

The open pavements of Birkrigg Common are heavily grazed and lie amongst expanses of bracken and short grasses. Where the grikes are broad and shallow the floristic composition tends to be of grasses and bracken, but the deep grikes support a rich and varied woodland flora. The bracken invasion is widespread especially amongst the shallower grikes. Trees and shrubs are confined by grazing pressure to the grikes. A number of fern species are also a notable feature.

Birkrigg Common lies on the Urswick and Park Limestone of carboniferous age which dip towards the east. Pavement developed on both units of limestone is present—the Urswick Limestone being more extensive than the Park Limestone, tends to dominate the pavements are Birkrigg Common.

The pavements have developed as a series of elongated parallel terraces rising from Appleby Slack westwards to the summit of the Common. The pavements are generally in good condition although there are seemingly random areas of intensive localised damage.

Solution features are well developed especially on the pavements of Appleby Slack where they are outstanding. There is an area of almost grikelless pavement with a well-developed trough (large scale runnel) system. In some places the trough system is so densely developed that there is virtually no original clint surface left. The slightly uneven surface of these pavements (cross-cutting bedding planes) makes these pavements especially valuable in the Furness area.

The total area covered by the Order is: 65 hectares.

17th January 1992.

(539)

CUMBRIA COUNTY COUNCIL

WILDLIFE AND COUNTRYSIDE ACT, 1981

Cumbria County Council (Wellhouse and Hag Woods) Limestone Pavement Order, 1992

Notice is hereby given that on 10th January 1992 Cumbria County Council acting under section 34 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act, 1981 made the Cumbria County Council (Wellhouse and Hag Woods) Limestone Pavement Order 1992 designating the land described in the Schedule to the Order and prohibiting the removal or disturbance of limestone on or in it.

The Order (which is set out in the Schedule to this Notice) took effect when it was made and has been submitted to the Secretary of State for the Environment. The Order will cease to have effect nine months after it was made unless the Secretary of State previously gives notice that he has considered it and does not propose to amend or revoke it, or that he has amended or revoked it, or that the Authority has revoked it.

Representations about or objections to the Order may be made to the Secretary of State for the Environment, Room 908, Tollgate House, Houlton Street, Bristol BS2 9DJ before 21st February 1992.

Such representations or objections should be in writing and should state the title of the Order. In the case of objections, the grounds on which they are made should also be stated.

Copies of the Order and the map referred to in it have been deposited at:

1. Offices of the County Solicitor, Cumbria County Council, The Courts, Carlisle, Cumbria CA3 8LZ.
2. Bardsea Post Office, The Yews, Bardsea.

and may be inspected free of charge at all reasonable hours.

Cumbria County Council (Wellhouse and Hag Woods) Limestone Pavement Order, 1992

Whereas the land described in the Schedule to this Order comprises a limestone pavement which has been notified to Cumbria County Council under section 34(1) of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981.

And whereas it appears to the Cumbria County Council that the character or appearance of the said land will be likely to be adversely affected by the removal of the limestone or its disturbance in any way whatever, that the council ought to order as follows:

Now therefore in exercise of the powers conferred by section 34(2) of the said Act of 1981, Cumbria County Council hereby designates and prohibits the removal or disturbance of limestone on or in the land described in the Schedule to this Order and delineated by a thick black line on the map prepared in duplicate, sealed with the Common Seal of the said Cumbria County Council and marked "Map" referred to in the Cumbria County Council (Wellhouse and Hag Woods) Limestone Pavement Order, 1992. One duplicate copy of the map is deposited in the offices of the County Solicitor, Cumbria County Council, The Courts, Carlisle, and the other is deposited in the offices of the Secretary of State for the Environment.

This Order may be cited as the Cumbria County Council (Wellhouse and Hag Woods) Limestone Pavement Order, 1992.

A. Fraser, County Solicitor

The Courts
Carlisle CA3 8LZ.

SCHEDULE

Wellhouse and Hag Woods lie on the eastern side of the Furness Peninsula, near to the coast, 4 km south of Ulverston and close to the village of Bardsea.

The woods form part of a large and prominent group of ancient semi-natural woodlands comprising Sea Wood (A Site of Special Scientific Interest), Wellhouse Wood and Hag Wood. Semi-natural woodlands are uncommon in the furness peninsula and therefore form important landscape features.

The two woodlands, covering land rising up from the shore to 45 metres OD, are clearly visible from the well-used coastal Bardsea Country Park, from the A5087 coastal road to Barrow, from Bardsea village and from the popular recreation area of Birkrigg Common. A well used track running between Birkrigg Common and Well House Farm passes along the southern edge of Hag Wood providing attractive glimpses of wooded pavement. The pavement clints themselves are mostly carpeted by bryophytes (mosses), although emergent ferns and other vegetation delineates the clints. In the south-east of the wood, sloping pavement has less bryophyte cover and the well developed solution features are clear.

The limestone pavements of Wellhouse Wood support a rich plant community which grows within the grikes and runnels and upon the clint tops. Both the grikes and the flat clint tops of Hag Wood support vegetation. The tree canopy of each wood is dominated by sycamore with occasional ash, elm, oak and other species such as holly, yew, bird cherry and lime.

Wellhouse and Hag Woods lie on Urswick Limestone of lower carboniferous age, which dips to the east at about 10 degrees. Urswick Limestone is well-bedded, with well spaced regular joints, favouring grike formation. The pavements aptly demonstrate these two geological features. The bedding is demonstrated by laminar weathering in some of the grikes and the wide spacing of the joints result in massive clints up to 3 metres across. The bryophyte cover tends to obscure the solution features but, where visible, these are well developed.

The south-east corner of Hag Wood has two parallel scars about 2 metres high. The solution features above these, on the dipping bedding plane, are exceptionally well developed, with parallel and dendritic runnel patterns. The grikes vary in their depth, with some up to 1.5 metres deep. Scattered erratic pebbles are visible, with conspicuous lichen cover. Some are wedged in grikes.

The pavements of Wellhouse Wood are fragmental and have clearly been damaged in the past while those of Hag Wood are in very good condition.

The total area covered by the Order is: 6.8 hectares.

17th January 1992.

(540)

CUMBRIA COUNTY COUNCIL

WILDLIFE AND COUNTRYSIDE ACT, 1981

Cumbria County Council (Scales and Baycliff Haggs) Limestone Pavement Order, 1992

Notice is hereby given that on 10th January 1992 Cumbria County Council acting under section 34 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act, 1981 made the Cumbria County Council (Scales and Baycliff Haggs) Limestone Pavement Order 1992 designating the land described in the Schedule to the Order and prohibiting the removal or disturbance of limestone on or in it.

The Order (which is set out in the Schedule to this Notice) took effect when it was made and has been submitted to the Secretary of State for the Environment. The Order will cease to have effect nine months after it was made unless the Secretary of State previously gives notice that he has considered it and does not propose to amend or revoke it, or that he has amended or revoked it, or that the Authority has revoked it.

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