

Criteria for the listing of sites of special geological interest

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Introduction

The Planning and Building (Jersey) Law 2002 provides that the Chief Officer shall maintain a list, called the List of Sites of Special Interest, of buildings and places that are considered to be of public importance. A place may be included on the List by reason of its special geological interest¹.

The criteria below give a framework within which the Chief Officer takes professional guidance on making a decision on whether to list a place for its geological qualities.

Principles for Listed Sites of Special Interest

Sites of Special Interest are defined as buildings and places of 'public importance'. For a place to be Listed as a Site of Special Interest for its geological the following criteria will be used to assess each case on its merits. There will be a logical assessment made which will test whether the standard is met.

The basis for the Listing a geological place or site is contained within the Geodiversity Audit for Jersey 2020². The Audit provides the background and framework within which sites are selected and evaluated to ensure comprehensive representation of Jersey's geological history within the Site of Special Interest (SSI) network. The Audit also identifies opportunities to increase geotourism and public engagement associated with the SSI network.

Listing Criteria

The following detailed Listing Criteria, which are contained within the Geodiversity Audit, will be applied in a careful assessment of each case. This will ensure that a Site of Special Geological Interest has gone through a rigorous and robust process to ensure the level of protection offered is appropriate. The ultimate aim is to conserve a carefully defined range of the island's geodiversity.

1. Geoscientific Merit (Rarity)

This criterion relates to the intrinsic geological attributes of the site and its contribution to scientific understanding of the geological history of Jersey. This includes (1) of the Cadomian terrane and the wider plate-tectonic and crustal accretion processes occurring during this period; (2) of the Quaternary to recent climatic and landscape evolution of Northern Europe; (3) Prehistoric sites preserving evidence relating to the record of peopling and depopulation of the region during the Pleistocene and adaptation to Quaternary climatic and

¹ (Planning and Building (Jersey) Law 2002, Article 51(2) (b)

² [Geodiversity Audit for Jersey 2020](#)

environmental change.

This criterion, which is evaluated under the term 'Rarity', includes consideration of the representativeness of the site of key elements of this history and whether it represents a unique occurrence relative to the wider region of the Cadomian terrane, and/or the northern European region.

Although the bedrock and Quaternary geological contexts are quite distinct it is recognised that a site may display features and attributes related to both. Hence whilst a single Rarity value is given for each site, the site will be classified with respect to its 'primary interest feature(s)' and further detail of the particular context for the classification including the key geoscientific features of the site will be provided.

Consideration will also be given to the history of scientific study associated with the site, in the form of published literature and inclusion in field guides, and the association with sample materials held in collections.

Each site is graded against the rarity criterion as either international, regional or local, as follows:

Rarity (Grade)	Description
International	the site is representative of key elements of the geological history of the Cadomian terrane and/or the Quaternary history of Northern Europe and provides a particularly complete/unique/valuable scientific record
Regional	the site is representative of aspects of geological history of the Cadomian terrane and/or the Quaternary history of Northern Europe and provides a unique contribution to understanding Jersey's geological history
Local	the site provides examples of geological features of interest, with limited contribution to the understanding of Jersey's geological history

2. Quality

This criterion relates to the potential value of the site for public education and tourism, based on an assessment of the visibility of the key geological features of the site and the degree to which access is fundamentally restricted by natural or human factors.

Each site is graded against the rarity criterion as either excellent, good or moderately good, as follows:

Quality (Grade)	Description
Excellent	the site presents clear exposures of key features with no restrictions on visibility or access
Good	the site presents exposed features, but may be affected by some natural or human degradation and/or minor issues with visibility and access
Moderately good	the site presents exposed features that affected by some natural or human degradation, and/or moderate issues with visibility and access.