



# Wildlife and Natural Environment (Scotland) Act 2011

2011 asp 6

## PART 6

### SITES OF SPECIAL SCIENTIFIC INTEREST

#### 40 SSSI offences: civil enforcement

- (1) The 2004 Act is amended as follows—  
(a) after section 20 insert—

*“Restoration notices*

#### **20A Restoration notices**

- (1) SNH may propose to give a restoration notice where it is satisfied that a person (the “responsible person”)—
- (a) has committed an offence under section 19(1), or
  - (b) has committed an offence under section 19(3) in respect of an operation which has damaged a natural feature specified in an SSSI notification.
- (2) A restoration notice is a notice which requires the responsible person to carry out such operations as may be specified in the notice, within such periods from the notice taking effect as may be so specified, for the purpose of restoring, so far as is reasonably practicable, the damaged natural feature to its former condition.
- (3) A proposal under subsection (1) must be made to the responsible person and must—
- (a) explain why SNH proposes to give the restoration notice,
  - (b) be accompanied by a draft of the proposed restoration notice,
  - (c) explain that giving notice of intention to comply with the restoration notice within 28 days of it being given would

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*Status: This is the original version (as it was originally enacted).*

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- discharge the responsible person from liability to conviction for the offence in question,
- (d) explain that the responsible person has the right to make representations to SNH about the proposal within the period of 28 days from the date on which the proposal is made,
  - (e) specify the manner in which such representations must be made.
- (4) SNH may, after the period for making representations about a proposal has expired, give the restoration notice (with or without modifications) to the responsible person.
- (5) A restoration notice has effect only if the responsible person gives SNH notice of intention to comply with it within 28 days of it being given.
- (6) SNH may by giving notice to a responsible person in respect of whom a restoration notice has effect—
- (a) extend the period specified in the restoration notice within which operations are to be carried out, or
  - (b) otherwise modify the restoration notice in such manner as SNH considers appropriate.
- (7) A notice may be given under paragraph (b) of subsection (6) only where the responsible person has consented to the modification.
- (8) SNH may withdraw a restoration notice (by giving notice to the responsible person) where it is satisfied on the basis of information subsequently obtained that the restoration notice should not have been given to the responsible person.
- (9) Where a restoration notice is withdrawn, SNH must compensate the responsible person for any expenses reasonably incurred in complying with the restoration notice.
- (10) Proceedings against the responsible person may not be commenced or continued for an offence in relation to which the restoration notice has effect (even if the restoration notice is subsequently withdrawn).
- (11) If, within the period specified in a restoration notice, the responsible person to whom it is given fails, without reasonable excuse, to comply with it, the responsible person is guilty of an offence and liable—
- (a) on summary conviction, to a fine not exceeding £40,000,
  - (b) on conviction on indictment, to a fine.
- (12) If, within the period specified in a restoration notice, any operations so specified have not been carried out in accordance with the restoration notice, SNH may—
- (a) carry out those operations, and
  - (b) recover from the responsible person any expenses reasonably incurred by it in doing so.”,
- (b) in section 14(1) (SNH consent not required for certain operations by public bodies), after paragraph (a) insert—



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- (c) a restoration notice given under subsection (4) of section 20A of the Nature Conservation (Scotland) Act 2004 (asp 6) in respect of which the accused has given notice of intention to comply under subsection (5) of that section in the two years preceding the date of an offence charged.”,
- (ii) in subsection (11)—
  - (A) the word “or” immediately following paragraph (b) is repealed,
  - (B) after paragraph (c) insert “; or
    - (d) to which a restoration notice given under section 20A(4) of the Nature Conservation (Scotland) Act 2004 (asp 6) related,”
  - (C) at the end of the subsection insert “or, as the case may be, about the giving of the notice (including the terms of the notice).”.