

GeoLancashire

Local Geodiversity Site selection criteria

The national criteria to be used in the selection of LGSs (formerly, Regionally Important Geological and Geomorphological sites) were set out by NJCC at the inception of the national RIGS scheme in 1991. The wording of these has been adapted for local use.

- 1) To provide a useful coverage of the stratigraphy of Lancashire. This requires sites displaying all of the major groups, eg. the Bowland Shales, as well as sites to cover horizons of particular significance, eg. the *Bollandoceras hodderense* beds, an important marker horizon.
- 2) To provide a useful coverage of the range of geological features to be found in the county. This includes:
 - a) the range of rock and mineral types and their relationship to each other;
 - b) the range of sedimentary features;
 - c) the range of structural features;
 - d) the range of geomorphological features;
 - e) palaeontological sites, particularly those important from the point of view of stratigraphy, correlation and evolution;
 - f) hydrogeological features.
- 3) To provide an educational resource for the county, at all levels. Such sites should be easily accessible, display a reasonable range of features well, and between them cover as wide a range of geology and geomorphology as possible. In order to make it possible for school parties to get to sites, some "duplication" may be needed.
- 4) To preserve sites of scientific importance. While some are already protected by SSSI status, others are not protected in any way. These include palaeontological and stratigraphic type localities, and sites which have been cited in the geological literature, among others.
- 5) To preserve sites of historic significance. These may include sites related to the past study of geology or sites of archaeological importance. These are part of our heritage and should be preserved as we would any other historical document.
- 6) To preserve sites for their rarity value. Sites in some horizons such as Permo-Trias, are significant because there are very few of them. Since rocks representing a particular period in time may be widely scattered, sites from all areas are important if as complete a picture as possible is to be maintained. All sites of this type should be considered for LGS designation.
- 7) To preserve sites of unusually high quality. There are some sites where a feature is particularly well displayed, or where a good range of features is visible. These are especially useful for study and demonstrations. These sites may be considered for on-site interpretation purposes.
- 8) To preserve sites that have a notable visual appeal. Many peoples interest in geology begins with an interest in the landscape around them. Geology underlies all our landscape, and rock outcrops sometimes form the most impressive features. In a county that promotes its natural beauty, these should form an important group of sites.