

DEPARTMENT OF THE ENVIRONMENT FOR NORTHERN IRELAND

**DECLARATION OF AREA OF SPECIAL SCIENTIFIC INTEREST AT
MAGHERAMENAGH, COUNTY FERMANAGH. ARTICLE 24 OF THE NATURE
CONSERVATION AND AMENITY LANDS (NORTHERN IRELAND) ORDER 1985.**

The Department of the Environment for Northern Ireland (the Department), having consulted the Council for Nature Conservation and the Countryside and being satisfied that the area delineated and described on the attached map (the area) is of special scientific interest by reason of its geological features and accordingly needs to be specially protected, hereby declares the area to be an area of special scientific interest to be known as the 'Magheramenagh area of special scientific interest'.

Waulsortian limestones are superbly exposed in Magheramenagh Quarry in the form of a lenticular mound with some 10-12m of massive to unbedded limestones. The term Waulsortian refers to a submarine 'reef' formation with distinctive associated rock and fossil animal characters of a particular age, that being late Tournaisian to early Viséan.

The rocks contain a range of fossils, including abundant crinoidal material, together with bryozoa but only occasional brachiopods and solitary corals. These indicate a mid-Tournaisian to Arundian age, between 343 and 339 million years old, and are thus within the age range for the Waulsortian.

Magheramenagh Quarry is the most northerly occurrence of the Waulsortian in Ireland, Great Britain and in western Europe and is about 80km north of the limit formerly imposed on the development of this facies in Ireland.

SCHEDULE

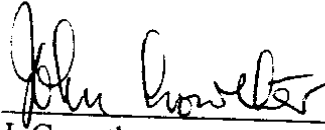
The following operations and activities appear to the Department to be likely to damage the geological features of the area:

1. Any activity or operation which involves the damage or disturbance by any means of the surface and subsurface of the land, including ploughing, rotovating, harrowing, reclamation and extraction of minerals, including rock, sand, gravel and peat.
2. The storage or dumping, spreading or discharge of any material.
3. Changes in tree or woodland management, including afforestation, planting.
4. Construction, removal or disturbance of any permanent or temporary structure including building, engineering or other operations.
5. Alteration of natural or man-made features, the clearance of boulders or stones and grading of rock faces.

6. The following activities undertaken in a manner likely to damage the interest of the area:
 - (i) Educational activities;
 - (ii) Research activities;
 - (iii) Recreational activities.
7. Sampling of rocks, minerals, fossils or any other material forming a part of the site, undertaken in a manner likely to damage the scientific interest.
8. Use of vehicles or craft likely to damage the interest of the area.

Sealed with the Official Seal of the
Department of the Environment for
Northern Ireland on 28 MARCH 1996

R. Linnell
Civil Servant in Charge
COURT BELFAST


J. Crowther
Assistant Secretary

FOOTNOTES

- (a) Please note that consent by the Department to any of the above operations or activities does not constitute planning permission. Where required, planning permission must be applied for in the usual manner to the Department under Part IV of the Planning (NI) Order 1991. Operations or activities covered by planning permission are not normally covered in the list of Notifiable Operations.
- (b) Also note that many of the operations and activities listed above are capable of being carried out either on a large scale or in a very small way. While it is impossible to define exactly what is "large" and what is "small", the Department would intend to approach each case in a common sense and practical way. It is very unlikely that small scale operations would give rise for concern and if this was the case the Department would normally give consent, particularly if there is a long history of the operation being undertaken in that precise location.