

# GLENNASHEEVAR

## 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 Glennasheevar 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 3 and 4 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

Blanket bog and wet heath are very valuable habitats for wildlife. Environment and Heritage Service would encourage their maintenance and enhancement through the conservation of associated native plants and animals. The latter include important invertebrate communities, especially the scarce Marsh Fritillary butterfly.

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.

Most heathland communities need some management to retain their interest. Small patches of scrub within heathland are valuable in providing additional habitat niches, but in the absence of management, trees and shrubs may become dominant. On the other hand, too much grazing, especially through the winter, can cause heathers to be replaced by coarse grasses.



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Specific objectives for the site include:

Ensure that disturbance to the site and its wildlife is minimised.

Where necessary, encourage the blocking of drains to prevent the bog and heath from drying out.

Light cattle grazing of wet heath helps to maintain its species composition and vegetation structure, and to create the right conditions for Devil's-bit Scabious, which is the larval foodplant of the Marsh Fritillary butterfly. Blanket bogs can also sustain very light levels of grazing where the surface is not too wet. Environment and Heritage Service would encourage a grazing regime that avoids overgrazing or poaching.

Where necessary, prevent the loss of light-demanding bog and heathland 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 and heath, such as woodland, scrub and grassland, through sensitive management. These adjoining habitats can often be very important for wildlife, especially invertebrates including the Marsh Fritillary butterfly.



**Conor McParland**  
Authorised Officer

Dated the *14* of *MARCH* 2007