

## PARIS ISLAND BIG

### 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 Paris Island Big 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 1 – 3 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**

The continued presence of the heronry at Paris Island Big is entirely dependant on the appropriate management of the woodland that hosts it. Environment and Heritage Service would encourage the maintenance and enhancement of the heronry, through the conservation of the associated woodland.

#### **Heronry**

Grey Herons nest in groups, known as heronries, high in the crowns of mature trees. This species requires suitable woodland structure (essentially mature trees either native or non-native species), quiet and undisturbed places in which to nest, usually preferring a commanding position over the surrounding open landscape together with adjoining or nearby wetlands in which to feed.

#### **Specific objectives for the heronry and woodland include:**

Management should aim to maintain areas of woodland with a high proportion of tall mature trees (typically between 15-30m high) to provide suitable roosting and nesting sites for the species.

Nesting Grey Herons are vulnerable to human disturbance and the disturbance of woodland in the immediate vicinity of nesting birds should be kept to a minimum during the breeding season mid-March to July. Recreational use of

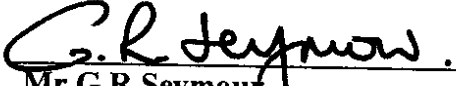
the woodland should be discouraged, whilst shooting for game or vermin species should be avoided completely in areas where Grey Herons are nesting.

### **GENERIC MANAGEMENT PRINCIPLES**

Ensure that disturbance to the site and its wildlife is minimised.

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

Scaled with the Official Seal of the  
Department of the Environment  
hereunto affixed is authenticated  
by

  
Mr G R Seymour  
Senior Officer of the  
Department of the Environment

Dated the 28<sup>TH</sup> of SEPTEMBER 2007