

GARRY BOG

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 Garry Bog 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 1 and 2 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

Lowland raised bog is a habitat unique for its wildlife and earth science interest. The earth science interest is contained within the peat itself holding a record of past climate and landuse change. Environment and Heritage Service would encourage the maintenance and enhancement of the bog, through the conservation of the peat column and its associated native plants and animals. The following management principles will also ensure the maintenance of the earth science interest.

Bogs depend on rainwater and maintaining a high water table is vital to the "health" of the bog. In addition, the peat soils and many of the species that grow there are very sensitive to physical disturbance.



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Specific objectives include:

Ensure that the peat series is retained in an undamaged state and that disturbance to the site and its wildlife is minimised.

Where appropriate, encourage the blocking of drains to prevent the bog from drying out.

Lowland raised bogs cannot sustain grazing. Environment and Heritage Service would encourage stock to be excluded from this sensitive habitat.

Where appropriate, prevent the loss of light-demanding peatland species through the control of scrub and trees.

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

Maintain the diversity and quality of habitats associated with the bog, such as woodland, scrub, fen, and grassland through sensitive management. These adjoining habitats are often very important for wildlife.

Retain the potential to access the peat column through coring or a similar activity where appropriate.



Conor McParland
Authorised Officer

Dated the 27th of March 2006