

DEPARTMENT OF THE ENVIRONMENT FOR NORTHERN IRELAND
 DECLARATION OF AREA OF SPECIAL SCIENTIFIC INTEREST AT KINRAMER SOUTH, RATHLIN
 ISLAND, COUNTY ANTRIM. 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 by the solid black line 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 'Kinramer South area of special scientific interest'.

The area is of special scientific interest because it contains a vigorous population of Pyramidal Bugle Ajuqa pyramidalis. This plant is very rare in the British Isles, and has a markedly north-western distribution.

On Rathlin, the species shows a preference for unimproved acid grassland pasture which occurs at the base of basalt rock outcrops usually in association with such grasses as Sheep's Fescue Festuca ovina and Sweet Vernal Grass Anthoxanthum odoratum. Other associates include Ling Calluna vulgaris, Devil's-bit Scabious Succissa pratensis and Tormentil Potentilla erecta. Where it grows in a shorter turf, associated species include Ribwort Plantain Plantago lanceolata, Eyebright Euphrasia officinalis, Field Woodrush Luzula campestris and Birdsfoot Trefoil Lotus corniculatus.

Within the rest of Ireland, it is confined to a few locations in Counties Galway and Clare; the Rathlin population is the only one known in Northern Ireland.


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 which involves the damage or disturbance, by mechanical means or otherwise, of the surface or sub-surface of the land, or of any wild vegetation growing on that land.
2. Any change in the grazing regime, including any change in stock feeding practice.
3. Any application to the surface, sub-surface, or vegetation, of any manure, fertiliser, lime, pesticide, herbicide, fungicide or other chemical.
4. Any change in the practice of burning.
5. Dumping, spreading or discharge of any materials or objects.
6. Killing, destruction, damage, displacement or removal of any wild animal or wild plant, save for:-
 - i. any birds which are listed in Schedule 2 Part II of the Wildlife (Northern Ireland) Order 1985;
 - ii. any mammals not listed in Schedule 5 of the same Order; and
 - iii. plants listed as noxious weeds in the Noxious Weeds (Northern Ireland) Order 1987.

7. The introduction or release into the area of any wild, feral or domestic animal (other than in connection with normal grazing practice and control of grazing animals), plant or seed.
8. Use of vehicles or craft (but excluding farm vehicles and machinery being used in normal farming practices) in a manner likely to damage the vegetation.
9. Recreational, educational or research activities other than those which have been regularly undertaken in the past.

Sealed with the Official Seal of
The Department of the Environment for
Northern Ireland on 16 September, 1991


R W ROGERS
Assistant Secretary

Lester Boyd
CIVIL SERVANT
BOOTH OF STORMONT
BELFAST