

GOVERNMENT NOTICE

**EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES
(BIRDS AND NATURAL HABITATS)
(CONTROL OF RECREATIONAL ACTIVITIES)
REGULATIONS 2010**

The Minister for the Environment, Heritage and Local Government, Mr. John Gormley, T.D., proposes to control, by Ministerial Direction, certain recreational activities in a number of European Sites in accordance with Regulation 8 of the European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) (Control of Recreational Activities) Regulations 2010. Any person who contravenes such a Direction shall be guilty of an offence under Regulation 8.2 of said Regulations.

These European Sites form part of Natura 2000, a network of protected areas throughout the European Union, for which Ireland must take appropriate protective measure to prevent pollution, deterioration of the sites or excessive significant disturbance. A list of sites falling under Ministerial Directions and activities prohibited thereon are shown on the table below.

Signs will be erected at suitable places within, or on the boundary of, or near the European Sites or any other suitable place as the Minister deems appropriate, showing:

- (a) the status of the site as a European Site,
- (b) any one or more of the restricted or prohibited activities,
- (c) such other information and guidance as the Minister deems appropriate for the purposes of the Habitats Directive, the Birds Directive or these Regulations.

Any person having or being entitled to an interest in or over the land comprising the specified land, or part thereof, whose interest may potentially be affected by a direction given pursuant to these Regulations may object within a period of three months from the publication date of the notice. Objections must be accompanied by a statutory declaration made by the person objecting, stating that the person has or is entitled to an interest in or over the specified land and the nature of the interest.

Valid objections to the proposals must be submitted by 11th November 2010 (i.e. within 3 months of this notice). Once the statutory 3-month period for objections has concluded, no further objections will be accepted.

Prohibition of these activities does not extend to of the use of any vehicle or machinery or watercraft in the course of agriculture or any other occupational land use activity, or by An Garda Síochána, the Emergency Services or the Defence Forces.

Further information and maps showing the boundaries of the areas in which these prohibitions take effect may be viewed in all National Parks & Wildlife Service offices and on the internet at www.npws.ie

Site	No:	County	Activity
Knocksink Wood SAC	0725	Wicklow, Dublin	Camping, lighting fires
The Raven cSAC & SPA	0710, 4019	Wexford	Use of All Terrain Vehicles
Blackstairs Mountains cSAC	0770	Wexford, Carlow	Use of All Terrain Vehicles
Wicklow Mountains cSAC & SPA	2122, 4040	Wicklow	Use of All Terrain Vehicles
Kilpatrick Sandhills cSAC	1742	Wexford	Use of All Terrain Vehicles
Cahore Dunes & Polder cSAC & Cahore Marshes SPA	0700, 4143	Wexford	Use of All Terrain Vehicles
Slieve Blooms cSAC & SPA	0412, 4160	Laois, Offaly	Use of All Terrain Vehicles
Carlingford Mountain cSAC	0453	Louth	Use of All Terrain Vehicles
Ballyness Bay SAC	1090	Donegal	Use of All Terrain Vehicles
Gweedore Bay & Islands SAC	1141	Donegal	Use of All Terrain Vehicles
Castlemaine Harbour SAC, SPA	0343, 4029	Kerry	Use of All Terrain Vehicles
Galtee Mountains SAC	0646	Limerick, Tipperary	Use of All Terrain Vehicles
Slieve Bearnagh SAC	2312	Clare	Use of All Terrain Vehicles
Slieve Aughty SPA	4168	Galway, Clare	Use of All Terrain Vehicles