

Reasons for Designation as a Special Area of Conservation

Area name: **Tully Bog**

Administrative area: **Tyrone**

Component ASSI: **Tully Bog**

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. [NB: not for marine interests below mean low water mark]. 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. Active raised bogs

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

Active raised bogs. These bogs generally have the appearance of a gently-sloping raised mound within the landscape. They consist of a deep accumulation of waterlogged peat and a surface covered by a living layer of plants. As the surface of the bog is raised above the local water table the only source of water and nutrients feeding the bog is rainwater. Active raised bogs are those in which the peat is still able to accumulate because of the growth of the surface vegetation. The plants, mainly heaths, sedges, cotton-grasses and bog-mosses, are all specially adapted to live in waterlogged, nutrient-poor conditions. Subtle variation of these conditions controls the distribution of the species and this creates the distinctively undulating and often colourful pattern characteristic of the bog surface. The UK and Ireland hold a large proportion of the total extent of active raised bog in the European Union.

The Register of European Sites in Northern Ireland

Register reference number: UK0030326

Date of Registration 13 May 2008

Signed by G R Seymour

on behalf of the Department of the Environment