

DEPARTMENT OF THE ENVIRONMENT FOR NORTHERN IRELAND

DECLARATION OF AREA OF SPECIAL SCIENTIFIC INTEREST AT CLEGGAN VALLEY, 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 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 the woodland flora and fauna and accordingly needs to be specially protected, hereby declares the area to be an area of special scientific interest and to be known as the "Cleggan Valley area of special scientific interest".

The area is of special scientific interest because of the diversity of habitats and plant communities present. The canopy varies from predominantly Hazel (Corylus avellana) to more mature woodland with Ash (Fraxinus excelsior), Birch (Betula pubescens) and Oak (Quercus robur). On the more flushed areas, Alder (Alnus glutinosa) and Willows (Salix s) predominate. The ground floor is even more diverse, with areas of 'typical' woodland species - eg Wood Sorrel (Oxalis acetosella), Bluebell (Hyacinthoides non scripta)- interspersed with flush communities dominated by such species as Marsh Hawk's Beard (Crepis paludosa), Valerian (Valeriana officinalis), and Remote Sedge (Carex remota).

Woodland clearings display a mosaic of both acid grassland, dominated by Purple Moor Grass (Molinia caerulea) and base-rich flushes including Meadow Thistle (Cirsium dissectu) and Broad-leaved Cotton-grass (Eriophorum latifolium). Small areas of acid dwarf-shrub heath also occur.


The site contains several specimens of the locally rare Bird Cherry (Prunus padus) and other scarce species include Hay-scented Buckler Fern (Dryopteris aemula) and Northern Bedstraw (Galium boreale).

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

- Cultivation, including ploughing, rotovating, harrowing or re-seeding.
- Grazing.
- The introduction of livestock feeding.
- The introduction of mowing or other methods of cutting vegetation.
- Application of manure, slurry, fertilisers or lime.
- Application of pesticides, herbicides, fungicides or other chemicals deployed to kill, selectively or non-selectively, any form of animal, plant or other living organism.
- Dumping, spreading or discharge of any matter.
- Burning.

- The release into the area of any wild, feral or domestic animal, plant or seed. "Animal" includes any mammal, reptile, amphibian, bird, fish or invertebrate.
- The killing or removal of any wild animal. "Animal" includes any mammal, reptile, amphibian, bird, fish or invertebrate.
- The destruction, displacement, removal or cutting of any plant, seed or plant remains.
- Tree or woodland management (including afforestation, planting, clear and selective felling, thinning, coppicing, modification of the stand or underwood or changes in species composition).
- Drainage, including the use of mole, tile, tunnel or other artificial drains.
- Modification of the structure of water courses, (for example, rivers, burns, ditches or drains), including their banks and beds as by realignment, regrading or dredging.
- Management of aquatic or bank vegetation.
- The alteration of water levels or water tables or utilisation of water (including storage or abstraction).
- Infilling of ditches, drains or marshes.
- Extraction of minerals including sand, gravel, topsoil, sub-soil or chalk.
- Construction, removal or destruction of roads, tracks, walls, fences, hard-standings, banks, ditches or other earthworks or the laying, maintenance or removal of pipelines or cables, above or below ground.
- Storage of materials.
- Erection of permanent or temporary structures or the undertaking of building, engineering or other operations, including drilling, or the formation of access roads.
- Alteration or modification of natural or man-made features (including cave entrances), clearance of boulders, large stones, loose rock or scree.
- Use of vehicles likely to damage the vegetation.
- Recreational, educational or research activities likely to damage the vegetation.
- Changes in game management or hunting practices.

Sealed with the Official Seal of the
Department of the Environment for
Northern Ireland on 22 April 1987



J C L PHILLIPS
Assistant Secretary
James Ballie
Civil Servant,
Belfast Stormont



An Agency within the Department of the

Environment

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**ENVIRONMENT
AND HERITAGE
SERVICE**

CLEGGAN VALLEY

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 Cleggan Valley 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 and 2 of the attached Document B 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

Management principles for the Woodland

Woodland is an excellent habitat for wildlife. It provides food and shelter for a wide variety of mammals, birds and invertebrates. Environment and Heritage Service would like to see the habitat and its species continue to be conserved and enhanced.

Environment and Heritage Service would encourage the maintenance and enhancement of the woodland, through the development of its structure and the conservation of its associated native plants and animals. Specific objectives include:

Encourage the woodland to become more "mature" by avoiding disturbance to the trees. The structure of the wood will gradually become more diverse, with well-developed canopy, shrub and ground layers, and an abundance of species like Ivy, mosses, liverworts and lichens that live on the trees themselves.

Encourage the retention of dead wood, both on the woodland floor and still standing in the canopy. Dead wood is a very important habitat for some of the less conspicuous woodland species, such as fungi and invertebrates.

Encourage regeneration of woodland and discourage damage to trees and shrubs through the control of grazing and browsing. In general, natural regeneration is preferable to planting.

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

Maintain the diversity and quality of habitats associated with the woodland, such as scrub and grassland. These adjoining habitats can often be very important for wildlife.




C McParland
Authorised Officer


Dated the 2nd of DECEMBER 2004

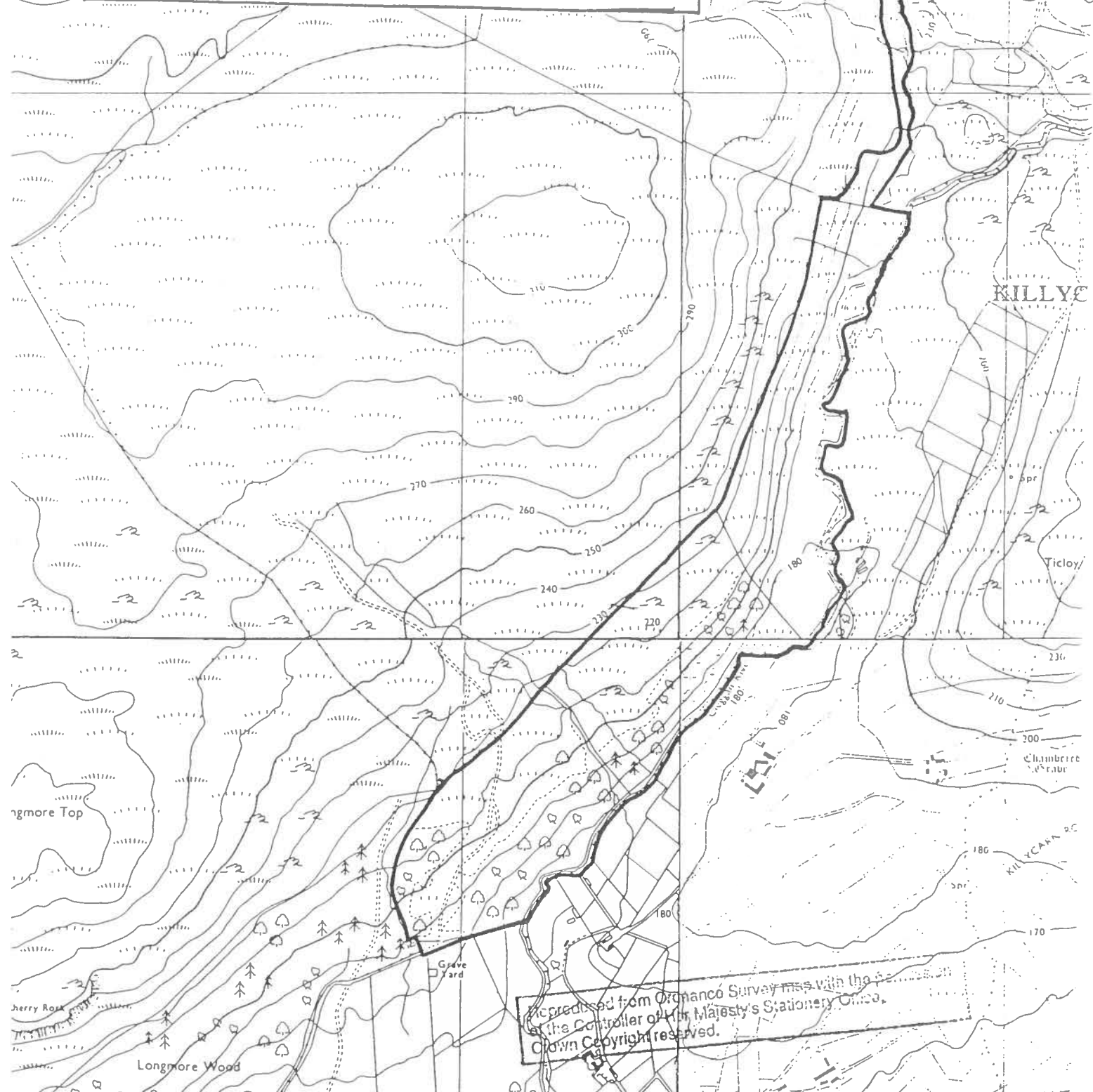
Department of the Environment for Northern Ireland
Cleggan Valley Area of Special Scientific Interest

Map referred to in the
declaration dated 22 April 1987

Site boundary thus: 
Area of Site: 35 ha
Scale: 1:10,000 Sheet No: 44, 45, 56, 57
Irish Grid Reference: D 225120
District Council Area: Ballymena

County: Antrim


Assistant Secretary



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