

DEPARTMENT OF THE ENVIRONMENT FOR NORTHERN IRELAND

DECLARATION OF AREA OF SPECIAL SCIENTIFIC INTEREST AT BEAGH BIG, COUNTY FERMANAGH.
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 Committee for Nature Conservation and being satisfied that the area delineated by the solid black line on the attached map (the area) is of special scientific interest by reason of its grassland 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 'Beagh Big area of special scientific interest'.


The area is of special scientific interest because of the richness of its grassland vegetation. In contrast to the majority of hay meadows in the region, the site is relatively dry and dominated by grasses with Red Fescue (Festuca rubra), Yorkshire Fog (Holcus lanatus), Perennial Ryegrass (Lolium perenne) and Crested Dogstail (Cynosurus cristatus) all achieving high cover values. Yellow Oat-grass (Trisetum flavescens) is frequent. There is an abundance of forbs such as Bulbous Buttercup (Ranunculus bulbosus), Yellow Rattle (Rhinanthus minor), Red Clover (Trifolium pratense), Black Knapweed (Centaurea nigra) and Lady's Bedstraw (Galium verum).

Several rare or local plant species occur, including Adder's-tongue Fern (Ophioglossum vulgatum) and Cowslip (Primula veris).

The scientific interest of the site will be maintained if there is no change in the established farming practice. Operations and activities which are likely to damage the scientific interest of the site and which would therefore require the prior consent of the Department of the Environment are as follows:-

- Any change in the established method and frequency of mowing.
- Any change in the present annual pattern and intensity of grazing, including any change in the type of livestock used.
- Any change in the annual pattern of application of manure or fertiliser.
- The application of any chemicals for control of weeds, insects or diseases.
- Any hedge or scrub removal and infilling of ditches.
- Field drainage or field boundary drainage.
- Any tree planting.
- The dumping or storing of any matter,
- Cultivation.
- Complete or partial reseeding.
- Construction of roads, tracks or buildings.
- Use of vehicles or machinery likely to damage the vegetation.

Sealed with the Official Seal of the
Department of the Environment for
Northern Ireland on 7 September, 1987


J C L PHILLIPS
Assistant Secretary

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