

EXPLANATORY NOTE

(This note is not part of the Regulations)

These Regulations amend the Conservation (Natural Habitats, &c.) Regulations 1994 (“the Habitats Regulations”), which make provision for implementing Council Directive [92/43/EEC](#) on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora (“the Habitats Directive”).

Regulation 2 provides a new definition of the Habitats Directive so as to give effect to amendments made to the Directive by the Act of Accession to the European Union of Austria, Finland and Sweden and by Council Directive [97/62/EC](#).

The most important amendments relevant to the United Kingdom are made by Council Directive [97/62/EC](#), which substitutes new Annexes I and II to the Habitats Directive. Descriptions of natural habitats types in Annex I and species in Annex II are updated and new natural habitat types and species are added. The only new habitat type or species relevant to Great Britain is the habitat type “turloughs” (which formerly were only listed in respect of Ireland).