

Collecting Fossils at Achanarras Quarry

Achanarras Quarry is a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) and internationally renowned for its fossil fish. The quarry is owned and managed by Scottish Natural Heritage.

- Fossil collecting must be conducted in a responsible manner and **follow the Scottish Fossil Code**. As such, **fossils should not be sold** unless you have written permission from SNH, the landowner of this site.
- As owners of the site **we give permission for collectors to remove a maximum of 10 specimens per day**. A specimen is a piece of rock with fossil remains. This permission covers a **maximum of 7 days only**.
- Anyone wishing to collect for longer than 7 days should contact us to request permission (using the contact details below or e-mailing us at NORTH@nature.scot). To collect for a longer period, **you must provide us with evidence of your research work (amateur or academic) and that you are donating fossil material to a museum or university**.
- To help protect the site, **collect only from loose material**. Spoil heaps on the site are regularly turned over to improve the chances of new finds being made.
- Appropriate tools include purpose-made rock hammers and chisels. **The use of power tools, sledge hammers and crow-bars is not permitted**.
- Do not excavate or remove flagstone from any areas of bedrock on the quarry floor or quarry faces.
- Please let us know if you find any rare or particularly fine fossils. You should also consider offering the specimen to a museum so that other people may enjoy and appreciate it and help raise awareness of the evolution of fish.



Photo of *Palaeospondylus* fossil found on site

Fossils that have been found on site:

Common Species

Dipterus

Coccosteus

Pterichthyodes

Palaeospondylus

Mseacanthus

Small Diplacanthus

Scarcer Species

Glyptolepis

Cheiracanthus

Large Diplacanthus

Cheirolepis

Osteolepis

Achanarella

Rare Species

Actinolepis

Cornovichtys

Homosteus

Rhamphodopsis

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SCOTTISH FOSSIL CODE