

## DEPARTMENT OF THE ENVIRONMENT FOR NORTHERN IRELAND

## DECLARATION OF AREA OF SPECIAL SCIENTIFIC INTEREST AT TATTENAMONA BOG, 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 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 its flora, fauna and physiographical features, and accordingly needs to be specially protected, hereby declares the area to be an area of special scientific interest to be known as the 'Tattenamona Bog area of special scientific interest'.

The area is of special scientific interest because of its physiography and peatland flora and characteristic associated fauna. It is among the best remaining examples of a lowland raised bog within the drumlin belt of Northern Ireland. Any modifications to the peatland surface in the way of cutting and burning are confined to the margin, leaving the majority of the bog intact.

Special features include a well-defined, intact dome, which exhibits a wide range of characteristic vegetation and structural features, including pool, hummock and lawn complexes. The vegetation is characterised by a high cover of Sphagnum bog-mosses, ericoid dwarf-shrubs and other associated species. The composition and abundance of these components is dependent on local environmental conditions.

Within the pool complex, flat, water-logged 'lawns' alongside pools are characterised by the prominence of Bog Asphodel Narthecium ossifragum and the locally distributed White Beak-sedge Rhynchospora alba. The three Sundews, Great Sundew Drosera longifolia, Round-leaved Sundew D. rotundifolia and the rare Oblong-leaved Sundew D. intermedia are also present around pool margins. The pools are dominated by Sphagnum cuspidatum, with Bogbean Menyanthes trifoliata abundant in a number of them. The main hummock-forming moss is Sphagnum capillifolium, with the notable S. fuscum and S. imbricatum both frequently occurring on the bog and forming the largest and best-structured hummocks. Other species present on the hummocks include Heather Calluna vulgaris and Cross-leaved Heath Erica tetralix, with a scattered cover of Deergrass Trichophorum cespitosum, Hare's-tail Cottongrass Eriophorum vaginatum and Common Cottongrass E. angustifolium. Bog Asphodel Narthecium ossifragum is the main component of the wet lawn vegetation.

The lagg surrounding the bog has been cut for turf, creating a mosaic of habitats. These include grassland, dominated by Purple Moor-grass Molinia caerulea and scrubby woodland, in which Downy Birch Betula pubescens is the main species.

The invertebrate fauna is largely characteristic of lowland raised bogs throughout Northern Ireland, with a predominance of acidophile, or acid-tolerant species. This includes the water beetles Hydroporus incognitus, H. gyllenhali, H. obscurus, Ilybius guttiger and Graptodytes granularis.


## SCHEDULE

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

1. Grazing.

2. The disturbance or modification of the vegetation, land surface, sub-surface, water levels or water courses, whether by peat cutting, engineering works, drainage works, the application, spreading or storage of any material whatsoever on or to the vegetation or land surface, or by other means.
3. Burning.
4. 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 (Northern Ireland) Order 1977.
5. The introduction or release into the area of any wild, feral or domestic animal, plant or seed. 'Animal' includes any mammal, reptile, amphibian, bird, fish or invertebrate; 'Plant' includes seed, fruit or spore.
6. The destruction, displacement, removal or cutting of any plant, seed or plant remains.
7. 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. 'Animal' includes any mammal, reptile, amphibian, bird, fish or invertebrate.
8. Use of vehicles or craft likely to damage or disturb the wildlife of the area.
9. 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.
10. Afforestation.

Sealed with the Official Seal of the  
Department of the Environment for  
Northern Ireland on 13 March 1996

  
J CROWTHER  
Assistant Secretary

*R. Lynch*  
Civil Servant in Charge Court  
BELFAST.

**FOOTNOTES**

- (a) Please note that 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 (Northern Ireland) 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 normally give consent, particularly if there is a long history of the operation being undertaken in that precise location.