

MILL LOUGH

Views About Management The Environment (Northern Ireland) Order 2002 Article 28(2)

A statement of Environment and Heritage Service's views about the management of Mill Lough Area of Special Scientific Interest ("the ASSI")

This statement represents the views of Environment and Heritage Service about the management of the ASSI for nature conservation. This statement sets out, in principle, our views on how the area's special conservation interest can be conserved and enhanced. Environment and Heritage Service has a duty to notify the owners and occupiers of the ASSI of its views about the management of the land.

Not all of the management principles will be equally appropriate to all parts of the ASSI and there may be other management activities, additional to our current views, which can be beneficial to the conservation and enhancement of the features of interest. It is also very important to recognise that management may need to change with time.

The management views set out below do not constitute consent for any operation or activity. The written consent of Environment and Heritage Service is still required before carrying out any operation or activity likely to damage the features of special interest (see the Schedule on pages 2 and 3 of the attached Document B for a list of these operations and activities). Environment and Heritage Service welcomes consultation with owners, occupiers and users of the ASSI to ensure that the management of this area maintains and enhances the features of interest, and to ensure that all necessary prior consents are obtained.

MANAGEMENT PRINCIPLES

Natural Eutrophic lakes are important habitats for wildlife. Environment and Heritage Service would encourage the maintenance and enhancement of the lake through the conservation of its associated native plants and animals. The latter include an important Pondweed community, one of the most diverse occurring in Northern Ireland, while evidence of Otter can be found frequently along the shore.

Lakes depend on water quantity and quality to maintain their conservation value. They are generally sensitive to disturbance and nutrient enrichment. Sympathetic management practices and recreation around the lake have contributed to the features interest.



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Specific objectives include:

Environment and Heritage Service would encourage the maintenance of water quality through the control of pollution and artificial enrichment.

Encourage the maintenance of natural water levels.

Environment and Heritage Service would encourage the maintenance of sympathetic management practices to ensure that disturbance to the waters, bed and shore of the lake and its wildlife is minimised.

Discourage non-native species, especially those that tend to spread at the expense of native wildlife.

Environment and Heritage Service recognises the important economic and social roles of fishing and welcomes sustainable fishery management that is sensitive to the special interests of the lake.

Maintain the diversity and quality of habitats associated with the lough, such as swamp, fen, grassland, scrub and woodland, through sensitive management. These adjoining habitats can often be very important for wildlife, especially invertebrates and Otters.



E Diane Stevenson
Authorised Officer

Dated the *22nd* of *OCTOBER* 2007