

DEPARTMENT OF THE ENVIRONMENT FOR NORTHERN IRELAND

DECLARATION OF AREA OF SPECIAL SCIENTIFIC INTEREST AT MONEENDOGUE, 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 'Moneendogue area of special scientific interest'.

The area is of special scientific interest because of the overall species richness (74 vascular plant species recorded) and the variety of grassland communities present. Jointed Rush (Juncus articulatus) is the usual dominant, but its co-dominants vary greatly on different parts of the site: Bugle (Ajuga reptans) and the moss Rhytidiadelphus squarrosus on steeper slopes: and Black Knapweed (Centaurea nigra) and Meadowsweet (Filipendula ulmaria) on flatter ground. Marsh Hawk's-beard (Crepis paludosa) occurs in flushed areas, while Marsh Marigold (Caltha palustris) is frequent along drains and at the bottom of the slope where the fields adjoin the Bradoge River. Grasses are locally dominant, one field having much Meadow Foxstail (Alopecurus pratensis), and two others with high cover of Sweet Vernal Grass (Anthoxanthum odoratum). Sedges are abundant, with Carex panicea and C. nigra sometimes co-dominant with Juncus articulatus.

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 reseedling.
- 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 7 September, 1987

J C L PHILLIPS
Assistant Secretary

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Wild Service