1994 No. 376

AGRICULTURE

Environmentally Sensitive Areas (Antrim Coast, Glens and Rathlin) Designation (Amendment) Order (Northern Ireland) 1994

Made . . . . . *4th October 1994*

Coming into operation . . *7th November 1994*

Whereas, in accordance with Article 3(1) of the Agriculture (Environmental Areas) (Northern Ireland) Order 1987(**a**) ("the 1987 Order"), it appears to the Department of Agriculture that it is particularly desirable—

(1) to conserve and enhance the natural beauty of the area referred to in Article 3 of the Environmentally Sensitive Areas (Antrim Coast, Glens and Rathlin) Designation Order (Northern Ireland) 1993(**b**);

(2) to conserve the flora and fauna and geological and physiographical features of that area; and

(3) to protect buildings and other objects of archaeological, architectural or historic interest in that area;

And whereas, in accordance with the said Article 3(1) of the 1987 Order it appears to the Department of Agriculture that the maintenance and adoption of the agricultural methods specified in this Order is likely to facilitate the aforementioned conservation, enhancement and protection;

Now, therefore, the Department of Agriculture, in exercise of the powers conferred on it by Article 3(1) and (3)(*a*) of the said Order and of every other power enabling it in that behalf, with the consent of the Department of Finance and Personnel, hereby makes the following Order:—

Citation and commencement

1. This Order may be cited as the Environmentally Sensitive Areas (Antrim Coast, Glens and Rathlin) Designation (Amendment) Order (Northern Ireland) 1994 and shall come into operation on 7th November 1994.

(**a**) S.I. 1987/458 (N.I. 3)
(**b**) S.I. 1993 No. 179

Amendments to the Environmentally Sensitive Areas (Antrim Coast, Glens and Rathlin) Designation Order (Northern Ireland) 1993

2. The Environmentally Sensitive Areas (Antrim Coast, Glens and Rathlin) Designation Order (Northern Ireland) 1993 shall be amended as provided by Articles 3 to 5.

3. In Article 2 (Interpretation) for the definition of ''livestock unit'' there shall be substituted the following definition—

'' ''livestock unit'' means—

(*a*) 1.6 bovine animals from 6 months to 2 years old inclusive;

(*b*) 1 bovine animal more than 2 years old;

(*c*) 6.6 sheep or goats;

(*d*) 1.66 equine animals from 1 year to 2 years old inclusive;

(*e*) 1.2 equine animals from 2 years to 3 years old inclusive; or

(*f*) 0.8 equine animals more than 3 years old.''.

4. In Schedule 1 (Requirements to be included in an Agreement)—

(*a*) in paragraph 2, at the end there shall be added ''and in any case shall ensure that undergrazing or overgrazing does not occur''; and

(*b*) for paragraph 3 there shall be substituted the following paragraph—

''3. The farmer shall apply fertiliser only in accordance with the written advice of the Department and in any event shall not cause or permit:

(*a*) any increase of the existing rate of application of organic fertiliser, inorganic fertiliser or any mixture thereof; or

(*b*) in any year the application of nitrogen in such fertiliser at a rate exceeding 260 kilogrammes per hectare.''.

5. In Part I of Schedule 2 (Additional Requirements) for paragraph 2 there shall be substituted the following paragraph—

''2. The farmer shall exclude therefrom livestock and feral goats for a period such as to allow regeneration of the woodland or scrubland.''.

Sealed with the Official Seal of the Department of Agriculture on 4th October 1994.

(L.S.) *L. Sinclair*

Assistant Secretary

The Department of Finance and Personnel hereby consents to the foregoing Order.

Sealed with the Official Seal of the Department of Finance and Personnel on 4th October 1994.

(L.S.) *D. Thomson*
Assistant Secretary

EXPLANATORY NOTE

(This note is not part of the Order.)

This Order amends the Environmentally Sensitive Areas (Antrim Coast, Glens and Rathlin) Designation Order (Northern Ireland) 1993 to include equine animals in the definition of a livestock unit, to require farmers to ensure that neither undergrazing nor overgrazing occurs, to prohibit the application of nitrogen in fertiliser at a rate exceeding 260 kg per hectare and to amend a requirement in relation to the exclusion of livestock and feral goats from woodland or scrubland.