



# Nature Conservation (Scotland) Act 2004

## 2004 asp 6

### PART 2

#### CONSERVATION AND ENHANCEMENT OF NATURAL FEATURES

### CHAPTER 1

#### SITES OF SPECIAL SCIENTIFIC INTEREST

##### *Offences and byelaws*

#### **19 Offences in relation to sites of special scientific interest**

- (1) Any person who intentionally or recklessly damages any natural feature specified in an SSSI notification is, subject to subsection (2), guilty of an offence.
- (2) Any person who does anything which would, but for this subsection, amount to an offence under subsection (1) is not guilty of the offence if it is shown that—
  - (a) the act was the incidental result of a lawful operation,
  - (b) the person who carried out the lawful operation—
    - (i) took reasonable precautions for the purpose of avoiding carrying out the act, or
    - (ii) did not foresee, and could not reasonably have foreseen, that the act would be an incidental result of the carrying out of the lawful operation, and
  - (c) that person took such steps as were reasonably practicable in all the circumstances to minimise the damage caused.
- (3) Any person who, without reasonable excuse—
  - (a) contravenes section 13(1) or 16(1), or
  - (b) fails to comply with section 14(5)(b) or 17(3)(b),is guilty of an offence.
- (4) Any person guilty of an offence under subsection (1) or (3) is liable—
  - (a) on summary conviction, to a fine not exceeding £40,000,

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*Status: This is the original version (as it was originally enacted).*

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- (b) on conviction on indictment, to a fine.
- (5) It is not a defence in proceedings for an offence under subsection (3) of contravening section 13(1) or 16(1) that the carrying out of the operation did not damage any natural feature specified in an SSSI notification.