

Reasons for designation as a Special Area of Conservation

Area name: **Carn - Glenshane Pass**

Administrative area: **Londonderry**

Component ASSI: **Carn/Glenshane Pass**

This area has been designated as a Special Area of Conservation (SAC) because it contains habitat types and/or species which are rare or threatened within a European context. The ASSI citation describes the special interests for which the site was notified in the Northern Ireland context. The interests for which the site was selected as ASSI may differ from the interests selected in a European context.

The habitats and/or species for which this area has been designated as a SAC are listed below. The reasons for their selection are listed, together with a brief description of the habitats and species as they typically occur across the UK. This area contains the interests described although it may not contain all the typical features.

European priority interest(s):

1. Blanket bogs

- **for which this is considered to be one of the best areas in the United Kingdom.**

Blanket bog. This occurs in the wettest parts of the UK as a mantle of peat which often clothes extensive areas of the landscape. Blanket bogs are characteristically wet underfoot, and are usually dominated by carpets of bog-moss *Sphagnum* species, cotton-grasses and heathers. Active blanket bogs are those in which the peat is still able to accumulate because of the growth of the surface vegetation. In the far north and west of the UK, the surface often displays areas of dramatic patterning, consisting of variously-shaped bog pools sometimes separated by quaking peat ridges. The UK and Ireland hold the largest areas of blanket bog in Europe.

The Register of European Sites in Northern Ireland

Register reference number: UK0030110

Date of Registration 13 May 2008

Signed by: G R Seymour

on behalf of the Department of the Environment