



An Agency within the
Department of the Environment
for Northern Ireland



ENVIRONMENT
AND HERITAGE
SERVICE

DEPARTMENT OF THE ENVIRONMENT FOR NORTHERN IRELAND

DECLARATION OF AREA OF SPECIAL SCIENTIFIC INTEREST AT BALLYBANNAN, COUNTY DOWN. ARTICLE 24 OF THE NATURE CONSERVATION AND AMENITY LANDS (NORTHERN IRELAND) ORDER 1985.

The Department of the Environment for Northern Ireland (the Department), having consulted the Council for Nature Conservation and the Countryside and being satisfied that the area described and delineated on the attached map (the area) is of special scientific interest by reason of the flora and fauna and accordingly needs to be specially protected, hereby declares the area to be an area of special scientific interest to be known as the 'Ballybannan Area of Special Scientific Interest'.

The area is of special scientific interest because of its wetland flora and fauna. Ballybannan includes a wide range of wetland communities and plants, including several rare species. The area forms part of a shallow basin that is bisected by a road. To the west of the road is a small area of fen in which Bottle Sedge *Carex rostrata*, Sharp-flowered Rush *Juncus acutiflorus*, Yorkshire-fog *Holcus lanatus*, Marsh Bedstraw *Galium palustre* and Water Mint *Mentha aquatica* are co-dominant, over the brown moss *Calliergon cuspidatum*. Associated species include Creeping Bent *Agrostis stolonifera*, Carnation Sedge *Carex panicea*, Sweet Vernal Grass *Anthoxanthum odoratum*, Meadowsweet *Filipendula ulmaria*, Water Horsetail *Equisetum fluviatile*, Marsh Cinquefoil *Potentilla palustris* and Lesser Spearwort *Ranunculus flammula*.

To the east of the road there is a mosaic of fen with shallow pools and scattered Gorse *Ulex europaeus* scrub. Although small, these pools are very species-rich and are fringed by a diverse range of brown mosses, including *Scorpidium scorpioides*, *Calliergon cuspidatum*, *Campylium stellatum*, *Cratoneuron commutatum*, *Ctenidium molluscum* and *Drepanocladus revolvens*. Other plants such as Bottle Sedge *Carex rostrata*, Sharp-flowered Rush *Juncus acutiflorus* and Water Mint *Mentha aquatica* are abundant here. Species which occur throughout the wetland area include Bogbean *Menyanthes trifoliata*, Hoary Willowherb *Epilobium parviflorum* and Common Butterwort *Pinguicula vulgaris*, in addition to Creeping Bent *Agrostis stolonifera*, Meadowsweet *Filipendula ulmaria*, Water Horsetail *Equisetum fluviatile* and Marsh Cinquefoil *Potentilla palustris*. The remainder of the area is occupied by tall Gorse *Ulex europaeus* scrub with frequent Rowan *Sorbus aucuparia* and Bramble *Rubus fruticosus* agg.

In addition to some of those listed above, the fen contains a number of vascular plants with a restricted distribution in the British Isles, including Bog Pimpernel *Anagallis tenella*, Dioecious

Sedge *Carex dioica*, Lesser Clubmoss *Selaginella selaginoides* and Black Bog-rush *Schoenus nigricans*. The bryophyte *Scorpidium scorpioides* is also notable.

Ballybannan also provides valuable habitat for a range of wetland animals, including birds and invertebrates.

SCHEDULE

The following operations and activities appear to the Department to be likely to damage the flora and fauna of the area:

1. Cultivation, including ploughing, rotovating or re-seeding.
2. Increase in grazing intensity or change either in the type of livestock used or in feeding practices.
3. Introduction of mowing or other methods of cutting vegetation.
4. Application of manure, slurry, fertiliser or lime.
5. Application of pesticides, herbicides, fungicides or other chemicals deployed to kill, selectively or non-selectively, any form of animal, plant or other living organism.
6. Dumping, spreading or discharge of any matter.
7. Burning.
8. The release into the area of any wild, feral or domestic animal, plant or seed. "Animal" includes any mammal, reptile, amphibian, bird, fish or invertebrate, but excludes livestock and animals used in controlling livestock.
9. The destruction, displacement, removal or cutting of any plant, seed or plant remains, or the disturbance, killing or removal of any wild animal.
10. The introduction of tree or woodland management, including afforestation or planting.
11. Drainage, including peat drainage or the use of mole, tile, tunnel or other artificial drains.
12. Modification of the structure of water courses, including their banks and beds as by realignment, regrading or dredging.
13. Management of aquatic and bank vegetation.
14. The alteration of water levels or water tables or the utilisation of water including storage or extraction, but excluding water used for domestic requirements.
15. Infilling of ditches, drains, ponds, pools, marshes or lakes.

16. Reclamation of land from bog, marsh, river or lake.
17. Extraction of minerals including peat, sand, gravel, topsoil or subsoil.
18. Construction, removal or destruction of roads, tracks, walls, fences, hard-standings, banks, ditches and other earth works or the laying or removal of pipelines or cables, above or below ground.
19. Storage of materials.
20. Use of craft or vehicles likely to damage the vegetation.
21. Erection of permanent or temporary structures or the undertaking of building, engineering or other operations, including drilling.
22. Recreational, educational or research activities likely to damage the vegetation.
23. Changes in game management.

Sealed with the Official Seal of the
Department of the Environment for
Northern Ireland on 27 MAY 1997



ROBERT C MARTIN
ASSISTANT SECRETARY

FOOTNOTES

- (a) Please note that consent by the Department to any of the operations or activities listed in the Schedule does not constitute planning permission. Where required, planning permission must be applied for in the usual manner to the Department under Part IV of the Planning (Northern Ireland) Order 1991. Operations or activities covered by planning permission are not normally covered in the list of Notifiable Operations.
- (b) Also note that many of the operations and activities listed in the Schedule are capable of being carried out either on a large scale or in a very small way. While it is impossible to define exactly what is large and what is small, the Department would intend to approach each case in a common sense and practical way. It is very unlikely that small scale operations would give