

DEPARTMENT OF THE ENVIRONMENT FOR NORTHERN IRELAND

**DECLARATION OF AREA OF SPECIAL SCIENTIFIC INTEREST AT
TULLANAGUIGGY, 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 'Tullanaguiggy area of special scientific interest'.

The Tullanaglare Mudstone Formation includes a group of fine-grained sediments that are the youngest, accurately dated, Carboniferous rocks exposed in Ireland. Exposure of the stratotype section of this Tullanaglare Mudstone Formation occurs within the stream bed. The formation consists of grey and green-grey sediments comprising calcareous mudstones, laminated mudstones, siltstones, quartz-clastic palaeosols and sandy palaeosols with calcrete nodules.

Microscopic plant spores indicate an age at the very top of the Langsettian Stage (Westphalian A), some 310 million years old (My). A second sample had a miospore assemblage indicative of a basal Westphalian B age, some 297 My.

These rocks accumulated mainly as ancient soils under partially waterlogged conditions. They were formed on a topographically more elevated part of an extensive alluvial plain on which coal-forming swamps and lakes were developing elsewhere in Ireland.

SCHEDULE

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

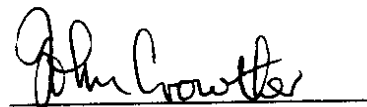
1. Any activity or operation which involves the damage or disturbance by any means of the surface and subsurface of the land, including ploughing, rotovating, harrowing, reclamation and extraction of minerals, including rock, sand, gravel and peat.
2. The storage or dumping, spreading or discharge of any material.
3. Changes in tree or woodland management, including afforestation, planting, clearing, selective felling and coppicing.
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. Operations or activities which would affect wetlands (including rivers, streams and open water), e.g.

/LMB

- (i) change in the methods or frequency of routine drainage maintenance;
 - (ii) modification to the structure of any watercourse;
 - (iii) lowering of the water-table, permanently or temporarily;
 - (iv) change in the management of bank-side vegetation;
 - (v) changes in field drainage or boundary field drainage.
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 interest of the area.

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

R. Hinchliffe
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.