

DEPARTMENT OF THE ENVIRONMENT FOR NORTHERN IRELAND
DECLARATION OF AREA OF SPECIAL SCIENTIFIC INTEREST AT STRABANE GLEN,
COUNTY TYRONE. 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 'Strabane Glen area of special scientific interest'.

The area is of special scientific interest because of its woodland flora and characteristic associated fauna. The semi-natural deciduous woodland and scrub has a markedly calcicolous character, which is atypical for the region and is due to the underlying geology. The valley represents a line of weakness between the Upper Dalradian Dart schists and a basic igneous unit, possibly enhanced by local faulting. It was developed as a meltwater channel during the final deglaciation of the Sperrins ice, as indicated by outwash deposits to the north of the valley and by washed rock outcrops on the valley sides. The calcicolous nature of the soils reflects the influence of the igneous unit and adjacent Dungiven limestone, together with the glacial drift derived from these. The woodland has developed along both sides of the valley and has a wide diversity in structure, plant communities and overall species richness.

In addition to the woodland interest the site has associated physical features including cliff and rock faces, boulder scree, streams, small rock gullies and waterfalls, all of which contribute to the diversity of the site.

The majority of the woodland canopy is composed of a mixture of Ash Fraxinus excelsior and Hazel Corylus avellana, with Wych Elm Ulmus glabra occasionally prominent. There is no distinct stratification of the understorey, which continually merges with canopy. The composition of the ground flora is variable because of the degree and extent of flushing down the steep gorge slopes. It exhibits high floristic diversity throughout, the principal components of which are Opposite-leaved Golden Saxifrage Chrysosplenium oppositifolium, Ivy Hedera helix, Lesser Celandine Ranunculus ficaria, ferns, principally Soft Shield-fern Polystichum setiferum, and calcicolous bryophytes.

The rarity of this type of woodland in this region along with the geomorphological interest combine to increase the overall scientific value of the site.

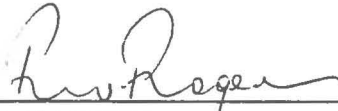
SCHEDULE

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

1. Any change in the present annual pattern and intensity of grazing including any change in the type of livestock used or change in livestock feeding practice.
2. The disturbance or modification of the vegetation, land surface, sub-surface, geomorphological features or water levels, whether by engineering works, drainage works, the application, spreading or storage of any material whatsoever on or to the vegetation or land surface, or by any other means.

3. Burning.
4. 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.
5. The killing or removal of any wild animal other than those notified as pest or quarry species under the Wildlife (Northern Ireland) Order 1985. "Animal", includes any mammal, reptile, amphibian, bird, fish or invertebrate.
6. The destruction, displacement, removal or cutting of any plant, seed or plant remains, other than that carried out as part of the current woodland management.
7. Changes in the current tree or woodland management, including afforestation, planting, clear or selective felling or coppicing.
8. The use of vehicles or craft likely to damage the vegetation or disturb the wildlife.
9. Recreational, educational or research activities likely to damage the vegetation or disturb the wildlife.
10. Changes in game, fish or waterfowl management.

Sealed with the Official Seal of the
Department of the Environment for
Northern Ireland on 22nd November 1993


R W ROGERS
Assistant Secretary
Joanne Stockman
Civil Servant
Both of Clarence Court
Belfast

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.

STRABANE GLEN

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 the Strabane Glen 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

Mixed ashwood is an important habitat for wildlife. It provides food and shelter for a wide variety of mammals, birds and invertebrates.

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. 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.

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.

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



E Diane Stevenson
Authorised Officer

Dated the 16th of JANUARY 2008

DEPARTMENT OF THE ENVIRONMENT FOR NORTHERN IRELAND
STRABANE GLEN AREA OF SPECIAL SCIENTIFIC INTEREST

Map referred to in the
declaration dated: 22nd November 1993

Site boundary thus: ———


Area of Site: 11.5 ha

Scale: 1:10,000 Sheet Nos 59 and 72

Irish Grid Reference: H 359990

District Council Area: Strabane

County: Tyrone


ASSISTANT SECRETARY

