

## DEPARTMENT OF THE ENVIRONMENT (NORTHERN IRELAND)

DECLARATION OF AREA OF SPECIAL SCIENTIFIC INTEREST AT KILLYMACKAN LOUGH,  
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 Council for Nature Conservation and the Countryside and being satisfied that the area delineated and described on the attached map (the area) is of special scientific interest by reason of the 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 'Killymackan Lough area of special scientific interest'.

The area is of special scientific interest because of its wetland flora and fauna. Killymackan Lough, a satellite water body of Upper Lough Erne, is a large inter-drumlin lake with a species-rich assemblage of aquatic plants. The margins of the lake consist of a narrow fringe of emergent swamp and fen with sparse carr woodland or fen meadow. The lake is of particular importance for its aquatic vegetation, as it is one of only three water bodies in Northern Ireland with eight species of Pondweed (Potamogeton spp.) In addition, the lough has a rich invertebrate community, which includes a number of notable species.

The aquatic vegetation is dominated by extensive submerged beds of Pondweeds, consisting of Broad-leaved Pondweed Potamogeton natans, Red Pondweed P. alpinus, Lesser Pondweed P. pusillus, and more notably, occasional Long-stalked Pondweed P. praelongus. There are also submerged beds of Stoneworts, including the nationally rare Pointed Stonewort Nitella mucronata (recorded here at one of only three Irish sites), as well as Smooth Stonewort N. flexilis and Fragile Stonewort Chara globularis. Yellow Water-lily Nuphar lutea and Spiked Water-milfoil Myriophyllum spicatum are also common in the open waters.

The emergent vegetation of the lough consists of Water Horsetail Equisetum fluviatile and Common Club-rush Schoenoplectus lacustris, often growing with Canadian Waterweed Elodea canadensis. The main swamp is dominated by Bottle Sedge Carex rostrata and Common Reed Phragmites australis. This is often backed by a species-rich fen in which Tufted-sedge Carex elata is prominent, with associated herbs and grasses such as Reed Canary-grass Phalaris arundinacea, Yellow Iris Iris pseudacorus, Water Mint Mentha aquatica, Purple-loosestrife Lythrum salicaria, Marsh Bedstraw Galium palustre and Meadowsweet Filipendula ulmaria. In places, the fen merges into a sparse Alder Alnus glutinosa and Grey Willow Salix cinerea carr woodland.

Where the shoreline is grazed, there is often a transition to wet grassland. Grasses and rushes are the main species here. Creeping Bent Agrostis stolonifera and Sharp-flowered Rush Juncus acutiflorus are dominant, with a range of associated species such as Common Sedge Carex nigra, Bladder-sedge C. vesicaria, Soft-rush J. effusus, Hard Rush J. inflexus, Marsh Pennywort Hydrocotyle vulgaris, Creeping Buttercup Ranunculus repens, Lesser Spearwort R. flammula, Silverweed Potentilla anserina, Marsh Ragwort Senecio aquaticus and Tufted Forget-me-not Myosotis laxa, growing over a carpet of brown mosses dominated by Calliergon cuspidatum and Rhytidiadelphus squarrosus.

In addition to some of those listed above, the area contains a number of vascular plants with a restricted distribution in the British Isles, including Cowbane Cicuta virosa, Lesser Pond-sedge Carex acutiformis and Needle Spike-rush Eleocharis acicularis.

Killymackan Lough supports a notable invertebrate community, and includes a number of locally distributed species of aquatic Coleoptera (Waterbeetles), especially where the mossy fen zone is intact and remains wet throughout the year. The community contains relict species which are indicative of undisturbed rich fens and are generally restricted to east and central Ireland. This is the first recorded example of the community in Fermanagh. The most characteristic species of the community which are found at Killymackan Lough are Hydroporus scalesianus, Hydaticus seminiger and Suphrodytes dorsalis. Other local species recorded are Rhantus frontalis and Hydraena britteni. In addition, the Common Newt Triturus vulgaris is known to be present.

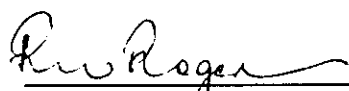
#### SCHEDULE

The following operations and activities appear to the Department to be likely to damage the flora and fauna 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 ploughing, rotovating, harrowing, reclamation and extraction of minerals, including sand, gravel and peat.
2. Any change in the present annual pattern and intensity of grazing, including any change in the type of livestock used or in supplementary feeding practice.
3. Any change in the established method or frequency of rolling, mowing, or cutting.
4. Any change in the annual pattern of application of manure, slurry or artificial fertiliser.
5. The application of herbicides, fungicides or other chemicals deployed to kill any form of wild plant, other than plants listed as being noxious in the Noxious Weeds (Northern Ireland) Order 1977.
6. The storage or dumping, spreading or discharge of any material not specified under paragraphs (4) or (5) above.
7. The destruction, displacement, removal or cutting of any plant, seed or plant remains, other than for
  - (i) plants listed as noxious in the Noxious Weeds (Northern Ireland) Order 1977;
  - (ii) normal cutting or mowing regimes for which a consent is not required under paragraph (3) above.
8. The release into the area of any animal (other than in connection with normal grazing practice) or plant. 'Animal' includes birds, mammals, fish, reptiles, amphibians and invertebrates; 'Plant' includes seed, fruit or spore.
9. Burning.
10. Changes in tree or woodland management, including afforestation, planting, clearing, selective felling and coppicing.
11. Construction, removal or disturbance of any permanent or temporary structure including building, engineering or other operations.

12. Alteration of natural or man-made features, the clearance of boulders or large stones and grading of rock faces.
13. Operations or activities which would affect wetlands (including marsh, fen, bog, rivers, streams and open water), eg
  - (i) change in the methods or frequency of routine drainage maintenance;
  - (ii) modification in the structure of any watercourse;
  - (iii) lowering of the water-table, permanently or temporarily;
  - (iv) change in the management of bank-side vegetation.
14. The killing or taking of any animal in a manner likely to affect the continued existence of the species within the area except as provided for under the terms of the Wildlife (Northern Ireland) Order 1985.
15. The following activities undertaken in a manner likely to damage or disturb the wildlife of the area:
  - (i) educational activities;
  - (ii) research activities;
  - (iii) recreational activities;
  - (iv) exercising of animals.
16. Changes in game, waterfowl or fisheries management or fishing or hunting practices.
17. Use of vehicles or craft likely to damage or disturb the wildlife of the area.

Sealed with the Official Seal of the  
Department of the Environment for  
Northern Ireland on 17 October, 1994

  
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R W Rogers  
Assistant Secretary

M. Cunningham  
CIVIL SERVANT OF  
CLARENCE COURT  
BELFAST.

#### FOOTNOTES

- (a) Please note that consent by the Department to any of the above operations or activities 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 above 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 give consent, particularly if there is a long history of the operation being undertaken in that precise location.