

## DEPARTMENT OF THE ENVIRONMENT FOR NORTHERN IRELAND

DECLARATION OF AREA OF SPECIAL SCIENTIFIC INTEREST AT LERGAN, COUNTY FERMANAGH.  
ARTICLE 24 OF THE NATURE CONSERVATION AND AMENITY LANDS (NORTHERN IRELAND)  
ORDER 1985

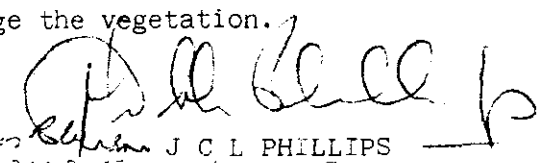
The Department of the Environment for Northern Ireland (the Department), having consulted the Committee for Nature Conservation and being satisfied that the area delineated by the solid black line on the attached map (the area) is of special scientific interest by reason of its grassland flora and fauna and accordingly needs to be specially protected, hereby declares the area to be an area of special scientific interest to be known as the 'Lergan area of special scientific interest'.

The area, which lies on a north-facing slope, is of special scientific interest because of the wide range of grassland types that it supports. At the bottom of the field the vegetation is dominated by a mixture of Jointed Rush (Juncus articulatus), Common Sedge (Carex nigra), Marsh Pennywort (Hydrocotyle vulgaris) and Meadowsweet (Filipendula ulmaria), with Marsh Lousewort (Pedicularis palustris) and Marsh Marigold (Caltha palustris) locally prominent. On the lower and middle slopes flushed areas have much Marsh Hawk's-beard (Crepis paludosa) and Quaking Grass (Briza media). Vegetation on the upper slopes is more grassy, and there is locally high cover of Sweet Vernal Grass (Anthoxanthum odoratum), Red Fescue (Festuca rubra), Yorkshire Fog (Holcus lanatus) and Crested Dogstail (Cynosurus cristatus). There is an abundance of orchids at this site, including Lesser Butterfly Orchid (Platanthera bifolia), Heath Spotted Orchid (Dactylorhiza maculata) and Common Twayblade (Listera ovata).

The scientific interest of the site will be maintained if there is no change in the established farming practice. Operations and activities which are likely to damage the scientific interest of the site and which would therefore require the prior consent of the Department of the Environment are as follows:-

- Any change in the established method and frequency of mowing.
- Any change in the present annual pattern and intensity of grazing, including any change in the type of livestock used.
- Any change in the annual pattern of application of manure or fertiliser.
- The application of any chemicals for control of weeds, insects or diseases.
- Any hedge or scrub removal and infilling of ditches.
- Field drainage or field boundary drainage.
- Any tree planting.
- The dumping or storing of any matter.
- Cultivation.
- Complete or partial re-seeding.
- Construction of roads, tracks or buildings.
- Use of vehicles or machinery likely to damage the vegetation.

Sealed with the Official Seal of the Department  
of the Environment for Northern Ireland on

 J. C. L. PHILLIPS  
Assistant Secretary