

## DEPARTMENT OF THE ENVIRONMENT FOR NORTHERN IRELAND

DECLARATION OF AREA OF SPECIAL SCIENTIFIC INTEREST AT PORTMORE LOUGH,  
COUNTY ANTRIM. 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 Council for Nature Conservation and the Countryside and being satisfied that the area delineated and described 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 'Portmore Lough area of special scientific interest'.

This area is of special scientific interest because of its well developed transition from open water, through emergent swamp and fen to carr woodland or fen meadow, and for its wintering waterfowl.

The marginal vegetation of this eutrophic lough consists of extensive stands of Common Reed Phragmites australis, Common Club-rush Scirpus lacustris and occasional Lesser Reedmace Typha angustifolia swamp along the water's edge, backed by a Reed Canary Grass Phalaris arundinacea tall fen, which merges into wet Alder Alnus glutinosa and Willow Salix spp. carr. In places the fields behind the carr woodland contain tall grass and sedge rich fen meadows. The open water and emergent vegetation includes a number of locally distributed plants including Horned Pondweed Zannichellia palustris, Greater Duckweed Lemna polyrrhiza, Cowbane Cicuta virosa and T. angustifolia.

This lough, a satellite water body of Lough Neagh, is an important component of the wetland area used by wintering waterfowl visiting the Lough Neagh Basin. Portmore Lough regularly holds nationally important numbers of three species of waterfowl; Pochard Aythya ferina (3.6% of the Irish wintering population), Tufted Duck Aythya fuligula (3.0%) and Coot Fulica atra (4.0%).

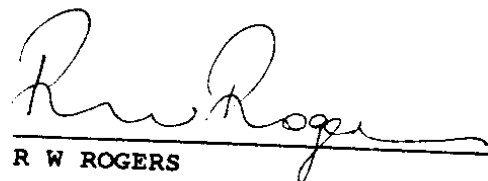
## SCHEDULE

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, gravel, peat, lignite and diatomite.
2. Any change in the present annual pattern and intensity of grazing, including any change in the type of livestock used or in supplementary feeding practice.
3. Any change in the established method or frequency of rolling, mowing or cutting.
4. Any change in the annual pattern of application of manure, slurry or artificial fertiliser.

5. The 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 (NI) Order 1977.
6. The storage or dumping, spreading or discharge of any material not specified under (4) or (5).
7. The destruction, displacement, removal or cutting of any plant, seed or plant remains, other than for:-
  - (i) plants listed as noxious in the Noxious Weeds (NI) Order 1977;
  - (ii) normal cutting or mowing regimes for which a consent is not required under (3).
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, bog, rivers, streams and open water) eg
  - (i) change in the methods or frequency of routine drainage maintenance;
  - (ii) modification in 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.

Sealed with the Official Seal of the  
Department of the Environment for  
Northern Ireland on 23 February 1994



R W ROGERS  
Assistant Secretary

Sharon McMillan  
Civil Servant  
Both of Clarence Court

**FOOTNOTES**

- (a) Please note the consent by the Department to any of the above operations or activities 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 (NI) Order 1991. Operations or activities covered by planning permission are not normally covered in the list of Notifiable Operations.
- (b) Also note that many of the operations and activities listed above 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 give consent, particularly if there is a long history of the operation being undertaken in that precise location.

Y93577/CWB/NM