at St Agnes Head. Radio controlled model aircraft broadly fall into two basic categories; powered and unpowered. Unpowered models are better known as gliders or sailplanes and are categorised as silent flight models. These rely solely on wind for propulsion and are controlled in flight by flying surfaces operated remotely by micro electric motors driven by a small 6-volt battery.

At St Agnes Head unpowered model fliers elect exclusively to fly models in the slope soaring class, relying on the lift generated by rising air over the coastal cliff face. Models vary in size from wingspans of less than 1 metre to larger models of up to 4 metre

wingspan. Methods of construction are based on a variety of materials from foam through balsa wood and plywood to composite materials of epoxy glass and carbon. Flying weights vary from around 300 gms up to 5 kgs for the larger models.

The 3 take off and landing areas used for flying at St Agnes Head as shown in green on the map above are;

No.1 is used for wind directions from West to North West. The models are launched by hand from the cliff edge and landed within 30 metres of the launch point between the car park and the NCI station.

No.2 is used for wind directions from South West to WNW. The models are launched by hand from an elevated point in front of the coastal path and are landed on level heather covered ground within 30 metres of the launch point.

No.3 is used for wind directions from North West to NNE with models launched by hand from a point in front of the coastal path. The landing zone is within 50 metres of the launch point and to the East of the car park.

## **Part 4: When you intend to carry out, cause or permit the operations**

### **Indicate any specific considerations or restrictions relating to the timing of each proposed operation, such as certain weather or ground conditions**

The flying of model gliders is only possible at St Agnes in suitable conditions; when wind direction is within the range SW to NNE, there is good visibility typically more than 3 to 5 km and when conditions are dry.

The potential impact of the proposed activity on the SSSI features focusses particularly on the breeding bird assemblage. Unpowered model aircraft were observed causing disturbance to breeding birds (including schedule 1 Peregrine) in the bird breeding season within the SSSI at St Agnes in 2022 and as a result this activity will only be licenced outside of the breeding bird season within the SSSI.

The bird breeding season is defined from 1<sup>st</sup> February to 31<sup>st</sup> August based on previous monitoring and advice from licenced schedule 1 monitors of breeding birds to enable the breeding bird assemblage to successfully choose a nest site, breed and for their dependent young to fledge and be allowed time to carry out training hunting flights in the case of Schedule 1 Peregrine.

The period in which unpowered model flying will be licenced and therefore the period in which we are seeking for consent for is from 1<sup>st</sup> September 2025 to 31<sup>st</sup> January 2026.

Monitoring of schedule 1 breeding birds at St Agnes Head will be carried out by the National Trust team during breeding bird season and data gathered will be used to inform future breeding season restriction dates.

The risk to grey seal is seen as very low given that there are no identified grey seal haul out sites below the indicated flying area and that model flying will take place in excess of 100m separation from any possible grey seal.

The three take off and landing areas are locations where the vegetation is largely short grass or pioneer heathland, with the footprint estimated to be an area of 1 hectare in each of the 3 locations, a proportion of which is the coastal footpath.

## **Enter the start and end date of the proposed operations**

Natural England has up to 4 months to consider a notice and decide whether to grant consent. Operations should not commence until consent has been granted by Natural England. Consider this when you specify your start and end dates.

### **Start date of operations**

01/09/2025

### **End date of operations**

31/01/2026

## **Part 5: Declaration**

In providing this information and signing this form, I hereby give notice to Natural England in accordance with Section 28E (1)(a) of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) of my proposal to carry out, cause or permit the operations stated above within this SSSI.

### **Name of SSSI owner or occupier**

The National Trust

### **Address**

Wayside Studio, St Agnes, TR5 0SU

### **Email**

Steve.Sudworth@nationaltrust.org.uk

### **Telephone number**

01872 552412

## **SSSI owner or occupier signature**

Steve Sudworth

## **Date**

15/01/2025

## **Agent representing SSSI owner or occupier**

If you are an agent representing a SSSI owner or occupier, you should provide your own contact details as well.

## **Full name**

Enter agent's first and last name

## **Address**

Click or tap here to enter the agent's address

## **Email**

Click or tap here to enter the agent's email address

## **Telephone number**

Click or tap here to enter telephone number

## **Agent's signature**

Click or tap here to enter the agent's signature

## **Date**

Click or tap here to enter the date

## **Privacy notice**

Using and sharing your information: The Data Controller is Natural England. For further information on how we process your personal information, read our [Sites of Special Scientific Interest \(SSSI\) Privacy Notice](#) on GOV.UK.

It is your responsibility to obtain all necessary permissions required to undertake the operations lawfully. You may face enforcement action from other authorities or parties if you carry out the work without permission.