



DEPARTMENT OF THE ENVIRONMENT

DECLARATION OF AREA OF SPECIAL SCIENTIFIC INTEREST AT EDENACLOUGH WOOD, COUNTY FERMANAGH. ARTICLE 28 OF THE ENVIRONMENT (NORTHERN IRELAND) ORDER 2002.

The Department of the Environment (the Department), having consulted the Council for Nature Conservation and the Countryside and being satisfied that the area described and delineated 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 'Edenaclogh Wood Area of Special Scientific Interest'.

The area is of special scientific interest for its woodland flora and fauna. The wood contains a range of plant communities, with a rich assemblage of woodland species. Structural diversity is high, despite selective felling of standard trees in the past. The woodland is also notable as one of largest remaining examples within the drumlin landscape of Fermanagh and south Tyrone. Apart from those that occur on the islands of Lough Erne, most drumlin woodlands in County Fermanagh have been cleared for agriculture in the past.

Edenaclogh Wood covers the southern flank of a small drumlin within the Glendurragh River valley. The bulk of the woodland is composed of acid oakwood and occurs on drier soils. Here, the mature canopy consists of tall Sessile Oak *Quercus petraea*, with occasional Ash *Fraxinus excelsior* and Downy Birch *Betula pubescens*. Many of the trees have regenerated from stumps and are multi-stemmed, as a result of previous felling. Hazel *Corylus avellana* forms a dense shrub layer throughout and is accompanied by Rowan *Sorbus aucuparia*, Holly *Ilex aquifolium* and Hawthorn *Crataegus monogyna*. Below, the woodland floor is covered by a scattering of Bramble *Rubus fruticosus* agg, Hard-fern *Blechnum spicant* and Broad Buckler-fern *Dryopteris dilatata*, growing over a carpet of Bluebell *Hyacinthoides non-scripta* and Wood Sorrel *Oxalis acetosella*. Other species include Pignut *Conopodium majus*, Tufted Hair-grass *Deschampsia cespitosa* and Hairy Wood-rush *Luzula pilosa*.

Wet woodland occurs occasionally where soils are waterlogged or flushed and provides additional diversity. The canopy is dominated by Alder *Alnus glutinosa*, Ash *Fraxinus excelsior* and Downy Birch *Betula pubescens*, with the rare Bird Cherry *Prunus padus* found occasionally in the shrub layer. Below, the ground flora is

characterised by stands of Lady-fern *Athyrium filix-femina*, Water Avens *Geum rivale*, Creeping Buttercup *Ranunculus repens*, Opposite-leaved Golden-saxifrage *Chrysosplenium oppositifolium*, Meadowsweet *Filipendula ulmaria* and Remote Sedge *Carex remota*. Small stands of swamp woodland are present in old flax ponds close to the stream.

In addition, Edenaclogh Wood supports a range of woodland animals, including a number of breeding bird species.

SCHEDULE

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

1. Any activity or operation which involves the damage or disturbance by any means of the surface and subsurface of the land, including ploughing, rotovating, harrowing, reclamation and extraction of minerals, including sand, shingle, shell, gravel and peat.
2. Introduction of grazing animals.
3. Introduction of rolling, mowing or cutting regimes.
4. Application of manure, slurry or artificial fertiliser.
5. Application of herbicides, fungicides or other chemicals deployed to kill any form of wild plant, other than plants listed as being noxious in the Noxious Weeds (Northern Ireland) Order 1977.
6. The storage or dumping, spreading or discharge of any material.
7. The destruction, displacement, removal or cutting of any plant, seed or plant remains, other than for plants listed as noxious in the Noxious Weeds (Northern Ireland) Order 1977.
8. The release into the area of any animal (other than in connection with normal grazing practice) or plant. 'Animal' includes birds, mammals, fish, reptiles, amphibians and invertebrates; 'Plant' includes seed, fruit or spore.
9. Burning.
10. Changes in tree or woodland management, including afforestation, planting, clearing, selective felling and coppicing.
11. Construction, removal or disturbance of any permanent or temporary structure including building, engineering or other operations.
12. Alteration of natural or man-made features, the clearance of boulders or large stones and grading of rock faces.

13. Operations or activities which would affect wetlands (including marsh, fen, rivers, streams and open water), e.g.

- (i) change in the methods or frequency of routine drainage maintenance;
- (ii) modification to the structure of any watercourse;
- (iii) lowering of the water-table, permanently or temporarily;
- (iv) change in the management of bank-side vegetation.

14. The killing or taking of any animal in a manner likely to affect the continued existence of the species within the area except as provided for under the terms of the Wildlife (Northern Ireland) Order 1985.

15. The following activities undertaken in a manner likely to damage or disturb the wildlife of the area:

- (i) Educational activities;
- (ii) Research activities;
- (iii) Recreational activities;
- (iv) Exercising of animals.

16. Changes in game, waterfowl or fisheries management or fishing or hunting practices.

17. Use of vehicles or craft likely to damage or disturb the wildlife of the area.

FOOTNOTES

(a) Please note that consent by the Department to any of the operations or activities listed in the Schedule does not constitute planning permission. Where required, planning permission must be applied for in the usual manner to the Department under Part IV of the Planning (Northern Ireland) Order 1991.

(b) Also note that many of the operations or activities listed in the Schedule 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 normally give consent, particularly if there is a long history of the operation being undertaken in that precise location.