

DEPARTMENT OF THE ENVIRONMENT FOR NORTHERN IRELAND  
DECLARATION OF AREA OF SPECIAL SCIENTIFIC INTEREST AT DERNISH ISLAND,  
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 'Dernish Island - area of special scientific interest'.

The area is of special scientific interest because of its wetland flora and fauna.

Dernish Island is a large drumlin island in the southern part of Upper Lough Erne.

The vegetation on and around the island is very diverse. Areas of swamp and fen are particularly well developed to the northwest of the island. Stands of Common Reed Phragmites australis and Bulrush Scirpus lacustris at the water's edge give way to a fen zone which is particularly rich in plant species. Large sedges especially Lesser Tussock Sedge Carex elata, Bottle Sedge C. rostrata and Bladder Sedge, C. vesicaria are dominant, but a wide variety of other species occur, including Greater Water Parsnip Sium latifolium, Flowering Rush Butomus umbellatus, Creeping Jenny Lysimachia nummularia and Marsh Stitchwort Stellaria palustris. In some places the grassland behind the fen zone is rich in plant species such as Quaking Grass Briza media and a number of smaller sedges including Carnation Sedge Carex panicea, Glaucous Sedge C. flacca and Flea Sedge C. pulicaris.

Other parts of the island are of lesser botanical interest but support a high density of breeding waders - Lapwing Vanellus vanellus, Curlew Numenius arquata and especially Redshank Tringa totanus and Snipe Gallinago gallinago. The Erne Basin generally is one of the prime locations for breeding waders in the British Isles.

With 67 pairs of waders recorded in 1987, the island has one of the highest populations and densities of breeding waders in Northern Ireland. Other breeding birds on the island include Great Crested Grebe Podiceps cristatus, Mallard Anas platyrhynchos and Shoveler Anas clypeata.

The vegetation on the island provides cover for nests and young birds. Other important factors for breeding birds are the heavy nature of the soils, which remain wet even in summer; the adjoining lough shoreline provides an abundance of food for adults and young birds. The island is also relatively free from disturbance and predation.

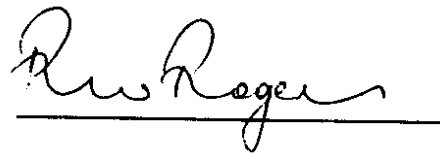
#### SCHEDULE

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 present annual pattern and intensity of grazing, including any change in the type of livestock used or changes in livestock feeding practice.

2. The disturbance or modification of the vegetation, land surface, sub-surface or water levels, whether by engineering works, drainage works, the application, spreading or storage of any material whatsoever including fertiliser or manure, on or to the vegetation or land surface, or by any other means.
3. Burning.
4. The introduction or release into the area of any wild, feral, or domestic animal, plant or seed. "Animal" includes any mammal, reptile, amphibian, bird, fish or invertebrate, but excludes grazing livestock.
5. The destruction, displacement, removal or cutting of any plant, seed or plant remains.
6. The introduction of tree or woodland management, including afforestation or planting.
7. Use of vehicles or craft likely to damage the vegetation or disturb the wildlife.
8. Recreational, educational or research activities likely to damage the vegetation or disturb the wildlife.
9. Changes in game, fish or waterfowl management.

Sealed with the Official Seal of  
the Department of the Environment  
for Northern Ireland on 5 December, 1991



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Assistant Secretary

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