

## DEPARTMENT OF THE ENVIRONMENT

### DECLARATION OF AREA OF SPECIAL SCIENTIFIC INTEREST AT GLARRYFORD, COUNTY ANTRIM. 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 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 'Glarryford Area of Special Scientific Interest'.

The Glarryford area is of importance in understanding the recent glacial history of Northern Ireland containing a deglacial landform assemblage developed in an unusual environment. The landscape of this area has been defined by events that occurred towards the end of the last Ice Age, between 17,000 and 13,000 years ago, a period of gradual climatic warming. The area contains excellent examples of a range of deglacial landforms including the esker ridge and adjacent hummocky terrain. These landforms record subglacial deposition within a tunnel valley cut into the bedrock taking place late in the deglacial cycle. The site also records a phase of proglacial outwash deposition developed as the ice mass retreated.

The Glarryford esker is a well-marked ridge and represents the path of a subglacial stream, which drained northward during the later stages of the downwasting of the Lough Neagh ice dome. The esker is an excellent example of this type of landform, with well-preserved ice contact slopes. However its scientific importance is enhanced by its relationship with adjacent glacial features. The esker lies within a channel scoured in bedrock. The scale of the channel suggests that it was part of a major subglacial tunnel valley system. Adjoining deposits show evidence of streamlining, which, together with the presence of drumlins along both sides of the valley, is evidence of an earlier fast ice flow event. The un-deformed sediments of the Glarryford esker indicate that deposition post-dated the streamlining event. Adjacent mounds of stratified sediment are probably the eroded remnants of more extensive gravel dominated spreads formed over ice or ice-rich sediment during final ice wastage. The esker/outwash association is therefore an important element in the reconstruction of the processes which pertained during the final stages of the Lough Neagh ice mass.

### SCHEDULE

**The following operations and activities appear to the Department to be likely to damage the physiographical features 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 land reclamation and extraction of minerals, including rock, sand, gravel and peat.



2. The storage or dumping, spreading or discharge of any material other than for normal agricultural purposes.
3. Changes in woodland management, including afforestation, planting, clearing, selective felling and coppicing.
4. Construction, removal or disturbance of any permanent or temporary structure including building, engineering or other operations.
5. Alteration of natural or man-made features, the clearance of boulders or stones and grading of rock, sand or gravel faces.
6. The following activities undertaken in a manner likely to damage the scientific interest of the area:
  - i) educational activities;
  - ii) research activities;
  - iii) recreational activities.
7. Sampling of rocks, minerals, fossils or any other material forming a part of the site, undertaken in a manner likely to damage the scientific interest of the area.
8. Use of vehicles or craft likely to damage the scientific interest 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. Operations or activities covered by planning permission are not normally covered in the list of Notifiable Operations.
- (b) Also note that many of the operations and 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.

## **GLARRYFORD**

### **Views About Management The Environment (Northern Ireland) Order 2002 Article 28(2)**

#### **A statement of the Department's views about the management of Glarryford Area of Special Scientific Interest ("the ASSI")**

This statement represents the views of the Department 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. The Department 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 the Department 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 for a list of these operations and activities). The Department 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**

The earth science interest at Glarryford is expressed in the landforms in the Main River Valley along the line of the B93, from Fort Hill in the south to Boyds Road, west of Clough Mills, in the north.

##### **1. The geological series**

The Department would encourage the continued use of the site for current activities. Provided no damaging activities, as set out in the Schedule, are undertaken without consent, the needs of owners, occupiers and the Department can be met. Earth science features such as those at Glarryford may require occasional management intervention in order to maintain access to, and exposure of, the earth science features. This could include selectively removing vegetation. Specific objectives include:

- Maintain the geological series in an undamaged state.

- Maintain access to the geological series.

Sealed with the Official Seal of the  
Department of the Environment  
hereunto affixed is authenticated  
by

*R. Ramsay*  
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R J Ramsay  
Senior Officer of the  
Department of the Environment

Dated the 31<sup>st</sup> of March 2009