

DEPARTMENT OF THE ENVIRONMENT FOR NORTHERN IRELAND

DECLARATION OF AREA OF SPECIAL SCIENTIFIC INTEREST AT GARVROS, 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 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 its grassland 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 'Garvros area of special scientific interest'.

The area is of special scientific interest because of the wide range of grassland types that it supports. It comprises a block of hay-meadows of varied aspect and wetness. Jointed Rush (Juncus articulatus) is the usual dominant, with grasses such as Sweet Vernal Grass (Anthoxanthum odoratum), Quaking Grass (Briza media), Red Fescue (Festuca rubra) and Heath Grass (Danthonia decumbens) generally achieving only low cover values. Sedges are invariably abundant - especially on flushed slopes - and include Carex pulicaris, C. panicea, C. flacca and C. hostiana. However, the most distinctive feature of these grasslands is the abundance of forbs such as Meadow Thistle (Cirsium dissectum), Tormentil (Potentilla erecta), Devil's-bit Scabious (Succisa pratensis) and Bugle (Ajuga reptans). The fields at the south-west end of the site are particularly noteworthy in this respect: Cirsium dissectum is dominant over large areas here, and there is an abundance of orchids including Lesser Butterfly Orchid (Platanthera bifolia) and Common Twayblade (Listera ovata).

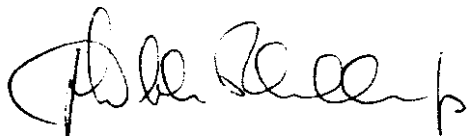
Several rare or local vascular plant species occur, including Bog Pimpernel (Anagallis tenella) (rarely found in hay-meadows), and the nationally rare Blue-eyed-Grass (Sisyrinchium bermudiana).

The scientific interest of the site will be maintained if there is no change in the established farming practice. Operations and activities which are likely to damage the scientific interest of the site and which would therefore require the prior consent of the Department of the Environment are as follows:-

- Any change in the established method and frequency of mowing.
- Any change in the present annual pattern and intensity of grazing, including any change in the type of livestock used.
- Any change in the annual pattern of application of manure or fertiliser.
- The application of any chemicals for control of weeds, insects or diseases.
- Any hedge or scrub removal and infilling of ditches.
- Field drainage or field boundary drainage.
- Any tree planting.
- The dumping or storing of any matter.

- Cultivation.
- Complete or partial reseeded.
- Construction of roads, tracks or buildings.
- Use of vehicles or machinery likely to damage the vegetation.

Sealed with the Official Seal of the
Department of the Environment for
Northern Ireland on : September, 1987


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