

DEPARTMENT OF THE ENVIRONMENT FOR NORTHERN IRELAND

DECLARATION OF AREA OF SPECIAL SCIENTIFIC INTEREST AT
DUNLOY BOG, COUNTY ANTRIMARTICLE 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 Committee for Nature Conservation 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, fauna and physiographical features and accordingly needs to be specially protected, hereby declares the area to be an area of special scientific interest to be known as the "Dunloy Bog area of special scientific interest".

The area is of special scientific interest because it contains one of the largest remaining areas of undamaged lowland raised bog in Northern Ireland. Despite past turf-cutting around the margins and recent burning over parts of the surface, the site still retains a large intact dome with a moderately well-developed hummock/hollow complex. Pool development is limited, but the surface of the bog is wet, and in unburnt areas extensive Sphagnum lawns are found. The rare mosses, Sphagnum fuscum and S. imbricatum, occur in a few hummocks.

The most important feature of Dunloy Bog is the unbroken transition to the south and east through a lagg, which is dominated by Purple Moor-grass (Molinia caerulea), to swamp and fen along the River Main. This is the most extensive and least disturbed bog-to-lagg transition in Northern Ireland.

The bog is also unusual in having an esker along its western edge, which is of geomorphological and botanical interest. It contains a contrasting area of unimproved acid grassland and dry heath.

Several notable plant species occur in the area. These include Burnet Saxifrage (Pimpinella saxifraga) growing on the esker ridge, and Cowberry (Vaccinium vitis-idaea), which occurs in the lagg transition. The latter is generally regarded as an upland species, and it is unusual to find it in a lowland situation.

SCHEDULE

The following operations and activities appear to the Department to be likely to damage the flora, fauna and/or physiographical features of the area:

Changes in the grazing regime, including changes in the numbers or type of livestock, in feeding practices, or in the seasonal pattern of grazing.

The disturbance or modification, by any means, of the vegetation, land surface, sub-surface, water levels or water courses including drainage works and the application of any material to the vegetation or land surface.

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Burning.

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 does not include livestock.

The destruction, displacement, removal or cutting of any plant, seed or plant remains.

The introduction of tree or woodland management (including afforestation or planting).

The extraction of minerals, including peat, sand and gravel, topsoil or subsoil.

Infilling of ditches, drains, or marshes.

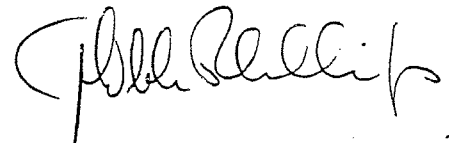
Any engineering works, including the building of roads, structures, banks, earthworks, drilling or pipe-laying.

Storage of materials.

Use of vehicles or craft likely to damage the vegetation.

Recreational, educational or research activities likely to damage the vegetation or wildlife.

Sealed with the Official Seal Of
The Department of the Environment for
Northern Ireland on *29 December 1988*



J C L PHILLIPS
ASSISTANT SECRETARY

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