

DEPARTMENT OF THE ENVIRONMENT FOR NORTHERN IRELAND  
DECLARATION OF AREA OF SPECIAL SCIENTIFIC INTEREST AT SHEEP ISLAND,  
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 by the solid black line on the attached map (the area) is of special scientific interest by reason of the 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 'Sheep Island area of special scientific interest'.

The area is of special scientific interest because of the nationally important numbers of breeding Cormorant, belonging to the Northern European sub-species Phalacrocorax carbo carbo.

The Cormorants comprise the second largest coastal colony in the British Isles, with around 7% of the Irish and 3% of the British Isles breeding population, which is approximately 0.8% of the total population of this sub-species.

In addition, the site regularly supports other breeding sea bird species, including Fulmar, Shag, Kittiwake, Razorbill, Guillemot, Black Guillemot and Puffin.

#### SCHEDULE

The following operations and activities appear to the Department to be likely to damage the fauna of the area:

1. The disturbance or modification of the vegetation, land surface and subsurface through any form of agricultural practice, engineering works or application or storage of any material whatsoever on or to the vegetation or land surface, or by any other means.
2. Burning.
3. The introduction or release onto the island of any wild, feral or domestic animal, plant or seed. "Animal" includes any mammal, reptile, amphibian, bird, fish or invertebrate.
4. The disturbance, displacement, removal or cutting of any plant, seed or plant remains.
5. The killing or removal of any wild animal. "Animal" includes any mammal, bird, fish or invertebrate.
6. The extraction or removal of minerals including shingle, sand, gravel or shells.
7. The use of a craft likely to damage the vegetation or disturb the wildlife.

8. Recreational, educational or research activities likely to damage the vegetation or disturb the wildlife.

Sealed with the Official Seal of  
the Department of the Environment for  
Northern Ireland on 27 February, 1992

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