

DEPARTMENT OF THE ENVIRONMENT FOR NORTHERN IRELAND

DECLARATION OF AREA OF SPECIAL SCIENTIFIC INTEREST AT KILTUBBRID LOUGHS, COUNTY ARMAGH. 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 the wetland 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 "Kiltubbrid Loughs area of special scientific interest".

The area is of special scientific interest because of its wetland flora and fauna. Kiltubbrid Loughs are two adjoining inter-drumlin loughs, which have developed over the underlying Carboniferous Lower Limestone rock. They contain a wide variety of habitats and exhibit natural transitions from open water to carr woodland.

Swamp communities are dominated by an extensive stand of Common Reed (Phragmites australis), with occasional patches of Bottle Sedge (Carex rostrata). On slightly higher ground, this gives way to tall fen and fen-meadow vegetation. The sedges, Carex disticha and C. diandra, are common here, along with an abundance of herbs such as Marsh Marigold (Caltha palustris) and Yellow Loosestrife (Lysimachia vulgaris).

Woodland areas are dominated by Alder (Alnus glutinosa) and Willows (Salix spp.), with an understorey of Greater Tussock Sedge (Carex paniculata). A small calcareous spring adds to the interest of the site, and contains several local plant species, including Fragrant Orchid (Gymnadenia conopsea) and the sedge Carex lepidocarpa.

Kiltubbrid Loughs is the only known site in Northern Ireland for the Fen Bedstraw (Galium uliginosum). In addition, the site also supports two vascular plants which are rare in the British Isles - Cowbane (Cicuta virosa) and Marsh Fern (Thelypteris palustris).

SCHEDULE

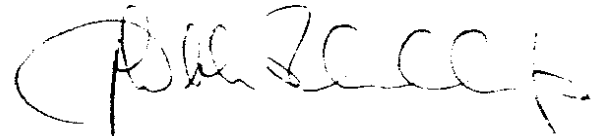
The following operations and activities appear to the Department to be likely to damage the wetland flora and/or fauna of the area:

- Changes in the grazing regime, including changes in the numbers or type of livestock, in feeding practices, or in the seasonal pattern of grazing.
- The disturbance or modification, by any means, of the vegetation, water levels or water courses including drainage works and the application of any material to the vegetation or land surface.
- Burning.
- The introduction or release into the area of any wild, feral or domestic animal, plant or seed. "Animal" includes any mammal, reptile, amphibian, bird, fish or invertebrate, but does not include livestock.

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- The destruction, displacement, removal or cutting of any plant, seed or plant remains.
- The introduction of tree or woodland management (including afforestation, planting or felling).
- Infilling of ditches, drains or marshes
- Any engineering works, including the building of roads, structures, banks, earthworks, drilling or pipe-laying.
- Extraction of minerals, including peat, sand and gravel, topsoil or sub-soil.
- Storage of materials
- Use of vehicles or craft likely to damage the vegetation.
- Recreational, educational or research activities likely to damage the vegetation or wildlife.

Sealed with the Official Seal of
the Department of the Environment
for Northern Ireland on 30 November, 1988


J C L PHILLIPS
Assistant Secretary

Y88018/CWB