



An Agency within the Department of the
Environment
Northern Ireland



BRAADE

Views About Management The Environment (Northern Ireland) Order 2002 Article 28(2)

A statement of Environment and Heritage Service's views about the management of Braade Area of Special Scientific Interest ("the ASSI")

This statement represents the views of Environment and Heritage Service about the management of the ASSI for nature conservation. This statement sets out, in principle, our views on how the area's special conservation interest can be conserved and enhanced. Environment and Heritage Service has a duty to notify the owners and occupiers of the ASSI of its views about the management of the land.

Not all of the management principles will be equally appropriate to all parts of the ASSI and there may be other management activities, additional to our current views, which can be beneficial to the conservation and enhancement of the features of interest. It is also very important to recognise that management may need to change with time.

The management views set out below do not constitute consent for any operation or activity. The written consent of Environment and Heritage Service is still required before carrying out any operation or activity likely to damage the features of special interest (see the Schedule on pages 1 and 2 of the attached Document B for a list of these operations and activities). Environment and Heritage Service welcomes consultation with owners, occupiers and users of the ASSI to ensure that the management of this area maintains and enhances the features of interest, and to ensure that all necessary prior consents are obtained.

MANAGEMENT PRINCIPLES

The cliffs at Braade are an important habitat for wildlife and include a number of rare plant species. Environment and Heritage Service would encourage the maintenance and enhancement of the cliff habitat, through the conservation of its associated native plants and animals.

Cliffs are generally robust habitats that need little active management. Small patches of scrub on cliff ledges are valuable in providing additional habitat niches, but in the absence of light grazing, woody species may take over. On the other hand, too much grazing may cause physical damage and lead to the loss of more sensitive species.

Specific objectives include:

Prevent the loss of light-demanding species through the control of scrub and bracken. In general, this can be achieved through occasional grazing and browsing by free-ranging goats, deer or sheep. If this is insufficient, other methods of control such as cutting, may be required.

Discourage non-native species, especially those that tend to spread at the expense of native wildlife. In particular, self-seeded conifers from nearby plantations may need to be controlled.

Maintain the species richness of existing communities of vascular plants, mosses, liverworts and lichens through the control of burning and trampling.

Maintain the diversity and quality of habitats associated with the cliff, such as heath and bog, through sensitive management. These adjoining habitats can often be very important for wildlife.



C McParland
Authorised Officer

Dated the *12TH* of *FEBRUARY* 2004