



An Agency within the Department of the

**Environment**

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## DEPARTMENT OF THE ENVIRONMENT

### DECLARATION OF AREA OF SPECIAL SCIENTIFIC INTEREST AT LENAGHAN WOOD, COUNTY FERMANAGH. ARTICLE 28 OF THE ENVIRONMENT (NORTHERN IRELAND) ORDER 2002.

The Department of the Environment (the Department), having consulted the Council for Nature Conservation and the Countryside and being satisfied that the area described and delineated 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 'Lenaghan Wood Area of Special Scientific Interest'.

The area is of special scientific interest for its woodland flora and fauna. The wood is comparatively large and supports a rich assemblage of woodland species. Structural diversity is high throughout, with mature woodland extensive and younger woodland colonising adjacent heathland and wet grassland on the upper slopes.

Lenaghan Wood occurs along a small escarpment, with dry woodland predominating on the southern and northern flanks and wetter woodland on the eastern flank. Acid oak woodland occurs on the steepest slopes with a mature canopy dominated by tall Sessile Oak *Quercus petraea*, with Downy Birch *Betula pubescens* its main associate. Holly *Ilex aquifolium* forms a continuous shrub layer throughout and is occasionally accompanied by Rowan *Sorbus aucuparia*. Below, the woodland floor is covered by a field layer dominated by Bilberry *Vaccinium myrtillus* with a scattering of Hay-scented Fern *Dryopteris aemula* and Hard-fern *Blechnum spicant*. Herbs tend to be sparse here, with Greater Wood-rush *Luzula sylvatica* and Cow Wheat *Melampyrum pratensis* the most frequent. Calcifugous (acid-tolerant) mosses such as Little Shaggy-moss *Rhytidiadelphus loreus*, Glittering Wood-moss *Hylocomium splendens*, Red-stemmed Feather-moss *Pleurozium schreberi* and Fork-moss *Dicranum* spp. form an extensive ground cover.

Where the slopes are less steep, the woodland becomes more species-rich. Ash *Fraxinus excelsior* occurs in the canopy, while Hazel *Corylus avellana*, Rowan *Sorbus aucuparia* and Hawthorn *Crataegus monogyna* contribute to the shrub layer. Bilberry *Vaccinium myrtillus* is less prominent in the field layer, as it is joined by Bramble *Rubus fruticosus* agg. and Broad Buckler-fern *Dryopteris dilatata*. Herbs also become more frequent, with Bluebell *Hyacinthoides non-scripta* and Wood Sorrel *Oxalis acetosella* forming an open carpet with species such as Pignut

*Conopodium majus*, Tufted Hair-grass *Deschampsia cespitosa* and Hairy Wood-rush *Luzula pilosa*.

The wetter parts of the wood provide additional diversity and support a mixed canopy of Alder *Alnus glutinosa*, Ash *Fraxinus excelsior* and Downy Birch *Betula pubescens*. Below, the waterlogged soils support Lady-fern *Athyrium filix-femina*, Creeping Buttercup *Ranunculus repens*, Opposite-leaved Golden-saxifrage *Chrysosplenium oppositifolium*, Meadowsweet *Filipendula ulmaria*, Remote Sedge *Carex remota* and Wood Horsetail *Equisetum sylvaticum*. Where the soils are drier there is an increase in the diversity of the ground flora, with Wood Anemone *Anemone nemorosa*, Lesser Celandine *Ranunculus ficaria*, Primrose *Primula vulgaris*, Water Avens *Geum rivale* and Yellow Pimpernel *Lysimachia nemorum* common.

Lenaghan Wood is a significant locality for lichens in Northern Ireland and its location guarantees a degree of continuity between other lichen-rich sites elsewhere in the west Fermanagh area. This is important given that many of the larger lichens that grow well on a particular tree appear to find it difficult to move to another host, or do so only very slowly. The following species found at Lenaghan Wood are of particular note, *Sticta limbata*, *Sticta sylvatica*, *Pannaria rubiginosa*, *Lobaria pulmonaria* (known as Lungwort which grows on Willow *Salix* and more unusually on Rowan *Sorbus aucuparia*) and a very large population of *Thelotrema lepadinum*.

In addition, Lenaghan Wood supports a range of woodland animals, including a number of breeding bird species.

## 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, shingle, shell, gravel and peat.
2. Any increase in the present annual pattern and intensity of grazing, including any change in the type of livestock used or in supplementary feeding practice.
3. Introduction of rolling, mowing or cutting regimes.
4. Application of manure, slurry or artificial fertiliser.
5. 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.

7. The destruction, displacement, removal or cutting of any plant, seed or plant remains, other than for plants listed as noxious in the Noxious Weeds (Northern Ireland) Order 1977.
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, rivers, streams and open water), e.g.
  - (i) change in the methods or frequency of routine drainage maintenance;
  - (ii) modification to 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.

## FOOTNOTES

(a) Please note that consent by the Department to any of the operations or activities listed in the Schedule 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.

(b) Also note that many of the operations or activities listed in the Schedule 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 normally give consent, particularly if there is a long history of the operation being undertaken in that precise location.