

DEPARTMENT OF THE ENVIRONMENT FOR NORTHERN IRELAND

DECLARATION OF AREA OF SPECIAL SCIENTIFIC INTEREST AT GARRY BOG, 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 flora, fauna and physiographical features 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 "Garry Bog area of special scientific interest".


The area is of special scientific interest because it contains one of the largest remaining areas of undamaged lowland raised bog in Northern Ireland. The site is especially important for its partially intact lagg, its extensive well-patterned pool system, and its high cover of Sphagnum species, including abundant hummocks of Sphagnum imbricatum and S. fuscum. The nationally rare S. pulchrum is a prominent 'pool edge' species, and is thought to occur here in greater abundance than on any other site in Northern Ireland.

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

- Cultivation, including ploughing, rotovating, harrowing or re-seeding.
- Changes in the grazing regime, including changes in type of livestock or significant increase or decrease in livestock population, or changes in the seasonal pattern of grazing or cessation of grazing.
- Changes in livestock feeding practice.
- 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.

- The introduction of tree or woodland management (including afforestation or planting).
- Drainage, including peat drainage or the use of mole, tile, tunnel or other artificial drains.
- Modification of the structure of water courses (for example, rivers, burns, ditches, 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, ponds, pools or marshes.
- Reclamation of land from bog, marsh or river.
- Extraction of minerals including peat, sand, gravel, topsoil or sub-soil.
- 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.
- Use of vehicles or craft likely to damage the vegetation.
- Recreational, educational or research activities likely to damage the vegetation.
- Changes in game management.

Sealed with the Official Seal of the
Department of the Environment for
Northern Ireland on 20 March, 1987


J C L PHILLIPS
Assistant Secretary

Phillips Robinson
Gusie Sematt
Bank of Stormont
Belfast.
20 March 1987

GARRY BOG

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 Garry Bog 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

Lowland raised bog is a habitat unique for its wildlife and earth science interest. The earth science interest is contained within the peat itself holding a record of past climate and landuse change. Environment and Heritage Service would encourage the maintenance and enhancement of the bog, through the conservation of the peat column and its associated native plants and animals. The following management principles will also ensure the maintenance of the earth science interest.

Bogs depend on rainwater and maintaining a high water table is vital to the "health" of the bog. In addition, the peat soils and many of the species that grow there are very sensitive to physical disturbance.



Specific objectives include:

Ensure that the peat series is retained in an undamaged state and that disturbance to the site and its wildlife is minimised.

Where appropriate, encourage the blocking of drains to prevent the bog from drying out.

Lowland raised bogs cannot sustain grazing. Environment and Heritage Service would encourage stock to be excluded from this sensitive habitat.

Where appropriate, prevent the loss of light-demanding peatland species through the control of scrub and trees.

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

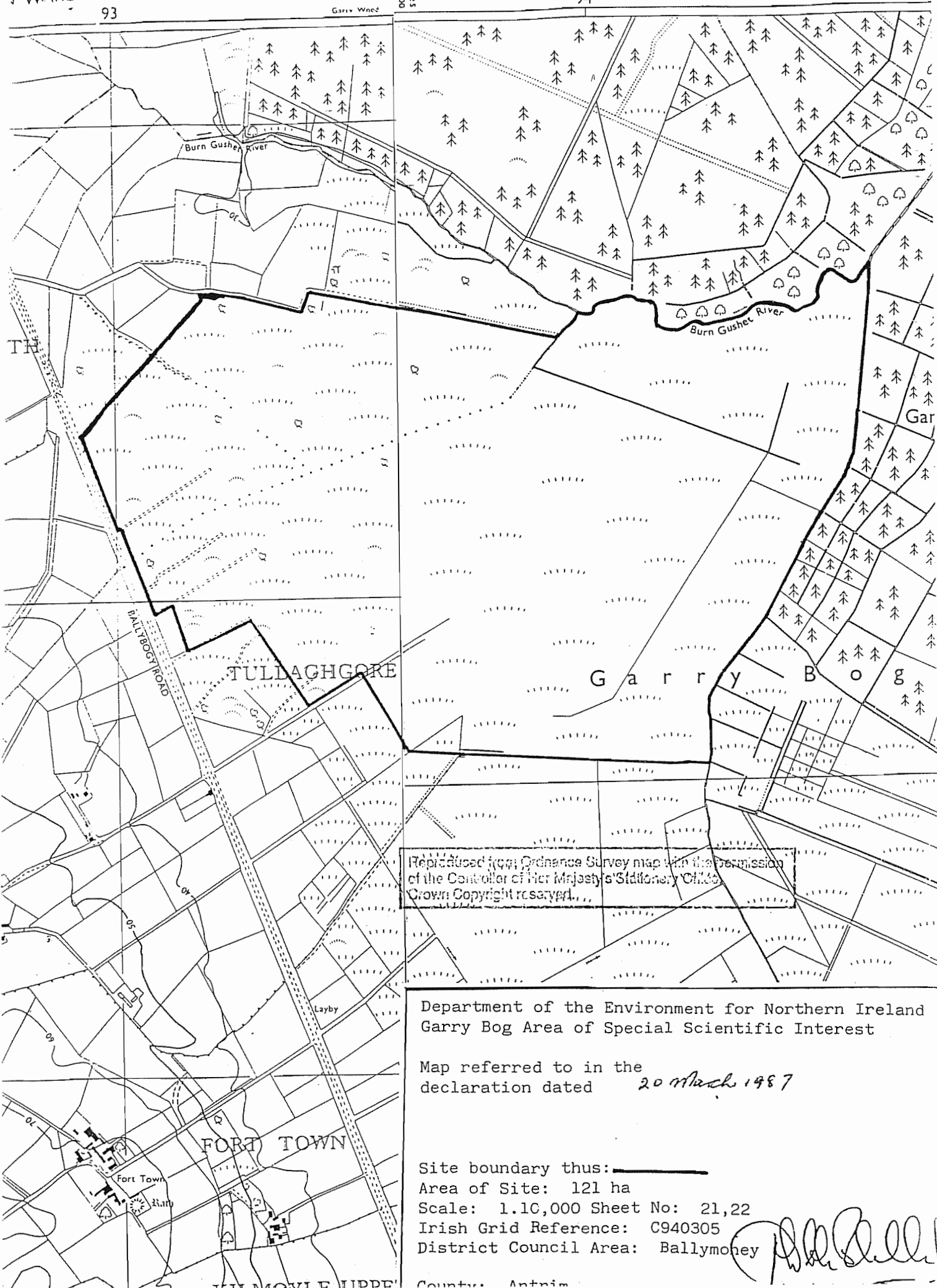
Maintain the diversity and quality of habitats associated with the bog, such as woodland, scrub, fen, and grassland through sensitive management. These adjoining habitats are often very important for wildlife.

Retain the potential to access the peat column through coring or a similar activity where appropriate.



Conor McParland
Authorised Officer


Dated the 27th of March 2006



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Department of the Environment for Northern Ireland
Garry Bog Area of Special Scientific Interest

Map referred to in the
declaration dated 20 March 1987

Site boundary thus: 
 Area of Site: 121 ha
 Scale: 1:10,000 Sheet No: 21,22
 Irish Grid Reference: C940305
 District Council Area: Ballymoney

