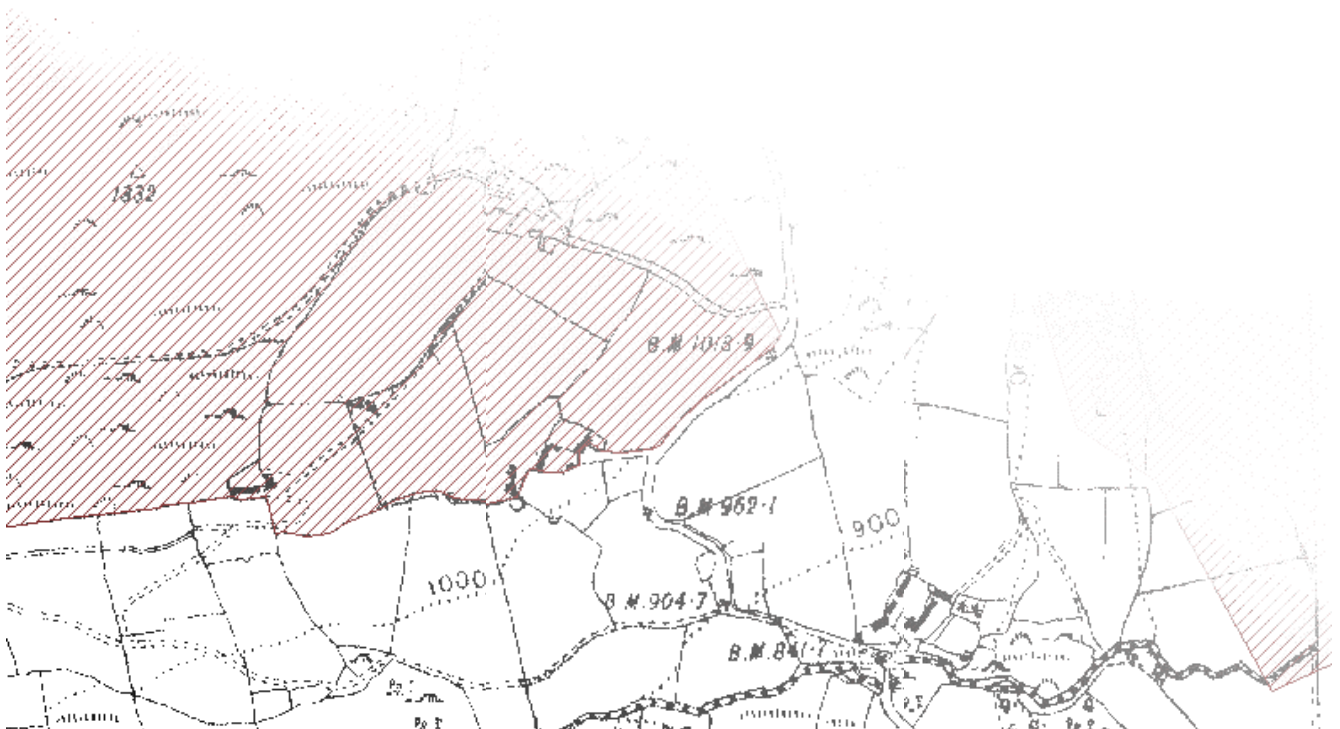




National Parks and Wildlife Conservation Plan for 2005-2010

Coolvoy Bog cSAC

Site Code 1107
Co. Donegal



SUMMARY

Site Description

Coolvoy Bog is a candidate Special Area of Conservation (cSAC) due to the presence of the priority habitat active blanket bog, listed in Annex I of the EU Habitats Directive. It has a relatively intact bog system, with well-developed hummock/hollow communities.

The site is situated 1 km to the east of Doochary in Co. Donegal, on the lower north-facing slopes of Croaghleheen Mountain. It consists of a domed area with higher land above, and incorporates the catchment area for the streams running through the site and along its boundaries. The lower lying flatter land of the site is very wet. Its vegetation is dominated by Common Cotton-grass, Black Bog Rush, Bog Mosses and Bog Cotton. There are hummock/hollow communities with large hummocks of the Bog Mosses *Sphagnum fuscum* and *Sphagnum imbricatum*. Around the streams there are flushes dominated by Purple Moor-grass with Bog Mosses, Black Bog Rush, Bog Cotton and Ling Heather. The tops of the slopes are somewhat drier and dominated by wet heath vegetation, with Ling Heather, Purple Moor-grass and Cross-leaved Heath. Golden Plover, a species listed in Annex I of the EU Birds Directive, is known to breed on the site.

Land Use

The margins of the site have been modified by mechanical turf cutting, especially near the road. The bog surface is also somewhat degraded by sheep and cattle grazing, which occurs over most of the site. An area adjacent to the site has been planted with conifers within the past ten years.

Main conservation issues

- Grazing
- Peat cutting
- Erosion

Main management objectives

- To maintain and, where possible, enhance the ecological value of the priority habitat, active blanket bog
- To maintain and, where possible, enhance the ecological value of semi-natural habitats throughout the site; wet heath, cutover bog, flushes and streams
- To maintain the population of Golden Plover on the site
- To continue effective liaison and co-operation with landowners/managers and relevant interest groups on the management of the site

Main strategies to achieve objectives

- Manage grazing on active blanket bog, heath and cutover bog
- Monitor the active blanket bog
- Regulate peat cutting
- Maintain Golden Plover population through habitat protection and monitoring
- Liaison/consultation with landowners and interested parties

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Map 1: Location and Boundary Map (Version 1.0)

Map 2: Indicative Habitat Map

Map 3: Management Zoning Map

READER'S GUIDE

The Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government (DEHLG), has produced this plan to provide ecological information about the site and to outline the main objectives for the conservation of the special features of the site.

The **Introduction** outlines the **policy background** to the site's designation and the relevant legislation.

The **Site description** contains **general information** on the site's boundaries, ownership and organisations involved. It also contains sections on the **physical aspects** of the site such as geology and hydrology as well as the **biological features**, in particular, the habitats and species found there. **Land use** and cultural features are also described.

The **Ecological Assessment** assesses the main ecological attributes of the site.

The **Objectives, Strategies and Zoning section** outlines the management necessary for the conservation of the site. It starts with a set of specific **conservation objectives**. These are followed by the main **management issues** that may impact on the conservation of the site and the **strategies** that will be used to achieve the objectives as outlined. In cases where more information is required, general strategies are usually applied. Where sufficient data and knowledge is available, specific management prescriptions are outlined for the timescale of the plan. In the final section, the site is divided into management **zones** to indicate where each strategy applies.

The appendices include a **glossary** where scientific and technical terms are explained, a list of **notifiable actions** relevant to each habitat within the site, and additional information on the site.

INTRODUCTION

Legal Background for Conservation Plans

The legal basis for selection and designation of **Special Areas of Conservation** (SACs) is the **EU Habitats Directive**, which was adopted in 1992. Focusing on the conservation of natural and semi-natural habitats and species of flora and fauna, the Habitats Directive seeks to establish “Natura 2000”, a network of protected areas throughout the European Community. The Habitats Directive includes a list of habitats that require SAC designation and specific conservation measures. This list is known as Annex I and the habitats are referred to as Annex I habitats. On this list, habitats that require special attention because they are in danger of disappearance, are termed ‘priority habitats’. A second list, Annex II in the Habitats Directive comprises species that must be afforded special protection.

In Ireland, the habitats and species that must be afforded protection under the Habitats Directive include:

- 16 Annex I priority habitats that require particular attention – including raised bogs, active blanket bogs, turloughs and machair,
- 45 other Annex I habitats – such as certain types of heaths, lakes and woodlands,
- 25 Annex II species – including Otter, Freshwater Pearl Mussel and Killarney Fern.

It is the responsibility of each member state to designate SACs to protect the Annex I habitats and Annex II species. These sites, together with the **Special Protection Areas** (SPAs) designated under the **EU Birds Directive** (1979), form the European “Natura 2000” network.

The Birds Directive contains annexes, which are lists of birds that require particular conservation measures (Annex I), and also species that may be hunted, and species that may be sold. There are 28 Annex I species regularly occurring in Ireland including Whooper Swan, Greenland White-fronted Goose, Peregrine Falcon, Corncrake and Terns. Member states are also required to protect sites that are important for migratory species such as ducks, geese and waders.

The Habitats Directive was transposed into Irish law through the **European Communities (Natural Habitats) Regulations 1997**. The **Wildlife Act 1976** is the main statute governing the protection of wildlife in Ireland and was amended in 2000 to take account of European law, particularly the Habitats and Birds Directives. The **Wildlife (Amendment) Act 2000** also makes legal provision for the designation and protection of a national network of **Natural Heritage Areas** (NHAs). Over 1,100 proposed NHAs were published in 1995 and almost 400 of these are also selected as candidate SACs.

The European Communities (Natural Habitats) Regulations 1997 include the following points:

The Minister for the Environment, Heritage and Local Government must transmit a candidate list of sites to the European Commission for consideration.

Following adoption of this list by the Commission, the Minister will formally designate the sites as SACs.

Sites are legally protected once they are publicly advertised.

Landowners and other users with a legal entitlement should be notified of designation, and the Minister must make all reasonable efforts to do so. Notification also includes a list of activities that may alter, damage, destroy or interfere with the integrity of the site. A person who illegally damages a site may be prosecuted or required to repair damage.

Landowners and other users with a legal entitlement may appeal the designation of lands on scientific grounds.

Landowners and other users with a legal entitlement will be compensated for actual loss of income arising from restrictions imposed as a result of designation.

DEHLG is the government department with responsibility for the designation and protection of wildlife habitats, species and areas of conservation interest. As part of their responsibility in relation to biodiversity and wildlife under the Wildlife Acts (1976 and 2000), the Minister's brief extends far beyond the habitats and species listed in the annexes of the Habitats and Birds Directives. For this reason, cSAC conservation plans may deal with species that are not mentioned in these annexes.

Reasons for Site Designation

The reason for the proposal to designate this site as a SAC is the presence of:

HABITATS LISTED IN ANNEX I OF THE E.U. HABITATS DIRECTIVE	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • *Active blanket bog 	This is an Annex I priority habitat. Coolvoy Bog has a relatively intact bog system, with well-developed hummock/hollow communities.

As part of his responsibility in relation to biodiversity and wildlife under the Wildlife Acts, the Minister's objective is to protect important habitats and species even though they may not appear in the Annexes of the Habitats Directive. This may mean that they are included in SAC conservation plans.

General Conservation Objectives

Under Article 6 of the EU Habitats Directive, DEHLG is required to ensure the favourable conservation status of all Annex I habitats and Annex II species within cSACs. By preparing, implementing and reviewing this plan on a five year basis, DEHLG aims to achieve the objectives of the Habitats Directive in relation to this site. The general objectives DEHLG will apply to achieve this are:

- to maintain the Annex I habitat for which the cSAC is selected
- to liaise with the landowners, relevant authorities and interested parties
- to increase the scientific knowledge of the site through further scientific research and development of monitoring programmes

Specific conservation objectives and strategies are outlined in the section, **Objectives, Strategies and Zoning**.

Implications for landowners and other site users

In most areas designated as cSACs, current practices will not have to change significantly.

In cases where users are required to change practices or restrict activities to protect the wildlife interest of the site, compensation will be payable based on actual loss of income.

If an owner, occupier or user of a site wishes to carry out certain activities within the designated area (that are not covered by licence or consent from another statutory body), they must consult with, and get consent from, the Minister for the Environment, Heritage and Local Government. These activities are listed as “Notifiable Actions” for each habitat (see Appendix IV). Local Authorities are obliged to ensure appropriate assessment of the implications of any development permission sought that may have an impact on a designated area.

The designation of the site or any conservation actions can be appealed by landowners or right-owners on a scientific basis. Details of the appeals procedure are also given in Appendix V.

SITE DESCRIPTION

Location including site boundaries

The site is situated 1 km to the east of Doochary in Co. Donegal, on the lower north-facing slopes of Croaghleheen Mountain.

Grid Ref.: B 88 06

Latitude: N 54° 54' 00"

Longitude: W 08° 11' 60"

Area: 307 ha

Altitude Range: 60 m to 185 m

(Map references are provided in Appendix II).

Site Boundaries

The boundaries of the site were drawn up during the NHA survey in 1993. Since this time, the boundary has been extended to include an area of mountain heath and some small streams (approx. 50 ha), which are contiguous with the site and of similar quality. The boundary to the site runs along the road between Doochary and Fintown for a short distance (see Map 1).

Legal Status

Ownership

Part of the site is commonage, the remainder is in private ownership.

Designations of the Site

Candidate Special Site Code: IE0001107

Area of Conservation

Proposed Natural Site Code: 1107

Heritage Area

Past Status and Designation of the Site

The site was first identified during the Wildlife Service Blanket Bog survey of 1990. It was also surveyed as part of the Natural Heritage Area survey that took place in 1994, and was proposed as a Natural Heritage Area at that time.

Management Infrastructure

Individuals and Organisations Involved

Landowners Part of the site is commonage, the remainder is in private ownership.

National Parks & Wildlife (NPW) of the Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government (DEHLG) NPW is responsible for maintaining the nature conservation value of the site. The site is patrolled by the local Conservation Ranger, with input from other staff as necessary (see Appendix VII for further details of NPW regional staff).

Planning Authorities Donegal County Council is the relevant local authority.

Local Authority Policy in relation to the Site

The site is a proposed Natural Heritage Area. The Donegal County Development Plan (2000) states that *“The proposed Natural Heritage Areas reflect the rich and diverse heritage resource which survives in the County... The Council will work with relevant authorities, voluntary and community groups, to optimise the contribution of these and other heritage resources to the sustainable development of the county”*.

Physical Features

Climate

The nearest rainfall station to the site is at Doocharry (grid ref: B904 097). The mean annual rainfall recorded at this site for the years 1961-1990 was 1,684 mm. Mean January temperature for the region measured from 1961 - 1990 was 5.4 °C. The mean summer temperature measured in July for the same years was 13.8 °C (information provided by the Meteorological Service). The nearest synoptic meteorological station to the site is Malin Head. See Appendix III for 30-year climatic data recorded at Malin Head (obtained from Met Eireann website).

Geology & Geomorphology

Granite forms the underlying bedrock of the site and is exposed on the ridgetops.

Soils and Soil Processes

The soils in this site are podzols and peat on granite. The depth to bedrock is unknown, but there are deep deposits of peat on the valley floor and soils become shallower on the higher slopes of the site, where some erosion and haggings of peat occurs.

Biological Features

Habitats and Vegetation

Note: Throughout the conservation plan, habitats are named and described under two different systems: the Annex I habitat(s) are as listed in the EU Habitats Interpretation Manual, while all other habitats are as listed according to the NPW NHA classification system.

The following table lists the habitats within the site. The Annex I habitat of the Habitats Directive for which the site was selected is listed, with the relevant NHA category also shown. The Annex I priority habitat is marked with an asterisk (*). The Gross Habitat map for the site is presented in Map 2. The percentage presented for each habitat type is based on the approximate geographic area of each habitat, as shown in Map 2.

Habitats Found within Coolvov Bog cSAC

ANNEX I HABITAT TYPE	CORRESPONDING NHA CATEGORY	% AREA
*Active blanket bog	Blanket bog	95% (including wet heath and flushes)
-	Cutover bog	3%
-	Streams	<1%
-	Dense bracken	2%

Annex I Habitat:

***Active blanket bog**
(95% of total site area, including wet heath and flushes)

Intact areas of blanket bog on the lowland areas of the site are dominated by Purple Moor-grass (*Molinia caerulea*), beneath which there is a good covering of bog mosses, including *Sphagnum capillifolium*, *S. papillosum* and *S. subnitens*, with frequent *S. magellanicum*. Other species that occur include Jointed Rush (*Juncus articulatus*), Sharp-flowered Rush (*J. acutiflorus*), Bog Myrtle (*Myrica gale*), Bog Cotton (*Eriophorum vaginatum*), Sedges (*Carex* spp.) and Black Bog Rush (*Schoenus nigricans*). Hummocks have *Sphagnum imbricatum*, *S. fuscum* and *S. magellanicum*. Most of the hummocks are topped with Silver-haired Moss (*Racomitrium lanuginosum*) as well as *Cladonia* species with Ling Heather (*Calluna vulgaris*) and Cross-leaved Heath (*Erica tetralix*). Inter-hummock areas are colonised by Great Sundew (*Drosera anglica*) and *Sphagnum compactum*.

On the higher slopes, the vegetation is drier and more heathy. It is dominated by Purple Moor-grass, with bog mosses (*Sphagna* spp.), Black Bog Rush, Bog Cotton and Ling Heather.

Around the streams, flushes are characterised by the following species: Black Bog Rush, Common Cotton-grass (*Eriophorum angustifolium*) Bog Cotton, Soft-flowered Rush (*Juncus effusus*), with Bog Bean (*Menyanthes trifoliata*), Bulbous Rush (*Juncus bulbosus*), Ling Heather, Heath Spotted Orchid (*Dactylorhiza maculata*), Round-leaved Sundew (*Drosera rotundifolia*) and Bog Asphodel (*Narthecium ossifragum*).



Sphagnum capillifolium with *S. subnitens*, Photo M. Dromey



Bog Myrtle (*Myrica gale*), Photo M. Dromey

Other Habitats

Cutover bog

Areas that were cut by hand, and have since re-vegetated, are dominated by Common Cotton-grass, bog mosses (*Sphagna* spp.), Purple Moor-grass and Bog Cotton. Other species that occur here include Cross-leaved Heath, Ling Heather, Creeping Cinquefoil (*Potentilla reptans*), Black Bog Rush, Deergrass (*Trichophorum caespitosum*) and Common Hair Moss (*Polytrichum commune*).

A small area close to the road has been cut using a sausage machine recently, though not within the past one or two years. This is partially re-vegetated.

Streams

A number of small streams run through the site and along its boundaries.

Dense Bracken

Areas of dense Bracken (*Pteridium aquilinum*) occur on the site at the base of the slopes. Beneath the Bracken is a bryophyte rich grassland, including species such as Common Bent (*Agrostis capillaris*) and Purple Moor-grass, with mosses such as *Thuidium tamariscinum*, *Pseudoscleropodium purum* and *Sphagna* species.

Notable Flora:

No protected plants are known to occur on the site, though the relatively rare bog moss, *Sphagnum fuscum*, has been recorded on hummocks within the site.

Fauna:

Invertebrates

Little is known about invertebrates on this site. Drinker Moth (*Philudoria potatoaria*) caterpillars and male Clouded Buff Moth (*Diacrisia sannio*) have been recorded during ranger visits. The bog provides suitable habitat for a diversity of invertebrate species.

Amphibians and Reptiles

Common Frog (*Rana temporaria*), a species listed as internationally important in the Irish Red Data Book, has been recorded on the site.

Mammals

Irish Hare (*Lepus timidus hibernicus*) droppings have been recorded on the site. This species is listed as internationally important in the Irish Red Data Book. Red Deer (*Cervus elaphus*) have been recorded in the area of the site, and are likely to be present occasionally.

Birds

It is believed that the site is a breeding ground for one or possibly two pairs of Golden Plover (*Pluvialis apricaria*). This species is listed in Annex I of the EU Birds Directive and is rated in the Irish Red Data Book as vulnerable. Snipe (*Gallinago gallinago*) are breeding on the site. Red Grouse (*Lagopus lagopus hibernicus*) and Raven (*Corvus corax*) are also present and possibly breeding on the site. There is suitable Merlin (*Falco columbarius*) and Peregrine Falcon (*Falco peregrinus*) hunting habitat.



Golden Plover (*Pluvialis apricaria*), Photo R. Mills

Cultural Features

Land use and impacts on the site

Agriculture

The impacts of grazing on the commonage areas of this site have been assessed by the Commonage Framework Planning Project. The relevant framework plan is DG12. The findings of this plan are reflected in the management strategies and zoning sections of this conservation plan.

Most of the site is subject to some degree of sheep and cattle grazing. Areas of the bog that have been fenced by landowners have contributed to the overgrazing and degradation of site's vegetation in places. Flushed areas on the lower slopes of Croaghleheen are overgrazed.

Peat cutting

An additional threat to the quality of this site is the mechanical cutting of peat (using a sausage machine). At present this is confined to a small area in the north of the site. Mechanical peat cutting does not appear to have occurred within the past one or two years.

Land use adjacent to the site

Sheep grazing

There is small, scale light grazing of sheep in areas adjacent to the site.

Peat cutting

Peat cutting in this remote area is small scale and limited to cutting for domestic use.

Afforestation	An area of land that was formerly included in the west of the site has now been planted with conifers and has been excluded. This planted area is separated from the site by a stream that has been widened into a large drain.
Road development	Road widening carried out by the County Council has involved excavation of the stream that bounds the site to the north-west.

Past human use

Light grazing of stock and peat cutting for domestic use are the only known past human uses of this site.

Recorded Monuments and Other Features

There are no recorded national monuments known from on the site.

ECOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT

Note: The following is an assessment of the ecological features of the site. It is largely based on information given in the explanatory notes which accompany the Natura 2000 form (compiled in 1994). Additional information, obtained since these notes were written may also have been used to make the assessment.

Coolvoy Bog cSAC represents a fine, but small, example of a well-structured, relatively intact blanket bog. Good quality, intact examples of this type of blanket bog are becoming increasingly rare. The site supports flora and vegetation communities typical of this type of blanket bog and several flushes associated with streams occur. At least one pair of Golden Plover breed on the site.

The site is slightly disturbed by peat cutting (both hand and mechanical cutting) on the margins and several areas are badly overgrazed. However, most of the deep peat areas are intact. The microtopography of the site is well developed, with good quality hummocks, Atlantic blanket bog pools and inter-connecting pools occurring. Hydrologically, the blanket bog on the site appears to be relatively intact and as long as afforestation, peat cutting and grazing are monitored and controlled, it has excellent prospects for the conservation of its functions.

OBJECTIVES, STRATEGIES AND ZONING

Conservation Objectives

The nature conservation objectives for this site are:

- | | |
|---------------------|--|
| Objective 1: | To maintain and, where possible, enhance the ecological value of the priority habitat, *active blanket bog. |
| Objective 2: | To maintain and, where possible, enhance the ecological value of semi-natural habitats throughout the site; wet heath, cutover bog, flushes and streams. |
| Objective 3: | To maintain the population of Golden Plover on the site. |
| Objective 4: | To continue effective liaison and co-operation with landowners/managers and relevant interest groups on the management of the site. |

Management Issues

Note: The main issues that may impact on the conservation of the site are outlined below. The constraints that these may pose and the management potential for the site are discussed.

- **Grazing**
- **Peat cutting**
- **Erosion**

Grazing

The entire site is grazed by sheep, resulting in localised damage in mineral rich areas. The north-east of the site has been fenced into smaller units by landowners, possibly in accordance with REPS plans. This has resulted in certain areas becoming more heavily grazed by concentrating stock and has also caused poaching damage along the fences. Stock levels on the areas of commonage have been set by Commonage Framework Plans. The relevant framework plan for this site is DG12.

Peat cutting

A small area of land to the north of the site has been damaged by mechanical peat cutting.

Erosion

There are signs of erosion and possible drying out on the higher slopes of the site.

General Strategies

Specific strategies that relate to the above objectives are outlined below. However, there are a number of strategies that relate to the site as a whole. These are as follows:

Implement plan

DEHLG will seek to ensure that the aims of this conservation plan are achieved through:

- liaison with the landowners, relevant authorities and interested parties
- implementation of REPS or DEHLG farm plans, which will use this document as a guideline for prescribing management on a farm by farm basis, and also will ensure that the agreed prescriptions for the relevant habitats are adhered to (see Appendix VI)
- enforcement of Regulations under the Habitats/Birds Directives and the Wildlife Acts

Establish a monitoring regime

The monitoring regime for the site will comprise:

Scientific monitoring Monitoring of the favourable conservation status of the Annex I priority habitat will be done by, or on behalf of, the staff of the Monitoring Section of the NPW or staff working to NPW in accordance with the procedures laid down by that section. The work, if any, to be done on this site in that respect will be prescribed by that section. There are some indications that this bog may be drying out (C. Douglas, *pers. comm.*). In order to determine whether this is the case, a monitoring program looking at the status of certain indicator species (e.g. *Sphagnum fuscum*) should be initiated.

Site surveillance Patrolling of the site by the Conservation Ranger, with special attention to the Annex I priority habitat will identify any major changes, damaging operations, or threats should they arise

Enforce notifiable actions

Certain activities may be restricted in SACs. Notifiable Actions for particular habitats are listed in Appendix IV of this plan. Permission from the Minister is required before these actions may be carried out within the designated area. For example, rock removal/cutting turf except from existing banks; no cutting from intact (uncut) areas are notifiable actions for blanket bog habitat.

Specific Strategies

Objective 1.

To maintain and, where possible, enhance the ecological value of the priority habitat, *active blanket bog.

Strategies:

- 1.1. Manage grazing on commonages**

The impacts of grazing on commonage areas of the site have been assessed by the Commonage Framework Planning Project (Commonage Plan (CP) DG12). These plans recommend de-stocking rates in areas that have been damaged by over-grazing. These rates will be incorporated into REPS plans and /or farm plans produced by DEHLG for each farm and must be achieved within an agreed timescale from the beginning of the REPS/farm planning period.

No farmer's stock will be reduced to less than 25 ewes. If the CP specifies a de-stocking level of less than 10%, then no de-stocking is required. If the CP specifies a de-stocking of more than 10%, then de-stocking should occur as indicated. The polluter pays principle does not apply to any commonage where the de-stocking percentage is less than 20%. The relevant CP (i.e. DG12) recommends a de-stocking level of 0%. The individual CP should be consulted for further details.

The zoning map (Map 3) reflects the findings of the CP assessment, and these are specified in the prescriptions for each individual zone.

On commonages in six western counties, a stock reduction of 30% was implemented in December 1998 for farmers not already in REPS. This is taken into account when applying Commonage Framework Plans.
- 1.2. Manage grazing on privately owned land**

For non-commonage land, NPW will seek to ensure that sustainable grazing levels are established via REPS and DEHLG farm plans, using a similar methodology applied to commonage areas.
- 1.3. Minimise impacts of peat cutting**

Most areas of active turf cutting are not included in the cSAC. Where areas of active cutting lie within the less sensitive areas of the site cutting may continue.

Machine cutting other than the use of 'sausage machines' will normally be permitted

On particularly sensitive areas of bog, a complete halt to cutting may be required. In such cases compensation will be determined on a case by case basis, but would be in the region of €784.40 per ha (€317.43 per acre).

Objective 2.

To maintain and, where possible, enhance the ecological value of semi-natural habitats throughout the site; wet heath, cutover bog, flushes and streams.

Strategies:

- | | |
|--|--|
| 2.1. Regulate stock levels on heath and cutover bog | See strategies 1.1 and 1.2. |
| 2.2. Manage streams by non-intervention | No intervention is necessary to manage streams that run through the site or on the boundaries. Refer to the notifiable actions for such areas (Appendix IV). Modification of the streams that border the site should not be carried out without consultation with NPW. |
| 2.3. Prevent afforestation of the site | NPW will strive to ensure no afforestation occurs within the site boundary. Consultation with NPW is desirable for planting and associated drain digging occurring adjacent to the site, both of which may have an adverse impact on the bog. |

Objective 3.

To maintain the population of Golden Plover on the site.

Strategies:

- | | |
|---|---|
| 3.1. Maintain Golden Plover population through habitat protection and monitoring | The implementation of the strategies above (under objectives 1 and 2) will safeguard this species' habitat and contribute to its conservation on this site. Sightings by NPW staff of Golden Plover and other bird species are recorded during site visits. Breeding status will be monitored during ranger visits. |
|---|---|

Objective 4.

To continue effective liaison and co-operation with landowners/managers and relevant interest groups on the management of the site.

Strategies:

- | | |
|--|--|
| 4.1. Liaise with interested parties | NPW will strive to maintain effective liaison with landowners (particularly through the Liaison Committee), relevant authorities and interested parties on achieving the objectives for conservation of the site. |
| 4.2. Monitor development applications | NPW will continue to monitor applications, including current applications, for planning permission and licenses for lands within and adjacent to the site. Appropriate bodies will be notified if developments are thought to conflict with conservation objectives. |
| 4.3. Liaise with REPS planners | REPS planners are required to consult with NPW staff when they are developing plans for land within the site. |

Zoning

Note: Zoning is the division of a nature conservation site and neighbouring lands into a number of sub-units. There are four types of zones identified (not necessarily all occurring within a site): A, B and C within the site and D outside the site but impacting on it. The relevant strategies are listed for each site.

Zone A: A Natural Zone

Areas of high conservation value, which require no or little intervention.

1A: NON-INTERVENTION AREAS

1A1: Rivers and streams

Strategy 2.2. and the general monitoring strategies apply.

2A: MAINTENANCE AREAS WITH LIMITED INTERVENTION

2A1: *Active blanket bog, heath, cutover bog, flushes and dense bracken (commonage)

These areas have been identified in the Commonage Framework Plan as being undamaged. See Commonage Framework Plan for full details.

Strategies 1.1, 2.1 and the general monitoring strategies apply.

Zone B: Active Management

Areas of high conservation value where high management input is needed to maintain, rehabilitate, restore to a more desirable state.

B1: *Active blanket bog, heath, cutover bog, flushes and dense bracken (privately owned)

Grazing assessments are required for these privately owned areas.

Strategies 1.2, 2.1 and the general monitoring strategies apply.

B2: Machine cut bog

Strategy 1.3. applies.

Zone D: Impact Zone

Areas outside the site, which may have an impact on the site.

D1: Conifer plantation

Further planting of conifers in areas adjacent to this site should also be carried out in consultation with staff of NPW. Felling of this plantation in the future should be carried out in consultation with staff of NPW.

Summary of Specific Strategies

Note: It is implicit with all the strategies presented that their implementation is dependent on availability of adequate resources in terms of staff, expertise and financial resources. Also, that cooperation with landowners and other key stakeholders is key to achieving the stated objectives.

	Strategy	Action required	Who to implement	When/Duration/Frequency	Estimated Total Cost	Additional Resources needed
1.1.	Manage grazing on commonages	Adhere to the stock levels set by Commonage Framework Plan.	NPW/ Landowners			
1.2.	Manage grazing on privately owned land	Conduct grazing assessments on privately owned lands.	NPW			
1.3.	Minimise impacts of peat cutting	Consultation with NPW prior to any peat cutting. No cutting using sausage machines.	NPW/ Turbary rights holders			
2.1.	Regulate stock levels on heath and cutover bog	See Strategies 1.1 and 1.2.	NPW/ Landowners			
2.2.	Manage streams by non-intervention	-	-			
2.3	Prevent afforestation of the site	Consultation with NPW regarding planting and associated drain digging adjacent to site.	NPW/ Landowners			
3.1.	Maintain Golden Plover population through habitat protection and monitoring	See above strategies (Strategies 1.1-1.3 and 2.1-2.3) and monitor breeding status.	NPW			
4.1.	Liaise with interested parties	Maintain effective liaison with interested parties on achieving conservation objectives.	NPW			
4.2.	Monitor development applications	Monitor applications for planning permission and licences for lands within and adjacent to site.	NPW			
4.3.	Liaise with REPS planners	REPS planners must consult with NPW when developing plans for land within the site.	REPS planners/ NPW			

APPENDIX I:

GLOSSARY

AFFORESTATION - The planting of trees (usually conifers) over an area of previously unplanted ground.

ALTITUDE - Vertical height above sea level.

AMPHIBIANS – A vertebrate group whose members spend part of their life cycle in water and part on land e.g. Frog.

ANNEX I - of the EU Birds Directive, lists birds that are strictly protected so that they cannot be killed, captured, disturbed or traded.

ANNEX I - of the EU Habitats Directive, lists habitats including priority habitats for which SACs have to be designated.

ANNEX II - of the EU Birds Directive lists birds which may be hunted.

ANNEX II - of the EU Habitats Directive is a list of species for which SACs have to be designated.

ANNEX III - of the EU Habitats Directive gives the criteria for selecting sites to be designated as SACs.

ANNEX IV - of the EU Habitats Directive lists animal and plant species of Community interest in need of strict protection.

ANNEX V - of the EU Habitats Directive lists animal and plant species of Community interest whose taking in the wild and exploitation may be subject to management measures.

ASIs - Areas of Scientific Interest. Areas that were identified in the 1970s as being of conservation interest. The NHA designation developed from ASIs.

BIODIVERSITY – A general term used to describe all aspects of biological diversity, including: the number of species present in a given environment; the genetic diversity present within a species; the number of different ecosystems present within a given environment.

BIRDS DIRECTIVE (Council Directive 79/ 409/ 2nd April 1979) - Under this Directive Ireland is required to conserve the habitats of two categories of wild birds: 1) Listed rare and vulnerable species and 2) Regularly occurring migratory species. The Directive also obliges Ireland to conserve wetlands, especially those of international importance and regulates the hunting and trading of wildbirds. It was transposed into Irish legislation by the EU (Natural Habitats) Regulations, 1997.

BLANKET BOG - An NPW habitat classification which refers to bogs which carpet the landscape, following the underlying topography. They can cover extensive areas along the west coast and on uplands throughout the country.

CATCHMENT - An area of land draining to a defined point. The term river catchment refers to the area of land that drains into a particular river system.

COMMERCIAL FOREST - An NPW habitat classification which applies to plantations of coniferous trees, primarily Sitka Spruce, Lodgepole Pine, Douglas Fir, Japanese Larch and Norway Spruce. More than 90% of the canopy is formed by coniferous trees, although there may be broad-leaved trees, especially Birch present along the plantation edges.

COMMONAGE – An area of land which are undivided but are owned by more than one person / or the rights to use the land are owned by more than one person.

COMMUNITY - a well-defined assemblage of plants and/or animals, clearly distinguishable from other such assemblages.

CONSERVATION STATUS - The sum of the influences acting on a habitat and its typical species that may affect its long term distribution, structure and functions. Also refers to the long-term survival of its typical species within the European territory of the Member States.

CUTOVER BOG – An NPW habitat classification that describes areas of bog which have been previously cut, although not down to the marl layer or bedrock. Cut-over areas are normally a mosaic of cut areas, face banks, pools, drainage ditches, uncut areas of peat, scrub, grassland etc.

DEHLG - Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government

DENSE BRACKEN – An NPW habitat classification which refers to areas with 75% cover of Bracken (*Pteridium aquilinum*), a single branched fern with a characteristic small and bright green foliage dying to rich reds and russets in the Autumn.

DESICCATION - Drying out.

DEVELOPMENT PLANS - Local Authorities (Co. Councils & Corporations) are obliged under statute to produce a document which sets out the planned development of their areas for a given number of years. In the future Local Authorities will be asked to incorporate designated NHAs, SACs and SPAs classifications into their development plans.

DIVERSITY - see biodiversity.

DOMESTIC PURPOSES - Used in relation to the cutting of peat. Peat that is cut for domestic purposes is not for commercial sale and is cut at the rate of one year's supply for a household per year.

ECOLOGY - The study of the interactions between organisms, and their physical, chemical and biological environment.

EROSION - The processes whereby the materials of the Earth's crust are dissolved, or worn away and simultaneously moved from one place to another by natural agencies which include weathering, solution, corrosion and transportation.

EUROPEAN BIRDS DIRECTIVE (79/ 409/ 2nd April 1979) - See Birds Directive.

FAUNA - Animal life.

FAVOURABLE CONSERVATION STATUS - The conservation status of a natural habitat will be taken as "favourable" when: its natural range and areas it covers within that range are stable or increasing, and the specific structure and functions which are necessary for its long term maintenance exist and are likely to continue to exist for the foreseeable future, and the conservation status of its typical species is favourable.

FLORA - plant life.

GEOMORPHOLOGY – The study of the form and structure of the landscape, which is shaped by the underlying geology.

HABITAT - Refers to the environment defined by specific abiotic and biotic factors, in which a species lives at any stage of its biological cycle. In general terms it is a species home. In the Habitats Directive this term is used more loosely to mean plant communities and areas to be given protection.

HABITATS DIRECTIVE - (Council Directive 92/43/EEC). The Directive on the conservation of Natural Habitats and of Wild Flora and Fauna. This Directive seeks to legally protect wildlife and its habitats. . It was transposed into Irish legislation by the EU (Natural Habitats) Regulations, 1997.

HAND CUTTING OF PEAT - Refers to traditional cutting of peat using a slean or spade.

HUMMOCK - A small hillock/mound. Often used to describe the surface of active bogs where the ground forms a pattern of mounds, hollows and pools. Such hummocks commonly comprise bog mosses.

HYDROLOGY - The movement of water through a catchment area including freshwater and seawater inputs, water level changes and drainage mechanisms which are all influenced by the underlying geology.

LATITUDE – The angular distance measured in degrees north or south of the equator.

LIAISON COMMITTEE - This is a special group set up to discuss the contents of a conservation management plan and the implementation of the plan. The committee will include representation of landowners, right-holders and other interest groups. It shall be the function of the committee to advise NPW managers on the interaction between site conservation management and local interests. The Liaison Committee will nominate a member to the official Appeals Board which will consider appeals against site designation and other issues. The Liaison Committee will be independent from the NPW.

MANAGEMENT - a) Controlling processes within a site (this can be actively carrying out work or can be doing nothing), preferably in accordance with a conservation plan. - b) The practical implementation of the management plan. - c) Undertaking any task or project identified in the management plan, including the identification of new opportunities.

MANAGEMENT AGREEMENTS - The Wildlife Act, 1976, enables DEHLG to enter into voluntary management agreements with private landowners. Under these agreements landowners will manage their lands to ensure that desirable wildlife habitats and species are protected. Payment for such responsible management may be agreed. However, the number and type of such agreements will vary depending on the resources available to the National Parks and Wildlife at the time.

MECHANICAL PEAT EXTRACTION - Refers to the use of machinery to cut peat. This includes extrusion cutting such as by sausage machine (e.g. Difco) or any other type of mechanical cutter (e.g. Hopper).

MONITORING – A repeat or repeats of a survey using the same methodology. Designed to look for or measure specific changes and the rate or extent of change. Used to check the “health” quantity or quality of a habitat or species.

NATIONAL PARKS AND WILDLIFE (NPW) – the section of the Environment Infrastructure and Services division of the Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government with responsibility for nature conservation and implementation of Government conservation policy as enunciated by the Minister for the Environment, Heritage and Local Government.

NATURA 2000 - A network of sites across the European Community, selected for the purpose of conserving natural habitats and species of plants and animals which are rare, endangered or vulnerable in the European Community. SACs and SPAs form the Natura 2000 network.

NHAs - Proposed Natural Heritage Areas. These are areas that are important for wildlife conservation. Some of these sites are small, such as roosting areas for rare bats; others can be large such as a blanket bog or a sand dune system.

NOTABLE SPECIES - Plants or animals which are worthy of mentioning either because they are particularly typical of a habitat, or because they are rare/ scarce/ atypical.

NOTIFIABLE ACTIONS - Actions specified under the cSAC regulations and are listed in the appendices of a conservation plan. These are actions which could cause damage to the site, and for which prior approval is required before they can be carried out.

NPW - National Parks and Wildlife

OS – Ordnance Survey

PATROL MONITORING - Regular monitoring of a site usually carried out by the Conservation Ranger to check for damaging activities and to carry out other activities such as to assess the vegetation, to assess the effectiveness of the management regime on the condition of the site, etc.

PEAT CUTTING BY HAND. - See hand cutting of peat.

PEAT CUTTING BY MACHINE - See mechanical peat extraction.

POACHING - Damage caused to the vegetation by excessive numbers of large grazers.

PRIORITY HABITAT - A subset of the habitats listed in Annex I of the EU Habitats Directive. These are habitats which are in danger of disappearance and whose natural range mainly falls within the territory of the European Union. These habitats are of the highest conservation status and require measures to ensure that their favourable conservation status is maintained.

PRIVATE OWNERSHIP - Land which is owned by one private landowner.

RED DATA BOOK – A register of threatened species that includes definitions of degrees of threat.

RED DATA BOOK (lower plants) - This Red Data Book deals with Stoneworts which are recognised as a separate class, *Characea*, of the Green Algae *Chlorophyta*). Many of these species are threatened by loss of habitat or pollution.

RED DATA BOOK 1 (vascular plants) This Red Data Book deals with rare and threatened flowering plants and ferns of Ireland with an account of their present distributions and conservation status.

RED DATA BOOK 2 (mammals, birds, amphibians and fish) - identifies those species threatened in Ireland or those species whose populations are considered to be of international importance, though not necessarily threatened in Ireland. It details the current state of Irish vertebrates and provides a concise summary of the various legislation for each species.

REPS - Rural Environmental Protection Scheme. This is an Agri-Environmental programme which seeks to draw up agreements with farmers, according to the type of farming, landscape and features on the land. The overall objectives of REPS are to achieve: the use of farming practices which reduce the polluting effects of agriculture by minimising nutrient loss- an environmentally favourable extensification of crop farming, and sheep farming and cattle farming; - ways of using agricultural land which are compatible with protection and improvement of the environment, the countryside, the landscape, natural resources the soil and genetic diversity; - long-term set-aside of agricultural land for reasons connected with the environment; - land management for public access;- education and training for farmers in types of farming compatible with the requirements of environmental protection and upkeep of the countryside.

RIVERS AND STREAMS - An NPW habitat classification describing linear channels of moving water. These are natural features that distinguish them from ditches and drainage channels.

SACs - Special Areas of Conservation have been selected from the prime examples of wildlife conservation areas in Ireland. Their legal basis from which selection is derived is The Habitats Directive (92/43/EEC of the 21st May 1992). SAC's have also been known as cSAC's which stands for "candidate Special Areas of Conservation", and pcSAC's which stands for "proposed candidate Special Areas of Conservation."

SCIENTIFIC MONITORING - this is carried out by the monitoring section of the NPW, whose function here is to ensure that the favourable conservation status of the site is maintained and where possible improved.

SPAs - Special Protection Areas for Birds are areas which have been designated to ensure the conservation of certain categories of birds. Ireland is required to conserve the habitats of two categories of wild birds under the European Birds Directive (Council Directive 79/ 409/ 2nd April 1979). The NPW is responsible for ensuring that such areas are protected from significant damage.

STRATEGY - A course of action or a broad approach towards achieving an objective . It is the general thrust of management towards achieving an objective. It is a description of how the objective is to be achieved.

SUPPLEMENTARY FEEDING - The practice of providing livestock with additional food, usually carried out in winter. This term is most often used when hay, silage or other foods are brought into a site to supply Cattle or Sheep with food during times when growing conditions are poor.

TURBARY – Refers to the right to harvest turf.

ZONING - The division of a nature conservation site (& neighbouring lands) into a number of sub-units. Within each zone the management prescriptions will be reasonably uniform and will differ in type or intensity from the other zones in the plan.

APPENDIX II: REFERENCES

Map References:

O.S. 1/2 inch (1:126,720) map:	3
O.S. Discovery (1:50,000) map:	1 & 11
O.S. 6 inch (1: 10,560) map:	DL058

Data Bases :

NHA database, NPW, Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government, 7 Ely Place, Dublin 2.

Natura 2000 database, NPW, Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government, 7 Ely Place, Dublin 2.

Photographic Coverage:

Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government, HQ Ely Place, Aerial photo No. 7009, Flight Line 9. Date: 1995.

Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government, HQ Ely Place, Oblique photo: Film No. FO 864; Frame No. F24-27.

Relevant Legislation:

S.I. No. 94/1997: European Communities (Natural Habitats) Regulations, 1997.

Local Government (Planning and Development) Regulations, 2000.

Bibliography:

Donegal Co. Council (2000). *Donegal County Development Plan*.

Douglas, C., Dunnells D., Scally. L. and Wyse-Jackson, M.B. (1990). *A Survey to Locate Low and Highland Blanket Bogs of Scientific Interest in Counties Donegal, Cavan, Leitrim and Roscommon*. Unpublished report to the Wildlife Service, Office of Public Works, Dublin.

Department of Agriculture Food and Forestry. *Rural Environment Protection Scheme*. Agriculture Environment Specifications Revised 15 May 1996. European Commission.

O'Connell, C. (1987). *The IPCC Guide to Irish Peatlands*. Irish Peatland Conservation Council. Fodhla, Dublin.

Whilde, A. (1993). *The Irish Red Data Book 2-Vertebrates*. Belfast HMSO.

APPENDIX III: PHYSICAL PROCESSES AFFECTING THE SITE

Climate

MALIN HEAD													
monthly and annual mean and extreme values													
1961-1990													
TEMPERATURE (degrees Celsius)	<i>jan</i>	<i>feb</i>	<i>mar</i>	<i>apr</i>	<i>may</i>	<i>jun</i>	<i>jul</i>	<i>aug</i>	<i>sep</i>	<i>oct</i>	<i>nov</i>	<i>dec</i>	<i>year</i>
<i>mean daily max.</i>	7.6	7.5	8.7	10.3	12.7	15	16.2	16.6	15.3	13	9.8	8.4	11.8
<i>mean daily min.</i>	3.2	2.9	3.7	5	7.1	9.6	11.4	11.4	10.1	8.3	5.2	4.2	6.8
<i>Mean</i>	5.4	5.2	6.2	7.6	9.9	12.3	13.8	14	12.7	10.7	7.5	6.3	9.3
<i>absolute max.</i>	13.9	13.8	19	19.5	24.7	25	27	25.3	23.2	19.6	16	15.1	27
<i>absolute min.</i>	-6.2	-6.2	-4.4	-1.8	-0.5	2.6	5.6	5.2	2	1	-2.5	-5.5	-6.2
<i>mean no. of days with air frost</i>	3.4	3.3	1.6	0.4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.4	1.8	11
<i>mean no. of days with ground frost</i>	9.6	9.8	7.4	4.3	1	0	0	0	0.1	0.3	3.7	6.7	42.9
RELATIVE HUMIDITY (%)													
<i>mean at 0900UTC</i>	83	82	81	79	79	81	84	84	83	83	82	83	82
<i>mean at 1500UTC</i>	80	77	76	76	76	78	80	79	78	78	79	81	78
SUNSHINE (hours)													
<i>mean daily duration</i>	1.2	2.2	3.1	5.1	6.2	5.7	4.3	4.3	3.5	2.4	1.5	0.9	3.4
<i>greatest daily duration</i>	7.5	9.2	11.1	14.1	15.5	16.2	16.1	14.8	11.9	9.4	7.6	6.7	16.2
<i>mean no. of days with no sun</i>	11	7	6	3	2	2	3	3	4	6	8	12	67
RAINFALL (mm)													
<i>mean monthly total</i>	114.4	76.3	85.9	58.4	59.2	64.4	72.4	91.3	102.1	118	114.9	103.2	1060.6
<i>greatest daily total</i>	36.9	24.1	26.3	36.1	29.8	32.5	26.2	41.5	53.5	63.2	56.1	33.5	63.2
<i>mean no. of days with ≥ 0.2mm</i>	22	17	21	17	17	18	19	20	21	22	22	23	237
<i>mean no. of days with ≥ 1.0mm</i>	19	13	16	12	12	13	13	15	16	18	18	18	182
<i>mean no. of days with ≥ 5.0mm</i>	9	6	7	4	4	4	5	6	7	8	8	7	76
WIND (knots)													
<i>mean monthly speed</i>	19	18.4	17.9	15.1	14.2	13.2	13.2	13.2	15.7	17.5	18.3	19	16.3
<i>max. gust</i>	91	86	90	69	71	74	74	67	98	76	76	88	98
<i>max. mean 10-minute speed</i>	64	57	67	47	49	52	55	45	66	57	56	59	67
<i>mean no. of days with gales</i>	11.2	8.6	8	3.4	2.3	1.3	0.8	1.5	3.8	6.7	8.7	9.7	66
WEATHER (mean no. of days with...)													
<i>snow or sleet</i>	6.6	6	4.6	2.4	0.2	0	0	0	0	0.1	1.9	3.9	25.8
<i>snow lying at 0900UTC</i>	0.9	1	0.5	0.1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.8	3.3
<i>hail</i>	8.6	5.8	7.9	4.7	1.9	0.4	0.1	0.1	0.6	3.1	7.9	7.3	48.4
<i>thunder</i>	0.6	0.4	0.4	0.3	0.4	0.8	0.6	0.4	0.4	0.6	0.6	0.6	5.9
<i>fog</i>	0.4	0.5	0.7	1.9	1	2	2.2	1.3	0.6	0.4	0.2	0.4	11.8

APPENDIX IV: NOTIFIABLE ACTIONS

The notifiable actions relating to the habitats that occur within the site are listed below:

- Notifiable Action 3.1. Blanket bog
- Notifiable Action 3.2. Heath (including juniper scrub)
- Notifiable Action 4.1. Raised bog, cutaway bog and bog woodland
- Notifiable Action 4.2. Fens, transition mires, petrifying springs
- Notifiable Action 6.1. Rivers or streams
- Notifiable Action 7.1. Ditches, hedges, cereals and intensive pastures, walls, buildings, waste ground, bare soil, parkland grassland, bracken

HABITAT TYPE 3.1

BLANKET BOG

Under STATUTORY INSTRUMENT 94 of 1997, made under the EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES ACT 1972 and in accordance with the obligations inherent in the COUNCIL DIRECTIVE 92/43/EEC of 21 May 1992 (the Habitats Directive) on the conservation of the natural habitats and species of wild fauna and flora, all persons must obtain the written consent, (in circumstances prescribed at section A and B below) of the Minister for The Environment, Heritage and Local Government before performing any of the operations on, or affecting, the following habitats where they occur on lands / waters within the candidate Special Area of Conservation.

Please note that where a landowner has a current approved plan under the Rural Environmental Protection Scheme or any scheme which the Minister considers to be equivalent s/he need only notify the Minister of activities not covered in the plan.

<p><u>SECTION A</u></p> <p>Please note that the activities listed in <i>Section A overleaf</i> are required to be notified to the Minister for The Environment, Heritage and Local Government and should not be undertaken before consent.</p>	<p><u>SECTION B</u></p> <p>Please note that the activities listed in <i>Section B overleaf</i> may, and in most cases do, require a license or consent from another statutory authority (e.g. the local planning authority, the Minister for the Marine and Natural Resources, or the Minister for Agriculture and Food).</p> <p>If so, these notifiable actions do not apply.</p> <p>However, if such activities are not regulated by another statutory authority, the said activities are required to be notified to the Minister for The Environment, Heritage and Local Government.</p>
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HABITAT TYPE 3.1

BLANKET BOG

<u>Section A</u>	<u>Section B</u>
<p>THE MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT, HERITAGE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT IS REQUIRED TO BE NOTIFIED IN RELATION TO THE FOLLOWING ACTIVITIES AND SUCH ACTIVITIES SHOULD NOT PROCEED WITHOUT PRIOR CONSENT</p> <p>grazing of livestock above a sustainable density or type of stock (as defined in approved farm plans)</p> <p>grazing by livestock treated within the previous week with a pesticide which leaves persistent residues in the dung</p> <p>supplementary feeding of stock, except as defined in REPS guidelines/ introduction of stock to formerly ungrazed areas</p> <p>adding lime/adding fertiliser of any sort</p> <p>creation of new tracks or paths/burning of vegetation/ reclamation, infilling, ploughing or land drainage</p> <p>reseeding, planting of trees or any other species</p> <p>rock removal/cutting turf except from existing banks; no cutting from intact (uncut) areas</p> <p>commercial peat moss or turf extraction</p> <p>use of any pesticide or herbicide, including sheep dip/ dumping, burning or storing any materials</p> <p>alteration of the banks, bed or flow of watercourses</p> <p>operation of commercial recreation facilities (e.g. pony trekking)</p> <p>introduction (or re-introduction) into the wild of plants or animals of species not currently found in the area</p> <p>any other activity of which notice may be given by the Minister from time to time</p>	<p>(NO REQUIREMENT TO NOTIFY IF ALREADY LICENSED BY ANOTHER MINISTER/BODY)</p> <p>developing leisure facilities including golf courses, sports pitches, caravan or camping facilities.</p> <p>removal of soil, mud, gravel, sand or minerals</p> <p>developing roads or car parks</p> <p>construction of fences, buildings or embankments</p> <p>afforestation</p> <p>erecting or operating a windfarm</p>

In a very limited number of cases it may be necessary for the Minister for The Environment, Heritage and Local Government to restrict existing activities. In these cases compensation will be payable for actual losses arising out of any such restriction. In the event of restrictions being imposed by the Minister for The Environment, Heritage and Local Government, an appropriate appeals procedure will be put in place.

HABITAT TYPE 3.2

HEATH (INCLUDING JUNIPER SCRUB)

Under STATUTORY INSTRUMENT 94 of 1997, made under the EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES ACT 1972 and in accordance with the obligations inherent in the COUNCIL DIRECTIVE 92/43/EEC of 21 May 1992 (the Habitats Directive) on the conservation of the natural habitats and species of wild fauna and flora, all persons must obtain the written consent, (in circumstances prescribed at section A and B below) of the Minister for The Environment, Heritage and Local Government before performing any of the operations on, or affecting, the following habitats where they occur on lands / waters within the candidate Special Area of Conservation.

Please note that where a landowner has a current approved plan under the Rural Environmental Protection Scheme or any scheme which the Minister considers to be equivalent s/he need only notify the Minister of activities not covered in the plan.

<p><u>SECTION A</u></p> <p>Please note that the activities listed in <i>Section A overleaf</i> are required to be notified to the Minister for The Environment, Heritage and Local Government and should not be undertaken before consent.</p>	<p><u>SECTION B</u></p> <p>Please note that the activities listed in <i>Section B overleaf</i> may, and in most cases do, require a license or consent from another statutory authority (e.g. the local planning authority, the Minister for the Marine and Natural Resources, or the Minister for Agriculture and Food).</p> <p>If so, these notifiable actions do not apply.</p> <p>However, if such activities are not regulated by another statutory authority, the said activities are required to be notified to the Minister for The Environment, Heritage and Local Government.</p>
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HABITAT TYPE 3.2

HEATH (INCLUDING JUNIPER SCRUB)

<u>Section A</u>	<u>Section B</u>
<p>THE MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT, HERITAGE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT IS REQUIRED TO BE NOTIFIED IN RELATION TO THE FOLLOWING ACTIVITIES AND SUCH ACTIVITIES SHOULD NOT PROCEED WITHOUT PRIOR CONSENT</p> <p>grazing of livestock above a sustainable density or type of stock (as defined in approved farm plans)/grazing by livestock treated within the previous week with a pesticide which leaves persistent residues in the dung</p> <p>supplementary feeding of stock, except as defined in REPS guidelines</p> <p>introduction of stock to formerly ungrazed areas</p> <p>adding lime/ adding fertiliser of any sort</p> <p>Creation of new tracks or paths</p> <p>burning areas of vegetation over 5 ha, or burning any area more often than once every 15 years</p> <p>reclamation, infilling, ploughing or land drainage</p> <p>reseeding, planting of trees or any other species</p> <p>rock removal/cutting turf except from existing banks; no cutting from intact (uncut) areas</p> <p>commercial peat moss or turf extraction</p> <p>use of any pesticide or herbicide, including sheep dip</p> <p>dumping, burning or storing any materials</p> <p>alteration of the banks, bed or flow of watercourses</p> <p>operation of commercial recreation facilities (e.g. pony trekking)</p> <p>introduction (or re-introduction) into the wild of plants or animals of species not currently found in the area/any other activity of which notice may be given by the Minister from time to time</p>	<p>(NO REQUIREMENT TO NOTIFY IF ALREADY LICENSED BY ANOTHER MINISTER/BODY)</p> <p>developing leisure facilities including golf courses, sports pitches, caravan or camping facilities.</p> <p>removal of soil, mud, gravel, sand or minerals</p> <p>developing roads or car parks</p> <p>construction of fences, buildings or embankments</p> <p>afforestation</p> <p>erecting or operating a windfarm</p>

In a very limited number of cases it may be necessary for the Minister for The Environment, Heritage and Local Government to restrict existing activities. In these cases compensation will be payable for actual losses arising out of any such restriction. In the event of restrictions being imposed by the Minister for The Environment, Heritage and Local Government, an appropriate appeals procedure will be put in place.

HABITAT TYPE 4.1

RAISED BOG, CUTAWAY BOG AND BOG WOODLAND

Under STATUTORY INSTRUMENT 94 of 1997, made under the EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES ACT 1972 and in accordance with the obligations inherent in the COUNCIL DIRECTIVE 92/43/EEC of 21 May 1992 (the Habitats Directive) on the conservation of the natural habitats and species of wild fauna and flora, all persons must obtain the written consent, (in circumstances prescribed at section A and B below) of the Minister for The Environment, Heritage and Local Government before performing any of the operations on, or affecting, the following habitats where they occur on lands / waters within the candidate Special Area of Conservation.

Please note that where a landowner has a current approved plan under the Rural Environmental Protection Scheme or any scheme which the Minister considers to be equivalent s/he need only notify the Minister of activities not covered in the plan.

<p><u>SECTION A</u></p> <p>Please note that the activities listed in <i>Section A overleaf</i> are required to be notified to the Minister for The Environment, Heritage and Local Government and should not be undertaken before consent.</p>	<p><u>SECTION B</u></p> <p>Please note that the activities listed in <i>Section B overleaf</i> may, and in most cases do, require a license or consent from another statutory authority (e.g. the local planning authority, the Minister for the Marine and Natural Resources, or the Minister for Agriculture and Food).</p> <p>If so, these notifiable actions do not apply.</p> <p>However, if such activities are not regulated by another statutory authority, the said activities are required to be notified to the Minister for The Environment, Heritage and Local Government.</p>
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HABITAT TYPE 4.1

RAISED BOG, CUTAWAY BOG AND BOG WOODLAND

<u>Section A</u>	<u>Section B</u>
<p>THE MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT, HERITAGE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT IS REQUIRED TO BE NOTIFIED IN RELATION TO THE FOLLOWING ACTIVITIES AND SUCH ACTIVITIES SHOULD NOT PROCEED WITHOUT PRIOR CONSENT</p> <p>grazing of livestock/grazing by livestock treated within the previous week with a pesticide which leaves persistent residues in the dung</p> <p>adding lime/adding fertiliser of any sort</p> <p>creation of new tracks or paths</p> <p>burning areas of vegetation reclamation, infilling, or ploughing /reseeding, planting of trees or any other species/cutting trees or removing timber</p> <p>drainage works on the bog or within the local water catchment area</p> <p>cutting turf or peat moss extraction</p> <p>use of any pesticide or herbicide, including sheep dip</p> <p>dumping, burning or storing any materials</p> <p>alteration of the banks, bed or flow of watercourses</p> <p>operation of commercial recreation facilities (e.g. botanical tours)</p> <p>introduction (or re-introduction) into the wild of plants or animals of species not currently found in the area</p> <p>any other activity of which notice may be given by the Minister from time to time</p>	<p>(NO REQUIREMENT TO NOTIFY IF ALREADY LICENSED BY ANOTHER MINISTER/BODY)</p> <p>developing leisure facilities including golf courses, sports pitches, caravan or camping facilities.</p> <p>removal of soil, mud, gravel, sand or minerals</p> <p>developing roads or car parks</p> <p>construction of fences, buildings or embankments</p> <p>afforestation</p> <p>erecting or operating a windfarm</p>

In a very limited number of cases it may be necessary for the Minister for The Environment, Heritage and Local Government to restrict existing activities. In these cases compensation will be payable for actual losses arising out of any such restriction. In the event of restrictions being imposed by the Minister for The Environment, Heritage and Local Government, an appropriate appeals procedure will be put in place.

HABITAT TYPE 4.2

FENS, TRANSITION MIRES, PETRIFYING SPRINGS

Under STATUTORY INSTRUMENT 94 of 1997, made under the EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES ACT 1972 and in accordance with the obligations inherent in the COUNCIL DIRECTIVE 92/43/EEC of 21 May 1992 (the Habitats Directive) on the conservation of the natural habitats and species of wild fauna and flora, all persons must obtain the written consent, (in circumstances prescribed at section A and B below) of the Minister for The Environment, Heritage and Local Government before performing any of the operations on, or affecting, the following habitats where they occur on lands / waters within the candidate Special Area of Conservation.

Please note that where a landowner has a current approved plan under the Rural Environmental Protection Scheme or any scheme which the Minister considers to be equivalent s/he need only notify the Minister of activities not covered in the plan.

<p><u>SECTION A</u></p> <p>Please note that the activities listed in <i>Section A</i> below are required to be notified to the Minister for The Environment, Heritage and Local Government and should not be undertaken before consent.</p>	<p><u>SECTION B</u></p> <p>Please note that the activities listed in <i>Section B</i> overleaf may, and in most cases do, require a license or consent from another statutory authority (e.g. the local planning authority, the Minister for the Marine and Natural Resources, or the Minister for Agriculture and Food).</p> <p>If so, these notifiable actions do not apply.</p> <p>However, if such activities are not regulated by another statutory authority, the said activities are required to be notified to the Minister for The Environment, Heritage and Local Government.</p>
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HABITAT TYPE 4.2

FENS, TRANSITION MIRES, PETRIFYING SPRINGS

<u>Section A</u>	<u>Section B</u>
<p>THE MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT, HERITAGE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT IS REQUIRED TO BE NOTIFIED IN RELATION TO THE FOLLOWING ACTIVITIES AND SUCH ACTIVITIES SHOULD NOT PROCEED WITHOUT PRIOR CONSENT</p> <p>grazing of livestock above a sustainable density (as defined in approved farm plans)</p> <p>grazing by livestock treated within the previous week with a pesticide which leaves persistent residues in the dung</p> <p>changing of traditional use from hay meadow (to either grazing or silage making), or from grazing to silage cutting</p> <p>adding lime within 50m of the fen or a water course running into it</p> <p>adding fertiliser of any sort within 50m or a water course running into it</p> <p>extracting water for irrigation or other purposes</p> <p>mowing grass before the 30th June (Note; if you have been notified that your lands hold breeding corncrakes, or certain rare meadows, special provisions will apply)</p> <p>supplementary feeding of stock</p> <p>operation of boat angling or shore angling business</p> <p>restocking with fish.</p> <p>reclamation, infilling, ploughing or land drainage within 50m of the fen</p> <p>reseeding, planting of trees or any other species within 50m of the fen</p> <p>use of any pesticide or herbicide within 50m of fen</p> <p>dumping, burning or storing any materials within 50m of the fen</p> <p>alteration of the banks, bed or flow of watercourses within the fen or running into or out of it</p> <p>harvesting reed or willow</p> <p>operation of commercial recreation facilities (e.g. bird watching tours)</p> <p>introduction (or re-introduction) into the wild of plants or animals of species not currently found in the area any other activity of which notice may be given by the Minister from time to time</p>	<p>(NO REQUIREMENT TO NOTIFY IF ALREADY LICENSED BY ANOTHER MINISTER/BODY)</p> <p>developing leisure facilities including golf courses, sports pitches, caravan or camping facilities.</p> <p>any activity which might cause pollution of the fen</p> <p>removal of soil, mud, gravel, sand or minerals</p> <p>developing roads or car parks</p> <p>construction of fences, buildings or embankments</p> <p>afforestation</p>

In a very limited number of cases it may be necessary for the Minister for The Environment, Heritage and Local Government to restrict existing activities. In these cases compensation will be payable for actual losses arising out of any such restriction. In the event of restrictions being imposed by the Minister for The Environment, Heritage and Local Government, an appropriate appeals procedure will be put in place.

HABITAT TYPE 6.1

RIVERS OR STREAMS

Under STATUTORY INSTRUMENT 94 of 1997, made under the EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES ACT 1972 and in accordance with the obligations inherent in the COUNCIL DIRECTIVE 92/43/EEC of 21 May 1992 (the Habitats Directive) on the conservation of the natural habitats and species of wild fauna and flora, all persons must obtain the written consent, (in circumstances prescribed at section A and B below) of the Minister for The Environment, Heritage and Local Government before performing any of the operations on, or affecting, the following habitats where they occur on lands / waters within the candidate Special Area of Conservation.

Please note that where a landowner has a current approved plan under the Rural Environmental Protection Scheme or any scheme which the Minister considers to be equivalent s/he need only notify the Minister of activities not covered in the plan.

<p><u>SECTION A</u></p> <p>Please note that the activities listed in <i>Section A overleaf</i> are required to be notified to the Minister for The Environment, Heritage and Local Government and should not be undertaken before consent.</p>	<p><u>SECTION B</u></p> <p>Please note that the activities listed in <i>Section B overleaf</i> may, and in most cases do, require a license or consent from another statutory authority (e.g. the local planning authority, the Minister for the Marine and Natural Resources, or the Minister for Agriculture and Food).</p> <p>If so, these notifiable actions do not apply.</p> <p>However, if such activities are not regulated by another statutory authority, the said activities are required to be notified to the Minister for The Environment, Heritage and Local Government.</p>
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HABITAT TYPE 6.1

RIVERS OR STREAMS

<u>Section A</u>	<u>Section B</u>
<p>THE MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT, HERITAGE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT IS REQUIRED TO BE NOTIFIED IN RELATION TO THE FOLLOWING ACTIVITIES AND SUCH ACTIVITIES SHOULD NOT PROCEED WITHOUT PRIOR CONSENT</p> <p>grazing of livestock above a sustainable density (as defined in approved farm plans) within 30m of the river or stream/grazing by livestock treated within the previous week with a pesticide which leaves persistent residues in the dung within 30m of the river or stream</p> <p>supplementary feeding of stock within 30m of the river or stream/adding lime within 30m of the river or stream/adding fertiliser of any sort within 30m of the river or stream</p> <p>extracting water for irrigation or other purposes</p> <p>operation of boat angling or shore angling business/restocking with fish</p> <p>reclamation, infilling, ploughing or land drainage within 30m of the river or stream/ reseeding, planting of trees or any other species within 30m of the river or stream/ removal of trees or any aquatic vegetation within 30m of the river/stream/ use of any pesticide or herbicide in the river or stream or within 30m of the river or stream</p> <p>dumping rubbish or other materials or disposing of any chemicals or wastes in streams/rivers or into water-courses running into them</p> <p>dumping, burning or storing any materials within 30m of the river/stream including the land spreading of used pesticides (e.g. sheep dip)/alteration of the banks, channel, bed or flow of the river or stream</p> <p>harvesting or burning of reed or willow.</p> <p>causing siltation/ operation of commercial recreation facilities (e.g. bird watching tours)</p> <p>introduction (or re-introduction) into the wild of plants or animals of species not currently found in the area</p> <p>any other activity of which notice may be given by the Minister from time to time</p>	<p>(NO REQUIREMENT TO NOTIFY IF ALREADY LICENSED BY ANOTHER MINISTER/BODY)</p> <p>developing leisure facilities including golf courses, sports pitches, caravan or camping facilities.</p> <p>any activity which might cause pollution of the river or stream</p> <p>removal of soil, mud, gravel, sand or minerals</p> <p>developing roads or car parks</p> <p>construction of fences, buildings or embankments</p> <p>construction or operation of an aquaculture facility.</p> <p>fishing for eels or salmon</p> <p>bank maintenance and grading</p> <p>creation of weirs and dams</p>

In a very limited number of cases it may be necessary for the Minister for The Environment, Heritage and Local Government to restrict existing activities. In these cases compensation will be payable for actual losses arising out of any such restriction. In the event of restrictions being imposed by the Minister for The Environment, Heritage and Local Government, an appropriate appeals procedure will be put in place.

HABITAT TYPE 7.1

DITCHES, HEDGES, CEREALS AND INTENSIVE GRASSLANDS, WALLS, BUILDINGS, WASTE GROUND, BARE SOIL, PARKLAND GRASSLAND, BRACKEN, CAVES, OR QUARRIES

Under STATUTORY INSTRUMENT 94 of 1997, made under the EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES ACT 1972 and in accordance with the obligations inherent in the COUNCIL DIRECTIVE 92/43/EEC of 21 May 1992 (the Habitats Directive) on the conservation of the natural habitats and species of wild fauna and flora, all persons must obtain the written consent, (in circumstances prescribed at section A and B below) of the Minister for The Environment, Heritage and Local Government before performing any of the operations on, or affecting, the following habitats where they occur on lands / waters within the candidate Special Area of Conservation.

Please note that where a landowner has a current approved plan under the Rural Environmental Protection Scheme or any scheme which the Minister considers to be equivalent s/he need only notify the Minister of activities not covered in the plan.

<u>SECTION A</u>	<u>SECTION B</u>
Please note that the activities listed in Section A overleaf are required to be notified to the Minister for The Environment, Heritage and Local Government and should not be undertaken before consent.	<p>Please note that the activities listed in Section B overleaf may, and in most cases do, require a licence or consent from another statutory authority (e.g. the local planning authority, the Minister for the Marine and Natural Resources, or the Minister for Agriculture and Food).</p> <p>If so, these notifiable actions do not apply.</p> <p>However, if such activities are not regulated by another statutory authority, the said activities are required to be notified to the Minister for The Environment, Heritage and Local Government.</p>

HABITAT TYPE 7.1

DITCHES, HEDGES, CEREALS AND INTENSIVE GRASSLANDS, WALLS, BUILDINGS, WASTE GROUND, BARE SOIL, PARKLAND GRASSLAND, BRACKEN, CAVES, OR QUARRIES

<u>Section A</u>	<u>Section B</u>
<p>THE MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT, HERITAGE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT IS REQUIRED TO BE NOTIFIED IN RELATION TO THE FOLLOWING ACTIVITIES AND SUCH ACTIVITIES SHOULD NOT PROCEED WITHOUT PRIOR CONSENT</p> <p>disturbance of bats</p> <p>operation of commercial recreation facilities (e.g. bird watching tours)</p> <p>introduction (or re-introduction) into the wild of plants or animals of species not currently found in the area</p> <p>any other activity of which notice may be given by the Minister from time to time</p>	<p>(NO REQUIREMENT TO NOTIFY IF ALREADY LICENSED BY ANOTHER MINISTER/BODY)</p> <p>developing leisure facilities including sports pitches, caravan or camping facilities.</p> <p>developing roads or car parks</p> <p>construction of fences, buildings and embankments</p> <p>afforestation</p>

In a very limited number of cases it may be necessary for the Minister for The Environment, Heritage and Local Government to restrict existing activities. In these cases compensation will be payable for actual losses arising out of any such restriction. In the event of restrictions being imposed by the Minister for The Environment, Heritage and Local Government, an appropriate appeals procedure will be put in place.

APPENDIX V: COMPENSATION AND APPEALS PROCEDURES

Compensation

The Government is committed, as part of the social partnership process, to the payment of a fair and proper level of compensation to landowners who have lands proposed as part of an SAC or SPA and to other users who have a legal entitlement in the site.

A landowner or user with a legal entitlement may seek compensation for actual losses incurred due to restrictions imposed as a result of designation. Eligible persons should submit to NPWS details of the losses incurred as a result of the inclusion of lands in an SAC/SPA and outlining the basis for the calculations. Documentary evidence of past earnings and the activities that produced these should be included with the claim. Should the applicant be dissatisfied with a compensation offer, the case may be referred to an independent arbitrator who will review the matter and make a final decision.

Where a landowner or user with a legal entitlement is restricted in carrying out an activity on their land or licensed area, the compensation due will exclude any payments that have been attracted under grant schemes.

For farmers, there are two options available for receiving compensation for possible restrictions to their farming practices. Farmers may also receive payments for carrying out actions that enhance a nature conservation area.

Rural Environment Protection Scheme (REPS)

Lands within SACs, SPAs, NHAs or commonages are defined as 'Target Areas' under this scheme. A REPS plan usually covers an entire farm, but a farmer with land in a target area receives a higher payment for that area. Farmers with small areas of land in a designated area can get REPS payments for that part of their farm. In either case, the farmer is subject to certain conditions regarding farming and land use practices, set out in the REPS plan for the farm. REPS is administered by the Department of Agriculture, Food and Forestry.

NPWS Farm Plan Scheme

Where a farmer chooses not to participate in REPS, and NPWS seeks to change the farm operation in some way or to restrict a particular activity, NPWS will pay for preparation of a farm plan. This scheme also applies to land within SACs, SPAs, NHAs and commonages.

An NPWS farm plan will normally be confined just to the designated land and will address the conservation requirements, as well as any costs arising. Payment may also be made for work carried out that enhances the nature conservation value of the designated area. The farmer will have a substantial input into the plan.

A list of trained and approved farm planners is available for farmers to choose from. For further information, contact NPWS.

Appeals Procedure

Objection or appeal can be made against the inclusion of a piece of land in a cSAC or SPA. A person can only make objections if they have a legal interest in the site (i.e. an owner or legal user). They must be made on scientific grounds, e.g. a landowner would show that the relevant habitats/species/geological features were not present in such a condition as to warrant designation. Appeals can also be made for the inclusion of lands. Appeals should be accompanied by a map of the area of concern and be as informative as possible. There are two stages to the appeals process:

Internal Appeals are initially dealt with by regional staff. If necessary, they may refer the case to other NPWS staff. If there is no agreement following the internal appeal, the case becomes an external appeal.

The option of an **External Appeal** is available only where an internal appeal is unsuccessful. If so, the appellant may have the case referred to an Appeals Advisory Board, which is independent of NPWS. A grant to defray the cost of an expert scientific report is available to the appellant. The Board is comprised of equal representation of landowners/users and conservationists, with an independent chairperson. The Board makes a recommendation on each appeal to the Minister who then decides on the outcome of the appeal.

APPENDIX VI: SUMMARY OF FARMING CONDITIONS UNDER REPS

Conditions for the conservation of blanket bogs, heaths and upland grasslands to be applied under REPS

General Provisions

The conditions for specific habitat types are supplementary to the agri-environmental plan requirements of the general REPS programmes. The conditions for the target areas under Supplementary Measure A apply. Planners may seek a derogation from the Regional Inspector to vary these conditions in individual cases. All REPS plans in respect of NHAs must be approved and signed by the Planning Agency's environmentalist/ecologist.

Detailed Conditions

The conditions applicable to Supplementary Measure A apply; the guidelines set out below are complementary to these conditions.

Stocking Density

In all cases an environmentally sustainable plan must be prepared and adhered to for the total area of the farm. Sustainable optimum stocking rates must be set down by the REPS planner following careful assessment of the environmental conservation needs of the lands.

Where the stocking levels set down by the planner require a reduction in stock, this must be achieved within one year of the commencement of the plan.

There can be no increase in stocking levels, no introduction of stock to new areas and no changes in stock type during the period of the REPS plan without the prior approval of DAF.

The maximum number of sheep that may be kept on the farm as a whole must be set down in the REPS plan. The conditions set out for Supplementary Measure A areas must be followed. The following parameters apply:

- Where there is no damage, the current stocking levels are acceptable.
- If the level of damage is moderate, a stocking reduction must be prescribed by the planner at a level related to the damage and sufficient for the vegetation to recover
- If the level of damage is severe, a stocking reduction of between 70 % and 100 % of ewe numbers on the damaged area must be prescribed for a specified period.
- At the review of the REPS plan, the conservation status of the areas will be reviewed. A change in the stocking levels (increase or decrease) may be appropriate depending on progress.

Stocking levels apply to Scottish Blackface sheep or similar medium sized sheep breeds. Stocking levels for cattle or other stock should be at livestock unit applicable rates taking account of DAF conversion rates for the various stock types. The stocking levels recommended in this document are maximum sustainable rates for year round grazing. If shorter periods of grazing are used, the number of animals may be increased, though not necessarily pro rata.

Supplementary Feeding

Supplementary feeding is permitted only on areas where it is currently practised. Locations of feeding points must be specified. To reduce heavy grazing, trampling, poaching and erosion problems, 'feeding points' should be moved every three weeks and sited on ground with least habitat and wildlife value, preferably on grassland well away from stands of heather. Feeding on steep slopes and on peaty soils should be avoided where possible. The total amount of feed used must not be increased.

Use of Fertilisers and Herbicides

Neither organic nor inorganic fertilisers or lime can be applied on bogs, heaths or upland grasslands where they have not been used before. Fertilisers must not be used as a means of regenerating eroded areas. In the case of upland grasslands, fertilisers can only be applied on the basis of the results of a soil test. Where fertilisers are being applied, the initial soil sampling should be relatively intensive, with at least one sample per 2-4 ha. Target soil phosphate levels must not exceed the Index 2 level set out in the REPS specification.

Spraying or broadcast application of herbicides must be avoided. Spot application and wipe-on treatments to eradicate docks, thistles, ragwort and similar noxious weeds may be used. Rhododendron may be removed by cutting and herbicide treatment. Bracken control may be by rolling, cutting and/or by controlled cattle trampling in early summer. In exceptional circumstances, control of bracken by herbicides may be permitted.

Water Pollution

The greatest care should be taken to observe the statutory requirements on water pollution. The hydrology of bogland areas is characterised by extremely nutrient poor surface waters which contain flora and fauna adapted to these conditions. These species would be adversely affected by nutrient enrichment. New sheep dip sites must be listed and located away from streams and flushes to reduce the possibility of water pollution and damage to flora and fauna.

Restricted and Prohibited Practices

- The following practices must not be carried out on blanket bogs, heaths or upland grasslands
- The areas must not be drained, ploughed, cultivated or reseeded.
- There must be no infilling or rock removal.
- Turf cutting on unexploited bogs is not permitted. Turf cutting for domestic use is permitted on existing banks.
- Planting of trees or other crops is not permitted.
- No new tracks or paths can be created.
- Burning is only allowed as a planned management practice.
- Gorse may be controlled by cutting, spot spraying or exceptionally by burning outside of the bird nesting season (March 1st to August 31st).

Complementary Action

(a) Measures to prevent damage by non REPS participants

DAF should take measures to ensure that the environmental benefits achieved in degraded areas under REPS are not negated or diminished by non-participants in the Scheme

(b) Evaluating and Monitoring

Monitoring and evaluating the effects of REPS on blanket bogs, heaths and upland and unimproved grassland is essential in determining the environmental impact of REPS on these habitats so that appropriate modifications can be identified and effected where necessary. The effect of the grazing regime on vegetation and wildlife should be monitored to assess recovery as well as any damage being caused by animals. To this end, DAF and NPWS of DEHLG, in consultation with Teagasc and private planners, will monitor the environmental impact of REPS on these habitats on an ongoing basis. Progress in this regard will be reported to the Consultative Committee on REPS.

(c) Farmer Education /Advice

A REPS promotional campaign will be undertaken as soon as is practicable to inform farmers of the conservation needs of these areas and of the provisions of REPS. This campaign will be undertaken by DAF. Farming and environmental organisations will also be invited to assist in this promotional campaign.

(d) Seminars for Planners

Seminars for REPS planners shall be held to advise on the interpretation of these conditions at ground level.

(e) Demonstration Farms

A number of REPS participant demonstration farms will be set up in selected areas. Research work could also be carried out at these farms to assess the ability/rate of recovery of an area under different stocking conditions.

(f) Quota Rights

Any REPS participant farmer is guaranteed that their quota rights are protected and in the event of a possibility of increasing numbers arising, such farmers would be allowed to do so, subject to the environmental condition of the participant farm.

(g) Scheme Extension

The application of REPS in the target areas will apply for periods of five years renewable for 15 years.

(h) Local Co-ordination

DAF will encourage co-ordination, at local level, of efforts to rejuvenate damaged areas.

APPENDIX VII: NATIONAL PARKS AND WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT STAFF

Conservation Ranger

Glenveagh Ranger
Glenveagh National Park,
Church Hill,
Letterkenny,
Co. Donegal.
Phone (074) 9137090.
Fax (074) 9137072.

District Conservation Officer

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Church Hill,
Letterkenny,
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[.pvaughan@duchas.ie](mailto:pvaughan@duchas.ie)

Regional Manager

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Fax (074) 9721674.
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Deputy Regional Manager

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Divisional Manager

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Dr. Cathryn Hannon
Galeybaley
Knockroghery
Co. Roscommon
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channon@duchas.ie

National Parks and Wildlife

Dept. of Environment, Heritage and Local Government,

7 Ely Place,

Dublin 2.

Phone Lo Call 1890 202021, (01) 8882000

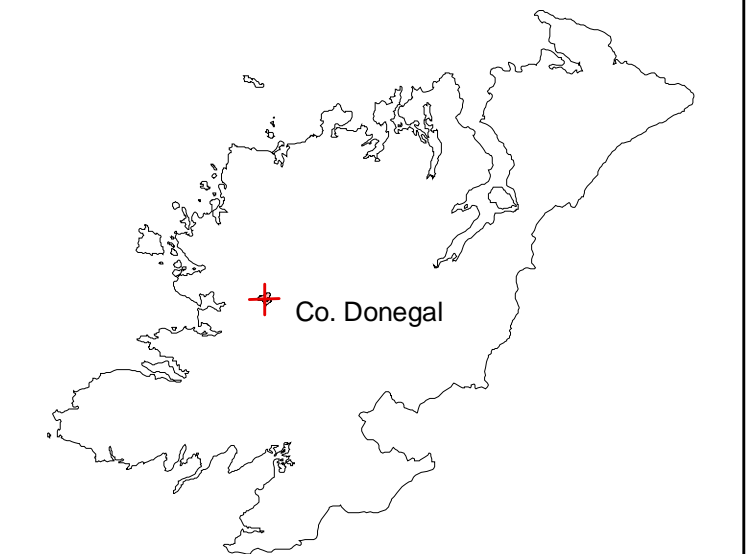
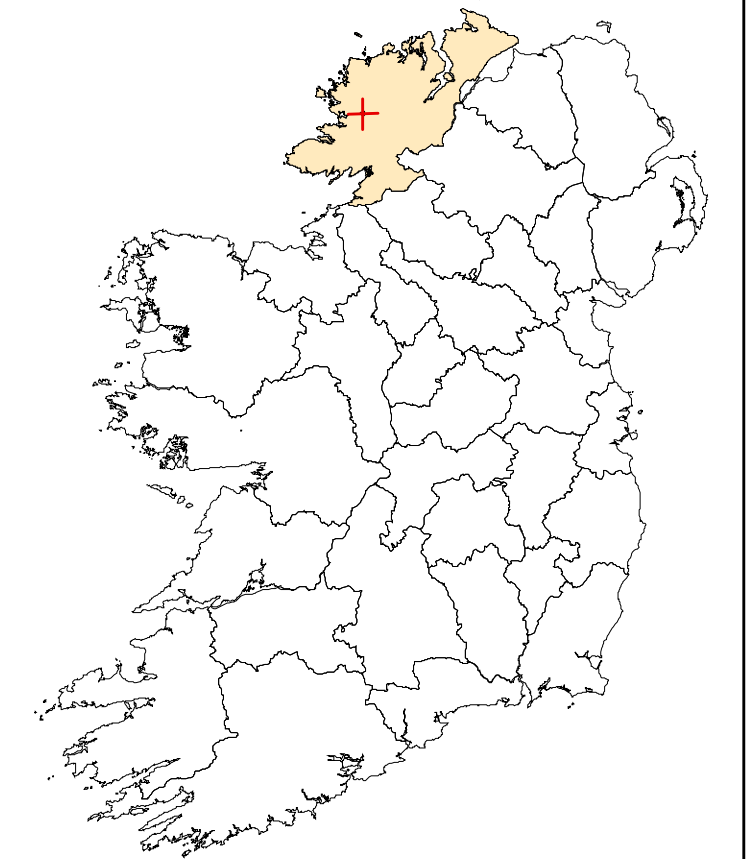
Fax (01) 8883272

www.npws.ie

CEANTAR SPEISIALTA CAOMHNAITHE
CANDIDATE SPECIAL AREA OF CONSERVATION

COOLVOY BOG 001107
Version 1.00

Féadtar athruithe a chur ar an gceantair / Sites subject to revision
(Ní thaispeántar suímh gur de speis géolaíoch amháin iad) / (Sites solely of geological interest not shown)
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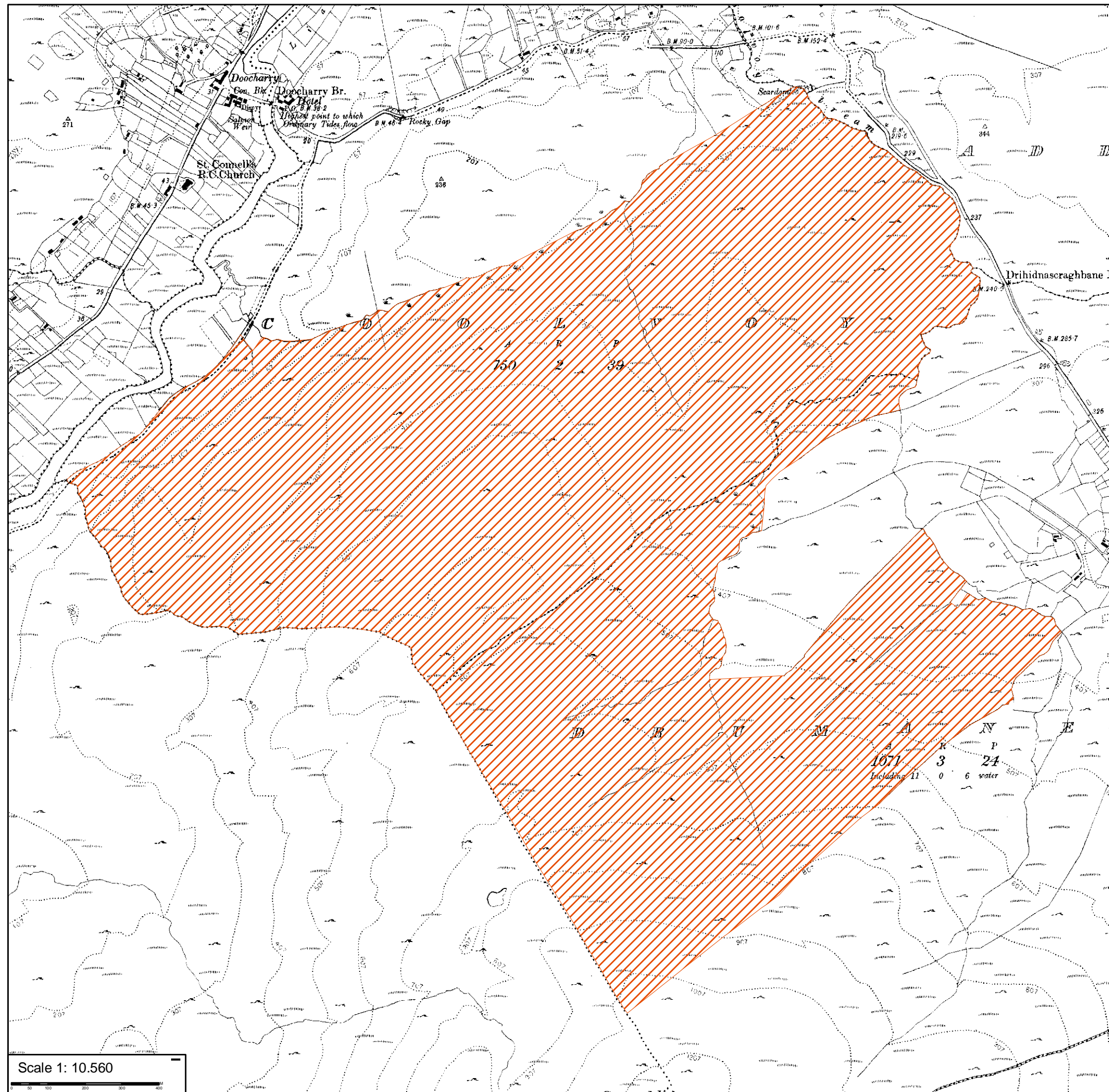


Map 1
LOCATION MAP: COOLVOY BOG cSAC 001107

Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government
An Roinn Comhshaoil, Oidhreacht agus Rialtais Áitiúil



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Chomh-mhainithe trí chiste 'LIFE' an AE



Scale 1: 10.560

