

DEPARTMENT OF THE ENVIRONMENT

DECLARATION OF AREA OF SPECIAL SCIENTIFIC INTEREST AT TEDD, COUNTY FERMANAGH. ARTICLE 28 OF THE ENVIRONMENT (NORTHERN IRELAND) ORDER 2002.

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 the 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 'Tedd area of special scientific interest'.

The rocks exposed at Tedd form part of the Tedd Formation. They have been dated by the occurrence of microscopic plant spores and have been shown to be Lower Devonian in age, some 375 million years old. Given the complicated nature and varying ages of rocks in this general area, the ability to date the rocks at Tedd is of particular importance.

While the Tedd Formation consists mainly of red-beds, comprising various grades of sandstones together with siltstones and mudstones, the outcrop at Tedd offers the only horizon of green mudstones found to date. These rocks formed within an ancient inland basin, their red colour being due to the presence of oxidised iron minerals. Green or grey mudstones developed where standing water, possibly a lake, prevented oxidation of the iron minerals. It is only in this latter situation that plant pollen or spores are likely to be preserved. That the lake was temporary, possibly seasonal, is shown by the presence of well preserved small scale desiccation cracks formed by periodic drying, while preserved ripples show that occasional flowing water was also present.

SCHEDULE

The following operations and activities appear to the Department to be likely to damage the Earth Science interest 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, reclamation and extraction of minerals, including rock, sand and gravel.
2. Any change in the present annual pattern and intensity of grazing.
3. The storage or dumping, spreading or discharge of any material other than in the course of normal agricultural activities.
4. Introduction of afforestation.



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5. Construction, removal or disturbance of any permanent or temporary structure including building, engineering or other operations.
6. Alteration of natural or man-made features, the clearance of boulders or stones and grading of rock faces.
7. The following activities undertaken in a manner likely to damage the interest of the area:
 - i) educational activities;
 - ii) research activities;
 - iii) recreational activities.
8. 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.
9. Use of vehicles or craft likely to damage the geological features of the area.

FOOTNOTES

- (a) Please note that consent by the Department to any of the operations or activities listed in the Schedule 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 (Northern Ireland) Order 1991.
- (b) Also note that many of the operations and activities listed in the Schedule 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.