

## **CARRICKBRAWN**

### **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 Carrickbrawn 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**

##### **Cornish Heath**

Wet heath is an important habitat for wildlife and at Carrickbrawn it contains the only colony in Ireland of the heather, Cornish Heath. Environment and Heritage Service would encourage the maintenance and enhancement of the species through the conservation of its associated heathland habitat at Carrickbrawn.

Most heathland communities need some management to retain their interest. Small patches of scrub within heathland are valuable in providing additional habitat niches but, in the absence of management, woody species can quickly take over. On the other hand, too much grazing, especially through the winter, can cause heathers to be replaced by coarse grasses. Purple Moor-grass is one such species that can become dominant in wet heath. Grazing by cattle in May is often the most effective way of controlling its spread.



Specific objectives include:

Low intensity grazing has contributed to the conservation and enhancement of the wet heath and its colony of Cornish Heath. Environment and Heritage Service would encourage the continuation of this practice, particularly early grazing by cattle (in May), which can reduce the dominance of Purple Moor-grass.

Prevent the loss of light-demanding heathland species through the control of scrub and bracken, particularly if they are encroaching upon the colony of Cornish Heath. In general, this can be achieved through the appropriate grazing regime. In some cases other methods of control, such as cutting, may be required.

Where appropriate, encourage the blocking of drains to prevent the wet heath from drying out.

Ensure that disturbance to the site and its wildlife is minimised.

Discourage non-native species, especially those that tend to spread at the expense of native wildlife.

Maintain the diversity and quality of habitats associated with the heath, such as bog, wet flushes, grassland and river, through sensitive management. These adjoining habitats can be important for other species of wildlife.



**E Diane Stevenson**  
Authorised Officer

Dated the *16<sup>TH</sup>* of *JANUARY* 2008