

DEPARTMENT OF THE ENVIRONMENT FOR NORTHERN IRELAND
 DECLARATION OF AREA OF SPECIAL SCIENTIFIC INTEREST AT CORRASLOUGH POINT
 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 Council for Nature Conservation and the Countryside 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 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 'Corraslough Point area of special scientific interest'.

The area is of special scientific interest because of its flora and fauna. The site comprises a group of low-lying fields on the shores of Upper Lough Erne. It is remarkable for the range of plant communities and plant species which it supports and is also of value for breeding birds.

At the water's edge are extensive stands of swamp, dominated by tall, grass or grass-like species such as Common Reed Phragmites australis and Bulrush Scirpus lacustris. Behind this is a fen zone in which the large sedges, Tufted Sedge Carex elata and Bladder Sedge C. vesicaria, are abundant. A wide range of other species grows here, including Purple Loosestrife Lythrum salicaria, Cowbane Cicuta virosa, and Yellow Loosestrife Lysimachia vulgaris.

The main part of the site is mown for hay and is exceptionally rich in plant species. Generally, the dominant cover plants are sedges and rushes - Carnation Sedge C. panicea, Glaucous Sedge C. flacca, Common Sedge C. nigra and Sharp-flowered Rush Juncus acutiflorus. However, a wide variety of other species also occurs, including Meadowsweet Filipendula ulmaria, Knapweed Centaurea nigra, Meadow Thistle Cirsium dissectum, Sneezewort Achillea ptarmica, Eyebright Euphrasia spp. and Hay rattle Rhinanthus minor; wetter areas have a number of additional species such as Marsh Cinquefoil Potentilla palustris and Marsh Pennywort Hydrocotyle vulgaris.

A number of scarce plant species occur, including Greater Water-parsnip Sium latifolium, Marsh Stitchwort Stellaria palustris and more notably, Marsh Pea Lathyrus palustris, growing abundantly in some areas.

A colony of the Irish Lady's Tresses Orchid Spiranthes romanzoffiana has recently been discovered on the site; this is extremely rare throughout Europe.

Adjoining fields within the site are dominated by Soft Rush Juncus effusus. Although these fields are, in comparison, of less botanical interest, along with the remainder of the area they provide suitable habitat for breeding waders. Lapwing Vanellus vanellus, Curlew Numenius arquata and Redshank Tringa totanus are present and up to 10 pairs of Snipe Gallinago gallinago were recorded during 1986.

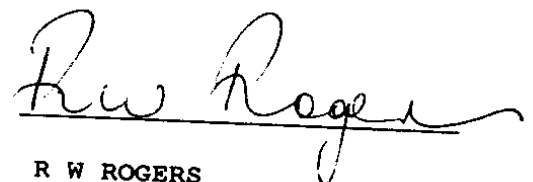
SCHEDULE

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

1. Any change in the established method and frequency of mowing.

2. Any change in the present annual pattern and intensity of grazing, including any change in the type of livestock used.
3. Any change in the annual pattern of application of manure or artificial fertiliser.
4. The application of slurry.
5. The application of any chemicals for control of weeds, insects or diseases.
6. Any hedge, scrub or tree removal and infilling of ditches.
7. The disturbance or modification of the land surface or sub-surface or lake bed or water levels whether by engineering works, drainage works or mineral extraction.
8. The introduction or release into the area of any wild feral or domestic animal, plant or seed. 'Animal' includes mammal, reptile, amphibian, bird, fish or invertebrate but excludes grazing livestock, or dogs used by the grazier to control livestock.
9. The dumping or storing of any matter.
10. Cultivation.
11. Complete or partial reseedling.
12. Construction of roads, tracks or buildings.
13. Use of vehicles or machinery likely to damage the vegetation or disturb the wildlife.

Sealed with the Official Seal of
the Department of the Environment
for Northern Ireland on 11 March, 1992



R W ROGERS
Assistant Secretary

Geraldine Hill
Civil Servant
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BELFAST

Footnote

Please note that many of the operations and activities listed above 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 rise for concern and if this was the case the Department would give consent, particularly if there is a long history of the operation being undertaken in that precise location.

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