

CLADAGH (SWANLINBAR) RIVER

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 the Cladagh (Swanlinbar) River 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 2-4 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

1. The river

Environment and Heritage Service would encourage the maintenance of varying flow rates and natural erosion and sedimentation processes by the appropriate management of channels and banks. Such management should include avoiding excavation of gravel shoals and bars, minimising in-river and bankside defence works, limiting abstraction during low flow years and avoiding dredging in the channel.

2. Pollution

Environment and Heritage Service would encourage a continuing reduction of pollution from industrial or agricultural sources, such as mineral workings and run-off of silt and nutrients from agricultural land.



3. Bankside Habitats

The ASSI supports rich and varied river and bankside wildlife habitats. Environment and Heritage Service would encourage the conservation and enhancement of the variety of vegetation present by careful bank use and maintenance. Marginal woodland is particularly important because it helps to stabilise the river bank and regulate the local climate, while submerged roots create a refuge for fish. Many of the insects and other invertebrates associated with the woodland provide food for fish.

4. Animals

The ASSI provides a habitat for a wide variety of mammal, bird, fish and invertebrate species. Environment and Heritage Service would encourage the maintenance and enhancement of these species and their habitats.

In particular, Freshwater Pearl Mussels should suffer as little disturbance as possible either through direct physical disturbance or through poor water quality. The movement and migration of fish species - primarily salmonids, which have a vital role in the Freshwater Pearl Mussel's juvenile development - should be maintained and enhanced by avoiding construction of temporary or permanent structures which could impede their passage through the river system.

5. Fishing

Environment and Heritage Service recognises the important economic and social roles of fishing and welcomes sustainable fishery management that is sensitive to the special interests of the ASSI.

6. Grazing

Low intensity grazing on riverside grasslands and stock feeding away from the banks has contributed to the conservation and enhancement of the features of interest. Environment and Heritage Service would encourage the extension of this practice.

7. Aliens

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



E Diane Stevenson
Authorised Officer

Dated the 23rd of January 2008