

DINAS DINLLE SITE OF SPECIAL SCIENTIFIC INTEREST



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YOUR SPECIAL SITE AND ITS FUTURE

‘Your Special Site and its Future’ is part of our commitment to improve the way we work with Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) owners and occupiers. In it, we explain what is special about the geology on your site, and what care is needed to look after its geology into the future.

All SSSIs are considered to be of national importance and we recognise the crucial role that owners and occupiers play in their management and protection. We need you to share your views and knowledge of this site with us, to help safeguard it.

We hope that you will find ‘Your Special Site and its Future’ interesting and helpful. Please contact us if there is anything about the site and its management that you would like to discuss.

What is ‘special’ about the geology at Dinas Dinlle SSSI?

Dinas Dinlle SSSI has one special feature:

- Pleistocene/Quaternary landform assemblage and associated subsurface stratigraphical profile.

The 900m-long section of coastal cliffs at this site is of special scientific interest because it provides a profile through a nationally important sequence of sediments deposited during the last Ice Age. These deposits comprise a complex series of Irish Sea and Welsh tills with associated sands and gravels, which have been extensively folded and faulted. The two drift mounds at Dinas Dinlle are also important features in their own right and provide important evidence on how the sediments may have accumulated.

What do we want Dinas Dinlle SSSI to look like?

The following is a description of how we would like to see the future development of Dinas Dinlle SSSI:

The special features will remain accessible in order to allow further study and research. This will be achieved by maintaining the current level and continuity of sediment exposure along the cliffs. Dinas Dinlle SSSI will thereby continue to provide one of the best localities for the study of environmental and geomorphological changes in north-west Wales during late Pleistocene times.

What management is needed on Dinas Dinlle SSSI and why?

Dinas Dinlle is an excellent place for geology and research and sites such as this are vital for further geological research. However it will only remain so if the necessary management continues and CCW’s priority is to work with you to ensure that this management is carried out.

What does this mean in practice?

There are a number of different factors that could damage the special feature at Dinas Dinlle SSSI if they are not properly managed. These are the ones we regard as most important:

- **Coastal defences/maintaining natural coastal processes**
The maintenance of the feature of geomorphological interest in a favourable condition depends largely on the continued operation of natural coastal processes, in particular erosion and sediment transport. These processes act to ensure that the exposures are kept clean and free of accumulated debris. Our aim, therefore, is to ensure that no coastal defence works (e.g. sea walls, groynes, rock armouring), likely to either conceal important exposures or to interrupt natural coastal processes, are constructed either within or near to the site. We recognise that continued erosion to maintain the exposure is at the expense of the subsidiary landform (the mounds themselves).

- **Tourist/visitor infrastructure**
Certain changes to the present visitor infrastructure, for example, the creation of additional paths, the widening of existing paths or the provision of on-site interpretation facilities will need to be considered carefully in order not to damage the geomorphological interest.
- **Agricultural practices**
Current agricultural practices above the cliffs, namely animal grazing, have little or no effect upon the feature of geomorphological interest. Similarly, the maintenance of existing fences, tracks and drainage systems is unlikely to have any major adverse impact. However, certain changes in agricultural practice, for example, construction of new access tracks and re-grading of the land surface, would certainly be damaging to the interest and such works should not be undertaken.

Finally

Our knowledge of geology is continually improving and sites such as this are vital in that process. It is possible that new issues may arise in the future, whilst other issues may disappear. This statement is written with the best information we have now, but may have to change in the future as our understanding improves. Any information you can provide on the special feature of your site and its conservation would be much appreciated.

If you would like to discuss any aspect of your SSSI, or have any concerns about your SSSI, please contact your local CCW office.

Your local office is;

**Countryside Council for Wales
Llys y Bont
Ffordd y Parc
Parc Menai
Bangor
Gwynedd LL57 4BN**

Telephone: 01248 672500

Fax: 01248 679259