

HOLLYMOUNT

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 Hollymount 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 2 and 3 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

Hollymount incorporates oakwood, wet woodland and the nationally important plant species, Water Violet *Hottonia palustris*. It is an important habitat for wildlife providing food and shelter for a wide variety of mammals, birds and invertebrates. Environment and Heritage Service would like to see these habitats and their species continue to be conserved and enhanced

Environment and Heritage Service would encourage the maintenance and enhancement of the woodland, through the development of its structure and the conservation of its associated native plants and animals.

Specific objectives include:

Encourage the woodland to become more "mature" by avoiding disturbance.
The structure of the wood will gradually become more diverse, with



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well-developed canopy, shrub and ground layers, and an abundance of species like Ivy, mosses, liverworts and lichens that live on the trees themselves.

Encourage the retention of dead wood, both on the woodland floor and still standing in the canopy. Dead wood is a very important habitat for some of the less conspicuous woodland species, such as fungi and invertebrates.

Within the wet woodland, increases in the nutrient status of the water and underlying peat soils can lead to a decline in some of the more valuable plant communities and species including the rare Water Violet *Hottonia palustris*. Environment and Heritage Service would encourage the maintenance of good water quality through the control of pollution and artificial enrichment.

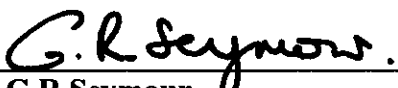
Where necessary, encourage the blocking of drains to prevent the wet woodland from drying out and ensuring that the local edaphic conditions required to support the Water Violet *Hottonia palustris* are maintained.

Encourage regeneration of woodland through the control of grazing. In general, natural regeneration is preferable to planting.

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

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

Maintain the diversity and quality of habitats associated with the woodland, such as swamp communities. These adjoining habitats can often be very important for wildlife.



G R Seymour
Authorised Officer

Dated the 12TH of SEPTEMBER 2007