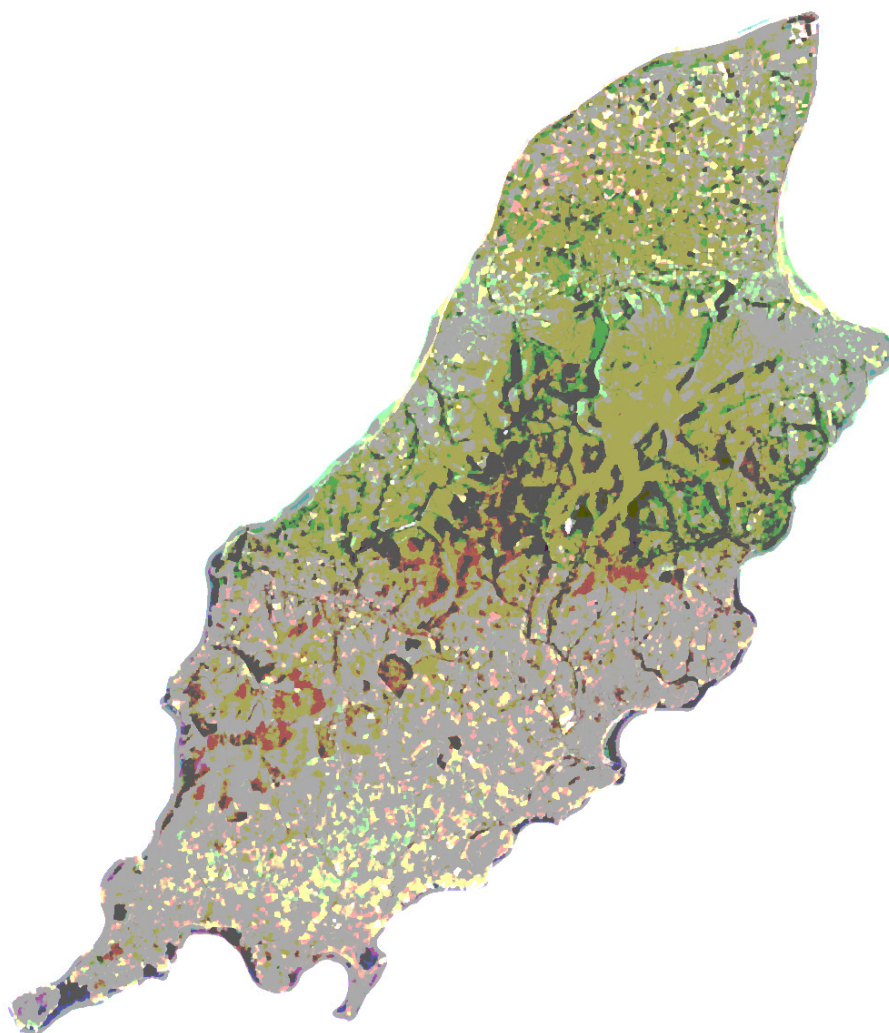




Isle of Man Government

**ISLE OF MAN
LANDSCAPE CHARACTER ASSESSMENT**



Final Report
July 2008

CHRIS BLANDFORD ASSOCIATES

Environment Landscape Planning



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Final Report

Approved By: Stephen Kirkpatrick

Signed: 

Position: Senior Associate

Date: 8 July 2008

July 2008

CHRIS BLANDFORD ASSOCIATES

Environment Landscape Planning

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PREFACE

This Technical Study was commissioned by The Department of Local Government and the Environment (DLGE) of the Isle of Man Government. The Study provides a baseline inventory of the landscape character on the Island, and also sets out recommendations for the application of the Study for consideration and action as appropriate by the DLGE. The need to protect and enhance landscape character is recognised by Government planning policy on the delivery of sustainable development through the planning system. To ensure that full account is given to landscape character in planning decisions, this Study is commended to the DLGE for use as an evidence base for informing the preparation of the Area Plans and in development control.

We are grateful for the advice and guidance provided by the Steering Group, namely:

- Mr. Ian McCauley - Director of Planning and Building Control
- Miss Sarah Corlett - Planning Officer
- Mr. Andrew Johnson – Curator, Field Archaeology
- Mr. Robin Pollard – Chief Forestry Officer

In addition, we appreciate the help of individuals from other organisations who willingly assisted in the provision of data and information for the Study. We would also like to acknowledge the representatives of organisations who attended the stakeholder consultation workshop held during the course of the Study (see Appendix A for details). The information gained from these stakeholders provided an important input to the Study.

The Consultant Team comprised:

- Dominic Watkins
- Stephen Kirkpatrick
- Paul Smith
- Emma Clarke
- Alison MacDonald
- Jonathan Webb

Chris Blandford Associates
July 2008

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Background

The Department of Local Government and the Environment (DLGE) of the Isle of Man Government commissioned Chris Blandford Associates (CBA) in November 2005 to undertake an assessment of the Island's landscape character.

The aim of the Study is to provide an integrated assessment of the character of the Island at 1:25,000 scale, to serve as a baseline of environmental information to enable a better understanding of the Island's landscapes. The Landscape Character Assessment will be specifically used as a technical evidence base to inform the Area Plans to be prepared by the DLGE.

The overall aim of landscape planning, design and management should be to achieve 'sustainable landscapes' that are as visually and culturally rich and as biodiverse as possible to meet all of society's social, economic and environmental needs. A better understanding of landscapes provided by Landscape Character Assessments – their diversity, character and distinctiveness, evolution, sensitivity to change and their management needs – is essential to help to work towards this goal.

Methodology

There is no methodological guidance for landscape character assessment studies which has been published specifically in respect of the Isle of Man. However, accepted methodologies for landscape character assessment have been developed in the UK over many years. It is considered that the guidance produced by the Countryside Agency in conjunction with Scottish Natural Heritage "Landscape Character Assessment - Guidance for England and Scotland"¹ provides well-established principles for this type of Study. These principles have informed the methodology for the assessment of the Island's landscape. These principles have been supplemented by guidance from the "Guide to Best Practice in Seascape Assessment"² to reflect the influences of the Island's coastal landscapes.

An important principle of good practice in landscape character assessment is that studies should make a clear distinction between:

- **characterisation**, which is relatively value-free and is concerned with identifying, classifying and describing areas of distinctive character; and
- **making judgements** to inform particular decisions, which may use one or a combination of approaches depending on the purpose of the exercise

The Study was accordingly separated into two separate stages - Stage 1: Characterisation and Stage 2: Evaluation. The Study process leading up to the production of this Final Study Report involved the following main stages:

- Information Scoping
- Desk Study Research
- Field Survey
- Characterisation
- Evaluation
- Preparation of the Study Report

Consultation with key stakeholder organisations via a workshop was an important and integral element of the Study and this was held during the characterisation stage. The purpose of the stakeholder

¹ Landscape Character Assessment – Guidance for England and Scotland (Countryside Agency/Scottish Natural Heritage, 2002).

² "Guide to Best Practice in Seascape Assessment," 2001 - prepared by the Countryside Council for Wales, Brady Shipman Martin and University College Dublin under the European Union (Ireland/Wales) INTERREG Programme (1994-1999).

consultation was to strengthen the evidence base by gathering opinions about landscape character from the key stakeholders, and to promote the value of the Study as a tool for informing planning and land management decisions in rural areas.

A Draft Stage 1 Characterisation Report was issued to the Steering Group in October 2006 for comment and approval before commencing the evaluation stage of the study. This Draft Final Study Report incorporates both the Stage 1 Characterisation Report and the Stage 2 Evaluation work, which represented the final stage of the Study.

Structure of the Report

Section 1.0 sets out the context for the Study. It explains the background to the Study, its aims and objectives, and highlights the importance of landscape character. It also describes the planning policy framework for the Study, and outlines the approach and process behind the assessment methodology.

Section 2.0 provides an overview of the Island. It describes the physical and historical influences on the landscape, and identifies the key forces for change affecting landscape character today.

Section 3.0 of the report provides detailed 'profiles' of the Landscape Character Units identified on the Island. These have been subdivided into 59 Landscape Character Areas that reflect distinctive variations in local character. The profiles describe the character of each Landscape Character Area.

Section 4.0 sets out the main conclusions of the Study, and provides recommendations to the DLGE for its consideration and action as appropriate. Recommendations are also provided for the application of the Landscape Character Assessment, and in relation to landscape policy advice for the Area Plans.

1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background to the Study

1.1.1 The Department of Local Government and the Environment (DLGE) of the Isle of Man Government commissioned Chris Blandford Associates (CBA) in November 2005 to undertake an assessment of the Island's landscape character. The DLGE set up a project Steering Group to establish the Study brief, to guide the Study and to provide essential information for the consultants. This group comprises representatives from DLGE, Manx National Heritage and the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry.

1.1.2 The Isle of Man is situated in the central part of the Irish Sea, nearly 50 kilometres equidistant from Ireland and Britain. It is some 572 square kilometres in area and the coastline extends for over 160 kilometres. The Island is predominantly rural (see Figure 1.1) and is rich in the diversity and strength of character of its landscape, which contains a myriad of archaeological resources. The vast majority of the Island remains undeveloped in the form of arable and grazing land, glens, open hillside and plantations. It also supports extensive coastal areas, plains, plateaux and wooded valleys. The town of Douglas is the Island's capital and largest settlement. Over half the Island's population is concentrated on the eastern side of the Island, with most other settlements located either along the coast or along the valley between Douglas and Peel.

1.2 Study Purpose and Objectives

1.2.1 The purpose of the Study is to provide a comprehensive Island-wide assessment of landscape character to inform land use planning and landscape management decisions. This landscape character assessment Study will be specifically used to inform four Area Plans, which will be produced for the Island as a whole.

1.2.2 The key objectives of the Study are to:

- classify and map, at 1:25,000 scale³, the Island's landscapes into generic landscape character types and distinctive landscape character areas;
- identify the character of these landscape units;
- evaluate the qualities and inherent sensitivities of the landscape units to change;
- devise a landscape strategy for each landscape character area.

1.2.3 The Study Area covers the whole Island, except the principal urban areas (Douglas, Ramsey, Peel, Laxey, Ballasalla, Castletown, Port St. Mary, Port Erin, and Kirk Michael) but includes the river valley that extends into Douglas.

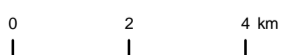
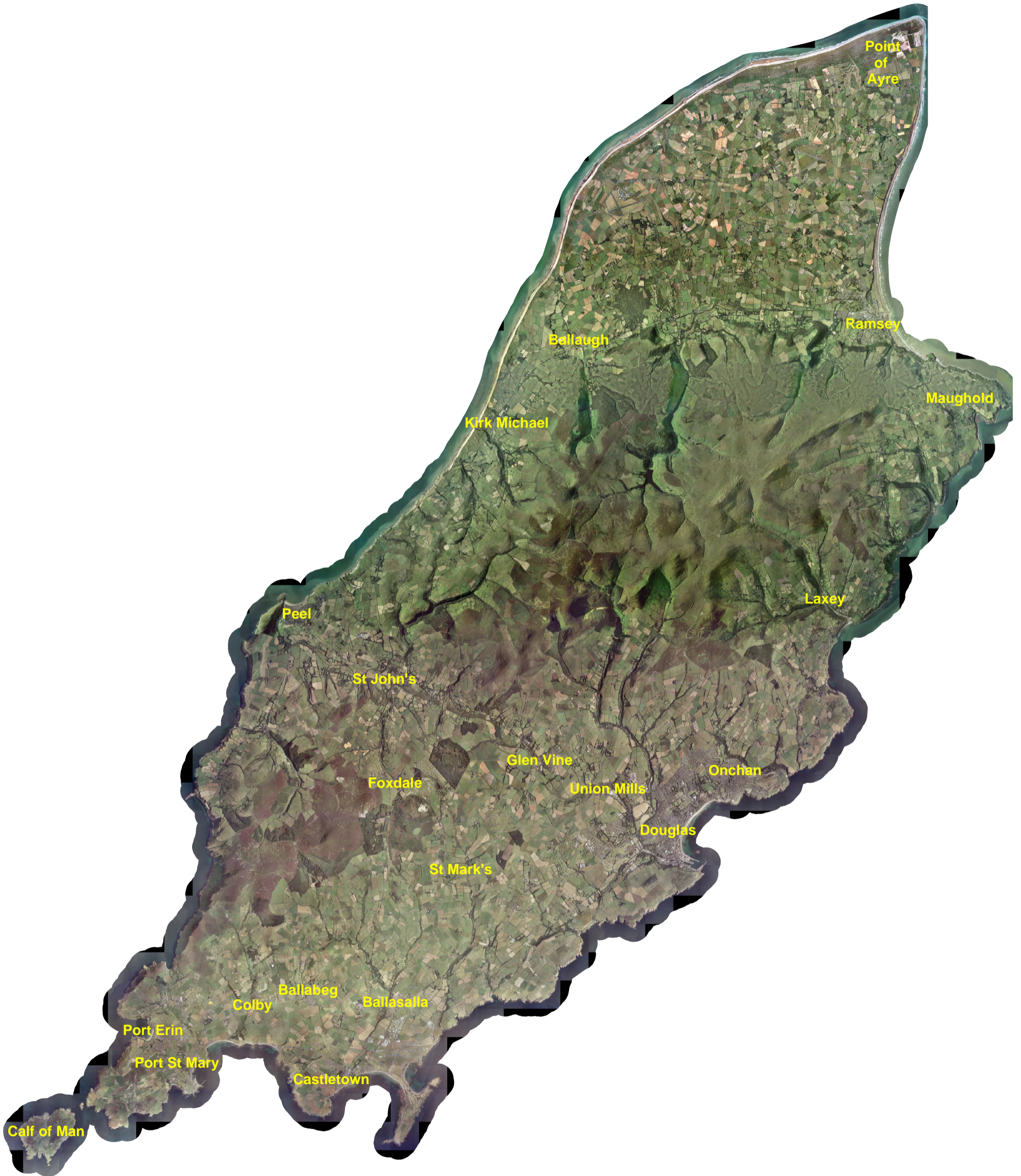
1.3 The Importance of Landscape Character

1.3.1 The European Landscape Convention defines landscape as:

'an area, as perceived by people, whose character is the result of the action and interaction of natural and/or human factors.'

The term landscape is typically synonymous with the countryside; however, landscape is everywhere and may comprise rural landscapes, urban landscapes or townscapes, urban fringe landscapes, coastal landscapes or seascapes, etc.

³ 1:25,000 scale was considered to be an appropriate scale for this type of assessment Study



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Figure 1.1
 Study Context Plan

- 1.3.2 The European Landscape Convention defines ‘landscape character’ as:

‘a distinct and recognisable pattern of elements that occur consistently in a particular type of landscape.’

- 1.3.3 In England and Scotland, Landscape Character Assessment⁴ is a tool that allows landscape character to be understood, explained and described in a transparent and robust way. It does this by mapping and describing the variations in physical, natural and cultural attributes and experiential characteristics that make one area distinctive from another at a range of spatial scales. Landscape Character Assessment also recognises how landscapes have changed over time, and acknowledges the changing influences of human activities and the impacts of economic development. The principles of this approach have informed the development of an Isle of Man-specific methodology.
- 1.3.4 The overall aim of landscape planning, design and management should be to achieve *sustainable landscapes* that are as visually, biodiverse and culturally rich as possible to meet all of society’s social, economic and environmental needs. A better understanding of landscapes provided by Landscape Character Assessments – their diversity, character and distinctiveness, evolution, sensitivity to change and their management needs – is essential to help to work towards this goal.

1.4 Planning Policy Context

- 1.4.1 Development on the Island is controlled and managed by the Isle of Man Government through the Department of Local Government and the Environment, Planning and Building Control Directorate. The Planning system on the Island dates back to 1934, with the first of the Town and Country Planning Acts approved by Tynwald. The first significant land use survey and plan was adopted by Tynwald in 1982 under the Isle of Man Planning Scheme (Development Plan) Order 1982. Subsequent to this, the Department produced thirteen local plans for the major towns and villages of the Island. The 1999 Town and Country Planning Act brought a change to the way in which plans are produced and the local plans became Area Plans, which are produced under the strategic guidance of an Island-wide Strategic Plan. Tynwald approved the Strategic Plan in July 2007 and this includes the following reference to landscape assessment and classification:

‘The present system of landscape classification remains relevant and important. However, a review of the current landscape classification system is underway in the form of an Island wide landscape and coastal quality assessment. This will identify different categories of landscape and coastal importance in order for development to be managed effectively in these areas and appropriate protection policies to be formulated. This exercise will investigate the appropriateness of designating a ‘coastal planning zone’ which would extend both seaward and landward of the coastline depending on the extent of the mean low water mark in the case of the former and the extent of direct maritime-influenced and coast related activities in the case of the latter. The landscape assessment will also include management guidelines with respect to development not only in the designated areas but in the wider countryside as well.’

- 1.4.2 Up until recently, development control has been carried out on the Island under the provisions of the Isle of Man Planning Scheme (Development Plan) Order 1982, but this has been superseded by new procedures adopted as part of the 1999 Act. Whilst procedures may change, the basic adherence to a plan-based development control system remains. Under the new Act four Area Plans will be produced for the Island as a whole – north, south, west and east, the first of which will be prepared for the south of the Island once the Strategic Plan has

⁴ Landscape Character Assessment: Guidance for England and Scotland (Countryside Agency and Scottish Natural Heritage, 2002).

been finalised. The product of the landscape classification system will be incorporated into these four plans as well as being used as a tool in everyday decision-making by the Department.

1.4.3 In addition to the land use designations contained within the area and local plans and the Isle of Man Planning Scheme (Development Plan) Order 1982, the Department has regard to a series of what are presently referred to as Planning Circulars – guidance adopted by the Department – but which will be referred to under the 1999 Act as Planning Policy Statements. Planning Circulars 1/88, 3/88, 3/89, 8/89, 3/91, 1/92, 2/92 and 1/93 all have implications for the Island’s countryside and are likely to be reviewed and re-issued as Planning Policy Statements under the new Act.

1.4.4 Manx National Heritage operates under the remit of an Act of Tynwald (The Manx Museum and National Trust Act 1959 – 86). It is the statutory agency of the Isle of Man Government for cultural and natural heritage throughout the Island, acting on behalf of the Government and people of the Isle of Man.

Its responsibilities include:

- The National Museum Service (comprising thirteen museum sites)
- The National Monuments Service (providing for the protection of monuments throughout the landscape, administering the National Monuments Record and controlling all archaeological investigation within the Island)
- The National Trust Service (preserving and protecting important landscape areas of natural beauty and ecological significance, including the Biological Records Office service)
- The National Archive (preserving and making available to the public the national collection of Manx printed works, archives, photographs and film)
- The National Art Gallery (comprising the most important examples of art produced in or about the Island throughout history, including contemporary artists)

1.4.5 In addition to the above planning policies, and the responsibilities and authority of Manx National Heritage, the Wildlife Act 1990 makes provision for the protection of vulnerable and important species of plants and animals and is administered by the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry. There is also a classification system of Wildlife Sites formulated by a working group representing Government and local specialist groups with knowledge and expertise of the countryside and its ecology. The Tree Preservation Act 1993 affords protection to most of the mature trees on the Island and enables registration of the most important trees, details of which are contained within a Register managed by the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry. There are also a number of specialist local agencies with knowledge of particular areas of wildlife concern – the Manx Wildlife Trust, Manx Bat Group, and Manx Bird Atlas, to name a few.

1.4.6 Agricultural interests on the Island are represented in Government by the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry. The Manx National Farmers’ Union (MNFU) works with the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry on matters of interest to agriculture on the Island, and the Farming and Wildlife Advisory Group (FWAG) liaises between the agricultural and wildlife arms of that Department.

1.4.7 The Island’s Government is subdivided into nine Departments – Trade and Industry; Health and Social Security; Treasury; Home Affairs; Tourism and Leisure; Transport, Agriculture

Fisheries and Forestry; Education; and Local Government and the Environment. There is also a series of statutory boards or agencies including Manx National Heritage, mentioned above, the Manx Electricity Authority, and the Isle of Man Water Authority, the latter of which owns considerable areas of land surrounding the Island's reservoirs and water catchment areas. Local government is administered by 23 boards of local commissioners and Douglas Corporation. These local authorities have a statutory role in the planning process as statutory consultees for both planning applications and Area Plans.

- 1.4.8 The present land use designations for the Island's countryside fall into two categories – Open Space or Open Space within an area of High Landscape Value and Scenic Significance. In areas of Open Space, the following guidance was given in the Explanatory Memorandum of 1979:

'In areas not allocated on the Plan for development ('white areas'), the use of land is expected to remain substantially undeveloped during the period of the Scheme other than for purposes associated with agriculture, forestry, sport, recreation, cemeteries, institutions in large grounds or other uses appropriate to a rural area. Should an urgent need arise for more land for development, it should take place as an expansion of an existing village or town and applications for such will be considered on their merits. Applications for mineral workings will be considered on their merits.'

- 1.4.9 Areas designated as of High Landscape Value and Scenic Significance were described in the Explanatory Memorandum as follows:

'Coastal areas, wooded valleys, valleys with potential for landscape improvement, glens, curraghs and areas frequented by residents and tourists on account of their scenic beauty, historic or scientific value, are marked on the Development Plan with diagonal red hatching. Development in these areas will require special consideration and particular attention should be paid to the design and siting of agricultural buildings and indeed of any structure. Efforts should be made to ensure the undergrounding of electricity and telephone cables, and where road widening schemes are necessary, the character of the traditional Manx highway should be preserved as far as possible by the use of appropriate materials and by the purchase of sufficient land to permit adequate landscaping and tree planting. Amenity tree planting and the practice of good forestry is of great importance in these areas, which contain a high proportion of the Island's mature hardwoods. It is felt that a concentration of effort on those areas which can be seen from the main roads could produce favourable improvements to the Island's 'shop window' out of all proportion to the limited investment required.'

- 1.4.10 It is clear from this that landscape quality was not the sole function of this designation of the allocation of areas of particular landscape value and scenic significance.

1.5 Approach and Methodology

- 1.5.1 The Isle of Man has not published any methodological guidance for landscape character assessment studies. However, accepted methodologies for landscape character assessment have been developed in the UK over many years. It is considered that the guidance produced by the Countryside Agency in conjunction with Scottish Natural Heritage "Landscape Character Assessment - Guidance for England and Scotland"⁵ provides well-established principles for this type of Study. These principles have informed the methodology for the assessment of the Island's landscape. These principles have been supplemented by guidance

⁵ Landscape Character Assessment – Guidance for England and Scotland (Countryside Agency/Scottish Natural Heritage, 2002).

from the “Guide to Best Practice in Seascape Assessment”⁶ to reflect the influences of the Island’s coastal landscapes.

1.5.2 An important principle of good practice in landscape character assessment is that studies should make a clear distinction between:

- **characterisation**, which is relatively value-free and is concerned with identifying, classifying and describing areas of distinctive character; and
- **making judgements** to inform particular decisions, which may use one or a combination of approaches depending on the purpose of the exercise

1.5.3 The Study was accordingly separated into two separate stages - Stage 1: Characterisation and Stage 2: Evaluation. The Study process leading up to the production of this Stage 1 Report is set out below.

Information Scoping / Desk Study Research

1.5.4 This stage involved desk-based research to identify the physical and historical factors that have influenced the shape and use of the landscape. This work drew on a variety of documents and maps that describe the physical geography and cultural history of the Island.

1.5.5 In summary, the desk work involved:

- Production and analysis of map overlays using Ordnance Survey (OS) 1:40,000 and 1:25,000 base data. This included overlays of historic OS maps, simplified solid and drift geology, contours and slope gradient analysis, hydrology/drainage, soils, land use, vegetation and habitats, field patterns and types, settlement pattern, communications, national glens, mining activity, historic landscape features/types;
- Analysis of air photos and documentary evidence in order to identify the main current/historical influences on landscape character;
- Identification of draft Landscape Character Types and draft Landscape Character Areas, for verification through field survey work

Field Survey Work

1.5.6 The field survey work was undertaken between May and August 2006. This comprised:

- Testing the draft character type/area boundaries and identifying their key characteristics.
- Completion of field surveys and taking of photos.

⁶ “Guide to Best Practice in Seascape Assessment,” 2001 - prepared by the Countryside Council for Wales, Brady Shipman Martin and University College Dublin under the European Union (Ireland/Wales) INTERREG Programme (1994-1999).

1.5.7 The aim of the surveys was to undertake a visual analysis of how different features and elements combined to create distinctive patterns in the landscape. The surveys were undertaken from key viewpoints within each draft Landscape Character Area by a team of field assessors using a structured checklist. The field survey work included surveys of:

- Landform
- Rivers/drainage
- Land use
- Land cover
- Field pattern and field boundaries
- Communication routes
- Settlement form/pattern
- Settlement types and building styles
- Scale
- Texture
- Enclosure
- Stimuli and sense of tranquillity
- Movement, colour and unity
- View types and composition
- Historic features

1.5.8 The survey information (including photographs) was used to (i) inform the descriptions of landscape character and (ii) to test and refine the boundaries of the draft Landscape Character Types and Areas (see below).

Characterisation

1.5.9 The characterisation stage involved the combination of the desk study research and field survey analysis to identify and map Landscape Character Types and Landscape Character Areas.

1.5.10 The process of characterisation drew together the information outlined above to develop a draft classification at a scale of 1:25,000 of:

- Landscape Character Types : which are generic and share combinations of geology, topography, vegetation, settlement pattern etc;
- Landscape Character Areas: which are unique geographically specific areas of the landscape type/s.

1.5.11 For each generic Landscape Character Type, its boundaries were mapped and its key characteristics described. For each unique Landscape Character Area, its boundaries were mapped and the following characterisation information was recorded:

- Key Characteristics
- Overall Character Description
- Key Views
- Historic Features
- Ecological Features

1.5.12 Completion of the characterisation exercise represented the end of Stage I of Landscape Character Assessment Study.

Stakeholder Consultation

- 1.5.13 Consultation with key stakeholder organisations was an important and integral element of the Study and this was held during the characterisation stage. The purpose of the stakeholder consultation is to strengthen the evidence base by gathering opinions about landscape character from the key stakeholders, and to promote the value of the Study as a tool for informing planning and land management decisions in rural areas.
- 1.5.14 CBA presented its draft maps of landscape character types and landscape character areas to a workshop in July 2006. Representatives from the following Stakeholder Groups were invited to this workshop:
- Centre for Manx Studies
 - Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry
 - Department of Local Government and the Environment
 - Department of Trade and Industry
 - Department of Tourism and Leisure
 - Farming and Wildlife Advisory Group
 - Flockmasters' Association
 - Isle of Man Water Authority
 - Manx National Heritage
 - Manx Wildlife Trust
 - Manx National Farmers' Union
- 1.5.16 The workshop explored stakeholders' views on what gives different places their local identity and distinctive character. Stakeholders provided valuable background knowledge concerning landscape character types and areas. The draft classification of landscape character types and areas was discussed and stakeholders highlighted character type and area boundaries that required refinement and appraisal during later field survey work. A copy of the Workshop Agenda and a record of key issues discussed at the workshop is provided in Appendix A to this report.

Evaluation

- 1.5.17 This stage involved making the following judgements about each Landscape Character Area:
- Inherent Landscape Sensitivities
 - Key Landscape Changes
- 1.5.18 The sensitivity and change analysis can be used to inform:
- the identification of spatial development options within the Area Plans.
 - sustainability appraisal/strategic environmental assessment of Area Plan site allocations.
 - the highlighting of landscape issues that may need to be considered in greater detail in relation to development control decisions.
 - the application of criteria-based landscape protection and enhancement policies within the Area Plans.

1.6 Structure of the Report

- 1.6.1 The report is structured as follows.

Section 1.0 sets out the context for the Study. It explains the background to the Study, its purpose and objectives, and highlights the importance of landscape character. It also

describes the planning policy framework for the Study, and outlines the approach and process behind the assessment methodology.

Section 2.0 provides an overview of the Isle of Man landscape, describing the physical and historical influences on the landscape and highlighting past and current perceptions of the landscape.

Section 3.0 of the report provides detailed ‘profiles’ of the Landscape Character Units identified on the Island. These comprise nine Landscape Character Types and 59 Landscape Character Areas that reflect distinctive generic and geographically specific variations in local character. The profiles describe the character of each Landscape Character Area.

Section 4.0 sets out the main conclusions of the Study, and provides recommendations to the DLGE for its consideration and action as appropriate. Recommendations are provided for the application of the Landscape Character Assessment, and in relation to landscape policy advice for the Area Plans.

2.0 THE SHAPING OF THE LANDSCAPE

2.1 General

2.1.1 The geology and geomorphology of the Isle of Man are inextricably linked to the cultural landscape. They are manifested in the present appearance of the Island, which is the result of interaction between man and the environment since Mesolithic times. To understand the development of its distinctive and diverse character, it is important to understand the past physical and historic influences over time and the current influences. The basic structure of the landscape is fundamentally influenced by its underlying rocks and relief. Geology and the process of weathering influence the shape and form of the landscape, the soils and drainage. In turn, these have influenced patterns of vegetation and land use.

2.2 Physical Influences on the Landscape

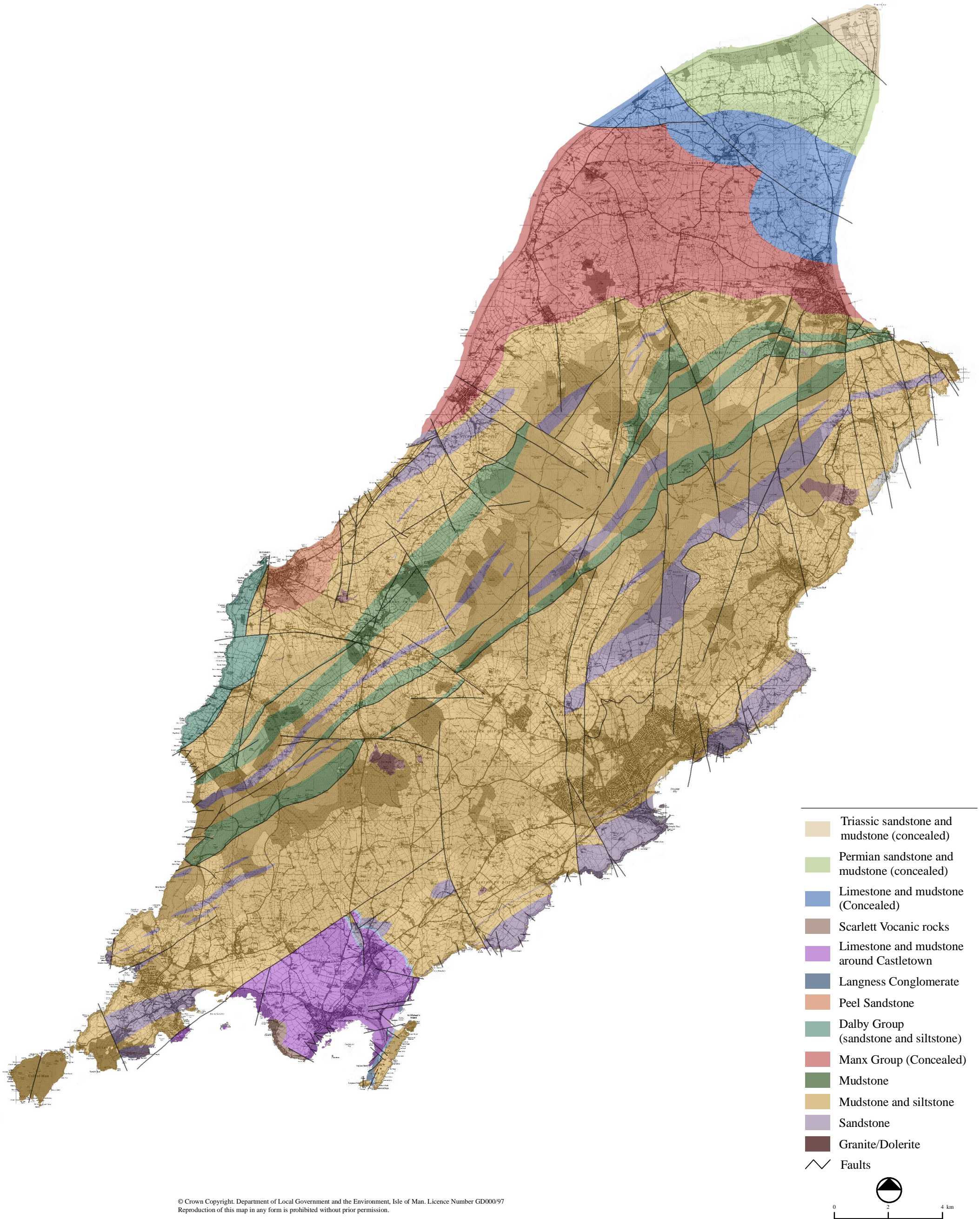
Solid Geology (See Figure 2.1)

2.2.1 The Island's solid geology is dominated by the Manx Group, which form the central hills. However, there is also a range of other geological and lithological formations. The central hills are composed of an ancient solid core of rock that stretches north-east to south-west obliquely across the Island, rising to 621m AOD at Snaefell. West of this core of slate, around Peel, is an outcrop of red sandstone and limestone formations lie in the south-east of the Island, around Castletown. A range of igneous rocks also occurs, including granites, gabbro and younger intrusive and extrusive basalts. The slates and granite are host to a range of metalliferous minerals, including ores of lead, zinc, silver, copper and iron.

2.2.2 The central uplands are dominated by two high slate-cored ridges of the Manx Group with an upland plateau between them. These are sedimentary rocks which were laid down in a marine environment in the late Cambrian and early Ordovician period 490-470 million years ago. The sedimentary rocks were intensely deformed and regionally metamorphosed during the Caledonian orogeny. The later intrusion of hot molten magma solidified to form the granites of Foxdale and Dhoon, also causing localized thermal metamorphism. The rocks of the Manx Group are transitional between sedimentary and metamorphic rocks, but they also contain certain igneous rocks such as granite at Foxdale. The rocks that form the coast south of Niarbyl are the dark grey mudstones of the Manx Group which originate from the super-continent of Gondwana. To the north are the sandstones belonging to the Dalby Group, dating to 480 million years ago, which come from the northern continent of Laurentia. A major geological fault lies at the interface between these two groups of rocks.

2.2.3 After the Caledonian orogeny, much of Britain was subject to uplift and erosion during the semi-arid climatic conditions of the Devonian period. The Peel sandstones were laid down around 380 million years ago in semi-arid conditions. These sandstones consist of red mudstones, sandstones and conglomerates and crops out in cliff sections north of Peel. These were relatively unaffected by the intense deformation caused by the Caledonian orogeny.

2.2.4 The Castletown limestone was formed during the Carboniferous period when much of the Island was submerged beneath a shallow, tropical sea. The end of the limestone deposition was marked by the eruption of a volcano which formed the basaltic rocks now exposed between Scarlett and Poyllvaish. Tectonic activity during the start of the Tertiary period, 65 million years ago, allowed magma from the crust below to flow upwards, forcing its way through the fractures in the rocks to form vertical basaltic dykes. Some of the dykes are over 100 kilometres long and extend more than 25 kilometres beneath the surface. The rocks consist of a variety of basaltic lavas, agglomerates and ashes.



- Triassic sandstone and mudstone (concealed)
- Permian sandstone and mudstone (concealed)
- Limestone and mudstone (Concealed)
- Scarlett Volcanic rocks
- Limestone and mudstone around Castletown
- Langness Conglomerate
- Peel Sandstone
- Dalby Group (sandstone and siltstone)
- Manx Group (Concealed)
- Mudstone
- Mudstone and siltstone
- Sandstone
- Granite/Dolerite
- Faults

Figure 2.1
 Simplified Solid Geology

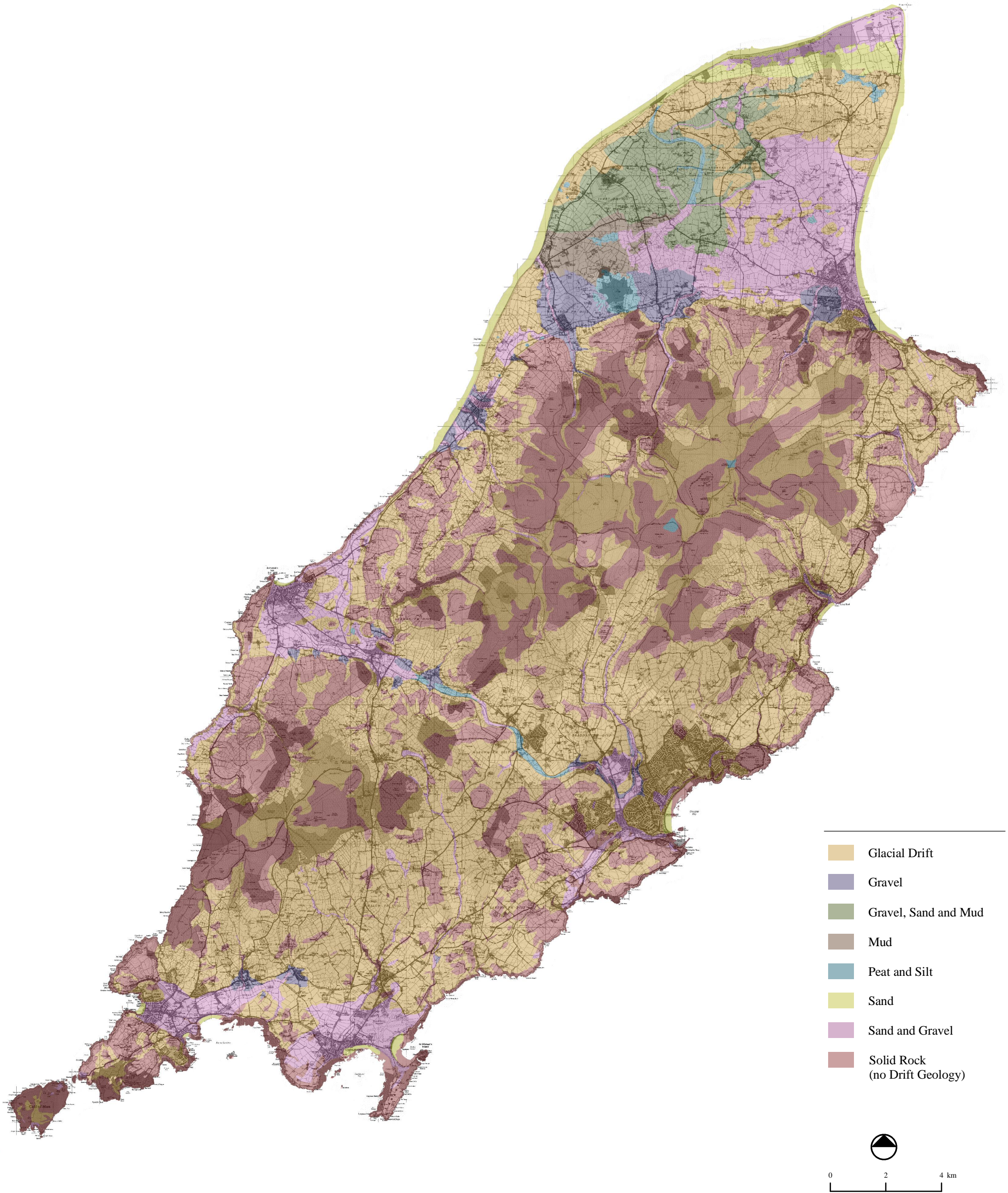
- 2.2.5 The Manx ore deposits were probably formed during the Carboniferous period soon after the Castletown limestone had been laid down.

Drift Geology (See Figure 2.2)

- 2.2.6 The northern upland terminates abruptly at a steep fault scarp, which downthrows the Manx Group to the north where it is buried beneath thick glacial deposits. During the Quaternary period, between 70,000 and 100,000 years ago, the Isle of Man was covered by an ice sheet that had spread out from the mountains of Scotland. The ice moulded the landscape and is thought to have advanced and retreated several times during this period. The Bride Hills in the Northern Lowlands were formed when the ice last advanced and pushed up soft sediment to form this low range of hills, which rise up to some 91.5m high. Meltwater from the ice margin drained southwards onto an outwash plain south of the Bride Hills, where alluvial fans composed of sediment washed down from the mountains further to the south were also formed. The glacial drainage channels in the Bride Hills are preserved as a series of dry valleys.

Quarrying and Mining

- 2.2.7 The rocks of the Manx and Dalby Groups can be seen in many walls and buildings. These rocks contain bedding and cleavage planes, which cause the rock to split in various ways, producing blocks, slabs and slices. A typical drystone wall on the Isle of Man is made of slabs laid horizontally with a course of slanting stones on top of the wall. Quarries at Spanish Head and near Ballaugh also provided lintels and flooring. The 19th century boarding houses at Douglas are built from Manx Group rocks and covered with a layer of render and stucco.
- 2.2.8 The igneous rocks are dense and durable and can be broken into regular blocks. Some of the various uses were for Neolithic axes, cannon balls, hand mills and quern stones. Granite from the quarries at Foxdale and Dhoon can be seen in some of the islands' buildings: St. John's Church was built of Foxdale Granite. Poortown Quarry, south east of Peel, was opened in 1870 and still supplies the main source of roadstone for the Isle of Man.
- 2.2.9 The Peel Sandstone is a warm red colour and, as the Island's only supply of freestone, was much valued as a building stone. It was used in parts of Peel Castle and later used in the viaducts for the Manx Northern Railway. It is soft sandstone that weathers badly and availability of other materials has led to its decline, with the result that the Red Sandstone used in modern buildings is now imported.
- 2.2.10 The Carboniferous Limestone has been used for both building and agricultural purposes. The Castletown Limestone is well jointed and layered, hard wearing and easy to work. Much of the building limestone was quarried around the shores of Scarlett. It was used in the buildings of Castle Rushen and Rushen Abbey. During the 18th and 19th centuries it was quarried for use in lime-kilns and three large lime-kilns, built of limestone, can be found on the coast at Scarlett.
- 2.2.11 Between the 14th and 19th centuries a dark coloured limestone was quarried at Poyllvaish, west of Castletown and was known as 'black marble'. It was used for decorative purposes such as mantelpieces, flagstones and tombstones. It was often covered with black varnish, as it weathered badly. The quarry was re-opened recently to make a series of commemorative millennium crosses.

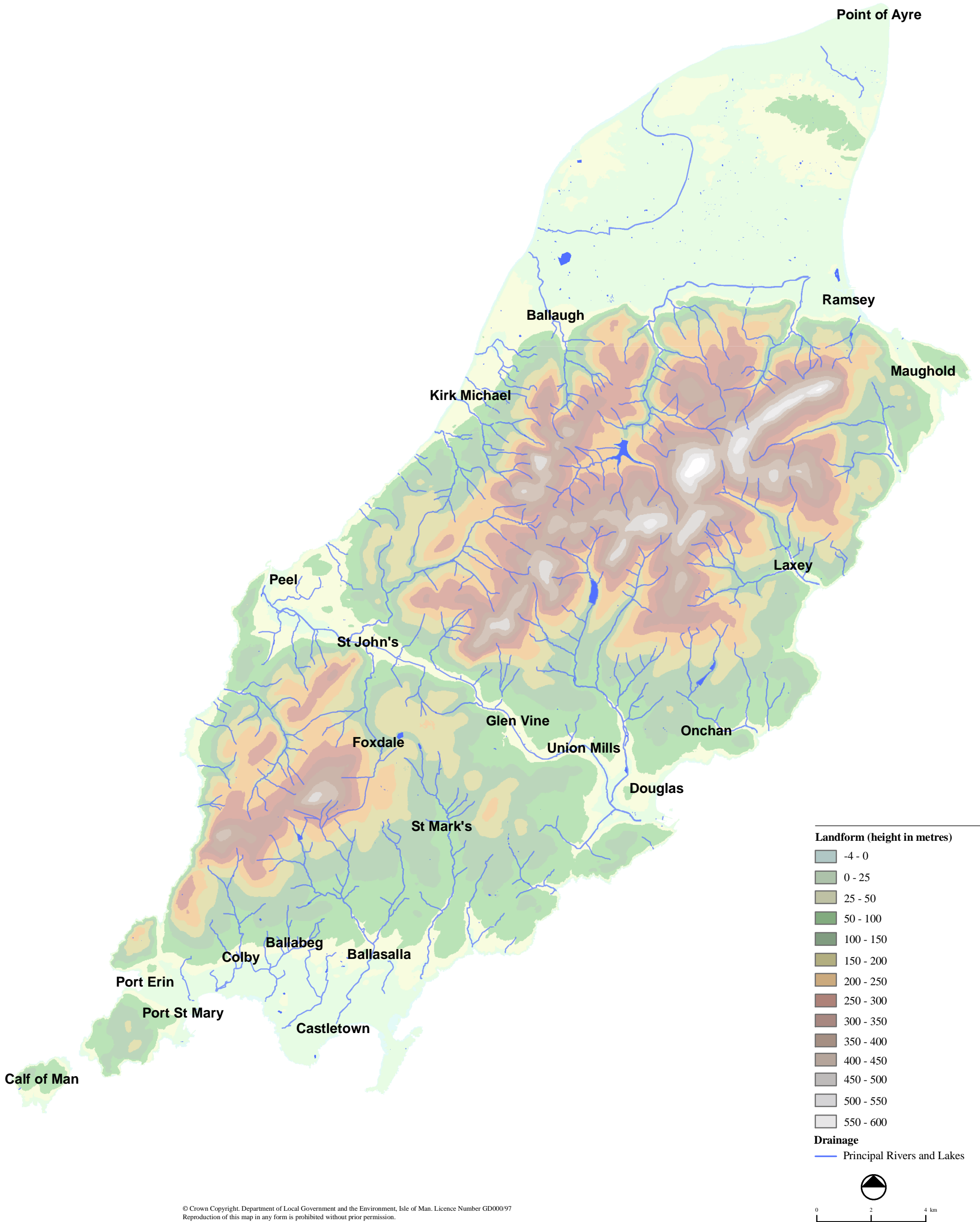


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Figure 2.2
 Simplified Drift Geology

Landforms and Drainage (See Figure 2.3)

- 2.2.12 The influence of landform and hydrology has combined to create distinct physiographic regions. These are described below and include the northern and southern upland massifs, a central valley, western and eastern coastal plateaux and the northern plain.
- 2.2.13 The core of the Island forms an upstanding block, consisting mainly of Ordovician and Silurian slates, grits and flags with minor granite intrusions. The central mass consists of a central upland plateau above which rise a number of rounded peaks. The dominant line of peaks extends north-east to south-west beginning with North Barrule, through Snaefell, Beinn y Phott, Carraghan, Colden and Greeba. This line is continued on the other side of the central valley, through South Barrule and Cronk ny Arrey Laa to terminate in Bradda Hill. This main axis divided the Island into what were once two distinct areas, 'Northside' and 'Southside'. The southern upland is not as high as the northern upland. The terrain above 200m AOD, and excluding the main ridges, forms a series of shallow upland basins and dissected high plateaux. Drift covers most of the area, which results in a smoothly undulating topography. Although this was a glaciated area, it mostly lacks the conspicuous features of glaciation. The rivers and streams are deeply incised.
- 2.2.14 The eastern coastal plateau is discontinuous and can be divided into three sections. In the north lies a roughly triangular area between Port e Vullen, Maughold Head and the Dhoon. It is an area of low rolling hills underlain by the flaggy formations of the Manx Slates. The streams that drain across the area are steep, and glens are formed where larger rivers cut out to the coast. The Dhoon Stream is particularly steep and is the site of the Island's largest waterfall. The section between Laxey and the central valley at Douglas is made up of a series of rolling foothills rising gently towards the upland massif. The drainage is mostly in a north-south direction. A broad swathe of gently undulating topography, which runs from Douglas and Port Grenaugh towards Fleshwick Bay, makes up the southernmost section of the eastern coastal plateau. It is similar in character to the central section, north of Douglas, but changes to a sloping transition zone between the southern upland massif and the low plain of Malew in the western part. In the extreme south-west of the Island the coastal plateau is broken by Meayll Hill and the Calf of Man, which are isolated hills of Manx slate, separated by the Calf Sound. On the rocky coast in the south, at the Chasms, great blocks of sandstone are breaking along joint planes into the sea. The eastern section of the Coastal Plateau is dominated by north-south trending stream and valley courses but the after-effect of glaciation probably caused some notable drainage diversions and was probably responsible for extensive gravel spreads in this area.
- 2.2.15 The western coastal plateau is much smaller and never exceeds more than 3 km in width. In the north, it abuts the drift plain and, to the south, extends beyond the Peel embayment to Dalby. The area is covered in drift and the deeper coastal glens are plugged with slaty gravels and heads. Drainage is generally by steep short streams running at right angles to the coast which is evidence of drainage diversion associated with glacial retreat and associated sediment deposition.
- 2.2.16 The Peel sandstone is exposed at the coast but further inland it is deeply buried by thick drift and this covers a roughly square area extending from Peel to St. Johns. Inland, the embayment passes into the western end of the central valley, from which it is separated by coalescing spreads of alluvial gravel distributed by the Neb and Foxdale Rivers.
- 2.2.17 The central valley cuts across the upland mass between the southern end of Douglas Bay to St. Johns, where it opens out to provide a meeting place for the whole Island at Tynwald Hill. It has a broad open 'V' section, which has been infilled with mounds and terraces of drift. This valley is regarded as the north-south dividing line, narrow and somewhat swampy - the old trackways kept to the higher ground.



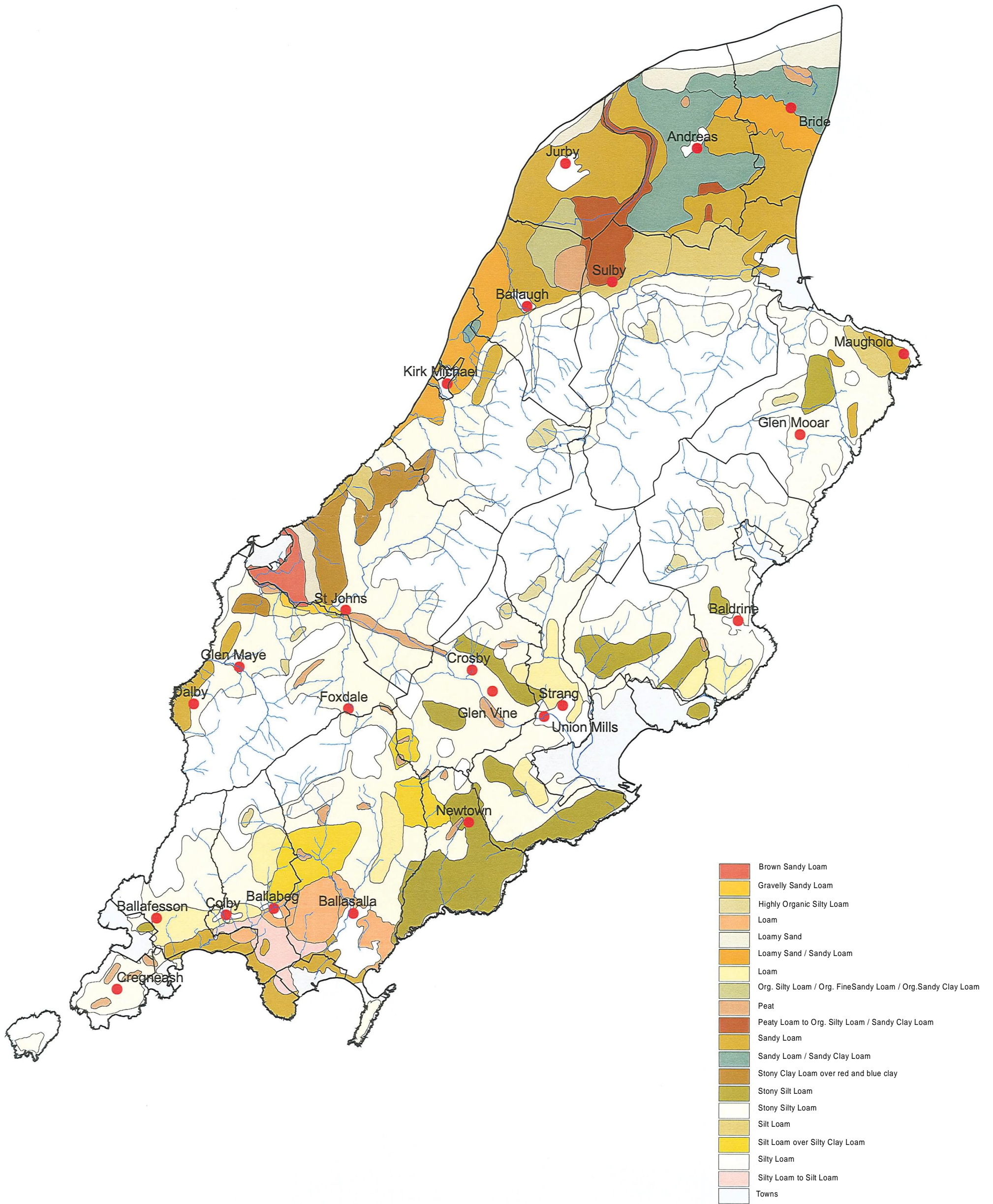
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Figure 2.3
 Landform and Drainage

- 2.2.18 The northern plain is roughly triangular in shape and is separated by the upland massif by a steep escarpment which probably represents the pre-glacial cliff-shore line of the Island. About 9-10m of drift buries the rocks of the northern plain which can be divided into five separate regions.
- 2.2.19 Firstly, the low gravely foreland of the Ayres raised post-glacial beach consists of a series of gravel ridges truncated by erosion along the eastern coast. Secondly, on the northern coastal fringe, a narrow, discontinuous belt of low sand dunes is poorly developed. The southern limit of the Ayres is marked by another old cliff line, the foot of which is hidden by low mounds of blown sand and falls in height from east to west.
- 2.2.20 Thirdly, to the south lies the most prominent feature of the northern plain, the Bride Hills, a crescent-shaped range of moranic hills in three separate sections. They comprise of tills, sands and gravels. There is little surface drainage but there is a profusion of dry valleys indicating a former integrated drainage network as water from the melting glaciers poured out.
- 2.2.21 The fourth region lies to the south and east of these hills and is dominated by platforms and subdued mounds of sands and gravels. These descend to the basin of the Curragh at the foot of the northern uplands, where there are former shoreline terraces of the late glacial Lake Andreas.
- 2.2.22 The Curragh forms the fifth region and is a roughly square basin of willow carr on the site of the peat filled Lake Andreas. The low-lying peaty and alluvial land along the course of the Sulby River is similar, with only the occasional sandy island in an otherwise waterlogged area.
- 2.2.23 Coastal erosion, mainly in the north of the Island, is still changing the landscape of the Isle of Man. Between The Cronk and Jurby Head, the coastline is retreating at a rate of some 100 metres per century but is sporadic rather than constant. On the Ayres and the south side of the Point of Ayre, material is being added to the coast at a rate of some 20 to 30 metres per century.
- 2.2.24 In the south of the Island, the eastern coastal plateau descends to a low plain south of a line from Port Grenaugh in the east to Port Erin in the west. This is a gently undulating landscape falling to a flatter coastal strip. This is a post glacial landscape with locally derived drifts of the uplands giving way to a broad gravel platform and evidence of temporary post-glacial lakes. Where the gravels are missing, the underlying limestone-rich till is exposed with outcrops of limestone bedrock.

Soils (see Figure 2.4)

- 2.2.25 Despite its relatively small size, the Island possesses a diverse range of soils types which reflect the complex interactions of geology, ecology, topography and climate. The parent material tends to be the dominant soil-forming factor, with climate exerting an increasing influence with altitude.
- 2.2.26 Soils on the Island vary from loamy sands to peaty loams with many different textural classes in between. It has been recognized that on the Island there are thirty-two different soil sub-categories associated with five soil categories. The five are: soils associated with slate, flagstones and shales; soils associated with limestone; soils associated with Peel limestone and Neb gravels; soils associated with glacial deposits; and soils associated with peat deposits (see simplified agricultural soils classification diagram).



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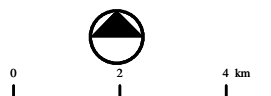


Figure 2.4
Soils

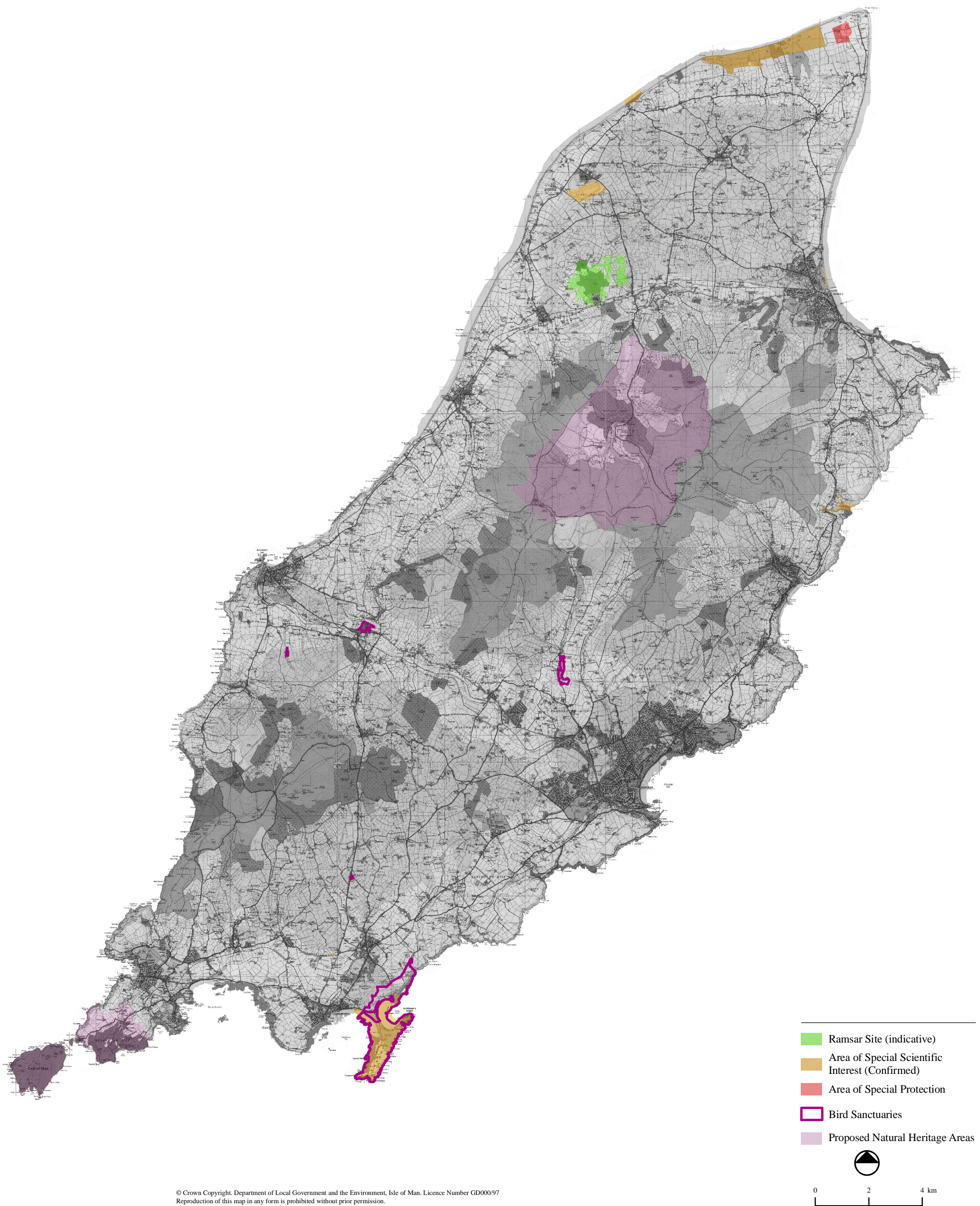
- 2.2.27 The northern plain is covered by glacial till which varies from clay to light sands and gravels. In the northern plateau, some attempts were made to improve the lighter soil by marling using the boulder-clay and seaweed as fertiliser. The southern lowland area and western coastal fringes are of high agricultural value, where loamy soils have developed over the underlying Carboniferous limestone with small areas of glacial till and gravels. A heavier loam soil, with higher clay content, is found on the eastern coastal plateau and in the central valley.

Ecological Character

- 2.2.28 The Isle of Man's varied geology, landform and coastal areas provide an extremely wide range of habitats for a relatively small area. These conditions include the alpine summits of the slate uplands, wooded glens, lichen heaths of the Ayres, wetland carrs, coastal plateaux and steep coastal cliffs where littoral and sub-littoral habitats are present.
- 2.2.29 Some 14,500 years ago, when the Isle of Man was still connected to Ireland and Britain, arctic conditions gave way to a milder, wetter climate. Huge quantities of water released by the melting ice caused sea levels to rise and land links to be severed, firstly with Ireland some 12,000 years ago and with Britain some 10,000 years ago.
- 2.2.30 As the climate warmed, arctic scrub gave way to luxuriant woodland that probably covered all but the highest peaks. Lake Andreas, the pro-glacial lake, gradually became infilled with peat producing a fertile wetland area, patches of which remain today as the Ballaugh Curragh.
- 2.2.31 The Island contains a wide variety of ecosystems with the terrestrial ecosystems ranging from sub-alpine to coastal heath with a rich marine ecosystems on the shelving continental plate. Many of these retain elements of traditional farming methods important for plant and animal species. A range of hills stretches across the Island and between these hills lie well defined valleys. There are seventeen national glens; coastal glens lead off to sandy beaches and mountain glens to streams and rocky pools. The flat sand beaches of the northern coast contrast markedly with rocky cliffs and sheltered bays round the rest of the coastline, which offer a large variety of niche habitats.
- 2.2.32 About 8000 years ago, a new stage in the evolution of the landscape began with the arrival of the first settlers. Until then, the landscape had been shaped by the natural forces of erosion. Mesolithic and Neolithic impacts were most extensive in the lowlands, producing a rich archaeological heritage. In the past 5000 years, peat-forming sphagnum moss has formed a blanket on the Manx uplands, creating a wild landscape which appears untouched by human activity. Many layers of peat show a dark charcoal-rich layer near their bases suggesting that the peat probably formed following clearing and burning of native woodland from Neolithic times onward. The 'natural' looking uplands with their cover of heather, ling, gorse and grassland are a habitat created by man and are largely a result of deforestation, but have nonetheless created important upland heath habitats.

Nature Conservation Designations and Habitats (see Figure 2.5)

- 2.2.33 The Isle of Man Wildlife Act (1990) covers the protection of habitats and species on the Island and is administered by The Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry. There are three recognised wildlife designations on the Island: Areas of Special Scientific Interest (ASSI), Special Protection Areas (SPA) and National Nature Reserves (NNR). Other organisations also protect sites for wildlife, including the Manx Wildlife Trust (MWT), which manages twenty nature reserves covering 94.7 hectares (234 acres), and Manx National Heritage (MNH) which is responsible for the Calf of Man and other areas of outstanding natural beauty and significance. In addition, the Manx Bird Atlas (MBA) is an



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Figure 2.5
 Nature Conservation and
 Heritage Designations

organisation that conducts a continuous research programme into the breeding and wintering patterns of birds in the Isle of Man. There are two areas which are under consideration for being designated as National Heritage Areas, Sulby Glen (including Tholt Y Will), and the Meayll Peninsula that includes the Calf of Man. Whilst the initial consultation has commenced and early discussions held with the respective Local Authorities and interested residents, no further progression at this stage has been made. Ballaugh Curragh has been recognised (2006) as a Wetland of International Importance under the Ramsar Convention of Wetlands.

- 2.2.34 At the northern tip of the Island lies the Ayres National Nature Reserve which is a series of raised gravel beach ridges in front of an ancient cliff line. The shingle, heathland and marram grass dunes provide important habitats for a wide variety of plants, birds and insects. This area has also been the source of boulders, stones, sand and gravel for extractive industries. These materials have had a variety of uses varying from the making of flint implements from Mesolithic times to their use as building materials in modern times.
- 2.2.35 The habitat is an unique lowland heath, which has developed on a thin layer of blown sand overlying shingle. The main feature is the extensive area of lichen heath, which is found nowhere else on the Island. It is one of two known areas where the Isle of Man cabbage (*Coincya monensis ssp monensis*) is found. The shore is fringed with a narrow belt of marram grass (*Ammophila arenaria*) on blown sand. The rear slopes of the fixed dunes are covered by a mat of Burnet rose (*Rosa spinosissima*) and are home to a range of invertebrates and breeding colonies of Arctic and little terns (*Sterna paridisaea* and *Sterna albinfrons*).
- 2.2.36 There are a series of wet hollows, mimicking the slacks and lows of a true dune system. Ponds dug in these date back at least to the 1st edition Ordnance Survey maps (1860s) and these are home to a wide variety of flowering plants, frogs and damselflies. Strip field patterns, which resulted from the enclosure of the heathland in the mid 19th century, can also be traced from old maps, although some of these are now abandoned and the land returning to heathland.
- 2.2.37 The Gaelic name ‘Curragh’ (willow carr), is applied fairly generally to wetlands. The main curragh areas in the Isle of Man are Curragh Beg, north of Ramsay, Greeba Curragh and the river valley curragh of the Central Valley, which is rather fragmented by development. The Ballaugh Curraghs comprise an area of marshland between Ballaugh and Sulby on the northern plain, which were once part of the glacial Lake Andreas 10,000 years ago. This is a wet area of willow scrub, bog myrtle (*Myrica gale*), tussocky marshy grassland and orchid-rich grass meadows. There is a high diversity of breeding birds and a good peatland habitat.
- 2.2.38 The vegetation and habitats almost entirely rely on the result of human influence over the years from when the land was taken into cultivation and divided into fields by earth banks and drainage ditches dug. In the 1800s, Ballaugh Curraghs was an open landscape of pasture, hay meadows and fields of crops with peat cut for fuel, leaving water-filled depressions. Today, most of this landscape is managed by Manx National Heritage and Manx Wildlife Trust, whose brief is to conserve and improve the many wildlife habitats.
- 2.2.39 St. Michael’s Isle, on the north eastern tip of the Langness peninsula, is fairly typical of a Manx shoreline. The shoreline of St. Michael’s Isle is a rocky slate outcrop that contrasts with the sandy beaches of the Langness peninsula. Bell heather (*Erica cinera*), ling (*Calluna vulgaris*) and tormentil (*Potentilla erecta*) grow on the top where the rocks outcrop, whilst nearer the sea, birdsfoot trefoil (*Lotus corniculatus*), and spring squill (*Scilla verna*) grow, the latter needing a warm, moist climate close to the sea. Langness is home also to the rare *Stenobothrus stigmaticus* species of grasshopper. Thrift (*Armeria martima*), English stonewort (*Chara vulgaris*), sea campion (*Silene martima*) and many lichens are found here with sea beet (*Beta vulgaris ssp.maritima*) and sea radish (*Raphanus raphanistrum ssp.*

maritimus) growing on the shoreline. The inter-tidal areas along the rocky and sandy coastline provide a vast array of habitats for marine life as do the sub-littoral areas off shore, where numerous seaweeds such as kelp provide food and shelter for shoals of fish.

- 2.2.40 The Manx uplands are of high conservation value as upland heather moorland is widely regarded as internationally significant in Western Europe. Important habitats include a few remnants of the descendants of the arctic flora, blanket bog, marginal farmland with mosaics of old hay meadows and semi-improved grassland, which represent some of the most biologically diverse land, acid flushes and streams and groups of native trees in the shelter of the numerous steep valleys which include aspen, birch, hazel, oak, rowan, and willow species.
- 2.2.41 The clearance of the woodlands started in the Neolithic and early man's dependency on wood led to a serious loss of woodland: the Island was virtually treeless by the 17th century. In the following century many landowners made tree planting a priority and beech, larch, horse chestnut and pine trees were planted. The Victorians continued this policy, creating gardens and replanting some of the Manx National Glens with beech, wych elm, ash, sweet and horse chestnut which became part of these tourist attractions.
- 2.2.42 Afforestation of the hills was initiated by the 1884 Afforestation policy, starting with the plantations at Archallagan, South Barrule and Greeba on Crown land. It was at the most intense between 1950 and 1960, after the formation of the Forestry Board in 1931. In 1987 Conifer Plantations accounted for 80% of Island tree cover.

2.3 Historical Influences on the Landscape

Mesolithic (C.8,000-4,000 BC) - Early Wooded Landscape

- 2.3.1 The climate during this period was warmer than at present; dense woodland would have probably covered most of the Island and there would have been abundant natural resources. Wildfowl inhabited the wetland areas and the coastal areas were rich in birdlife, fish and shellfish. Evidence for the presence of man, leading a nomadic, hunter-gatherer lifestyle, can be found in the scatters of flint waste from tool making. A later type of distinctive flint work found at both coastal and inland sites indicate a closer affinity with Ulster, perhaps indicating outside influences being exerted on the Island towards the end of the Mesolithic.

Neolithic (4000-2000BC) and Bronze (2000-600 BC)

Early Agricultural Landscape and Settlement

- 2.3.2 The Neolithic was marked by an important economic and social change as there was a gradual shift away from the nomadic hunter-gatherer way of life to a more settled agricultural existence and the ability to make pots and tools. Land was adapted to growing cereals and raising stock using imported species of grains and animals and there was large scale clearance of woodland to accommodate these changes. A cooler wetter climate, coupled with human intervention, may have begun to initiate the formation of peat in upland areas. But the Manx evidence suggests that these upland areas were not exploited until the late Neolithic.
- 2.3.3 The first farmers of the Neolithic on the Island are visible today through their burial monuments, which link Manx communities with other western European societies. Their more organised existence led to the construction of various monuments such as the chambered tombs at Cashtal yn Ard (Maughold), King Orry's Grave (Laxey) and the passage grave at Meayll Hill. These monumental structures are almost entirely absent from the northern plain, possibly due to a lack of building materials.

2.3.4 After 2000 BC, a new system emerged whereby personal and political power was related to the possession and control of prestige goods, often made of bronze. Settlers and traders from Britain brought with them different pottery and burial customs and the knowledge of metal working skills coupled with the ability to extract the easily accessed raw materials available. Large communal tombs of the Neolithic gave way to smaller, stone-lined, earth-covered graves. In the Manx Bronze Age, associated grave goods are rare. There are many mounds and cairns on the Island, often in prominent locations, where, like their Neolithic counterparts, they were probably widely visible. The lack of evidence after 1400 BC suggests that formal burial of the dead was not generally practised in ways that can be recognised archaeologically. Settlement evidence is rare on the Isle of Man but artefacts have been found in the fertile lowlands and coastal plateaux with fairly easy access to the sea, suggesting farming communities in these locations. The early Bronze Age (c 2000-1000 BC) was warmer and drier than it is today, but there is only limited evidence for the extension of upland farming as there is elsewhere in Britain.

2.3.5 At a time of possible increase in population and increasing need for farmland, coupled with deterioration in climate to a colder, wetter period, came the need for defended hilltop settlements. The evidence for this is suggested by around 70 huts in the major hillfort of South Barrule.

Celtic Farmers - Iron Age (600 BC- 500 AD)

2.3.6 Iron working was established from the late 7th century BC onwards in the British Isles and soon replaced bronze for most tools and weapons. The first few centuries were unstable and many settlements were established at defensible sites. Stock rearing became of less importance as new, hardier grain crops, more suited to the poorer climate and shorter growing season, were introduced.

2.3.7 Metalworking and cloth manufacturing became regular domestic activities. Locally made pottery went out of use by 500 BC and apart from small quantities of imported pottery found at some late period sites, organic materials were used for containers. Contact with Britain seems to have been scarce but some prestige items of jewellery made from jet and lignite, amber, bronze and glass were exchanged.

Settlement and fortification

2.3.8 The disruption to the Celtic 'Iron Age' society caused by the Roman occupation of Britain between 43 AD and 410 AD had little direct impact on the Isle of Man but this period saw the construction of forts which take advantage of naturally defensible features, hilltops, cliffs, coastal or inland promontory sites. There are coastal sites at Close ny Chollagh, Cronk ny Merriu, Cass ny Hawin, Langness and up to 18 more around the Manx coast. There are inland fortified homesteads, including Ballanicholas and Castleward, and defended hilltop sites at Cronk Sumark, Maughold Head, Burroo Ned and Chapel Hill, with later defences added at South Barrule. Farmsteads were often sited in wet, marshy land with the farmer and his stock under one roof, typically a roundhouse. The Braaid, set on the side of a valley, is an Iron Age round house site with two later Norse long houses.

Early Christian Period (500 AD-798 AD)

2.3.9 Christianity probably reached the Isle of Man by 500 A.D. The new contact with Christian communities overseas brought literacy and new technological ideas. However, the basic way of life continued much as before.

2.3.10 Manx evidence for the Early Christian period comes with the unsurpassed collection of carved stone crosses on the Island. At least 170 early Christian sites are known, which first

consisted of a burial ground served by a small chapel or keeill. The most important site was the monastery at Maughold and this site has produced the largest collection of early Christian cross slabs in the Island. The stone or sod ruins seen today in the landscape are likely to be later Norse chapels which may have been built on earlier sites. Most of the keeills are located on farmland and would have served their local community.

- 2.3.11 Foundations of an administrative system, based on quarterlands, treens, parishes and sheadings, formalised in the 12th century, may have had their origins in this period.
- 2.3.12 There is possible evidence of a system of upland migration in the pre-Norse period, which utilized marginal land between the 160 and 300 metre contours. These can be identified by the place name element 'Eary' which means 'summer pasture'. They are at the margin of farmland but within the enclosed land and some are still farmed today. These are possibly distinct from the highest settlements, the 'sheilings', which occur above the 300 metre contour on unenclosed moorland and may be Norse in date.

Norse Period (798 AD-1265 AD) - Raiding and Settlement

- 2.3.13 The 9th century was a period of raiding and settlement and the Vikings recognised the strategic importance of the Island in relation to the whole western seaboard of the British Isles. Viking defences on the Island are incompletely understood but there may have been reworking of older sites such as at Cronk Sumark, which would have also guarded the fertile northern plain and its sea approaches. Coastal promontory forts were reworked into a system of coastal defence.
- 2.3.14 Viking settlers brought with them pagan customs and consequently the Island has an impressive series of burial mounds on coastal ridges and headlands. Three boat burials have been identified and several other mounds have produced a rich array of grave goods.
- 2.3.15 When not raiding and trading, the Vikings were farmers and typically dwelt in long houses. The known Norse farmhouses were undefended, as at the marginal farm at the Braaid. The Norse population practiced a farming economy which maximised the potential of the uplands. The climatic amelioration of the 11th and 12th centuries encouraged the increased exploitation of higher land through transhumance practices. Cattle were driven up to higher pastures, 'sheilings', in the summer, with people living in small turf walled huts. Excavations at Block Eary, on the north slopes of Snaefell, have produced a large number of huts with evidence of weaving, cheese making and stock control. No date is given for their abandonment but Post-Medieval commentators were unaware of the practice of transhumance and the meaning of the name 'Eary'. It is possible that the deterioration in climate and soil in later medieval times made the sheilings untenable and led to the consolidation of the lower 'Eary' pastures into regularly farmed land.
- 2.3.16 The pagan Vikings were converted to Christianity by the late 10th century although the process was a gradual one. They continued and expanded the tradition of carving stone crosses, some of which show an appreciation of both Christian and pagan motifs. The Isle of Man has at least twenty-six stones with Norse runes cut into them.
- 2.3.17 In 1134, Cistercian monks were invited to the Island by King Olaf I and they founded an abbey on the sand and river gravels close to the Silverburn at Ballasalla. It was built mainly from the Castletown limestone and became the focus for consolidation of the Roman Church.
- 2.3.18 The Vikings brought with them the concept of an open-air assembly of free men who ratified old laws, submitted new ones and gave judgment on law breakers which was established at Tynwald Hill. Viking rule ended in 1265 when the Island was placed under Scottish rule.

Lords Of Man (Manx Middle Ages 1265-1765) - Ruling power, the Church and agriculture

- 2.3.19 During the Anglo-Scottish wars, the rule of the Isle of Man was in the hands of the Lord of Man appointed either by England or Scotland. It was not until 1346 that the Island came firmly and finally under English rule. In the late 14th century, the Island was given to the Montacute family, the Earls of Salisbury. In 1405, the Lordship was granted to Sir John Stanley whose descendants ruled for over three hundred years. The lordship passed through a female line to the Dukes of Atholl in 1736, and was eventually purchased by the British Crown in 1765. Military defences were strengthened during this period, for example, the massive curtain wall at Peel Castle.
- 2.3.20 Castle Rushen in Castletown, the ancient capital of the Isle of Man, is one of the finest surviving medieval castles in Britain. It was built from the local Castletown limestone, and developed between the 13th and 16th centuries by successive rulers of Man. Peel Castle occupies St. Patrick's Isle and its massive slate and sandstone curtain wall encircles earlier secular and religious buildings, which include St. Patrick's Church and the Round Tower from the 11th century, the 13th century Cathedral of St. German and the later apartments of the Lords of Man. Derby Fort, on the Langness peninsula, was first built during the reign of Henry VIII.
- 2.3.21 Life for the Islanders was very hard, with the risk of being raided coupled with increased tithes and taxes following the rise in power of the Church. The Church held extensive lands and also held fishing and mineral rights. An intensive, mixed economy was essential to support the monastic community at Rushen Abbey and the Cistercians exploited their lands through farms, which were worked by labourers, lay brothers and tenant farmers. Sheep farming was an important income for the Cistercians with a small amount of wool used for their own needs and the rest sold.
- 2.3.22 However, a number of factors worked against a thriving agricultural economy including political unrest, exploitation by the lord and the Church, worsening climatic conditions in the late Middle Ages and the system of land holding. Land was traditionally held by the King and Barons, and the people had no right of tenure which did little to encourage agricultural improvements from the people who worked the land.
- 2.3.23 Medieval farming seems to have been frequently disrupted by warfare and raiding although some features of the Manx landscape were well established. The mountain hedge or fell dyke divided the open moorland pasture from the fields. Farm and field boundaries were less well established, often consisting of 'field marks' rather than physical barriers. The fences and walls were as much a means of stock control as delineating property boundaries.
- 2.3.24 From at least the Norse period onwards, the Manx hills were used for seasonal grazing with more intensive farming on the lowlands. Sheilings, groups of simple semi-permanent huts, were built for use only in the summer months. The archaeological remains of these huts are still present in the upland landscape. Many different types and sizes of farms developed on the Island, including the quarterland farms with their substantial land holdings, split quarterland farms, 'Intack' farms (from 'In-take' or land 'taken into' cultivation) and the small upland crofter farms. The 'Intack' farms originated as common land, usually of poorer quality, which was enclosed under licence.
- 2.3.25 The long term landholding issue was brought to a head in the 17th century by the seventh Earl of Derby who enforced a system of land leasing in a three-generation (twenty-one-year) leasehold for land, which effectively limited inheritance and ownership. In the late 17th century, the resulting insecurity of tenure led many farmers to abandon or supplement their

fishing-farming practices and turn to the more lucrative practice of smuggling. This problem was solved by the Act of Revestment in 1765 but the disputed rights pertaining to common land of the mountains was not settled until 1866.

Modern (1765 - Present) - Agriculture, Fishing, Mining, Tourism and Manufacturing

- 2.3.26 Knowledge of Manx agriculture is very scant for the 17th and 18th centuries until a survey was carried out in 1812. Clover was introduced in about 1770 and turnips in about 1780, and after that date it was possible to practice a rotation of crops. Many of the cattle were original Manx breeds, small but hardy animals, but these were steadily replaced by imported breeds.
- 2.3.27 Cultivated farm lands included the lowlands of the south-east and north, the coastal plateaux on both sides of the Island and they extended up the hillsides to a height of about 180m AOD. At the beginning of the 19th century, cultivation extended some thirty metres above its present limit. Some of the higher land belonged to lower-lying farms, intake land held by manorial tenants, smallholders or crofters. These crofters were also fishermen, supplementing their subsistence income with a share of the herring catch.
- 2.3.28 During the latter part of the 19th century, many crofters became miners, with the booming tourist trade also offering easier employment to crofters. As mining and fishing decreased and there was substantial immigration, the crofting way of life declined and many settlements were abandoned. Many of the ruined cottages or ‘tholtans’ remain in the landscape, bearing witness to the decline of this type of farming. Some of the most striking instances of abandoned cultivation of this marginal land, and consequent downhill movement of population, can be seen in the parishes of Rushen, Arbory and Malew.
- 2.3.29 Cregneash Village is an illustration of a 19th century Manx upland crofting community with some of the old field pattern still surviving. It developed as the result of multiple subdivisions of traditional landholdings, which gave rise to a complex field system. The Cregneash National Folk Museum was first created in 1938. The surrounding land is currently farmed using traditional methods and is in the ownership of Manx National Heritage.
- 2.3.30 Herring fishing was not a full-time occupation for Manxmen since it normally lasted for four months from July to October. The men did farm work during the rest of the year. The fortunes and sizes of the Manx fleet has changed over the years but provided the additional industries of net-making, sailcloth-making and boat-building. In more recent times, scallop fishing has produced lucrative growth to parallel the decline in the herring trade.
- 2.3.31 The Isle of Man was relatively well endowed with mineral resources. Surface mining began as early as 2000 BC when Bronze Age man knew how to smelt copper and tin to produce bronze. The monks of Rushen Abbey were granted mineral rights to transport and sell minerals from the Island. Mining for a range of metals continued throughout the centuries, which included extracting the ores of lead, iron, zinc, silver and copper. The period 1850-1890 was the peak of the mining industry and Manx mines became some of the most profitable in the British Isles.
- 2.3.32 Today, evidence of the mining past can still be seen in the landscape. Mine buildings are located on the cliffs at Bradda Head, and mine chimneys can be seen at Foxdale and Glen Rushen along with the associated spoil heaps. Deep in the glen at Dhoon are a chimney and wheel housing and the Lady Isabella wheel at Laxey is a major tourist attraction today. In upland areas there is still evidence of old water leats where natural water courses were diverted to provide power for the mine workings.

- 2.3.33 Although the Isle of Man lacked coal resources it utilised other sources of power, including peat that provided fuel for some industries (e.g. lime burning). Peat digging for fuel has been a feature of the Manx way of life and the Manx upland landscape for thousands of years, with evidence of disused peat workings visible throughout the Island. There remains one operational public turbary on the Island which extends to around 0.4 hectare (1 acre) and is situated on the northern slopes of Beinn y Phott on the Brandywell Road.
- 2.3.34 Wind power was harnessed and there were some windmills, although there is only one prominently visible in the present day landscape. A variety of mills harnessed the flow of water from the uplands to drive mining plant, saw mills, brick mills and corn mills.
- 2.3.35 In the mid 19th century there were ten active brick works on the Island, the oldest of these at Castletown, which originally opened in 1694.
- 2.3.36 A variety of rocks have, in the past, provided a source of crushed rock aggregate for building and roadstone. Crushed rock aggregate is today worked from a range of sources. The quartz arenite-dominated Creg Agneash Formation in the Manx Group is exploited at Dreemskerry. Granite is worked at Stoney Mountain and dolerite at Poortown, near Peel. The Carboniferous limestone is worked at Turkeyland and Billown. Bitumen-coated roadstone is produced at the quarries at Billown and Poortown.
- 2.3.37 Since the later 19th century, plantations have been developed on the Island. These are not evident on the 1st Edition Ordnance Survey maps (1869) but are on later series. Examples of such are Ballaugh plantation in the Northern Uplands and around Foxdale in the Southern Uplands.
- 2.3.38 With the exception of the above plantations, field patterns have remained comparatively constant throughout the last century (since the 1st Edition Ordnance Survey mapping), in contrast to many parts of England where many field boundaries have been lost as the scale of mechanisation of the industry has increased. There are some exceptions to this rule where some fields have been amalgamated (e.g. north of Sulby and south of Kirk Michael) but there has also been subdivision of fields in some cases. Overall, the pattern and density of the field system has remained constant.

Tourism

- 2.3.39 Tourism established by the Victorian period and at its height near the turn of the 20th century, generated small tourism-related businesses and employed large numbers of people. Generally in the 1890s, upwards of a quarter of a million passengers, mostly tourists, landed at Douglas in the summer season, May to October. The tourist accommodation industry grew commensurately and showed a wider spread across the Island than is now current. Places like Port Soderick were created by the tourist industry. Almost all the major conurbations situated around the coast have expanded since the 1870s, including Douglas, Peel, Ramsey, Port Erin and Port St. Mary.
- 2.3.40 The Island's railways are still represented by the line from Douglas to Port Erin, now retained as a tourist attraction, but still part of the Island's industrial archaeology. The Snaefell railway opened in 1896 to take the Victorian tourists to the top of Snaefell, having reached Laxey by electric tram. The tram runs from Douglas to Ramsey with stops at many of the east coast glens. These transport systems opened parts of the Island which were previously inaccessible to the Victorian tourist. Other lines include the Ramsey to St Johns line, which has since been dismantled, but is visible as a green corridor.
- 2.3.41 Other transport infrastructure, that may in part be attributed to rising tourism, includes the Ronaldsway Airport, which was opened in 1934 as an airfield and later developed as a

military base, before reverting to commercial use. Since then, two other airfields, Jurby and Andreas, were also established as military bases during World War II, though both have since largely fallen out of use.

- 2.3.42 The boom era of tourism to the Island has long since gone. However, the TT races and Grand Prix, as well as numerous other motor sports that take advantage of the numerous green lanes, annually attract large numbers of racing enthusiasts to the Island. The diverse character of the Island has more recently attracted numerous film productions to the Island, while the fiscal situation of the Island attracts foreign investment and business and has led to the development of a large financial industry.

2.4 Past and Current Perceptions of the Landscape

- 2.4.1 As a place of great natural beauty, the Isle of Man has long proved attractive to local and visiting artists. However, it has also produced its own crop of outstandingly talented writers, painters and sculptors. They were greatly influenced by the natural beauty of their surroundings and intrigued by the old way of life that was in its decline by the turn of the century.
- 2.4.2 The tholtan, the Manx word for a ruined house or cottage, is a powerful image in Manx literature representing both the loss of the way of life, with some nostalgia, but at the same time, accepting a hard way of life. This is part of the cultural heritage of the Isle of Man. The image of a ruined *tholtans* embodies Nature's reclamation of the stones from which they were made, scattered on the hillsides from where these stones were quarried.

Descriptive And Literary Associations

- 2.4.3 The life of the crofters, or the end of the crofting way of life, was immortalised by the T E Brown in his narrative poems written towards the end of the 19th century, writing '*Old Manx is dying, dying in the tholtans*'.
- 2.4.4 In 1956 Mona Douglas wrote *The Tholtan*:
- 'Upon the border of a wood
I found a small, forsaken house
Decaying slowly where it stood-
Some slate blown off, and others loose.*
- But though it seems forsaken, dead,
I know it hides a happier mood-
And sometimes old turf fires shine red
Through twilight's purple quietude'.*
- 2.4.5 In "The Manxman", by Hall Caine, he wrote that '*as the great English immigration set in, the Isle of Man became a holiday resort ... death of the Manx language will go the same way as the Manx herring*'. He also wrote about the crofters '*in the mud cottages on the Curragh, half landsmen, half fishermen, who farmed perhaps seventy acres and had rights to pasturage on the mountains*'.
- 2.4.6 In 1844 William Kennish wrote about Snaefell:
- 'Thy vast gigantic Snaefield's height, Which in thy centre stands,
Whose towering rugged barren crest
One general view commands ... '.*

- 2.4.7 Hugh Stowell Brown wrote in his 1888 biography: *‘in the year of my birth, 1823, steam boat communication had hardly begun ... communication within and without the Island was slow and uncertain’*.
- 2.4.8 George Quayle, an antiquarian and countryman wrote of the Ballaugh Curragh: *‘... The Curragh is a botanist’s paradise ... we have loved the bogbean ... most people do not appreciate the treasure we have here, the wonder of the birds and flowers in their natural environment’*.
- 2.4.9 In 1908 a publication about Manx Flowers included this piece on the gorse:
- ‘There is, I think, no plant more closely associated with Manx scenery than Gorse ... perhaps, nowhere in the world where it is so luxuriant and beautiful as in Man. Our miles of great earthen fences furnish it with an ideal place to grow ... There are two forms found in the Island, a larger which grows on the hedges and flowers practically all the year, and a smaller, growing lower and closer.’*
- 2.4.10 Mona Douglas in the “Song of Mannin”, 1976, also wrote about the gorse: *‘... and soon the air was full of the sweet nutty odour of gorse flaming on every sod hedge on branches still browning from the long frost, but putting forth new green shoots at their tips...’*

Artistic Associations

- 2.4.11 Archibald Knox was a major designer in silver and pewter jewellery in the Art Nouveau movement and did much motif work for Liberty’s which incorporated interlacing motifs derived from Manx carvings and Celtic manuscripts and wrote: *‘The sea enters into every view, grey-white or glistening beneath the sun...’*.
- 2.4.12 Several properties of Baillie Scott, a well known Arts and Crafts architect and contemporary of Voysey and Rennie Mackintosh, are still extant on the Island and include Onchan Church Hall, Red House at Douglas, and Braddan Cemetery Office.
- 2.4.13 John Millar Nicholson painted ‘Underneath the Chasms’ where the crumbling slate cliffs are slipping into the sea. The picture is a study in line and colour of precipitous crags and wrack-coated boulders. He carefully captured the thin layers in the rockstrata, and the fronds of the sea-weed at the base of the cliffs.
- 2.4.14 Nicholson also painted many scenes of Douglas Harbour where: *‘There, enfolded in a blue luminous atmosphere, were masses of broken colours, reflected lights and deep shadows. In bright sunlight the old-fashioned Market-place and St. Matthew’s Church, with its quaint belfry, had an oriental appearance and was one of the most picturesque corners in the Island’*.

2.5 Summary

- 2.5.1 The current Manx landscape that we experience today is a result of a variety of physical processes acting on the underlying Manx rock group, which has created a distinctive landscape that has been altered and appropriated over millennia of human habitation through various activities such as deforestation, farming and mining. The result of these human, physical and cultural processes has been, and is the formation of the contemporary and diverse Manx landscape, loaded with beliefs and values that continue to change and respond to climatic and anthropocentric variations as any dynamic landscape must do to thrive and survive.

2.5.2 This overview of physical and historical influences on the Manx landscape provides the context for the classification of the Island into areas of distinctive landscape character.

3.0 THE CHARACTER OF THE ISLE OF MAN LANDSCAPE

3.1 General

3.1.1 This section provides a detailed inventory and description of the Island's Landscape Character Types and Areas.

3.2 Landscape Character Types

3.2.1 'Landscape Character Types' are broad tracts of land that share common characteristics of geology, landform, vegetation, land-use and settlement. They are generic landscapes, which reoccur throughout the Island.

3.2.2 Nine Landscape Character Types have been defined within the Island and are as follows:

- Uplands (Type A)
- Narrow Upland Glens (Type B)
- Broad Lowland Valley (Type C)
- Incised Inland Slopes (Type D)
- Rugged Coast (Type E)
- Undulating Lowland Plain (Type F)
- Smooth Coastal Strip (Type G)
- Coastal Cliffs (Type H)
- Islands (Type J)

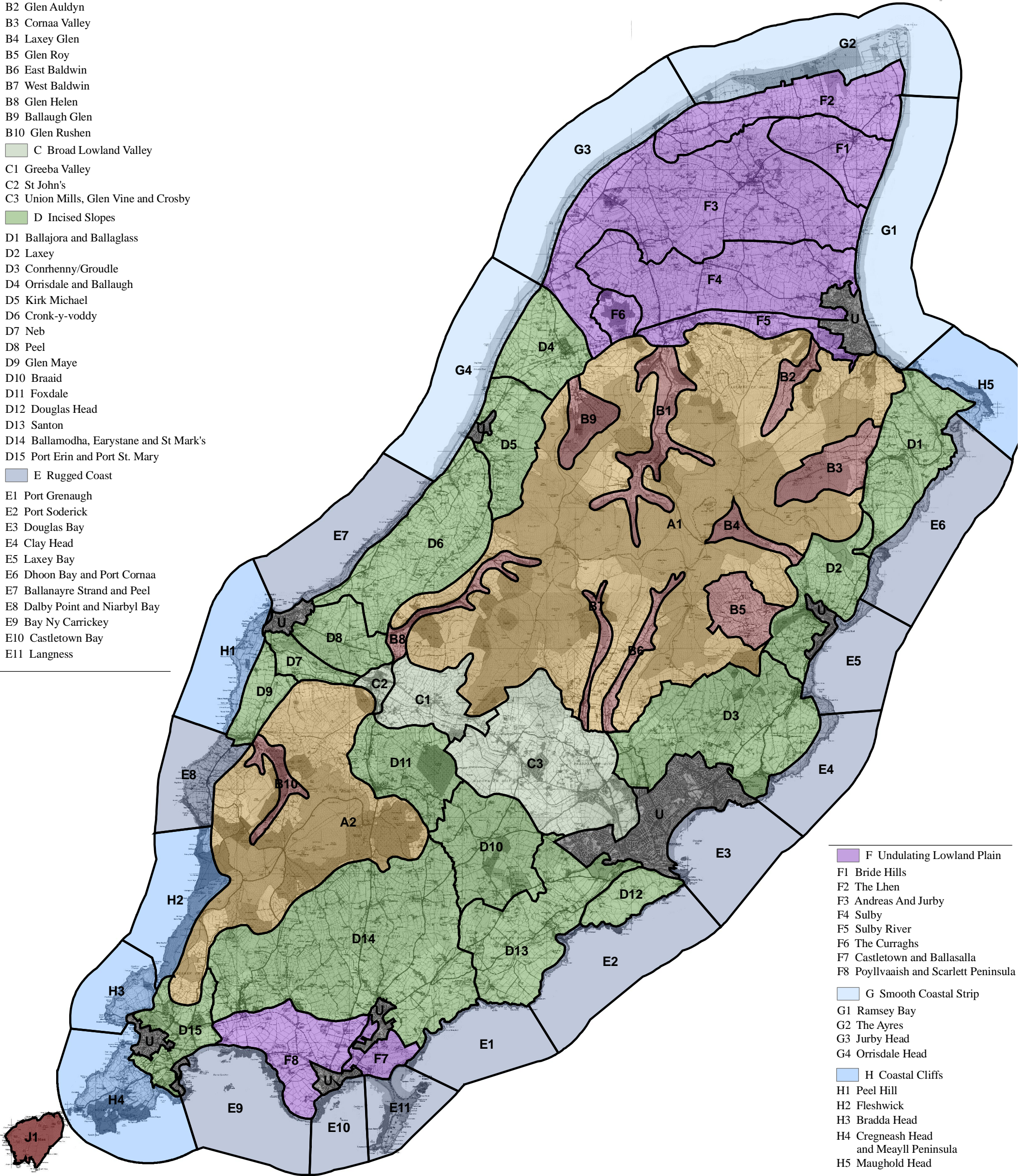
3.2.3 The distribution of these nine Landscape Character Types are shown on Figure 3.1, and their key characteristics are summarised below.

Uplands (Type A)

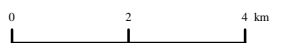
- Rolling open and expansive fells with numerous pronounced rounded summits and associated spurs.
- Some small steep sided, deeply incised valleys cut by upland streams with stretches of white water and some large boulders at the head water.
- Expansive panoramic views across the whole Island with some lower areas enclosed by surrounding peaks and river valleys.
- Occasional blocks of coniferous plantations with abrupt rectilinear edges.
- Moorland vegetation, areas of upland farming, rough pasture and impoverished grassland.
- Variety of historic and current field divisions including the Mountain Hedge, Manx hedges and post and wire fences that enclose fields of a variety of size and shape,
- Gorse is a prevalent shrub growing on top of the Manx hedges with heather on the upper moors and peaks.
- Scattered dwellings and upland farms with a variety of out houses with corrugated roof out-houses.
- Network of small steep winding single track roads and some wider well kept roads with conspicuous road and route markings along the TT routes.
- Remnants of historic settlement and land uses in the form of old field patterns, shielings, cairns, standing stones, cairns, hut circles, mineral extraction and areas of peat cutting.
- Some upland areas abut the sea where there are dramatic rocky steep cliffs that descend into the sea
- Exposed rocky outcrops with areas of scree slopes in southern areas.
- Simple and smooth texture
- Remote feel in places

Landscape Character Types and Areas

- A Uplands
- A1 Northern Uplands
- A2 Southern Uplands
- B Narrow Upland Glens
- B1 Sulby Glen
- B2 Glen Auldyn
- B3 Cornaa Valley
- B4 Laxey Glen
- B5 Glen Roy
- B6 East Baldwin
- B7 West Baldwin
- B8 Glen Helen
- B9 Ballaugh Glen
- B10 Glen Rushen
- C Broad Lowland Valley
- C1 Greeba Valley
- C2 St John's
- C3 Union Mills, Glen Vine and Crosby
- D Incised Slopes
- D1 Ballajora and Ballaglass
- D2 Laxey
- D3 Conrhenny/Groudle
- D4 Orrisdale and Ballaugh
- D5 Kirk Michael
- D6 Cronk-y-voddy
- D7 Neb
- D8 Peel
- D9 Glen Maye
- D10 Braaid
- D11 Foxdale
- D12 Douglas Head
- D13 Santon
- D14 Ballamodha, Earystane and St Mark's
- D15 Port Erin and Port St. Mary
- E Rugged Coast
- E1 Port Grenaugh
- E2 Port Soderick
- E3 Douglas Bay
- E4 Clay Head
- E5 Laxey Bay
- E6 Dhoon Bay and Port Cornaa
- E7 Ballanayre Strand and Peel
- E8 Dalby Point and Niarbyl Bay
- E9 Bay Ny Carrickey
- E10 Castletown Bay
- E11 Langness



- F Undulating Lowland Plain
- F1 Bride Hills
- F2 The Lhen
- F3 Andreas And Jurby
- F4 Sulby
- F5 Sulby River
- F6 The Curraghs
- F7 Castletown and Ballasalla
- F8 Poyllvaish and Scarlett Peninsula
- G Smooth Coastal Strip
- G1 Ramsey Bay
- G2 The Ayres
- G3 Jurby Head
- G4 Orrisdale Head
- H Coastal Cliffs
- H1 Peel Hill
- H2 Fleshwick
- H3 Bradda Head
- H4 Cregneash Head and Meayll Peninsula
- H5 Maughold Head
- J Islands
- J1 Calf Of Man
- Urban



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Figure 3.1
 Landscape Character Types and Areas

Narrow Upland Glen (Type B)

- Steep sided deeply incised V-shaped valleys cut by upland streams with stretches of white water with some large boulders and small waterfalls in places.
- Down stream of the headwater the valley floor widens with wet meadows developing along side a more sinuous river with stretches of smooth flowing water over gravel beds as tributaries join and widen the river.
- Interlocking spurs can prevent otherwise continuous views up the valley.
- Bracken, heather and rough grass cover the steeper upland slopes with fragmented deciduous woodland cover dominating lower down the valleys with a variety of planting around settlements and scattered large houses / large estates.
- Variety of Manx hedges, slate stone walls and grassy banks with wild flowers enclose and contain the various steep winding often single-track roads.
- Some small nucleated settlements are located at river crossing points or at road junctions with the majority of dwellings isolated and stretched out along the valley roads that run along valley sides and parallel to the river's course.
- Numerous bridges and fords where roads cross rivers.

Broad Lowland Valley (Type C)

- Wide valley with mis-fit river meandering in a flat valley floor through a sequence of gravel beds and deep pools.
- Relatively steep valley sides rise up into areas of upland and inland plateau.
- Variety of former river terraces along the valley sides gives a variety of relief in the eastern area of the valley floor.
- Tributaries drain into the river from the surrounding upland areas as well as from various straightened drainage channels from surrounding flatter land.
- Variety of small to medium sized fields of pasture with areas of meadow running alongside the river.
- Riparian woodland, Curragh, scrub and ground cover found on the river banks.
- Fragmented deciduous woodland blocks and mature trees found in the various hedgerows give rise to a wooded enclosed feel in the valley bottom.
- Settlement along the valley floor consisting of single dwellings (white houses) strung out along the valley road with some smaller nucleated settlements at road junctions such as Crosby and Greeba.

Incised Slopes (Type D)

- Land generally slopes down from upland areas to the sea with notable undulations.
- A network of deeply incised steep sided/gently sloping wooded glens (some of them
- National Glens containing exotic Victorian planting and pleasure gardens) cut across the area as rivers valleys run out to the sea, creating narrow linear landscape elements.
- Predominantly open pastoral land with arable fields.
- Relatively varied field pattern of a variety of shapes and sizes.
- Field boundaries are predominantly Manx hedges, planted with shrubs on top with
- numerous mature trees and some stone walls in places.
- Occasional blocky, angular coniferous plantations.
- A variety of settlements, lone standing farmsteads with outhouses and individual dwellings linked by a network of small/winding/enclosed/open roads and single track lanes
- Distant views to coast and sea from several locations
- Various historic and archaeological sites include Keeills, standing stones, burial chambers, cairns.

Rugged Coast (Type E)

- Rugged indented and varied coastline.
- Sequences of rocky cliffs and stacks with extensive rocky wild headlands with some wave cut platforms to gently graded sandy bays of varied enclosure and scale;
- Variation in scale of bays, from large beaches to small concealed/intimate coves.
- Steeply / gently sloping pastoral and arable land with a strong visual connection down to the sea shore with signs of the influence of the sea including smell of seaweed and wind swept vegetation within the area.
- Numerous deep, steep sided wooded glens form small coves / beaches (Port Grenaugh, Port Soderick, Port Cornaa, Port Mooar, Glen Wyllin) where rivers flow into the sea.
- Coastal settlements vary in size and character with a variety of historic elements such as Castle defences and ports often located in the sheltered coves and bays along the coast where there is a gently graded and accessible shore.
- Numerous historic and heritage sites, including, burial chambers, tumuli, and promontory forts are situated at high points overlooking the sea.
- A combination of open views down cliffs to the shoreline and open and expansive views to sea.
- Varied rocky and sandy foreshore.
- A relatively strong sense of tranquillity within several of the bays and small coves.

Undulating Lowland Plain (Type F)

- Low-lying gently undulating predominantly arable farmland with patches of pasture, rough grassland and wet meadow.
- Medium sized predominantly rectangular field pattern.
- Network of narrow hedgerow lined lanes with occasional mature deciduous trees within hedgerows and patches of fragmented woodland.
- Open and glimpsed views to the sea from higher areas.
- Relatively dispersed settlement pattern, consisting of small (historic/vernacular), often nucleated settlements and individual farmsteads/crofts and dwellings.
- Numerous small rivers straightened and canalised drainage channels flow along field boundaries to drain the landscape.
- Areas of standing water surrounded by wetland vegetation and Curragh woodland.
- Views to an upland backdrop.
- Marl pits filled with water in the north.
- Use of Limestone as a building material in areas surrounding Castletown.

Smooth Coastal Strip (Type G)

- Yellowy conglomerate post-glacial deposits form loose sheer cliffs, some 10-20 meters high along the southern stretches of this coastline.
- Stretches of gently graded sand and shingle beaches.
- Sand dunes with rough grasses, scrubs, occasional areas of lichen and areas of heath developing on the back dunes.
- Cliffs form an abrupt boundary between the sand and shingle and the arable fields of the Undulating Inland Plain
- Open, expansive panoramic views to sea and along the coast line.
- Strong sense of remoteness and tranquillity.
- Sweeping, unbroken, smooth coastline with shingle spur forming at the point of Ayre.

Coastal Cliffs (Type H)

- High, steep sided dramatic rocky cliffs descend to the sea directly from surrounding Uplands, some with steep grassy slopes to rear.
- Small enclosed rocky coves with occasional sandy beaches.
- Sea stacks, rocky foreshores and wave cut platforms exposed at low tide.
- Cliff top paths along gently shelving grassy slopes with dramatic panoramic coastal views.
- Bird colonies nesting of the cliffs
- Numerous archaeological sites in prominent cliff top locations as well as abandoned mine workings.
- Moorland vegetation on exposed, open and gently rounded hill tops with gently shelving grassed slopes running down to the cliff top.

Islands (Type J)

- A number of small rugged islands lie in close proximity the coastline.
- Steep rocky and dramatic cliffs
- Rounded, sometimes steeply sloping land with much undulation.
- Low heathland vegetation with maritime grasses and flowers such as sea thrift.
- Large area of rock pools in the inter-tidal zone exposed during low tide with its own habitats.
- Bird colonies nesting on cliffs
- Often provide important sites for wildlife and contain key heritage sites.

3.3 Landscape Character Areas

3.3.1 ‘Landscape Character Areas’ are geographically unique areas with a recognisable pattern of landscape characteristics, both physical and experiential, that combine to create a distinct sense of place.

3.3.2 A total of 59 Landscape Character Areas have been defined on the Island and the distribution of these is shown on Figure 3.1.

3.3.3 For each Landscape Character Area, a detailed ‘profile’ has been prepared. These profiles are structured as follows:

Title: Name of the Character Area as shown on Figure 3.1;

Key Characteristics: Summary of key attributes that make the area distinctive;

Overall Character: Description of the area’s general character;

Key Views: Brief description of views;

Historic Features: Brief description of visible historic features that contribute to landscape character;

Ecological Features: Brief description of the ecological attributes that contribute to the landscape character of the area;

3.3.4 The Landscape Character Areas are described below on a type by type basis.

3.3.5 As acknowledged by current best practice guidelines, landscape is a continuum and character does not in general change abruptly on the ground. More commonly, the character of the

landscape will change gradually rather than suddenly, and therefore boundaries drawn between Landscape Character Types and Areas shown on Figure 3.1 should be considered to reflect zones of transition in many cases. In addition, the boundaries drawn around Landscape Character Types and Areas has been defined and mapped at a scale of 1:25,000, and the assessment is therefore only suitable for use at this scale. This should be taken into consideration when the assessment is being used to inform decision-making in relation to development and land management proposals.

A1-NORTHERN UPLANDS



UPLANDS

A - UPLANDS

A1 - NORTHERN UPLANDS

Key Characteristics

- Open exposed moorland underlain by the Manx Group rocks
- Rounded smooth peaks and spurs.
- Narrow steep sided V-shaped upland burns / streams with low vegetation.
- Large coniferous plantations with abrupt edges.
- Combination of moorland vegetation and rough pasture.
- Upland Hill farming on lower slopes and sheep grazing.
- Busy A-roads, with distinctive road markings and viewing platforms created for the TT races.
- Largely devoid of built structures except isolated white-washed farm houses and scattered dwellings.
- Fragmented historic field patterns and abandoned dwellings.
- Various historic features; sites such as stone circles, scattered over the area.
- Smooth and uninterrupted skyline, except for visually prominent telecommunication towers on top of Snafell forming an Island-wide landmark.
- Tranquil and remote character away from the roads with evocative abandoned 'intact' farms in the area.
- Extensive and panoramic views of surrounding peaks and over the whole Island.

Overall Character Description

The open, expansive and exposed rolling moorlands with numerous rounded summits, such as Snafell and Sartfell, are covered by a pattern of rough moorland vegetation consisting of heather, gorse and rough grass, areas of rough grazing, some bogland and various large blocky coniferous plantations. Numerous steep sided V-shaped upland streams cut into the sloping hills sides with soil slips exposed in places. Small wind-swept native vegetation nestles in the valley bottoms alongside bubbling white water streams and some small waterfalls, with bracken and heather growing on the steep valley slopes.

Roads are single track with no delineation other than the occasional ditch or post-and-wire fence off the route of the TT race course, which has distinct and conspicuous road markings, signage and a variety of viewing stations. These road corridors form the only linear features in an otherwise continuous and monotone landscape.

Scattered remnants of former dwellings in the form of Sheilings, standing stones, hut circles, 'intact' farms and areas of former peat cutting, as well as remnants of field patterns expressed as overgrown and partially collapsed mountain hedges, serve to demonstrate historic land uses and the extent of former inhabitation of this upland area. Settlement today is in the form of isolated farm houses, often whitewashed or slate, with outhouses with corrugated iron roofs surrounded by groups of deciduous trees that form windbreaks.

The periphery of the Northern Uplands slopes steeply down to merge with the upper pastoral slopes of the Incised Inland Slopes Landscape Character Type that surrounds the Northern Uplands. On these upper slopes, coniferous plantations are surrounded by scattered and irregular grazing fields bounded predominantly. Various types of Manx hedges and slate stone walls in some areas. Hedgerow shrubs such as gorse and small thorn trees grow on these high Manx hedges to create narrow and enclosed lanes that run along the edges of the pastoral and upland areas. Away from the busy A-roads and the route of the TT Mountain Course, there is a strong sense of tranquillity and a remote unified character due to the sparsity of visible evidence of human presence with the exception of the prominent telecommunication towers on top of Snafell that form an Island wide landmark.

Key Views

- Panoramic and expansive views out to sea and across the whole Island from the summits.
- Distant coastal views enclosed by peaks from various points within the centre of the area.

Historic Features

- Sheilings, hut circles and cairns
- Scattered Standing Stones and stone circles
- ‘Intack’ farms
- Areas of peat cutting
- Victorian funicular and café on top of Snafell
- Remains of the ‘Mountain Hedge’
- Abandoned mine workings and quarries

Ecological Features

- Alpine Habitats on upper slopes
- Heather moorland
- Blanket bogs
- Upland streams with aquatic and riparian habitats
- Areas of native tree planting and low scrub in sheltered spots
- Marginal farmland habitats

Evaluation of Inherent Landscape Sensitivities

- Sense of tranquillity and remoteness
- Open and exposed moorland.
- Smooth, predominantly uninterrupted skyline.
- Extensive and panoramic views.
- Sites of archaeological importance.
- Ecologically sensitive moorland ecosystem with some alpine habitats.
- Visible cultural heritage in the form of Sheilings, Standing Stones, ‘Intack’ (see 2.3.24) farms etc within the wider landscape setting.
- Sparse settlement in the form of isolated farms.

Landscape Strategy

The overall strategy for the area should be to conserve and enhance the character, quality and distinctiveness of the open and exposed character of the moorland, its uninterrupted skyline and panoramic views, its sense of tranquillity and remoteness and its wealth of cultural heritage features.

A2 - SOUTHERN UPLANDS



UPLANDS

A2 – SOUTHERN UPLANDS

Key Characteristics

- Smooth rounded peaks.
- Expansive open moorland.
- Steep sided narrow upland valleys.
- Large coniferous plantations with abrupt edges
- Abandoned fields, archaeological sites, historic features and traces of former and contemporary mining and quarrying activities.
- Largely devoid of settlements (villages, hamlets) but has scattered isolated whitewashed farms.
- Telecommunications masts form prominent landmark on smooth skyline near Carnagrie and on the western side of South Barrule.
- Numerous A-roads cut across the area with no delineation other than the odd stone wall or post and wire fence.
- Extensive open views out to sea and over whole Island.
- Smooth and uninterrupted skyline.
- Tranquil and remote character away from the roads.
- Extensive and panoramic views of surrounding peaks, over the southern part of the Island and down to dramatic coastal cliffs.

Overall Character Description

Smooth rounded summits, such as South Barrule, slope down to the steep coastal cliffs in the west and numerous steep sided upland glens flow down the southern slopes to the southern lowlands. Numerous large coniferous plantations with abrupt edges such as the ones at Stoney Mountain and Corlea cover large areas of the upland slopes, but leave the higher summits clear with panoramic views out to sea and across the Island.

Expansive wind swept areas of open moorland vegetation including heather, rough grasses and rough grazing. These give way to areas of exposed rock, bracken and patches of gorse on the steeper lower peripheral slopes that adjoin the Incised Inland Slopes Landscape Character Type to the south. Historic field patterns are visible in remnant form around places like Lower Scard and the Lagg River, where the mountain sod hedges have been abandoned and overgrown. Numerous small steeply sided burns cut through the area with low native scrub growing in the shelter offered by the deep ravines. Isolated white-washed hill farms and outhouses surrounded by trees are scattered on the lower slopes in areas such as on the slopes above Foxdale and on the lower upland slopes north of Port Erin around East Braada. These are accessible by numerous stone wall lined roads and numerous green lanes with occasional post and wire fencing. These lanes attract numerous recreational users.

Cairns, Sheilings, abandoned farms, areas of peat cutting, disused mines (Cross Vein, Dixon Vein) and quarries show the former land uses that once took place in this area, with quarries such as Barrule Beg still in use. Other signs of human activity in the area include the telecommunications masts at Carnagrie and the Global seismology mast on the western side of South Barrule. There is a strong sense of tranquillity and a remote unified character in this area due to the sparsity of visible evidence of human presence, with the notable exception of the telecommunications masts and roads. The skyline is smooth and uninterrupted and large in scale.

Key Views

- Open and expansive panoramic views out to sea and over the southern portion of the Island.
- Distant views in some areas enclosed by the surrounding peaks.

Historic Features

- Numerous small cairns
- Remains of the 'Mountain Hedge'
- Mounded circular earth works of former hill fort on summit of South Barrule
- Dixon Vein and Cross Vein Mine (Snuff the Wind) disused mine with prominent masonry chimneys.
- Various disused quarries
- Intack farms

Ecological Features

- Moorland habitats
- Blanket bogs and areas of peat
- Small burns with riparian habitats and small aquatic species
- Rough grassland habitats
- Marginal farmland habitats
- Bird Sanctuary

Evaluation of Inherent Landscape Sensitivities

- Sense of tranquillity and remoteness
- Open and exposed moorland.
- Smooth predominantly uninterrupted skyline.
- Extensive and panoramic views across the dramatic coastal cliffs.
- Sites of archaeological importance.
- Ecologically sensitive moorland ecosystem.
- Visible cultural heritage in the form of Sheilings, Standing Stones, 'Intack' farms and abandoned mines within the wider landscape setting.
- Sparse settlement in the form of isolated farms.

Landscape Strategy

The overall strategy for the area should be to conserve and enhance the character, quality and distinctiveness of the open and exposed character of the moorland, its uninterrupted skyline and panoramic views, its sense of tranquillity and remoteness and its wealth of cultural heritage features.

B1 - SULBY GLEN



NARROW UPLAND GLENS

B – NARROW UPLAND GLENS

B1 – SULBY GLEN

Key Characteristics

- Steep sided V-shaped valley with inter-locking spurs and fragmented woodland along valley floor and along the river banks.
- Deeply cut tributaries containing native deciduous woodland.
- History of habitation and remnants of former land uses in valley, in the form of Shielings, cairns and Chapels.
- Large Sulby and Block Eary Reservoirs and associated buildings and earth works.
- Fragmented riparian vegetation and deciduous woodland along wider downstream valley floor.
- Geometric field pattern of pastoral fields delineated by slate stone walls on lower valley floor and up to Block Eary Reservoir.
- Deeply incised upper valley and tributaries with coniferous plantations and rough heath vegetation on upper valley slopes.
- Winding, sometimes single track, A14 road edged by slate stone walls.
- Intimate and enclosed lower valley opens up with expansive upland views over the Sulby Reservoir.
- High sense of tranquillity and evocative nature of the numerous abandoned ‘intact’ farms in the area.
- Remoteness in the area on footpaths away from the road.
- Evocative character created by abandoned fields on upper slopes.

Overall Character Description

Steep sided V-shaped valley with interlocking spurs, exposed rocky outcrops on the upper slopes of Mount Karrin and some scree slopes amongst patches of gorse, rough grass, bracken and heather that grow along the upland boundary. In the lower valley, where the valley bottom is wider, lush riparian vegetation and trees grow on the river banks with grass meadows alongside the watercourses scattered with fragmented deciduous woodland (predominantly ash) and divided by slate stone walls in a variety of conditions.

Joining the main valley are various sized deeply cut tributaries such as the one flowing out of the Block Eary Reservoir with small waterfalls (such as the one at Cluggid) flowing over exposed slate river bed with native trees and shrubs clinging to the steep valley sides. Upstream, coniferous plantations cover the steep valley slopes as the slate walled single track road passes Tholt-e-Will and winds up hairpin bends to the large open expanse of water at Sulby Reservoir. The large grassed dam with masonry detailing has resulted in the flooding of a number of upstream glens such as Druidale and Glen Crammag, which contain some blocky coniferous plantations and are deeply incised into the surrounding open and expansive upland area.

Remnants of a long history of settlement are visible throughout the valley in the form of Shielings (where Neolithic and Bronze Age artefacts have been found), Cairns, Kilns, Slate Mines, a bank and ditch at Cleigh yn Arragh as well as the Chapel at Tholt-e-Will. Overgrown and abandoned field boundaries, dating back to a time when the area was used for hill farming, are visible on the valley slopes with abandoned ‘intact’ farms scattered around. There is little settlement in the valley today, other than a few isolated farm houses and out buildings, a café facility at Tholt-e-Will that serves as a car park for the numerous public footpaths and footbridges within the area, including the Millennium Way that skirts around the east of the valley. The intimate, inspiring and enclosed lower valley opens up with expansive upland views over the Sulby Reservoir to surrounding rounded upland peaks. Away from the road corridor there is a high sense of tranquillity on the network of footpaths in the area that

is enclosed by the relatively high, open and expansive upland areas. This is the focus for a proposed National Heritage area.

Key Views

- Glimpsed views down the valley through interlocking spurs out to the northern plain at times, otherwise enclosed by steep valley sides.
- Open views over reservoir to surrounding upland peaks such as Snafell.

Historic Features

- Numerous Keeills abandoned
- Tumulus and cairns
- Intack farms
- Cleigh yn Arragh bank and ditch archaeological site
- Shielings

Ecological Features

- Aquatic and waterside habitats
- Upland heather moorland habitats
- Areas of Internationally recognised Blanket Bog
- Marginal farmland habitats
- Hedgerows with high biodiversity

Evaluation of landscape sensitivities

- Ecological value of the aquatic ecosystem, riparian habitats and wet meadow habitats along the valley bottom.
- Valley bottom and riverside woodland.
- Open views over reservoir to surrounding Uplands from upper parts of valley.
- Visible cultural heritage in the form of Sheilings, Keeills, 'Intack' farms within the wider landscape setting.
- Sparse building arrangement - no settlement other than Sulby.
- Remote and tranquil character.
- Winding, sometimes single track, A14 road edged by slate stone walls.

Landscape Strategy

The overall strategy for the area should be to conserve and enhance the character, quality and distinctiveness of the wooded valley bottom with distinct field pattern, the remote, tranquil and unsettled character as well as the various visible cultural heritage features.

B2 - GLEN AULDYN



NARROW UPLAND GLENS

B2 – GLEN AULDYN

Key Characteristics

- A medium scale steep sided V-shaped valley surrounded by the Southern Uplands.
- Numerous large coniferous plantations on upper valley slopes.
- Fields of rough grass and pasture in a regular pattern on flatter lower valley bottom.
- Continuous linear settlement of mixed type along bottom of the lower valley around Glen Auldyn and Brookdale gives the valley a settled character.
- River runs alongside the enclosed valley bottom road with numerous concrete bridges over to access houses and slate road bridges.
- Enclosed character due to the steep valley slopes and roadside trees.
- Little sense of remoteness.
- Moderate sense of tranquillity.
- Numerous historic features, in the form of chapels, cairns and mounds.

Overall Character Description

Coniferous plantations cover the majority of the upper valley sides with gorse, heather and rough grasses growing along the upland periphery. Numerous deeply cut tributaries, such as Fern Glen, with lush deciduous vegetation growing in the valley bottom along the river banks join the main valley as it leaves the upland area and deepens. The narrow valley bottom begins to widen with larger flatter fields of pasture and having a more regular pattern with hedgerows containing mature trees around Cronk Aalin. This area of open fields abuts the Ramsey Golf Course to the south and runs alongside the edge of the deciduous woodland of Claugbane Plantation, where the lower slopes of the Northern Uplands meet the urban edge of Ramsey.

The densely wooded valley sides slope steeply up behind the variety of bungalows and detached traditional and modern houses on the valley floor. These buildings with various coloured cement rendered, (predominantly white) and pebble dashed facades, line both their sides of the enclosed valley bottom road which is overhung with hedgerow trees. A mixture of hedge, wall and fence treatments enclosed front gardens, giving a sub-urban character in place. Further up the valley, the Glen Auldyn River runs parallel to and under the road with riparian vegetation and trees growing on the banks. Concrete bridges give access to the larger set back houses with exotic plant species in relatively spacious gardens, enclosed by traditional slate walls and larger hedges creating a less urban character as one progresses upstream to Ballamenagh. An enclosed character due to the steep valley slopes, roadside trees and large dark coniferous plantations. There is little sense of remoteness due to the numerous houses. The moderate sense of tranquillity in the area is broken by the sound of traffic.

Key Views

- Channelled views framed by steep valley slopes
- Glimpsed views up wooded slopes to surrounding uplands.

Historic Features

- Keeills
- Tumulus, cairns and mounds

Ecological Features

- Aquatic and waterside habitats
- Upland heather moorland habitats
- Marginal farmland habitats
- Hedgerows with high biodiversity

Evaluation of landscape sensitivities

- Ecological value of the aquatic ecosystem and riparian habitats.
- Valley bottom and riverside woodland in the lower valley.
- Small-scale nature of buildings, within well wooded, intimate valley landscape.
- Vernacular character of buildings and bridges.
- Sense of history resulting from chapels, cairns and mounds.

Landscape Strategy

The overall strategy for the area should be to conserve and enhance the character, quality and distinctiveness of wooded valley bottom with housing sensitively located alongside the ecologically valuable riparian corridor.

B3 - CORNAA VALLEY



NARROW UPLAND GLENS

B3 – CORNAA VALLEY

Key Characteristics

- U-shaped wide open valley, enclosed by the relatively high Northern Uplands.
- Unsettled, other than at the valley mouth at the small nodal settlement of Corran.
- Exposed and open steep upper slopes covered in bracken, heather, gorse with some areas of exposed rock and scree.
- Faint overgrown geometric field pattern which strengthens in the bottom and lower parts of the valley where rough grazing is enclosed by Manx hedges.
- Remnants of mining activity.
- Remote and tranquil character with little activity or movement
- Channelled open views up the open and smooth valley to surrounding upland slopes
- Numerous historic features, including abandoned mines, hut circles and St. Mary's Chapel/Keeill Woirrey.

Overall Character Description

U-shaped wide open valley with bracken, heather, gorse, exposed rocks and small scree slopes scattered on the upper slopes. A faint field pattern delineated by slate stone walls and Manx hedges covered with some thorn bushes, develops and strengthens in the lower valley and valley floor with gorse spreading from the hedges into the adjacent fields and bracken covering some areas of the fields. Numerous small stream tributaries descend down the steep valley sides with a variety of riparian vegetation consisting of small trees and herbaceous species nestling alongside the water in the shelter of the gully bottoms, where large boulders and steep drops create small waterfalls and white water. A small track leads up the valley bottom alongside lush riverside vegetation with overhanging mature riparian trees, up to abandoned mine workings with chimneys, and slag heaps. Other historic activity in the valley is visible in the form of hut circles and the Keeill Woirrey. There is virtually no settlement in the valley except for the single storey white Mines House, although, at the valley mouth at Corran, a cluster of modern pebble dashed houses are arranged in culs-de-sac parallel to the A2. Relatively open character due to the lack of substantial vegetation and smooth and bare sloping valley sides. Open views up to the surrounding upland areas. Remote and with little activity or movement to detract from the area's tranquil character.

Key Views

- Channelled open views up the open valley to surrounding upland slope

Historic Features

- St. Mary's Chapel / Keeill Woirrey
- Abandoned mines with associated chimneys and buildings
- Hut circles

Ecological Features

- Aquatic and waterside habitats
- Upland heather moorland habitats
- Marginal farmland habitats
- Hedgerows with high biodiversity

Evaluation of landscape sensitivities

- Open tranquil and sparsely settled character.
- Ecological value of the aquatic ecosystem and riparian habitats.
- Valley bottom and riverside woodland in the lower valley.

Landscape Strategy

The overall strategy for the area should be to conserve the character, quality and distinctiveness of the valley with its open, unsettled and tranquil nature and its well-wooded valley bottom.

B4 - LAXEY GLEN



NARROW UPLAND GLENS

B4 – LAXEY GLEN

Key Characteristics

- U-shaped wide open medium scale valley.
- Disused mining buildings and access roads.
- Numerous small streams with waterfalls join main river valley.
- Steep bare slopes with scattered trees increasing in density with their canopies closing in the lower valley bottom, with lush riparian woodland alongside the River Laxey.
- Snafell Mountain railway line runs along and cuts into the valley's southern side.
- Faint field pattern overgrown on upper slopes strengthens downstream with small pasture fields organized geometrically.
- Fields enclosed by Manx hedges and some stone walls.
- Small clustered traditional upland settlement of Agneash, with low stone and white washed houses.
- Winding steep road from Laxey, enclosed by Manx hedges becomes a rough track that leads up to the valley's head.
- Sense of tranquillity and relative remoteness, diminished by the Snafell Mountain railway.
- Channelled views up the textured valley to surrounding upland areas and the peak of Snafell.

Overall Character Description

Wide U-shaped valley with open views up to the summit of Snafell and surrounding upland areas. Bracken and heather predominate on the steeper upper slopes and around the headwater, while scattered lone trees on the upper slopes join to form fragmented woodland down stream where deciduous woodland encloses and covers the river banks and valley bottom around Agneash. Remnants of field patterns enclosed by Manx hedges and slate stone walls are overgrown by bracken and gorse that has spread from the upper slopes and out from the hedges to give a patchwork of rough enclosed pasture for sheep, with scattered trees and other upland vegetation. Lower down the valley, around Ballayolgane Farm, the field pattern strengthens with slate stone walls demarking small irregular sized and vaguely geometric fields for rough sheep grazing.

The small upland settlement of Agneash, consisting of low whitewashed traditional houses with slate roofs, is clustered around a triangular road junction surrounded by deciduous trees with Glen Agneash and Glen Drink converging around the nucleated settlement. A rough track leads up the valley side to various abandoned mine workings such as a chimney and derelict housing for the miners. In addition to this, the Snafell Mountain Railway cuts into the southern slope of the valley forming a significant linear manmade feature that detracts from the area's sense of tranquillity and relative remoteness, created as a result of the lack of dwellings in the upper valley.

Key Views

- Channelled views upstream to the surrounding uplands and peak of Snafell and downstream to Laxey and the sea beyond.

Historic Features

- Cairns
- Abandoned mines with associated chimneys and buildings

Ecological Features

- Aquatic and waterside habitats
- Upland heather moorland habitats
- Marginal farmland habitats
- Hedgerows with high biodiversity

Evaluation of landscape sensitivities

- Sense of tranquillity and relative remoteness.
- Steep winding rural roads enclosed by the grassy banks of Manx hedges.
- Aquatic ecosystem and riparian habitats of high ecological value.
- Valley bottom and riverside woodland in the lower valley.
- Small clustered traditional upland settlement of Agneash.
- Route of Victorian Snafell Mountain Railway.
- Strong geometric pattern of pasture fields developing in valley bottom.

Landscape Strategy

The overall strategy for the area should be to conserve and enhance (a) the character, quality and distinctiveness of the open valley, with valley bottom and riverside woodland (b) the remote and tranquil character of the valley (c) the character and appearance of Agneash and (d) winding roads enclosed by the grassy banks of Manx hedges.

B5 - GLEN ROY



NARROW UPLAND GLENS

B5 – GLEN ROY

Key Characteristics

- Three deeply cut valleys join, forming the V-shaped Glen Roy.
- Numerous scattered farms and outbuildings surrounded by trees provide a settled character.
- Deciduous woodland along the valley bottom and fragmented tree blocks alongside Manx hedgerows.
- Regular field pattern of medium to large rectangular fields is faint at slope tops and strengthens down the valley.
- Small fords and bridges where the sunken narrow winding and often enclosed roads cross the numerous vegetated tributaries.
- Roads edged in places by Manx hedges with grassed banks.
- Tranquil valley with varied and interesting textures and a rural character.
- Opened and channelled views up to the surrounding uplands.
- An evocative sense of abandoned fields on the upper slopes.

Overall Character Description

Three deeply cut valleys with the spurs formed between them covered in large rectilinear fields with moorland vegetation and some small plantations covering the upper slopes at the valley's head waters. Patches of heather and other moorland vegetation pattern the upper slopes, where fields have been abandoned and overgrown by the gorse that has spread from the top of the Manx hedges, which along with slate stone walls, create a rectilinear field pattern that strengthens down the valley sides and downstream. The valley bottom and side slopes of the spurs contain dense deciduous woodland that runs alongside the widening river valley and fragments up the valley sides, with small woodland blocks in fields, along hedgerows and surrounding the numerous farm houses and outbuildings.

These whitewashed farmsteads with predominantly slate roofs are scattered along the narrow winding roads and enclosed by high grass-covered Manx hedges. These descend steeply down to the wooded valley bottoms where fords and bridges cross the numerous small tributaries that join the main valleys in a variety of gullies, streams and rills lined with lush waterside vegetation. In addition to the numerous farmhouses, there are relatively modern houses with large gardens stretched out along Baldhoon Road. The smaller tracks that lead off the road edged by low Manx hedges with rough grassy banks that detract from an otherwise tranquil valley with varied and interesting textures and a rural feel.

Key Views

- Opened and channelled views up to the open uplands that surround the area
- Channelled views over wooded valley towards Laxey

Historic Features

- Cairns

Ecological Features

- Aquatic and waterside habitats
- Upland heather moorland habitats
- Marginal farmland habitats
- Hedgerows containing high biodiversity

Evaluation of Inherent Landscape Sensitivities

- Tranquil, rural character.
- Open views up to the surrounding uplands.
- Numerous scattered farms built predominantly in the local vernacular and associated by deciduous woodland.
- Winding, narrow roads with small fords and bridges and the numerous river crossings.
- Road corridor predominantly enclosed by grassy banks of Manx hedges, overhanging trees, and robust roadside hedgerows.
- Aquatic ecosystem and riparian habitats of high ecological value.
- Valley bottom and riverside woodland.
- Strong geometric field pattern in valley bottom.

Landscape Strategy

The overall strategy for the area should be to conserve and enhance the character, quality and distinctiveness of the tranquil rural valley, with its scattered houses and farmsteads surrounded by deciduous woodland; its winding, narrow roads with small fords and bridges, a relatively continuous tree cover in the valley bottom and a strong field pattern on the lower valley sides.

B6 - EAST BALDWIN



NARROW UPLAND GLENS

B6 – EAST BALDWIN

Key Characteristics

- Deep, steep sided V-shaped small scale valley surrounded by sloping uplands.
- Various smaller tributaries in gullies join the Baldwin River's widening course from the surrounding upland area.
- Dense deciduous woodland in valley bottom and on lower slopes.
- Strong regular pastoral field patterns on lower slopes fragment into patches of moorland vegetation on middle and upper slopes.
- Scattered hill farms and houses along extent of western valley side, accessible by variety of tracks.
- Narrow, partly single-track B21 road providing access, enclosed by overhanging trees and grassed Manx hedges with vegetation and gaps in an otherwise tunnel-like road corridor.
- Remote, rural and tranquil feel.
- Glimpsed views through vegetation to the surrounding open expansive upland areas.

Overall Character Description

Deep, steep sided river valley with dense deciduous woodland along the valley bottom and lower slopes, with heath and upland vegetation gaining dominance on the higher upper slopes and at the valley head along the upland boundary. Predominantly ash woodland with small areas of wet meadow and fields of open pasture, with some stone walls, line the valley floor with lush riparian vegetation growing densely on the river banks. As one progresses up the valley sides, the strong rectilinear field pattern fragments with fewer deciduous trees appearing in the Manx hedges and clumps of gorse spreading from the field boundary hedges with upland vegetation such as heather, long grasses and bracken beginning to dominate. Numerous small tributaries have cut into the valley sides to form steep gullies that contain small streams with native trees and shrubs nestling in the sheltered gully bottoms.

The B21 valley road runs parallel to the River Baldwin and is enclosed by almost continuous roadside trees, growing on grassed Manx hedge banks, that obscure views and create a tunnel effect at times. The valley road crosses the river by way of a slate stone bridge at Renscault Cottage. A variety of other hill farms and isolated dwellings are strung along the valleys, predominantly on the western side. These are accessible by numerous small un-metalled tracks running uphill perpendicular to the road. With little access to the valley, other than the road that comes over from West Baldwin valley and by the B21 there is little traffic and noise disturbance in this valley. The area has a remote rural and tranquil feel, bolstered by the surrounding open expanse of the upland areas and lack of substantial movement in the area.

Key Views

- Reasonably enclosed views due to the relatively continuous roadside trees that grow on the grassed Manx hedges that line the road corridor and the dense woodland on the valley floor.
- Some glimpsed views through field gates up valley sides, and over wooded valley floor to the open upland areas that surround the valley.
- Expansive and panoramic views up to the surrounding upland areas and down the valley from the more open valley head.

Historic Features

- Disused Carding Mill

Ecological Features

- Aquatic and waterside habitats
- Upland heather Moorland habitats
- Marginal farmland habitats
- Hedgerows with high biodiversity

Evaluation of landscape sensitivities

- Dense mature deciduous woodland along the valley bottom and on lower slopes.
- Remote, rural and tranquil character.
- Strong regular pastoral field patterns on lower slopes
- Scattered nature of hill farms and houses along valley side.
- Dense valley bottom and riverside woodland in the lower valley.
- Single track road enclosed by overhanging trees and grassed Manx hedges with vegetation growing on top in sections.

Landscape Strategy

The overall strategy for the area should be to conserve and enhance the character, quality and distinctiveness of the valley with its dense deciduous woodland in valley bottom, its scattered hill farms and houses in the remote, rural and tranquil valley.

B7 - WEST BALDWIN



NARROW UPLAND GLENS

B7 – WEST BALDWIN

Key Characteristics

- Steep sided V-shaped valley.
- Various smaller tributaries.
- Dense deciduous woodland in valley bottom.
- West Baldwin Reservoir and associated features.
- Coniferous plantations.
- Heathland vegetation on steeper slopes upstream.
- Strong geometric field pattern on valley slopes downstream.
- Narrow sometimes steep B22 road with Manx hedges, mature trees and stone walls lining its path around the reservoir.
- Scattered whitewashed houses along valley bottom road.
- Traditional small settlement of West Baldwin at a river crossing point near the mouth of the valley.
- Remote rural and tranquil feel, bolstered by the surrounding open expanse of the upland areas and large expanse of water at West Baldwin Reservoir.
- Enclosed views from the valley bottom with more open views further up the valley to the surrounding upland areas.
- Ard Whallin Outdoor Pursuits Centre, which provides fishing/sailing facilities.

Overall Character Description

The River Glass descends from the upland area below Injebreck Hill and Carraghan down into the Incised Inland Slopes north of the settlement of Baldwin and has cut a steep sided V-shaped valley along its course. Tributaries of a variety of sizes, including that in the relatively large wooded Awin ny Darragh Valley, the steep sided Colden River and smaller water bodies in culverts, join the valley at various points along its course. The Colden River is surrounded by the Colden coniferous plantation.

Dense deciduous woodland covers much of the valley bottom in the lower part of this valley with grazing paddocks, wet meadows and lush riparian vegetation alongside the river. Rectangular pastoral fields, on the gentler valley sides of the lower valley, peter out upstream as the field patterns fragment and large, blocky coniferous plantations, rough grass, areas of bracken and gorse grow on the steeper slopes that ascend to the Upland areas.

The road corridor is enclosed by grassy Manx hedges and mature hedgerow trees, while Manx hedges with gorse form the majority of the field boundaries on the valley sides lower down the valley. Field boundaries are overgrown or lost in the upper reaches of the valley. A mature avenue of beech trees lines the road around the estate of Injebreck House.

Various houses and many that contain ornamental garden species that have a whitewash render or are built of Manx slate stone are clustered along the valley bottom road. Stone bridges cross the B22 at West Baldwin while some farms with associated outbuildings, such as Ballakewish, are located on the valley slopes and surrounded by deciduous trees.

The extensive West Baldwin Reservoir is dammed with a graded grass slope to the south, has peripheral slate stone walls alongside the B22 and has its eastern periphery fringed by mature waterside trees. This large expanse of water, the lack of substantial settlement in the area and the expanse of the surrounding uplands create a relatively remote and tranquil character. This sense of tranquillity can be interrupted at times by parked vehicles, traffic and other activity associated with recreational uses on or near the reservoir.

Key Views

- Enclosed views from the valley bottom
- Glimpsed views between vegetation up the valley to the upland areas
- Open views across the West Baldwin Reservoir
- Glimpsed view of St. Luke's Church

Historic Features

- Turn of the century Manx Slate stone houses in Baldwin
- Disused quarry
- Monument marking original site of Tynwald Hill
- Site of St. Luke's Church (Registered Building)

Ecological Features

- Aquatic and waterside habitats
- Upland heather moorland habitats
- Marginal farmland habitats
- Hedgerows with high biodiversity

Evaluation of landscape sensitivities

- Dense mature deciduous woodland along the valley bottom and lower slopes.
- Remote, rural and tranquil character.
- Strong regular pastoral field patterns on lower slopes.
- With exception of traditional nucleated village of West Baldwin, sparse settlement in the valley.
- Dense riverside woodland and vegetation.
- Ecological value of the aquatic ecosystem of the West Baldwin Reservoir and riparian habitats.
- B22 enclosed by grassed Manx hedges with vegetation and overhanging trees growing on top in some sections.

Landscape Strategy

The overall strategy for the area should be to conserve and enhance the character, quality and distinctiveness of the valley with its dense deciduous woodland in lower valley bottom, the traditional character of West Baldwin Village, the rural and tranquil character of the valley and the open views across the West Baldwin Reservoir to the surrounding upland areas.

B8 - GLEN HELEN



NARROW UPLAND GLENS

B8 – GLEN HELEN

Key Characteristics

- Steep sided V-shaped river valley with an intimate scale.
- Dense deciduous valley bottom riparian woodland that creates an enclosed character.
- Numerous coniferous plantations on steep valley sides.
- Exotic trees and walkways in Victorian National Glen Helen.
- Numerous wooded tributaries.
- Road corridor enclosed by woodland with a low stone wall along the pavement in places when the road is higher than the river.
- Small stone houses clustered around river crossing points in the upper valley.
- Pastoral fields on upper valley sides merge into surrounding upland areas.
- Enclosed views throughout the majority of the lower valley due to the deeply cut nature of the valley and the prevalence of trees which open out in the upper valley to surrounding uplands.
- A moderate sense of tranquillity, detracted from by the presence of the road in the lower valley bottom, with a strong sense of tranquillity and remoteness north of Mullen Rhenass.
- Historic features including abandoned chapels and mills.

Overall Character Description

Lower Glen Helen, north of Doran's Bend, consists of a V-shaped valley with dense mixed deciduous woodland and coniferous plantations such as the Vaish and Eairy Beg Plantations alongside the small river and on the steep valley sides. Irregular fields of rough pasture divided by sod hedges with some mature hedgerow trees and gorse form a gradual transition into the surrounding upland area on the upper valley sides. Mature Oak, Ash, Beech and Sycamore overhang and enclose the road corridor along which TT Race paraphernalia is scattered in the form of Marshal's stations, road markings and signage. The road is edged by a stone wall and pavement that at times runs along the western side of the River Neb passing an converted Mill until the Glen Helen Hotel car park is reached thereafter the road is enclosed by dense woodland, taking the western branch of the valley that rapidly tapers out around Sarah's Cottage as the higher ground is gained.

Glen Helen continues up the National Glen, which is a restored and managed Victorian Pleasure Ground planted with exotic trees such as Sequoia, Thuya and Western Hemlock. These are now mature and create a dense canopy within the steep sided and lush Glen, containing within it a variety of paths and bridges that give access to the Rhenass Waterfall. As the Glen ascends deeper in to the uplands, numerous tributaries in deep intimate wooded valleys join the main river with areas of grass meadow and riparian vegetation alongside the river banks. Traditional Manx slate houses and small barns are clustered by stone bridges at Mullen Rhenass and Little London, where narrow single track lanes, enclosed by the high grassy banks of Manx hedges, cross the river. The valley gradually merges into the uplands with bracken, gorse and heather replacing the lush riparian grasses. Large deciduous valley bottom trees give way to windswept Rowans and small native shrubs clinging to bare, open valley slopes. A moderate sense of tranquillity is detracted from by the presence of the valley bottom road in the lower section of the valley. In the upper valley north of Mullen Rhenass towards and Little London, there is a strong sense of tranquillity and a relatively remote feel.

Key Views

- Enclosed views throughout the majority of the valley due to the deeply cut nature of the valley and the prevalence of trees.
- More open views from the relatively bare upper valley slopes to the surrounding upland areas.

Historic Features

- Mills
- Abandoned Chapels and burial grounds

Ecological Features

- Aquatic and waterside habitats
- Upland heather moorland habitats
- Marginal farmland habitats
- Hedgerows with high biodiversity

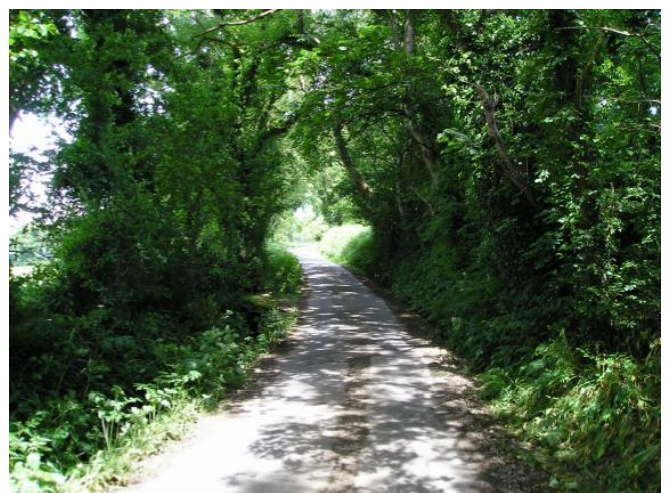
Evaluation of landscape sensitivities

- Exotic trees and walkways in Victorian National Glen Helen.
- Dense riverside and valley bottom deciduous woodland and vegetation.
- Ecological value of riparian and aquatic habitats.
- Sites of archaeological importance.
- Scattered clusters of traditional farmsteads and dwellings clustered around river crossings with stone bridges in upper valley.
- Remote and tranquil character in the upper valley.

Landscape Strategy

The overall strategy for the area should be to conserve and enhance the character, quality and distinctiveness of the valley with its dense deciduous woodland in lower valley bottom, the National Glen Helen, the scattered clusters of traditional farmsteads and the tranquillity and remote character of the upper valley.

B9 - BALLAUGH GLEN



NARROW UPLAND GLENS

B9 – BALLAUGH GLEN

Key Characteristics

- Steep sided Glen with numerous tributaries.
- Extensive coniferous plantations on the upper valley slopes.
- Fragmented native woodland along valley bottom creates a sense of enclosure.
- Linear settlement of Ravensdale and along the valley bottom road with continuous roadside frontages of stone walls and hedges.
- Regular field pattern on lower valley sides and bottom with variety of Manx hedges and vegetated hedges containing mature trees.
- A moderate sense of tranquillity.
- An intimate, enclosed and settled character along the valley bottom.

Overall Character Description

Steep sided V-shaped valley with numerous tributaries such as Glen Shoggle whose upper slopes are extensively covered by large coniferous plantations, such as the Ballaugh Plantation, with abrupt edges forming distinct linear features in the landscape. On the upper slopes at the upland periphery and surrounding the plantations, upland vegetation such as rough grasses, heather and patches of gorse grows. Downstream valley sides are more gently sloped and scattered with fragmented woodland, Manx hedges and hedgerows divide pastoral fields from the upland periphery. The field pattern develops and strengthens on the widening and flattening valley floor, where a variety of hedgerow types, dense native woodland and lush riparian vegetation creates an intimate and enclosed wooded valley bottom.

Ravensdale consists of numerous large detached houses, (including the pastiche and crenellated Ravensdale Castle) constructed predominantly of slate or rendered with whitewash, with front garden boundaries defined by slate stonewalls or hedges and containing various ornamental plants. This front boundary treatment, as well as the valley bottom trees and hedgerows alongside the road creates an intimate, enclosed and settled character. Downstream of Ballathoar, the enclosed road runs parallel to the river with numerous semi-suburban bungalows mixed with more traditionally built slate houses lining the road almost as far as Ballaugh, creating a settled feel in the valley. There is a moderate sense of tranquillity, diminishing as one approaches the village of Ballaugh.

Key Views

- From valley sides and out of plantations, glimpsed views to sea and northern plain
- From valley bottom road, views enclosed by the immediate woodland and valley sides

Historic Features

- Cairns and Mounds

Ecological Features

- Aquatic and waterside habitats
- Upland heather moorland habitats
- Marginal farmland habitats.
- Hedgerows with high biodiversity

Evaluation of Inherent Landscape Sensitivities

- Ecological value of the aquatic ecosystem and riparian habitats.
- Intimate and small-scale settled character with continuous roadside frontages of stone walls and hedges, within well wooded, intimate valley landscape.
- Vernacular character of some buildings.
- Regular field pattern on lower valley sides and bottom with variety of Manx hedges and vegetated hedges containing mature trees.
- Fragmented woodland along the river corridor, among field boundaries in valley bottom.
- A moderate sense of tranquillity.

Landscape Strategy

The overall strategy for the area should be to conserve and enhance the character, quality and distinctiveness of this tranquil valley, with its intimate, small-scale settled and wooded character and regular field pattern defined by Manx hedges and shrub hedges containing mature trees.

B10 - GLEN RUSHEN



NARROW UPLAND GLENS

B10 – GLEN RUSHEN

Key Characteristics

- Steep sided V-shaped medium scale valley.
- Expansive coniferous plantations with abrupt edges.
- Enclosed wooded valley bottom with riparian vegetation.
- Numerous historic features, including remnants of abandoned mining operations in the form of chimneys, spoil heaps and abandoned miners' accommodation.
- Remote character with small winding roads with no delineation on the upper slopes becoming more enclosed in the valley bottom by grassed Manx hedges and hedgerow vegetation.
- Remote, sparsely settled and tranquil character with little movement due to the dead-end road.

Overall Character Description

Coniferous plantations of Lhargan and Arrasey predominate on the steep valley sides along the majority of the valley, with some scattered large fields bounded by Manx hedges of rough grazing on the gentler slopes around Glen Dhoo. The valley's upper slopes are covered in moorland vegetation characteristic of the uplands that surround the valley. Numerous smaller tributaries, with small waterfalls running over exposed slate outcrops, join the main valley in deeply cut gullies flowing over the slate river bed and ravines with lush riparian bankside vegetation including various deciduous trees along the water's edge with the coniferous plantations coming down to the edge of this rich and narrow habitat.

A single track enclosed lane with no boundary features on the upper slopes but with passing points, winds down steep gradients to give access to the various abandoned lead mines that are scattered around the valley. Large highly visible chimneys at Beckwith's Vein Mine and numerous grey spoil heaps surrounding these remnants of historic mineral extraction as well as derelict slate houses alongside the road that once housed the mine workers. The single track road becomes more enclosed in the vegetated valley bottom with overhanging vegetation growing on the Manx banks. A remote and tranquil character permeates the area.

Key Views

- Dense and extensive coniferous plantations prevent expansive views.
- More open views out from the valley sides outside the plantations.

Historic Features

- Beckwith's Vein abandoned mine with chimney and associated buildings
- Disused Chapel Keeill Moirrey
- Cairns

Ecological Features

- Aquatic and waterside habitats
- Upland heather moorland habitats
- Marginal farmland habitats
- Hedgerows with high biodiversity
- Area of Special Scientific Interest in the glen

Evaluation of Inherent Landscape Sensitivities

- Ecological value of the aquatic ecosystem and riparian habitats.
- Fragmented woodland along the river corridor and in valley bottom.
- Small single track winding road with no road corridor delineation in the upper slopes.
- Overhanging vegetation on Manx hedges in the valley bottom enclose the road corridor and create an intimate character.
- Tranquil and remote character.
- Abandoned mineral workings, associated buildings and chimneys.
- Open views out from the valley sides away from the plantations.

Landscape Strategy

The overall strategy for the area should be to conserve and enhance the character, quality and distinctiveness of the unsettled, remote and wooded character of the valley bottom, its winding single track road valley with its and the setting of various scattered abandoned mines, chimneys and associated buildings.

C1 - GREEBA VALLEY



BROAD LOWLAND VALLEY

C BROAD LOWLAND VALLEY

C1 – GREEBA VALLEY

Key Characteristics

- A well treed and settled rural valley.
- Strong sense of enclosure provided by narrow central valley, which slopes steeply up to meet the upland areas both to north and south.
- Sense of enclosure enhanced by trees alongside A1 (Peel Road) and Greeba River.
- Sense of tranquillity on the upper slopes.
- Relatively flat valley bottom with fragmented woodland along the valley floor and lush riparian vegetation alongside Greeba River.
- Settlement limited to individual houses and clusters of housing strung out along the A1.
- Few minor roads of the busy A1.
- Predominantly small-scale irregular pasture fields but with elongated rectangular fields of rough grazing on the valley sides.
- Patches of upland vegetations begin to appear along the upper boundary.
- Presence of Manx Milestones.
- Greeba Castle, with its numerous mature trees.
- Greeba River flowing along the base of the valley, fed by numerous streams descending from side slopes.
- Coniferous plantations at relatively low elevations near main road.

Overall Character Description

Relatively flat valley bottom with fragmented woodland along the valley floor. Variety of rectilinear drainage ditches with riparian vegetation growing along the banks. Numerous streams descending from steep side slopes feed into the Greeba River, which passes along the centre of this wide valley. The river is slow and meandering with a rocky base with overhanging trees / shrubs and ferns on its banks. Lush riparian vegetation also along side streams such as the River Dhoo, which descends down a relatively narrow side valley. Small block of conifers at the Rhenny Plantation with the area extending up to meet larger blocks of conifers on the periphery of the adjacent landscape character areas.

Fields are irregular and vary in size, but are mostly small and typically rectilinear alongside the Peel road and on the valley sides. Field boundaries in lower part of valley defined either by stone walls or hedgerows, with many mature trees. Numerous farm tracks provide vehicular access to the upper slopes, which support only the occasional farm horse and have a predominantly unsettled, rural character. Land use is dominated by pasture, with belts of deciduous woodland and occasional unsettled, blocks of plantation. The side slopes of the wide central valley rise steeply up to meet the Northern Uplands to the north and the upper parts of Foxdale to the south. Fields with rough grazing predominate on the upper sides of the valley. Gorse spreads from the Manx hedges in the steeper higher slopes with patches of bracken and heather beginning to dominate along the boundaries of the adjacent character areas that lie to the north and south.

Hill slopes on either side of valley provide a sense of enclosure, particularly where the valley narrows and the hill slopes lie in close proximity to the road. The enclosed character of the valley is enhanced in the lower parts, where small-scale fields, woodland blocks and riparian trees combine to create an intimate character with a strong sense of enclosure. Low stone walls line both sides of Peel Road and also delineate some of the small-scale fields south of the road. Some sections of wall in need of repair.

The Heritage Trail follows the line of a dismantled railway running roughly parallel to the river Greeba. The A1 (Peel Road), which is marked by Manx Milestones, also passes along the gently sloping floor of the valley, north of the river. Small groups of terraced housing and occasional

individual old houses alongside Peel Road with front garden hedges. Farmsteads and houses, typically small scale and built from stone lie on relatively flat land between road and river. A notable concentration of houses at Greeba Bridge. Smaller hill farms are located on the rising valley sides and are accessed by various small and winding un-metalled tracks.

Numerous mature deciduous trees associated with estate at Greeba Castle. These together with roadside housing and long sections of roadside mature trees contribute to the settled, well-established and vegetated character of the lower valley.

The western boundary of the character area follows the line of the A3 at a relatively narrow part of the valley, beyond which the more intimate and historic area of St. Johns commences. The eastern boundary skirts the eastern side of the Rhenny coniferous plantation before running along a short section of the disused railway and a farm track up the valley side towards Ballavitchel Farm and along field boundaries until meeting the Northern Uplands at the King's Forest (Greeba Plantation).

Key Views

- Views from valley floor typically enclosed by the fragmented woodland and roadside trees on the valley floor.
- More open views from the valley sides along the valley and up to the peaks of the Northern Upland peaks and the upper slopes of Foxdale.

Historic Features

- St. Trinians Chapel – ruined.
- Chapel.
- Mill House in Greeba Bridge.

Ecological Features

- Farmland grassland habitats.
- Mature network of hedgerows containing deciduous trees in field boundaries.
- Aquatic and waterside habitats along river courses.
- Fragmented woodland along the valley bottom.
- Marginal heathland habitats along the upland periphery.

Evaluation of Inherent Landscape Sensitivities

- Ecological value of the aquatic ecosystem and riverside habitats.
- Well treed character along valley bottom.
- Presence of Manx Milestones.
- Scattered pattern of small hill farms on the rising valley sides accessed by various small and winding un-metalled tracks.
- Rectilinear field patterns alongside the Peel Road and on the valley sides, defined either by stone walls, hedgerows with many mature trees, or Manx hedges on the upper slopes.
- Sense of enclosure along the road corridor and river.

Landscape Strategy

The overall strategy for the area should be to conserve and enhance the character, quality and distinctiveness of the valley with its well-treed and enclosed character in the valley bottom, its distinct rectilinear field patterns and small scattered hill farms on the rising valley sides.

C2 - ST JOHN'S



BROAD LOWLAND VALLEY

C2 – ST JOHN’S

Key Characteristics

- Undulating and relatively flat land with exception of rounded hill at Tynwald National Park.
- Interlinked and crossed by numerous enclosed roads, lanes and main roads.
- Fragmented woodland runs along area’s numerous water courses and roads.
- Woodland blocks and hedgerow trees surround and enclose scattered medium sized and irregular shaped fields sandwiched between water courses and settlement edges.
- Well vegetated character enhanced by plantations on the northern edge of the southern uplands.
- Historic centre of Island with Tynwald Hill, processional avenue and assembly field.
- Retail centre at historic St. John’s Mill.
- Intimate, enclosed and settled character with linear settlement along the A30, A1 and tucked along the many lanes that criss-cross the area.
- Some tranquillity in the area away from the roads and alongside the river.
- Presence of Manx Milestones.

Overall Character Description

The gently undulating flat wide central valley mouth emerges from the steep sided and narrow Greeba Valley, into the open area around the settlement of St. John’s. A substantial tributary from Foxdale joins the river Neb, which flows down off the northern upland areas through the steep sided Glen Helen to the north of the area. The rounded hill at Tynwald National Park that is partially afforested is the only deviation from this otherwise relatively flat landscape character. The River Neb and its tributaries have cut into the soft alluvium to form many steep sided river banks, covered in lush riparian vegetation, down which roads must cross by means of small stone bridges.

There is fragmented woodland throughout the area, interspersed with medium sized fields of a varying shape. Mature trees line and enclose the various small roads and numerous rivers and streams that run through the area to create an intimate character in some northern parts of the area. The enclosed wooded valley bottom character of Lower Foxdale spreads out and surrounds the various slate and white rendered houses that sit at the base of a steep hill that leads up to the Slieu Whallian Plantation on the surrounding upland slopes in the south of the area.

The area is somewhat of a transport hub with a road triangle formed where the A1 meets the A3 and A30. These roads funnel into the narrow valley mouth before radiating out to other parts of the Island via numerous other smaller roads that provide connections to the north, south, east and west. These numerous roads detract from the tranquillity of the area. The Heritage Trail, following the route of an abandoned railway runs through the area, with mature trees lining the route and adding to the wooded character of the area.

This meeting point of three valleys has long attracted people to it and has been used since Viking times, as a meeting place now known as Tynwald Hill. This historic Parliament has been added to over the centuries and now forms part of a large open space surrounded by trees, centred on the stepped grassed Tynwald Hill and with ceremonial avenue. A row of houses along the Peel Road and St. John’s Chapel lie nearby. The water that passes through the area has been historically harnessed and this is visible in the form of the renovated St. John’s Mill in the north of Tynwald Hill. A shopping centre has developed in associated buildings with an extensive landscaped car park for visitors using this tourist centre. An intimate, enclosed, well vegetated well treed area around the mill with numerous traditional buildings and structures such as a humped back bridge.

Key Views

- From the majority of the roads, in the area views are restricted by surrounding dense woodland, trees that line the roads and many high grassed Manx hedges running along the roads.
- Open views up the Greeba Valley and to surrounding upland areas from the assembly field at Tynwald Hill.

Historic Features

- Tynwald Hill, St. John's Chapel, processional avenue and assembly field.
- Renovated St. John's Mill with associated Millers' houses and weaving houses.
- Earthworks.
- Tumuli.
- Pre-historic site opposite the Hill.

Ecological Features

- Aquatic and waterside habitats.
- Farmland grassland habitats.
- Hedgerows containing high biodiversity.
- Fragmented deciduous woodland habitats.
- Bird Sanctuary.

Evaluation of Inherent Landscape Sensitivities

- Historic centre of Island with Tynwald Hill and other sites of historic importance.
- Some tranquillity in the area away from the roads and alongside the river.
- Presence of Manx Milestones.
- Fragmented woodland along water courses and substantial hedgerows enclosing the narrow roads and lanes.
- Intimate settled character.
- Vernacular character of buildings and bridges.

Landscape Strategy

The overall strategy should be to conserve and enhance the character, quality and distinctiveness of the valley with its well-treed and enclosed valley bottom, its enclosed lanes and roads and its numerous sites of historic importance.

C3 - UNION MILLS, GLEN VINE AND CROSBY



BROAD LOWLAND VALLEY

C3 – UNION MILLS, GLEN VINE AND CROSBY

Key Characteristics

- A well treed and settled rural valley with a strong sense of enclosure along the River Dhoo valley floor near the roads and the river.
- Wide flat bottomed river valley with historic terraces on the more undulating northern valley side.
- Settled character with the three notable settlements of Union Mills, Glen Vine and Crosby.
- Lush riparian vegetation and deciduous woodland surrounds the River Dhoo and relatively steep and pronounced southern valley side.
- Deeply cut and densely wooded valleys of River Glass and River Dhoo.
- Mixed field pattern of predominantly rectilinear fields in a variety of sizes along the flatter valley floor becomes more elongated and rectangular fields of rough pasture on the lower slopes of the northern upland.
- Sense of tranquillity on the upper areas of the slopes.
- Presence of Manx Milestones.

Overall Character Description

The wide, flat bottomed Greeba Valley has numerous historic river terraces and gently sloping valley sides that extend up to the high hills of the Northern Upland to the north and the top of the relatively low valley side slopes to the south. To the west lies the start of Greeba Valley landscape character area, where the valley narrows and pinches near the western edge of Highlander, with the King's Forest and Rhenny coniferous plantations on the steep slopes making this narrowing more pronounced. Part of the southern boundary meets the western extension of Douglas at Vicarage Road, which provides a clearly defined edge to the urban area. The north eastern boundary follows the deeply incised and heavily wooded course of the Baldwin River before it becomes the River Glass that flows south west until it meets the western built up periphery of Douglas.

Kirk Braddan with its Medieval Crosses represents one of the numerous places of worship in the area. Today, the area contains three notable settlements alongside the A1 (Peel Road) that passes along the floor of the valley there are also numerous smaller dwellings and farm houses scattered along the many tracks, small roads and, with the exception of the small traditional settlement of West Baldwin, are predominantly located between the A1 and A23 whose relatively enclosed road corridors converge on the built up area of Douglas. Union Mills, Glen Vine and Crosby all include a historic core of more traditional stone, or white washed houses, and have been expanded by a variety of modern housing developments, typically with culs-de-sac that have abrupt edges to the small predominantly rectilinear arable fields that cover the valley bottom. Rectilinear drainage ditches drain into the variously sized tributaries of the River Dhoo, whose banks are covered in dense riparian vegetation. The Heritage Trail follows the line of a dismantled railway that runs parallel to the river.

Hedgerows consist of Manx hedges with a variety of vegetation growing on top of their grassy banks. Numerous large deciduous trees along the field boundaries in the valley bottom, around the smaller fields that surround Mount Rule and in the vicinity of dwellings. The field boundaries along the Northern Upland periphery contain few large trees with gorse beginning to dominate. Mixed field pattern of predominantly rectilinear fields in a variety of sizes on the lower areas of the valley become more elongated and rectangular, with a predominance of rough pasture north of the A23 on the lower slopes of the northern uplands. Tranquillity on the upper slopes of the valley but due to the busy road corridor of the A1 there is a relatively little sense of tranquillity on the valley floor.

Key Views

- Open views up to the Northern Uplands and the upper slopes of Foxdale in places.
- Glimpsed views in the east towards the urban edge of Douglas.

Historic Features

- Marown and Kirk Braddan Old churches with Medieval Crosses.
- St. Runius Church.
- St. Bridget's Chapel.
- St. Patrick's Chapel.

Ecological Features

- Farmland grassland habitats.
- Mature network of hedgerows containing deciduous trees in field boundaries.
- Aquatic and waterside habitats along river courses.
- Fragmented woodland along the valley bottom.
- Marginal heathland habitats along the upland periphery.
- Wild Bird Sanctuary (Renscault and Ballachrink).
- Area of Special Scientific Interest at Eary Vane

Evaluation of Inherent Landscape Sensitivities

- A well treed valley with a strong sense of enclosure.
- Lush riparian vegetation and deciduous woodland along valley bottom.
- Sense of tranquillity on the upper areas of the slopes.
- Presence of Manx Milestones.

Landscape Strategy

The overall strategy should be to conserve and enhance the character, quality and distinctiveness of the well-treed valley with some scattered and nucleated settlements.

D1 - BALLAJORA AND BALLAGLASS



INCISED SLOPES

D1 BALLAJORA AND BALLAGLASS

Key Characteristics

- A tranquil, rural landscape of predominantly arable fields.
- Scattered settlement consisting of small, isolated farmsteads and hamlets, but also with several clusters of housing (e.g. at Port Lawaigue, Ballajora etc.)
- Topography slopes upwards to the west, to meet the base of the Uplands and falls (quite steeply in places) towards the sea to the east.
- Relatively steep and incised paths of Ballaglass Glen and the southern section of Glen Mona dissect the area.
- Distinct, relatively small-scale, irregular field pattern but with medium-scale, more regular fields in northern part of area.
- Field boundaries generally delineated by low, mature Manx hedgerows, with occasional single mature trees visible.
- Several large patches of mixed semi-natural woodland (containing many mature oak, beech, larch and pine trees) provide a strong sense of enclosure within Ballaglass Glen.
- Network of minor rural roads, which are characteristically single track, sometimes sunken and crossed by fords.
- Dramatic, dominant rising uplands to the west, provide a strong sense of enclosure in parts.
- Generally strong sense of tranquillity, but much diminished in vicinity of Dreemskerry Quarry and Dhoon Quarry.
- B19 and A15 Roads.
- Manx Electric Railway.

Overall Character Description

Situated to the south of Ramsey and east of the Northern Uplands, the topography of this character area varies greatly. To the west, the landscape slopes gradually upward to meet the base of the Uplands, whilst further to the east, topography falls (quite steeply in places) towards the sea. The relatively steep and incised paths of Ballaglass Glen and the southern section of Glen Mona (which converge within the area and flow eastwards to join the sea at Port Cornaa) dissect the area. A distinct and recognisable, relatively small-scale, irregular field pattern of predominantly arable fields covers the area. Field boundaries are generally delineated by low, mature Manx hedgerows, which are predominantly intact, with occasional single mature trees visible. In places, visually intrusive silver corrugated roofs of agricultural buildings associated with small farmsteads contrast with the surrounding generally muted landscape.

The corridor of Ballaglass Glen (a Manx National Glen) is lined along most of its length by mature vegetation. Within the lower part of the glen, several large patches of semi-natural woodland (containing many mature oak, beech, larch and pine trees) provide a strong sense of enclosure and delineate the path of the glen as a distinctive landscape feature within views from adjacent character areas. This relatively short coastal glen was once the centre of an important corn mill and contains several traditional stone buildings, which were erected by the Great Mona Mining Company, which operated (from 1854).

The area is accessed via the A15 main road corridor, which leads westwards to the Uplands, and eastwards towards Maughold Head. A network of minor rural roads, which are characteristically single track, sometimes sunken and crossed by fords) provide further access to landscape within the area. These road corridors are often lined with mature deciduous vegetation. The Manx Electric Railway, with its distinctive overhead electric lines crosses the area and contributes to a strongly recognisable sense of place and in places, draws the eye towards the dramatic coastline to the east. Settlement pattern is generally scattered, predominantly consisting of small, isolated farmsteads and hamlets. The dramatic, dominant rising uplands to the west, provide a strong sense of enclosure in parts, whilst open views of the open sea and wide skyline can be gained to the east. There is generally

a strong sense of tranquillity throughout the character area, particularly within Ballaglass Glen, where the sound of water cascading, trickling and rushing down the River Cornaa, evokes a strong recognisable sense of place.

Key Views

- Panoramic views to dramatic backdrop of rising uplands to the west;
- Panoramic, open views towards the sea, which is visible as a skyline feature to the east;
- Enclosed and channelled views along the corridors of Ballaglass Glen and Glen Mona.

Historic Features

- Long Cairn – Cashtal yn Ard.
- Burial Ground – Ruillick ny Quakeryn.
- Stone buildings and other ruins associated with the Great Mona Mining Company.

Ecological Features

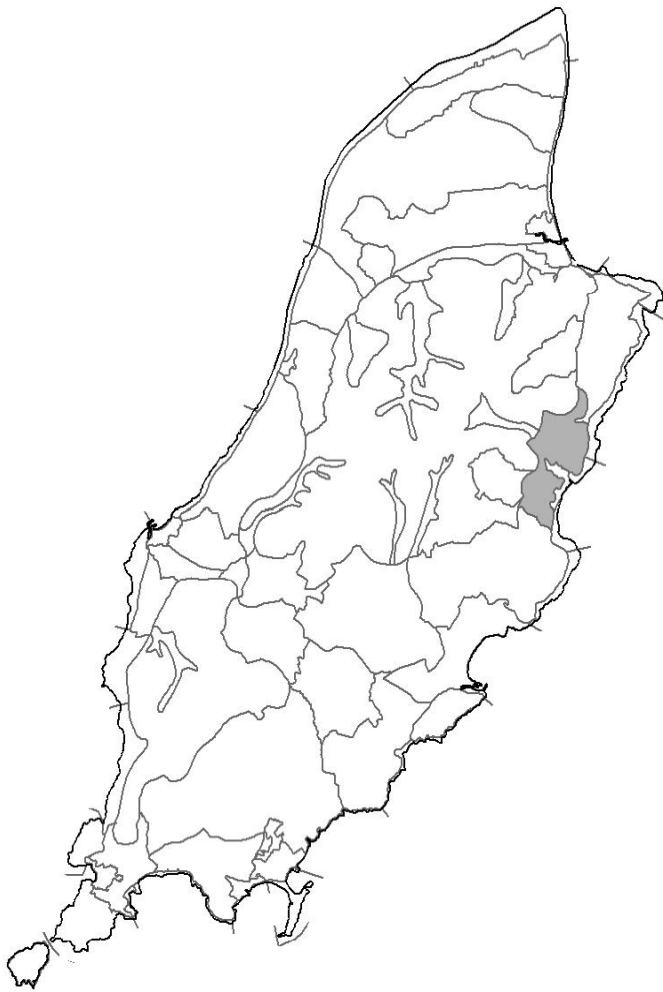
- Mature semi-natural woodland within Ballaglass Glen.
- Mature hedgerow network.
- Mature deciduous vegetation lining road corridors.
- Riparian and aquatic habitats.

Evaluation of Inherent Landscape Sensitivities

- Distinct, relatively small-scale, irregular field pattern.
- Areas of fragmented semi-natural woodland.
- Minor single track sunken rural roads, with fords.
- Scattered settlement pattern of isolated farms and hamlets.
- Sites of archaeological importance.
- Strong sense of tranquillity.
- Ecological value of the aquatic ecosystem with riparian habitats.
- Manx Electric Railway and its halts.

Landscape Strategy

The overall strategy is to conserve and enhance the character, quality and distinctiveness of this area with its tranquil, relatively sparsely settled nature, its distinctive field patterns, its rural road network, its numerous areas of fragmented woodland and the setting of the various archaeological and historic features within the area.



D2 LAXEY

Key Characteristics

- Strongly sloping topography.
- Encompasses the wooded lower course of Laxey Glen.
- Small, traditional Manx settlement village of Laxey with its woodland backdrop.
- Small-scale, relatively regular field pattern is apparent to the north of Laxey.
- Distinctive red and white appearance of ‘Lady Isabella Water Wheel’ (Laxey Wheel) provides an instantly recognisable landmark, on approaches to the area.
- Quaint character of the tramlines and the instantly recognisable hoot of the tram horn (Manx Electric Railway), contribute to a unique character and sense of place.
- Settlement pattern consists of series of isolated farmsteads scattered throughout the area.
- Strong sense of enclosure within Laxey, provided by the steep wooded sides of the glen and valley.
- Dramatic views to an Upland backdrop to the north and west.
- Visual dominance of the sea, which contrasts with the coastal landform.

Overall Character Description

Situated at the eastern edge of the Island, this character area encompasses a strongly undulating and sloping topography, underlain by geology from the Snaefell formation. The steeply sided Laxey Glen flows into the area from the north-west. To the east, where it meets the sea at Laxey Bay, with its small old harbour. The relatively small, traditional Manx settlement of Laxey has developed along the floor of this steep sided valley/ glen. The northern and southern slopes of the glen surrounding Laxey exhibit a strongly wooded character, interspersed with patches of rough grassland. Further to the north of Laxey, a small-scale, relatively regular field pattern is apparent, exhibiting predominantly pasture fields, delineated by an interconnected network of hedgerows. The character area is crossed by the A2 main road, which runs to the north and south following the course of the coastline, and leads visitors and travellers through the heart of Laxey village. Connected to this, a minor road to the west of Laxey provides access to the intricate courses of Glen Mooar and Glen Agneash to the north, and provides access to the landmark Great Laxey Wheel. The distinctive red and white appearance of the ‘Lady Isabella Water Wheel’ (Laxey Wheel) provides an instantly recognisable landmark, on approaches to the area. The wheel (reputed to be the largest in the world) was designed by a local engineer and constructed in 1854 to pump water from nearby flooding mines. (During the 19th Century, the mines were the leading producer of zinc ore in the British Isles). The path of the Manx Electric Railway forms a strongly recognisable key characteristic of the area (with two lines converging within Laxey). The quaint character of the tramlines and associated traditional stations and halls and the instantly recognisable hoot of the tram horn, contribute to a somewhat unique character and sense of place. Buildings in Laxey are typically of traditional Manx stone and are often white-washed. Outside Laxey and the smaller settlements of Ballaragh, Ballaconnell and Ballacollister, the settlement pattern consists of series of isolated farmsteads scattered throughout the area. There is a strong sense of enclosure within Laxey, provided by the steep wooded sides of the glen. Outside Laxey, further distant sense of enclosure is provided by dramatic views to an Upland backdrop to the north and west.

Key Views

- Dramatic views to an Upland backdrop to the north and west
- Channelled views east and west along the corridor of Laxey Glen
- Views to the instantly recognisable Lady Isabella water wheel as a landmark within views to the area
- Panoramic views eastwards across the sea from areas of higher land within the character area.

Historic Features

- Laxey Wheel
- The Spiral stone
- St. Matthew's Chapel (Keeill Vian)
- Long Cairns (King Orry's Grave)

Ecological Features

- Comprehensive network of Manx hedgerows delineating field boundaries to the north of Laxey.
- Mature woodland covering the northern and southern slopes of the glen.
- Riparian and aquatic habitats.

Evaluation of Inherent Landscape Sensitivities

- Distinct, relatively small-scale, irregular field pattern.
- Fragmented woodland in valley bottoms.
- Ecological value of the aquatic ecosystem with riparian habitats.
- Built up area of Laxey in lower valley with vernacular architectural style.
- Scattered settlement pattern of traditional isolated farms and hamlets.
- Sites of archaeological importance.
- Sense of tranquillity away from Laxey.
- Victorian Isle of Man Steam Railway stations and halts.

Landscape Strategy

The overall strategy is to conserve and enhance the character, quality and distinctiveness of this area, with its relatively sparse settlement other than the characteristic settlement of Laxey, its distinct small-scale field pattern, its valley bottom woodland along National Glens and the setting of the various historic and archaeological features within the area.

D3 - CONRHENNY AND GROUDLE



INCISED SLOPES

D3 CONRHENNY/GROUDLE

Key Characteristics

- Gently rolling topography, which is cut by a series of rivers.
- Contain the relatively narrow corridors of the Groudle and Ballacottier Rivers.
- Patchwork of organised pasture and arable fields delineated by a combination of hedgerows, Manx banks and visible drainage ditches.
- Patches of regular coniferous woodland plantations as visible landmarks with the surrounding landscape.
- Distinctive black and white Manx milestones lining the A2 road corridor.
- Series of scattered, isolated farmsteads (several of which have associated modern farm buildings).
- Sense of enclosure provided by Uplands to the north-west.
- Open views to visually harsh red roofs of modern housing developments at the edge of Onchan dominate views southwards.
- Dramatic, panoramic views eastwards across the ever-changing colour and nature of the sea and sky, contribute to strongly recognisable sense of place.

Overall Character Description

This character area encompasses gently rolling topography, which is cut by a series of small rivers and streams, including Groudle River and Ballacottier River, which flow north-south across the area. To the north of Onchan, the Groudle River has been dammed to form two triangular reservoirs, Kerrowdhoo and Clypse, which are visible on the horizon on approach to the area. Landscape within the area is covered by a patchwork of organised pasture and arable fields, which are delineated by a combination of hedgerows and Manx banks. Ditches are also characteristically visible at field boundaries in certain locations. Three regular-shaped coniferous woodland plantations are situated on sloping land to the northeast of Onchan and provide recognisable sense of place. Set against a dramatic upland backdrop, these woodlands create a sense of enclosure surrounding Conrhenny equestrian centre and provide recognisable landscape features within an otherwise predominantly open landscape. To the south, the area is served by the main A2 road, which runs along the coastline and connects Douglas in the south to Laxey in the north. A series of relatively quiet, rural roads lead northwards from this main road corridor, towards the upland backdrop. Settlement pattern consists of a series of scattered, isolated farmsteads, several of which have visually intrusive modern farm buildings in proximity to the older, traditional farmhouses. A sense of enclosure is provided by Uplands to the northwest. Overall, there is a relatively strong sense of tranquillity throughout the character area, at distance from major roads corridors and the edges of Onchan. To the north of Onchan, the geometric course of the A18 (TT course), with several viewing platforms and Marshals' boxes, provides a recognisable transport corridor within the area. The sense of tranquillity is greatly disturbed during TT season. The meandering path of the Groudle River (which is enclosed and wooded in places) abuts the north-eastern edge of Onchan and flows eastwards to join the sea at Port Groudle. Just to the south of this river corridor, King Edward Bay golf course (situated on a prominent hill, and consisting of several areas of rough grassland and heathland) provides a distinct and recognisable landscape feature. In several places, open views to visually harsh red roofs of modern housing developments at the edge of Onchan dominate views southwards. Dramatic, panoramic views eastwards across the ever-changing colour and nature of the sea and sky, contribute to a strongly recognisable sense of place.

Key Views

- Dramatic views to an Upland backdrop to the north and west.
- Dramatic, panoramic views eastwards across the ever-changing colour and nature of the sea and sky, contribute to strongly recognisable sense of place.
- Close and distant views to the northern edge of Onchan/ Douglas settlement, which is visually harsh in places.
- Channelled views along the corridor of the Groundle River, which is enclosed in places.

Historic Features

- St. Adamnan's/Lonan Old Church
- Standing stones and tumuli

Ecological Features

- Biodiversity value within regular patches of predominantly coniferous woodland.
- Stream corridors.
- Intact network of mature hedgerows.

Evaluation of Inherent Landscape Sensitivities

- Fragmented woodland in valley bottoms.
- Rivers and reservoirs with riparian habitats.
- Scattered settlement pattern of isolated farms and hamlets.
- Sites of archaeological importance.
- Manx Milestones by roadside.
- Well-vegetated character alongside A-roads.
- Victorian Isle of Man Steam Railway and station.

Landscape Strategy

The overall strategy is to conserve and enhance the character, quality and distinctiveness of this area of relatively sparse settlement, its valley bottom woodland, its National Glens and the various archaeological features within the area.

D4 - ORRISDALE AND BALLAUGH



INCISED SLOPES

D4 ORRISDALE AND BALLAUGH

Key Characteristics

- Gently rolling topography in the north and west, steeper lower slopes of the Northern Uplands to the east.
- Landscape is cut by incised course of Glen Dhoo (opening up to the south of Ballaugh).
- Patchwork of relatively regular, medium-scale fields, delineated by a mature network of low hedges cover the area.
- On the lower slopes of the Northern Uplands, fields are predominantly pasture.
- Settlement pattern is dominated by a series of hamlets (including Orrisdale and Bishopscourt) and isolated farmsteads, which are scattered throughout the area, alongside nucleated village settlement of Ballaugh, containing several white-washed buildings.
- Old Kirk Ballaugh Church (a distinctive, small brick/stone building) provides a recognisable historic feature.
- Glimpsed views westwards across the ever-changing seascape.
- Views to dramatic upland backdrop to the south and east.
- Distinctive black and white kerbs lining the A3 (TT course) which runs through the area along the base of the Uplands to the south.

Overall Character Description

Orrisdale and Ballaugh Incised Inland Slopes are situated at the western edge of the Island and encompass farmland, which surrounds the small-nucleated settlement of Ballaugh. In the north and west, topography is gently rolling, facilitating glimpsed distant views across the sea to the west. Further to the east, topography slopes more steeply upwards, forming the lower slopes of Northern Uplands. The relatively steeply incised course of Glen Dhoo cuts northwards through the area, becoming more open to the south of Ballaugh. A patchwork of relatively regular, medium-scale fields, delineated by a mature network of low hedges cover the area. To the east of A3, on the lower slopes fields are predominantly pasture, grazed in several places by sheep. The A3 road corridor (with associated noise and visual intrusion, especially during TT season) cuts across the area and connects a series of minor roads, leading north-west and south-east, towards the coast and the uplands respectively. Settlement pattern is dominated by a series of hamlets (including Orrisdale and Bishopscourt) and traditional stone isolated farmsteads, which are scattered throughout the area. The nucleated, and relatively modern settlement of Ballaugh (with the church, a landmark within views from the surrounding area) lies at the foot of Glen Dhoo and at the junction between A3 and A10. Settlement character is dominated by a series of white washed houses and shops. The settlement is entered to the west (via A3), over a traditional stone hump-backed bridge, from which, sweeping views southwards along the course of Glen Dhoo can be gained. The old Kirk Ballaugh Church (a distinctive, small brick/ stone building) provides a recognisable historic feature, set against the dramatic upland backdrop to the south. There is a generally strong sense of tranquillity throughout the character area. Sense of remoteness is also relatively strong at distance from small settlements and main road corridors.

Key Views

- Dramatic views to muted upland backdrop to the east.
- Glimpsed views across ever-changing seascape to the west.
- Sweeping views southwards along the course Glen Dhoo to the south.
- Widespread views of Ballaugh Church steeple.

Historic Features

- Old Kirk Ballaugh Church.
- Several Cairns scattered throughout the area.

Ecological Features

- Mature network of low hedgerows at field boundaries.
- Rivers associated with Glen Dhoo and Bishops court Glen.

Evaluation of Inherent Landscape Sensitivities

- Mature network of low hedges.
- Ecological value of the aquatic ecosystems and riparian habitats.
- Scattered settlement pattern of traditional farms and hamlets.
- Sites of archaeological importance.
- Sense of tranquillity and remoteness.

Landscape Strategy

The overall strategy for the area should be to conserve and enhance the character, quality and distinctiveness of the area with its patchwork of relatively regular, medium-scale fields, its mature network of low hedges, its tranquil and remote character and its traditional hamlets and scattered farm buildings.



D5 KIRK MICHAEL

Key Characteristics

- Gently rolling landscape, which slopes gently upwards to the east.
- Strong recognisable landscape pattern.
- Patchwork of arable and pastoral fields, delineated by relatively mature Manx hedgerows at field boundaries.
- Interconnected network of minor roads crosses the area.
- Dispersed settlement pattern, consisting of a series of scattered, isolated farmsteads of a traditional Manx style.
- Relatively strong sense of tranquillity throughout the character area.
- Dramatic backdrop of the rising Northern Uplands to the east creates a strong recognisable sense of place within the landscape.
- Distinctive black and white Manx milestones lining A3 main road corridor.
- Relatively smooth (TT) course of the A3 road corridor crosses the area, roughly following the base of the Uplands.

Overall Character Description

Situated to the north, east and southeast of Kirk Michael, this character area encompasses an area of gently rolling landscape. Within the eastern part of the area, topography slopes gently upwards towards the lower slopes of the Northern Uplands. A strong landscape pattern is recognisable, comprising a patchwork of arable and pastoral fields, delineated by relatively mature Manx hedgerows at field boundaries. To the east of A3 and north of Kirk Michael, a small-scale field pattern is apparent. An interconnected network of minor roads crosses the area, several of which are single-track and lined with tall mature vegetation, which provides a sense of enclosure. Settlement pattern is dispersed, consisting of a series of scattered, isolated farmsteads of a traditional Manx style. The medium-sized settlement of Kirk Michael is located just to the south of the area and encompasses a mixture of traditional Manx architecture and more modern shops and houses. Kirk Michael Parish church, which holds one of the largest collections of Norse crosses on the Island, and is a visible landmark from surrounding landscape character areas. From the western edge of the area, clear views across the adjacent ever-changing seascape can be gained. There is a relatively strong sense of tranquillity throughout the character area. The dramatic backdrop of the rising Northern Uplands to the east creates a strong recognisable sense of place within the landscape. At distance from the main A3 corridor and the northern edge of Kirk Michael, there is a relatively strong sense of remoteness throughout the character area away from the main roads.

Key Views

- Dramatic views to muted upland backdrop to the east.
- Glimpse views across ever-changing seascape to the west.
- Kirk Michael church is a dramatic landmark within views approaching from adjacent landscape character areas.

Historic Features

- Kirk Michael Church.
- Several tumuli scattered throughout the landscape.

Ecological Features

- Mature network of Manx hedgerows at field boundaries.
- Visible drainage ditches at field boundaries.

Evaluation of Inherent Landscape Sensitivities

- Mature network of low hedges and patchwork of relatively regular, medium-scale fields.
- Sense of enclosure provided by tall mature vegetation along network of minor roads.
- Ecological value of the aquatic ecosystem, riparian habitats and field drainage ditches.
- Built up area of Kirk Michael with Parish church spire forming a local landmark.
- Dispersed scattered settlement pattern of traditional farms and hamlets.
- Manx Milestones by roadside.
- Sites of archaeological importance.
- Sense of tranquillity and remoteness away from Kirk Michael and the main roads.

Landscape Strategy

The overall strategy should be to conserve and enhance the character, quality and distinctiveness of the area with its mature network of low hedges, its tranquil and remote character, its traditional hamlets and scattered farm buildings and its enclosed and intimate rural road network.

D6 - CRONK-Y-VODDY



INCISED SLOPES

D6 - CRONK-Y-VODDY

Key Characteristics

- Rolling to steep undulating land, which slopes gently upwards to the east.
- V-shaped river valley with dense deciduous wooded valley bottoms.
- Fragmented field pattern fringed by fragmented woodland.
- Hill farming, rough pasture, heathland vegetation, pastoral and arable fields.
- An evocative sense of abandoned fields on upper slopes.
- Dramatic backdrop of the rising Northern Uplands to the east contributes to a strong sense of place.
- Semi-open character overall.
- Settled character with small nucleated settlements, scattered dwellings, farm houses with outbuildings, using vernacular materials.
- Archaeological sites such as keeills, cairns and standing stones.
- Relatively strong sense of tranquillity throughout character area.
- Presence of Manx Milestones.
- Lhergydhoo Sandpit

Overall Character Description

Rolling to steep land descends from the upland areas down to the coast with a variety of steeply sided wooded river valleys such as the National Glen of Glen Mooar cutting into the undulating plateau. Mature hedgerow trees, a variety of Manx hedges and gorse hedgerows separate areas consisting of fragmented fields of rough grazing and patches of moorland vegetation on the higher inland slopes from the more larger rectilinear pastoral and arable fields that cover the lower slopes closer to the sea where extensive views along the coastline are gained in places. A semi-improved landscape overall but more open in the west.

Settlement pattern is dispersed, consisting of clusters of buildings or scattered isolated farmsteads of traditional Manx style. Wooded valley bottoms, hedgerow trees and tree planting around the various scattered farmsteads and building clusters create a fragmented wooded horizon. The grass banks of the Manx hedges that line the various small lanes, tracks and roads in the area enclose views in places while extensive views across the Island and out to sea are gained in the western portion of the Character Area, such at the northern end of Bayr ny Staarvey where the remains of Keeill Pharick are also located. Other ruined Keeills such as Cabbal Pherick Chapel in Glen Mooar, earthworks such as Manannan's Chair and various cairns reveal the age/history of human habitation in this area.

Key Views

- Open views, in the west up to the upland peaks of Sartfell and other Upland peaks.
- Open views over fields to ever-changing seascape in the west of the area.
- Kirk Michael Church north of this character area is a dramatic landmark in views from northern parts of this area.

Historic Features

- Keeill Pharick and Cabbal Pherick Chapel.
- Long Cairn – Giant's Grabe.
- Numerous cairns including the Crosh Mooar Site.
- Earth works including Manannan's Chair.

Ecological Features

- Mature network of hedgerows at field boundaries.
- Numerous small streams with aquatic and waterside habitats.
- Marginal farmland grassland habitats.
- Fragmented deciduous woodland habitats.

Evaluation of Inherent Landscape Sensitivities

- Network of winding small-scale rural roads, lanes and tracks most enclosed by trees and vegetation with grassed Manx hedges and associated trees/shrubs.
- Fragmented field patterns areas of fragmented woodland and moorland.
- Wooded valley bottoms.
- Ecological value of the aquatic ecosystem and riparian habitats.
- Dispersed settlement pattern of traditional farms, hamlets and small nucleated settlements.
- Manx Milestones by roadside.
- Sites of archaeological importance.
- Sense of tranquillity and remoteness in some areas.

Landscape Strategy

The overall strategy should be to conserve and enhance the character, quality and distinctiveness of the area, with its patchwork of upland fields fringed by valley bottom woodland and moorland and its enclosed and intimate rural road network, a tranquil and remote character with traditional hamlets, scattered farm buildings and nucleated settlements built in a vernacular style.



INCISED SLOPES

D7 – NEB

Key Characteristics

- Flat flood plain alongside the River Neb.
- Dense woodland and lush riparian vegetation along river's banks.
- Fragmented woodland and tree belts away from river.
- Substantial hedgerows and Manx hedges dividing irregular shaped pastoral fields.
- Few scattered farm houses with outhouses hidden down overgrown un-metalled tracks.
- Peel golf course and the edge of the built up area of Peel.
- A semi-enclosed character overall but high degrees of enclosure along some sections of road.
- An abandoned railway.
- A moderate sense of tranquillity.
- Presence of Manx Milestones.

Overall Character Description

The flat flood plain of the River Neb skirts around the northern edge of the Southern Uplands, whose sloping hillsides form the southern boundary. To the north of the A1 Road, the land begins to undulate with notable and pronounced mounds. To the west around the settlement of Patrick the land gently rises to the heathland of Corrin's Hill. The flat arable fields around Ballaterson slope gently up to surround the open rolling form of Peel Golf course and abut the south eastern area of the built up area of Peel with some mature trees in the Manx hedgerows. Peel Power Station chimney forms a prominent landmark in this eastern part of the area with some new housing development along the periphery of the built up area of Peel along the A27 and A1 but avoiding the former meandering path of the River Neb that divides the power station and associated buildings from the western edge of Peel.

Dense riparian vegetation grows adjacent to the meandering course of the River Neb with numerous small tributaries in narrow wooded gullies descending the steep slopes of the upland area to pass under the A30 and join the river's ever-widening course. Irregular shaped fields of varying size adjoin the river's wooded periphery with numerous mature deciduous trees along the various Manx and thorn hedgerows that contain sheep and areas of pasture. This vegetation creates a wooded horizon in the flat area. There is a relatively enclosed feel in this flat area due to the fragmented woodland along the river's course and mature trees contained within the field boundaries. The A30, the A1, Peel Power station, the built up edge of Peel and power lines on timber posts that run through the fields surrounding Peel detract from any sense of remoteness and tranquillity in this area. However, there are a number of farms that are tucked away amongst trees down un-metalled tracks near the river that have a quieter ambience as does the route of the Heritage Trail that runs parallel to the river. Large farms have orchards, as in the case of Ballabrooie. North of Patrick on the A27, where the road drops down into the more steeply cut densely wooded valley, a mill straddles the river's course. This mill and the Abbey upstream represent historic features within the area.

Key Views

- Due to the flat nature of the area and fragmented woodland in field boundaries and along the river there are relatively few views other than glimpsed views through vegetation north from the A30 and A1.
- In the east of the area the Peel Power Station's chimney forms a prominent landmark.
- There are some views from the A30 around Ballamoar north-west to the rising ground towards Peel Golf course and glimpses of the built-up edge of Peel.

Historic Features

- Kirk Patrick.
- The Abbey and Mill.

Ecological Features

- Aquatic habitats in the River Neb, its tributaries and areas of standing water.
- Various waterside and riparian woodland habitats.
- Farmland grassland habitats.
- Mature network of hedgerows containing deciduous trees in field boundaries.

Evaluation of Inherent Landscape Sensitivities

- Network of narrow rural roads, lanes and un-mettled tracks some enclosed by trees and vegetation.
- Dense woodland and lush riparian vegetation along river's banks.
- Fragmented woodland and treebelts away from river.
- Substantial hedgerows and Manx hedges dividing irregular shaped pastoral fields.
- Ecological value of the aquatic ecosystem and riparian habitats.
- Scattered traditional farmsteads.
- Manx Milestones by roadside.
- Sites of archaeological importance.
- Moderate sense of tranquillity.

Landscape Strategy

The overall strategy should be to conserve and enhance the character, quality and distinctiveness of the area with its wooded character alongside the River Neb, with its roads enclosed by vegetation and overhanging trees, its substantial hedgerows and Manx hedges dividing irregular shaped pastoral fields and its scattered traditional farmsteads.



D8 – PEEL

Key Characteristics

- Dramatic backdrop of the rising Northern Uplands to the north-east and Peel Hill to the west.
- Predominantly open rural character.
- Undulating land that slopes gently upwards to the east. Various small but notable rounded hills in the east of the area.
- Large, open pastoral and arable fields (with few trees) enclosed by Manx hedges.
- Some heath vegetation on rounded hilltops.
- Scattered farm houses surrounded by tree blocks, linked by small lanes and tracks.
- Built-up edge of Peel abruptly abuts surrounding field pattern in places and is fragmented elsewhere by fingers of built development.
- Two A-roads and an abandoned railway are conspicuous man-made linear features.
- Open quarry at Poortown.
- Presence of Manx Milestones.

Overall Character Description

Gently sloping land that gets increasingly more undulating near the built-up area of Peel. Notable rounded mounds at Poortown and Cronk Lheannag. This undulating area is covered by large angular pastoral and arable fields. Few hedgerow trees in the Manx hedgerows create a relatively open character. Rougher heath vegetation grows on the rounded hills such as on the mound above the Poortown quarry, where granite and dolerite are extracted from an open face quarry. This, along with two other quarries in the area, are visible from various locations within the area. The area is relatively un-wooded with the notable exception of woodland blocks on some of the rounded hills and around the various small scattered farmsteads. These are accessible via numerous small, sometimes single-lane roads that are enclosed in sections by high Manx hedges with gorse and thorn hedges.

The dismantled railway forms a strong linear element north-south throughout the area with the A1 and A20 Poortown roads that run parallel to one another, forming two noisy and enclosed linear road corridors within the Peel area. The urban edge of Peel is not always clearly defined and had bled somewhat into the surrounding large arable and pastoral fields patterns, enclosing some fields near Peel Clothworkers School and along the A1 and A20 around Ballawattleworth where new development has occurred. Within this area are a number of tumuli, including the ‘Giant’s Cairn’ on top of the mound above Poortown quarry, from where panoramic views over the whole area are gained. The busy road corridors, built development of Peel and the quarries all contribute to a relatively settled and disturbed character, but with an increasing sense of tranquillity in the northern portion of the area adjacent to the less developed Cronk-y-Voddy.

Key Views

- Open and panoramic views in the higher eastern portion of the area, with distant views over Peel Harbour, the built-up edge of Peel and the Power Station’s tower, up to the tower on Corrin’s Hill and out to sea.
- On the smaller roads, away from the enclosed road corridors of the A1 and A20, there are glimpsed views through the hedgerows up the Greeba Valley and up to the surrounding upland areas.

Historic Features

- Remains of Giant’s Fingers Stone Circle.
- Dismantled railway and associated cuttings and bridges.

Ecological Features

- Farmland grassland habitats.
- Mature network of Manx hedgerows with gorse and occasional deciduous trees along field boundaries.
- Small aquatic and riparian waterside habitats in numerous small drainage ditches and standing bodies of water.
- Blocks and fragmented deciduous woodland.

Evaluation of Inherent Landscape Sensitivities

- Network of narrow rural roads and lanes with distinctive high grassed Manx hedgerows and gorse hedges.
- Fragmented woodland.
- Heath vegetation on open rounded hilltops.
- Scattered traditional farmsteads fringed by trees.
- Manx Milestones by roadside.
- Sites of archaeological importance.
- Moderate sense of tranquillity.

Landscape Strategy

The overall strategy should be to conserve and enhance the character, quality and distinctiveness of the area with its open fields, its roads enclosed by Manx hedges and its scattered traditional farmsteads fringed by woodland.

D9 - GLEN MAYE



INCISED SLOPES

D9 – GLEN MAYE

Key Characteristics

- Gently to steeply sloping land forming an elongated bowl.
- Varying sized fields, with a strong rectilinear field pattern on the lower slopes.
- Heathland vegetation spreads from field boundaries on upper slopes along the western edge of the Southern Uplands.
- Settlement of Glen Maye alongside the A27 on both sides of the valley.
- An evocative sense of abandoned fields on the upper slopes;
- Open character along coastal facing slopes.
- Semi-enclosed character alongside the A27 road corridor due to roadside vegetation, adjacent hill slopes and rising uplands to the east.
- Rectilinear and asymmetrical fields, relatively large scale on upper western slopes and small scale around the settlement of Glen Maye and the A27.
- Field boundaries formed by Manx hedges with occasional deciduous trees on lower slope and Manx hedges with gorse on upper slopes.
- Steep wooded valley of Glen Maye (National Glen).
- Moderate sense of tranquillity overall.

Overall Character Description

Land slopes down from the linear and coastal Corrin's Hill and also from the inland southern uplands to form an enclosed but gently sloping elongated bowl. The A27 runs in the lower central area. Large rectilinear, well enclosed fields on the lower slopes and smaller fields of rough grazing on the steeper upper slopes, where patches of gorse and bracken spread from the Manx hedgerows into the fields and eventually dominate the fields on the higher upland slopes. A number of small streams, one leading from the small lake near Shenvalla, run alongside the A27 and down the slopes to join the river in Glen Maye.

On the lower slopes, field boundaries comprise of Manx hedges with occasional deciduous trees with some fragmented blocks growing around Glen Maye, where the tree canopies close in down towards the sea in the National Glen of Maye, with its deep, steeply- sided ravine with lush riparian vegetation. Manx hedges with gorse on upper slopes. The settlement of Glen Maye is spread along the A27 on either side of the valley and consists of a mixture of modern houses, low slate houses, whitewashed houses with slate roofs and a more modern and uniformly designed house on a recently constructed estate. The small linear settlement of Patrick, with low peach-coloured bungalows, marks the northern edge of the character area, beyond which the land flattens and meets the built-up area of Peel. Substantial trees and Manx hedgerows line and enclose the road corridor. Other than the A27, there are few roads in the area, with the exception of numerous small tracks that lead up the hillsides to access a mast on the hilltop above Glen Maye and provide access to fields.

Key Views

- Expansive views are curtailed by the hill slopes that flank the A27, and by roadside vegetation, which allows only glimpsed near distance views of the surrounding fields.
- Enclosed and channelled views around the settlement of Glen Maye due to the tree cover.
- Some glimpsed views up to the Southern Uplands from sections of the A27 and open views from higher land elsewhere.

Historic Features

- None present.

Ecological Features

- Farmland grassland habitats.
- Marginal periphery moorland habitats.
- Mature network of hedgerows containing deciduous trees in field boundaries.
- Aquatic and waterside habitats with dense riparian woodland in Glen Maye.
- Blocks and fragmented deciduous woodland and associated habitats.

Evaluation of Inherent Landscape Sensitivities

- Wooded National Glen Maye
- Fragmented woodland.
- Ecological value of the aquatic ecosystem and riparian habitats.
- Moorland vegetation on upper slopes with Manx hedges.
- Open fields on coastal slopes with some deciduous trees in the vegetated Manx hedgerows.
- Busy road corridor enclosed by roadside vegetation and deciduous trees.
- Moderate sense of tranquillity.

Landscape Strategy

The overall strategy should be to conserve and enhance the character, quality and distinctiveness of the area, with its traditional settlement of Glen Maye, the wooded National Glen of the same name, its enclosed road corridors and the more open character of the sloping fields.

D10 - BRAAID



INCISED SLOPES

D10 – BRAAID

Key Characteristics

- Gently undulating land sloping down south-eastwards towards the coast with numerous notable rounded hill tops.
- Rough heathland vegetation.
- Coniferous Chibbanagh Plantation on hill tops and higher exposed areas.
- Large open predominantly pastoral fields with low Manx hedges and gorse spreading from hedgerows into more elevated fields in numerous places creating a semi-upland character.
- Sparsely settled area with some scattered farmhouses surrounded by trees in an otherwise open and treeless area.
- Numerous historic settlements and elements such as Long and Round houses at Braaid and remains of Broogh Fort.
- Small gullies containing burns and low vegetation cut across the fields.
- Mount Murray Golf course and associated buildings near the small linear settlement of Newtown, extending along the A5.
- Sunken lanes enclosed by grassed Manx hedges with some gorse and thorn bushes growing on the top enclosing the road corridor.

Overall Character Description

Rolling landscape gently slopes south-eastwards towards the coast with notable gently rounded hills covered in a patchwork of large open rectilinear and predominantly pastoral fields bounded by low Manx hedges in a variable state of repair with gorse and other low shrubs growing along field boundaries in places. Patches of gorse spread from the field boundaries into fields of rough grazing on the hill tops around the Chibbanagh coniferous plantation, as well as on the more elevated areas to create a semi-upland feel with heather and patches of bracken beginning to dominate in the abandoned upper fields. Numerous small burns cut across and drain the relatively geometric field pattern with low scrub, waterside vegetation and some small trees growing in the small gullies. The majority of these burns drain into Santon Burn that forms the western boundary, beyond which the character changes to become less open with no rounded hill tops in the Ballamodha and St. Mark's and Earystane landscape character area. To the north, the land drops down the Greeba valley side into a more wooded area, while to the east, the character area meets the more wooded area of Santon with its numerous incised river valleys.

The area is sparsely settled with the few scattered farmsteads in the north of the area shielded from winds by shelter belt trees, while the south-east of the area contains the small linear settlement of Newtown, which extends along the A5 as well as the Mount Murray Golf course complex with numerous buildings, roads and screen planting along the site boundary. A network of small sunken lanes and A-roads, enclosed by tall grassed Manx hedges, cuts across the area, with gorse and other shrubs growing on top of the grassed roadside banks that help to merge the roads into the wider landscape. The Round and Long houses at Braaid represent one of the area's numerous archaeological sites. These, together with the Broogh Fort north-east of Newtown, demonstrate a history of habitation in this elevated area. There is a relatively tranquil and rural feel in the area away from the main roads that lead out of nearby Douglas. The open fields and rounded hills create a simple and unified landscape character.

Key Views

- Extensive uninterrupted panoramic views from higher points over large open fields and Greeba Valley and the northern Uplands and eastwards to the built-up edge of Douglas.
- Some glimpsed views over fields from most sections of roads, which are enclosed by high grassed Manx hedgerows for the most part.

Historic Features

- Disused mine.
- Round and Long houses at Braaid.
- Broogh Fort and Motte.

Ecological Features

- Farmland grassland habitats.
- Marginal periphery moorland habitats at edges of coniferous plantations.
- Mature network of hedgerows containing deciduous trees in field boundaries.
- Small aquatic and riparian waterside habitats in the numerous small drainage ditches.
- Some small clumps of deciduous woodland.

Evaluation of Inherent Landscape Sensitivities

- Sparsely settled character, other than at Newtown.
- Mount Murray Golf course development and linear settlement of Newtown.
- Heath vegetation on upper slopes.
- Large predominantly pastoral fields with Manx hedges and gorse in fields.
- Sunken lanes enclosed by grassed Manx hedges with some gorse and thorn bushes.
- Sites of archaeological importance.
- Moderate sense of tranquillity.

Landscape Strategy

The overall strategy should be to conserve and enhance the character, quality and distinctiveness of the area, with its open large pastoral fields, its Manx hedges, its scattered farm houses fringed by trees, its sunken and enclosed rural road network and its numerous archaeological features.

D11 - FOXDALE



INCISED SLOPES

D11 FOXDALE

Key Characteristics

- A rural landscape with a settled farmland character
- Wide wooded river valley with various settlements along the A3 and A24.
- Small-scale rectilinear fields in valley bottom around settlements becoming larger and fragmented with strong geometric pattern around Mount Pleasant.
- Predominantly slate houses with front walls consisting of slate and white granite tops.
- Undulating farmland with large arable and pastoral fields with intact field boundaries.
- Gently rounded hills.
- Large Archallagan coniferous plantation on abrupt edge on rounded hilltop.
- Hill farms surrounded by trees.
- Irregular sized and shaped fields of rough pasture on increasingly steep slopes that lead up to the Southern Uplands.
- Fields generally enclosed by robust Manx hedgerows, with gorse in upper parts of area and occasional trees in valley bottom.
- Moderate sense of enclosure provided by surrounding slopes.
- Sense of tranquillity reduced in areas close to the busy A3/A24.
- Legacy of abandoned mines and quarries, with spoiled areas and disused buildings.
- An evocative sense of abandoned fields on upper slopes.
- Kionslieu Reservoir and Eairy Dam waterbodies
- Well vegetated river corridor descending to Greeba Valley and St. John's.

Overall Character Description

The area consists predominantly of settled undulating farmland on gently sloping valley sides and the relatively steep slopes that lead up to the Southern Uplands, from where numerous small tributaries, such as Struan Barrule, drain to fill the Eairy Dam and Kionslieu reservoir that subsequently flow into the valley bottom river.

The gently rounded hilltop covered by the large Archallagan coniferous plantation with abrupt edges is surrounded by an extensive area of farmland and pasture, divided by strong hedgerows of Manx hedges with gorse that creates a strong geometric field pattern. Large rectangular fields with deciduous trees contained within the field boundaries, in addition to the trees that surround the scattered farm houses and out buildings in places, such as Kerrowdhoo Farm, create an enclosed but settled feel. The enclosed character is enhanced by the numerous small lanes with tall grassed Manx hedges that predominantly follow the valley contours. Relatively small rectilinear fields around settlements. Sense of tranquillity reduced by busy A3/A24 highways.

Fragmented and often dense deciduous woodland occupies the Foxdale valley bottom, along which the A24 and A3 road corridors run. The settlement of Foxdale with its modern extension is located in the valley bottom at the A24/A3 junction. Settlements in the valley generally comprise a mixture of low terraced and detached houses, constructed predominantly of slate. White granite topped front walls of the houses run parallel to the road corridor and river. Around Lower Foxdale, the watercourse is surrounded by lush riparian vegetation and deciduous woodland.

Key Views

- Open views down and across the valley towards St. Johns, the Greeba Valley and beyond to the peaks of the Northern Uplands from areas of higher ground
- Enclosed views up to the surrounding Southern Upland areas and Stoney Mountain Plantation

Historic Features

- Disused mines and quarries and mining features.
- Giant's grave.
- Keeill.

Ecological Features

- Farmland grassland habitats.
- Marginal periphery moorland habitats at edges of coniferous plantations and on upper valley slopes.
- Mature network of hedgerows containing deciduous trees in field boundaries.
- Aquatic and waterside habitats along river's course and in the reservoirs.
- Dense riparian woodland in valley bottom with deciduous woodland along valley sides.

Evaluation of Inherent Landscape Sensitivities

- Valley bottom and riverside woodland.
- Ecological value of the aquatic ecosystem with riparian habitats.
- Strongly geometric pattern of fields with Manx hedges.
- Numerous small lanes with grassed Manx hedges.
- Sites of archaeological importance.
- Scattered hill farms fringed by trees on upper slopes.

Landscape Strategy

The overall strategy should be to conserve and enhance the character, quality and distinctiveness of the area, with its wooded valley bottoms, its strong geometric field pattern side lined by Manx hedges, its numerous traditional buildings and its network of small roads and lanes. The strategy should also include the restoration of landscapes disturbed by former mining activities.

D12 - DOUGLAS HEAD



INCISED SLOPES

D12 – DOUGLAS HEAD

Key Characteristics

- Prominent gently rounded hill overlooking the coast with some steeper undulations in the north and south.
- Open and windswept with large scale predominantly rectilinear fields over the majority of the area and some patches of heath on the seaward and northern areas as well as on the summit around Upper Howe Farm.
- Carnane Communications mast forms a distinctive landmark on skyline.
- Former Douglas Head Hotel and surrounding buildings are highly visible surrounded by cut amenity grass on gently slopes.
- Panoramic views inland and out to sea.
- Scattered farmsteads, typically surrounded by trees.
- Strong sense of tranquillity in southern and eastern parts, reduced elsewhere by views towards Douglas.
- Open and expansive views from most of the area out to sea, along the coast, over Douglas Bay and inland over the incised plateau up to the northern uplands.
- Lighthouse and camera obscura at eastern tip of Douglas Head.

Overall Character Description

Visually prominent gently rounded hill that forms the southern backdrop to the built-up area of Douglas. Large predominantly rectilinear fields with low Manx hedges cover most the area with extensive patches of gorse, heather and other heathland vegetation growing on the more undulating seaward slopes above the former Douglas Head Hotel, which has been converted into apartments. The communications mast at Carnane forms the most prominent human feature in the wider area although the buildings associated with the former hotel are also highly visible. Small steep tracks and roads, lined with low hedges growing on the grassy mounds of the Manx hedges, link and provide access to these dwellings. The few farms in the area are surrounded by trees.

The A25 forms the northern boundary with the built-up area of Douglas beyond and steep sloping wooded slopes with some areas of exposed rock lie directly to the south of the road. These wooded slopes fragment near Ivy Cottages on the north-eastern boundary. A stone wall of the Business School and Nunnery estate forms the north-eastern boundary. The only other prominent trees grow along the gully cut by Ellenbrook. The seaward boundary follow the Victorian pleasure drive of the Marine Drive with areas of cliff blasted and exposed where the road has been built.

Key Views

- Open and expansive views from most of the area out to sea, along the coast, over Douglas Bay and inland over the incised inland plateau up to the northern uplands.
- Telecommunications tower on hill top forms highly visible landmark in surrounding areas.

Historic Features

- Victorian Marine drive with associated crenellated entry gates (Registered Building).

Ecological Features

- Marginal farmland grassland habitats.
- Heathland habitats on some sea facing slopes.
- Network of hedgerows in field boundaries.

Evaluation of Inherent Landscape Sensitivities

- Visually prominent skyline.
- Open large scale fields with providing strong visual contrast with built-up area of Douglas.
- Steep winding small lanes enclosed by grassed Manx hedges.
- Sites of archaeological importance.
- Victorian Marine Driveway.
- Extensive, open and panoramic views.
- Scattered hill farms.
- Strong sense of tranquillity and exposure to elements.

Landscape Strategy

The overall strategy should be to conserve and enhance the character, quality and distinctiveness of the area, with its open and panoramic views over large rectilinear fields, its steep winding small lanes enclosed by grassed Manx hedges and its scattered hill farms fringed by trees.

D13 - SANTON



INCISED SLOPES

D13 - SANTON

Key Characteristics

- A predominantly rural landscape, dissected by A5 and A25 roads.
- Densely wooded valley bottoms amongst undulating rolling land with large rectilinear arable and pastoral fields on the gently sloping hill sides and rounded tops.
- Steep sided densely wooded Victorian pleasure Glens of Glen Grenaugh and Port Soderick Glen lead down to the coast.
- Victorian electric railway line and stations runs through the area at the bottom of Crogga Glen.
- Fragmented woodland along field boundaries and along tracks that access the scattered farm houses centred around Quine's Hill (along the A25) and small settlements of Santon and Ballaveare.
- Sea-facing hill slopes with large open fields running along the cliff tops with gorse, heather and bracken along the cliff top periphery.
- Incinerator chimney forms notable landmark in the immediate area.
- Presence of Manx Milestones.
- Abrupt linear southern built edge to Douglas, comprising residential and industrial development with minor localised extension of industrial character into character area south of Cooil Road.
- Pulrose Golf Course on edge of Douglas

Overall Character Description

Numerous gentle to steeply sided river valleys cut down into the landform to form an undulating and rolling character with pronounced incised valleys. Glen Grenaugh and Port Soderick Glen are steep-sided densely wooded valleys, the latter appropriated during the Victorian period as pleasure Glens with walkways and features such as bandstands and bridges. Linear fragmented woodland runs along the valley bottoms of these National Glens and along Crogga River. Hedgerow trees and woodland blocks surround the numerous farms in the area, which are predominantly located in the north of the area around Quine's Hill.

Medium sized rectilinear arable and pastoral fields delineated predominantly by Manx hedges and some post and wire fences form a strong geometric field pattern on the gently sloping hill sides and rounded tops in the south of the area. Smaller rectilinear fields enclosed by Manx hedgerows, containing large hedgerow trees, cover the more settled north-eastern area where farmsteads such as Hampton Court and Cronkbane are concentrated. This field pattern stops abruptly in the north of the area where it meets the A24 and the linear built-up edge of Douglas. The far north-eastern part of the area comprises the Pulrose Golf Course, which extends in towards the centre of Douglas. Patches of gorse and heather grow in areas on the more exposed hill tops and along the eastern edges of the fields of the coastal facing slopes, along which the cliff top coastal path runs and forms the area's seaward boundary.

The busy A25 runs along the lower valley sides with small, often steep and winding tracks branching off perpendicular from the main road to provide farm access, while smaller predominantly straight B roads, enclosed by tall hedgerow vegetation, which follow the grain of the rectilinear field pattern and link the small and wooded settlements within the area such as Santon and Seafield. The Victorian Electric Railway runs through the area along Crogga Glen with stations at Santon and Port Soderick before skirting around the bottom of Douglas Head which forms the north eastern boundary. Moderate sense of tranquillity away from Douglas and the major roads.

Key Views

- Open and expansive views from the higher areas along the rugged coast in the east and inland towards the upland areas over Braaid.
- Incinerator chimney forms a notable landmark in the immediate area.
- Glimpsed views framed by vegetation in the valley bottoms and along the main roads where they follow the wooded valley bottoms.
- Views in the northern part of the area up to the Transmitting Masts on top of Douglas Head hill top.
- Views from Isle of Man Steam Railway

Historic Features

- Victorian Isle of Man Steam Railway and stations, including Port Soderick (Registered Building) and the Old Toll Booth (Registered Building).

Ecological Features

- Farmland grassland habitats.
- Mature network of hedgerows containing deciduous trees in field boundaries.
- Aquatic and waterside habitats along river courses.
- Dense riparian woodland in Valley bottom with deciduous woodland along valley sides.
- Exposed heathland on steeper sea facing slopes.

Key Issues and landscape sensitivities

- Wooded horizons and skyline seen from valley bottoms.
- Ecological value of the aquatic and waterside habitats.
- Various sized pastoral and arable fields with Manx hedges.
- Wooded valley bottom with fragmented woodland along substantial field boundaries.
- Scattered farmsteads fringed by trees.
- Wooded Victorian Pleasure Glen at Port Soderick.
- Victorian Isle of Man Steam Railway and stations.
- Presence of Manx Milestones.

Landscape Strategy

The overall strategy should be to conserve and enhance the character, quality and distinctiveness of the area, with its wooded valley bottoms and wooded horizons, its scattered settlement pattern, its Victorian pleasure glen and the railway.

D14 - BALLAMODHA, EARYSTANE AND ST MARK'S



INCISED SLOPES

D14 – BALLAMODHA AND ST MARK’S

Key Characteristics

- Land slopes down from the southern uplands towards the coast.
- Numerous deeply incised wooded river valleys and glens cut down into the landscape forming ribbons of fragmented woodland.
- National Glens at Silverdale and Colby
- Settled farmland character with some large nucleated settlements along the A7, small villages and a variety of scattered dwellings and farms.
- Smaller predominantly rectangular pastoral fields with Manx hedges topped with gorse on the upland slopes to the north.
- Patches of gorse, bracken and heather in fields on the upper slopes.
- Larger rectilinear pastoral and arable fields with large deciduous trees growing on Manx hedges on the more gently sloping southern slopes.
- Around the various settlements and farms there are smaller rectangular arable and pastoral fields with Manx hedgerows containing numerous trees and some stone walls.
- Network of tracks, small lanes and larger roads enclosed by substantial hedgerows containing deciduous trees all growing on grass covered Manx hedges.
- Numerous small reservoirs and water bodies associated with water courses.
- Some small churches with spires as well as various standing stones and other visible archaeological sites.
- Presence of Manx Milestones.
- Quarries at Turkeyland and at Ballown.

Overall Character Description

Land slopes steeply down from the southern uplands with small rectangular fields of rough pasture containing patches of gorse and some bracken in places where these upland species have spread out from the low Manx hedges. A variety of predominantly stone hill farms with numerous outhouses surrounded by fragmented woodland, such as Ballaglashan and Glenmoar Farm, are located on these steeper slopes. The tight geometric field pattern on these slopes loosens as the slope angle becomes shallower with larger, predominantly angular but irregularly shaped fields of grazing and agriculture covering the majority of the flatter southern area. Smaller fields surround the various small clustered settlements. There are also groups of trees surrounding these settlements (e.g. the more traditional village of St. Mark’s with its stone houses, church and conservation area) and also around loosely clustered dwellings such as those along the A34 north of Ballasalla. Located along the busy A7 road are the two larger nucleated settlements of Ballabeg and Colby whose traditional fabric has been added to with numerous modern extensions that back onto small fields with some screening in the form of mature trees in surrounding hedgerows.

Through this gently sloping and undulating landscape cut numerous steep sided deep and heavily vegetated river valleys, including Colby River, Silver Burn and Santon Burn, with numerous smaller tributaries joining their courses along with various rectilinear drainage ditches. These wooded valleys form sinuous fingers of fragmented woodland that cut across and disrupt the field pattern and otherwise gently sloping landform. Colby Glen and Silverdale Glen are designated both as conservation areas and National Glens. These glens were developed during the Victorian times to allow visitors waterside access and a chance to experience these enclosed valleys and their lush riparian vegetation by way of footbridges and paths with handrails to promenade. Many original features remain today.

A network of small tracks, narrow roads and larger A roads traverse the area and are predominantly contained by steep sided grassy banks of the Manx hedgerows that line the roads, with varying hedgerows, some containing trees in places. There is a settled but semi-rural character. There is a relatively strong sense of tranquillity that pervades much of the area. Wooded horizons are common in

most places, creating an intimate contained and continuous character. The steep sided Glens break what would otherwise be a relatively monotonous landscape to create active and dramatic elements that one can descend down into from the surrounding fields.

Key Views

- Distant views prevented at times by dense woodland in river valleys and by the cumulative screening effect of hedgerow trees, which tend to create wooded horizons.
- Open and panoramic views out to sea from the higher areas on the upper western parts of the area where there are few trees to interrupt views.

Historic Features

- Numerous chapels and churches including Columbus Church and Kirk Santon with Medieval crosses
- Standing stones and some earthworks
- Rushen Abbey (Cistercian) and Monks Bridge
- Silverdale watermill and roundabout

Ecological Features

- Farmland grassland habitats
- Mature network of hedgerows containing deciduous trees in field boundaries
- Aquatic and waterside habitats along river courses
- Dense riparian woodland in Glen bottoms
- Fragmented blocks of deciduous woodland
- Bird sanctuary at junction of A34 and A3

Evaluation of Inherent Landscape Sensitivities

- Mixture of field size and pattern with various hedges containing a variety of vegetation.
- Fragmented woodland in valley bottoms and along National Glens.
- Rivers and reservoirs with aquatic ecosystem with riparian habitats.
- Built up edge of Ballasalla and nucleated settlements of Ballabeg and Colby.
- Scattered traditional farms and hamlets fringed by deciduous woodland.
- Network of tracks, small lanes and larger roads enclosed by substantial hedgerows containing deciduous trees all growing on grass covered Manx hedges.
- Sites of archaeological importance.
- Manx Milestones by roadside.
- Victorian Isle of Man Steam Railway station and halts.

Landscape Strategy

The overall strategy for the area should be to conserve and enhance the character, quality and distinctiveness of this farmed landscape with various field patterns defined by different hedges, a scattered settlement pattern of traditional hamlets, farmsteads and nucleated settlements fringed by trees, a varied road network enclosed by grassed Manx hedges and roadside vegetation, and numerous wooded valleys and glens. In addition to the conservation of archaeological sites, measures should also be adopted to conserve and enhance the physical structure and setting of upstanding heritage features such as the Silverdale watermill.

D15 - PORT ERIN AND PORT ST. MARY



INCISED SLOPES

D15 – PORT ERIN AND PORT ST. MARY

Key Characteristics

- Settled and built-up areas of Port Erin and Port St. Mary around sandy beaches.
- Numerous smaller settlements, scattered houses and farms create a settled character.
- Built-up areas meet a matrix of golf courses and large rectangular fields of rough grazing, which are divided by Manx hedges and stone walls in the lower areas.
- Smaller rectangular fields on the upper slopes surround more scattered dwellings and farmsteads.
- Patches of moorland vegetation spreading into the fragmenting fields along the upland periphery.
- Isle of Man Steam Railway with stations and numerous small and large roads cut through the area.
- Variety of archaeological sites in the area including Fairy Hill and some standing stones.
- A fragmented settled rural character with roads and housing as dominant elements.
- Little tree cover in the area other than around Trinity Church, the southern edges of Ballakillowey and along the A7.

Overall Character Description

The rising slopes of Bradda Hill and the Southern Uplands to the north and Meayll Hill to the south create a flat bottomed bowl. The sandy bays of Port Erin Bay lie to the west with Chapel Bay and Bay Ny Carrickey to the east. The built-up areas of Port Erin and Port St. Mary cluster along the foreshore around the beaches and spread inland into a matrix of large rectangular fields of rough grazing divided by Manx hedges with gorse and some stone walls. The rectilinear urban edges follow roads and infill development has resulted in these settlements spreading towards each other. The area towards Port St. Mary and around Four Roads, with its scattered buildings and farm houses, creates an urban hinterland with its large farm barns and large cylindrical gas tanks. Rowany Golf Course separates the definite built up northern edge of Port Erin from the numerous houses of Bradda East, Ballafesson and Surby located on lower slopes along the A32 and B47. There is a mix of stone and coloured rendered houses in a traditional style with more modern culs-de-sac housing estates on the lower upland slopes and in places such as Ballakillowey and the larger settlement of Ballakillowey in the east of the area. The extent of and distribution of such housing estates in conjunction with the larger built up areas of Port Erin and Port St. Mary results in a settled and built up character in the lower parts of this character area.

Small rectilinear pastoral fields supporting cattle and sheep, surround the houses on the rising slopes. Housing density decreases up hill with few scattered dwellings and farms on the middle slopes of Meayll Hill, south of Truggan Road and north of the linear settlement of Surby. In these more elevated areas patches of rough grass, heather and gorse begin to spread into fields as the field pattern fragments and the moorland to the north and south begins to dominate. To the east, the land flattens around Orestal to meet the southern plain and rises gently in the north east to meet the undulating, incised and less densely settled character area of Ballamodha and St. Marks.

There is little tree cover in the area other than around Trinity Church, along the southern boundary of Ballakillowey, along the A7 and alongside a number of small streams that drain the surrounding upland areas. There are few substantial trees along any of the field boundaries that are predominantly lined with gorse. The Isle of Man Steam Railway with stations and halts as well as numerous minor and major roads with roundabouts cut through the area linking the numerous settlements in the area to the rest of the Island and result in a fragmented settled character with a low sense of tranquillity.

Key Views

- Extensive panoramic views from higher ground on hill slopes along coast to the Calf of Man, inland over the Scarlett Peninsula and up the southern uplands and Meayll Hill.

Historic Features

- Standing Stones
- Motte – Fairy Hill
- Trinity Church

Ecological Features

- Farmland grassland habitats
- Marginal heathland habitats on steeper upper slopes
- Mature network of hedgerows containing deciduous trees in field boundaries
- Fragmented blocks of deciduous woodland
- Small aquatic and riparian waterside habitats in the numerous small drainage ditches and water body near Trinity Church.

Evaluation of Inherent Landscape Sensitivities

- Nucleated settlements of Port Erin, Port St. Mary, Surby and Ballakillowey.
- Scattered traditional farms dwellings on upper slopes.
- Sites of archaeological importance.
- Rectangular fields with moorland vegetation spreading from Manx hedgerows on the upper slopes.
- Victorian Isle of Man Steam Railway and station.

Landscape Strategy

The overall strategy for the area should be to maintain and enhance the character, quality and distinctiveness of the local built vernacular and integrity of the nucleated settlements of Port Erin, Port St. Mary and Ballagawne, the scattered traditional farms dwellings and to maintain the field pattern and semi-upland character of the upper slopes.

E1 - PORT GRENAUGH



RUGGED COAST

E. RUGGED COASTAL AREAS

E1 – PORT GRENAUGH

Key Characteristics

- Sheltered coves of Port Grenagh and Port Soldrick with shelving shale beach.
- Low rocky jagged sea cliffs.
- Inter-tidal rock pools on rocky platforms in the litoral zone.
- Steeply shelving grassy slopes abutting large flat pastoral and arable fields at cliff tops.
- Remains of numerous Promontory Forts along the coastal footpath.
- Strong sense of tranquillity.
- Open and expansive views.
- Colour and movement of the sea contrasts with the coastal landforms, and combine to create a dramatic landscape.

Overall Character Description

The laminate and folded bedrock of the Manx group form rocky and jagged sea cliffs that reduce in height in the south of the area around Derbyhaven where gently graded sandy beaches develop. The coastal path forms the inland boundary to this area and hugs the cliff top where flat irregularly shaped pastoral fields divided by low Manx hedges topped with gorse abut the steeply sloping grassy banks, interspersed with patches of exposed rock that descend steeply to form low rocky sea cliffs covered by lichen. Extensive rocky platforms with numerous rock pools containing a multitude of sea life and draped with various species of seaweed are exposed at the low tide at the base of these sea cliffs.

The coastline is relatively indented with small headlands such as Cass-ny-Hawin Head and the larger headland of Santon Head, which forms the northern limit of the area. Beyond Santon Head which the cliffs increase in height and become more rugged. Large jagged rocks protrude into the sea at places along the coast such as at Baltic Rock. The small headland of Banner Rock offers protection to the sheltered cove of Port Grenagh, which along with Port Soldrick and Santon Burn is the only place along the coastline where there is a gently graded shale beach at the rear of a recessed cove that allows access down to the foreshore.

On the rocky headland above Port Grenagh, sits Cronk-ny-Merriu which is the remains of a Norse House as well as a well preserved example of an Iron Age Promontory Fort and that is representative of the remains of many such defensive positions that are located along the coastline. There is a strong feeling of tranquillity along this stretch of coastline with no settlement along the cliff edge and only one farm house in close proximity to the coastal path. This path provides continuous cliff top access with expansive views.

Key Views

- Panoramic and open views out to sea from the Raad ny Foillan coastal footpath, south towards Langness and the School Tower in Castletown and north up the jagged coastline towards Santon Head.

Historic Features

- Cronk-ny-Merriu and Cross-ny-Hawin Promontory Forts.

Ecological Features

- Inter-tidal zone with numerous habitats.
- Marine Habitats.
- Sea cliff nesting sites for sea birds.
- Coastal Heath.

Evaluation of Inherent Landscape Sensitivities

- Ecologically diverse coastline with marine and inter-tidal habitats.
- Sea cliff nesting sites for sea birds.
- Strong sense of tranquillity.
- Open and expansive panoramic views.
- Sites of archaeological importance.

Landscape Strategy

The overall strategy should be to conserve the character, quality and distinctiveness of this remote and tranquil coastal area with its rich ecological habitats, open and expansive panoramic views and numerous sites of archaeological importance.

E2 - PORT SODERICK



RUGGED COAST

E2 –PORT SODERICK

Key Characteristics

- Rocky indented coast with various small coves and a graded shale beach at Port Soderick.
- Shelving grassy slopes with some heath land vegetation abutting irregular shaped pastoral fields, abut high jagged rocky cliffs.
- Rocky foreshore with banded Manx group slates and shales form rock pools with numerous off-shore rocky outcrops.
- Victorian pleasure drive of Marine Drive, with its crenellated entry arch (Registered Building), runs along the cliff edge with painted iron railings in places.
- Relatively strong sense of tranquillity.
- Open and expansive views from Marine Drive.
- Colour and movement of the sea contrasts with the coastal landforms, and combine to create a dramatic landscape.

Overall Character Description

Steep grassy slopes with patches of bracken, gorse and heather descend down to tall jagged sea cliffs that plunge to the sea below. A banded rocky foreshore composed of mud and sand stones from the Manx Group, is exposed at low tide with numerous rock pools strewn with seaweed and marine fauna. Sea birds nest on the steep sea cliffs amongst small patches of grass, scree and bracken that accumulate on the less steep areas. Prominent headlands with some irregular shaped pastoral fields on the upper gentle slopes. These abut the rough grass and heather patches that grow on the steeper slopes above the cliffs. Numerous off shore rocks out at sea that remain exposed at high tide such as Fiddler's Green. Interspersed between these headlands are numerous small sheltered coves, such as Pistol Bay and Port Wallberry. The largest of these coves is Port Soderick, which is formed where the deep, steep sided wooded Port Soderick Glen meets the coast to create a small enclosed shale beach with road access to an abandoned cafe/public house and concrete jetty.

The northern boundary of the area follows the Victorian pleasure drive of Marine Drive, whose route follows the cliff tops as far as Port Soderick, with the northern entry marked by an ornate crenellated archway and blue-painted wrought iron railings. There is cliff top access to the south of the area along the coastal path that passes a historic promontory fort at Santon Head, after which the cliff height begins to gradually decrease past Port Grenagh. Other than the abandoned hotel in Port Soderick, there is no settlement in the area, resulting in a rugged and fairly isolated character, which is detracted from to an extent by traffic on Marine Drive.

Key Views

- Open expansive and panoramic views out to sea from Marine Drive and from coastal footpaths including Raad ny Foillan
- Views along the rocky coastline over various prominent headlands.
- View out to sea from Port Soderick framed by rocky cliffs

Historic Features

- Promontory fort north of Stanton

Ecological Features

- Inter-tidal zone with numerous habitats
- Marine habitats
- Sea cliff nesting sites for sea birds
- Coastal Heath

Evaluation of Inherent Landscape Sensitivities

- Ecologically diverse coastline with marine and inter-tidal habitats.
- Sea cliff nesting sites for sea birds.
- Strong sense of tranquillity.
- Victorian pleasure drive of Marine Drive.
- Open and expansive panoramic views.
- Sites of archaeological importance.

Landscape Strategy

The overall strategy should be to conserve the character, quality and distinctiveness of the tranquil coastal area with its rich ecological habitats, open and expansive panoramic views and numerous sites of archaeological importance.

E3 - DOUGLAS BAY



RUGGED COAST

E3 – DOUGLAS BAY

Key Characteristics

- Built-up areas of Douglas and Onchan form dominating back-drop to the area.
- Gently graded sandy beach is contained by two prominent rocky headlands with jagged sea cliffs.
- Victorian esplanade with metal railings forms a promenade along the beach's edge marking the edge of the area.
- Settlement of Onchan perches on the cliff tops with development spreading to cliff edge path.
- Concrete piers and break waters of Douglas harbour.
- Views along the coast constrained by the two large headlands that enclose the area.
- Little tranquillity in the area but an interesting character resulting from the urban back drop.
- Strong visual contrast between sea and urban areas.
- Colour and movement of the sea contrasts with the coastal landforms, and combine to create a dramatic landscape.

Overall Character Description

Douglas Bay is enclosed by two prominent rounded headlands that contain the spread of the built-up areas of Douglas and Onchan which form the inland boundary to Douglas Bay. From the jagged, sheer and rocky cliffs above Brither Clip Gut, the cliff height decreases, with notable indentations at Port Jack and Onchan Harbour where a small sandy beach in the sheltered cove has formed. Around the large 'Electric Railway' sign that forms a highly visible landmark, the rocky cliffs finish and a gently graded sandy beach spreads out in front of Douglas. Raad ny Foillan coastal path runs along the coast from Douglas promenade.

The tidal reach in Douglas Bay is such that a wide sandy beach is exposed at low tide allowing access to the Tower of Refuge, which was built on rock by Sir William Hillary in 1832, and is lit at night. At high tide the sea laps at the bottom of the concrete sea defences, above which a metal railing runs along the seaward side of the esplanade. This esplanade and a parallel road, with its horse drawn carriages and other vehicles forms the inland boundary of the bay together with numerous Victorian pavilions along the water's edge. A continuous terrace of tall Victorian hotels and more modern apartment developments run parallel to the road, helping break the salty onshore winds.

Above Onchan Harbour and along the cliff tops, modern residential settlements perch amongst areas of grass and bracken that extend up to the steeper undeveloped ground. The coastal path forms the inland boundary in this portion of the area. In the south of Douglas Bay, the sandy beach meets the concrete break-waters of Victoria Pier and Alexandra Pier. These protect the outer harbour, into which protrude King Edward VIII pier, Fort Anne Jetty and a lifeboat launching station. South of the harbour, the ground rises steeply past rocky cliffs and up grassy slopes with a row of terraced houses accessible by Douglas Head Road. The boundary follows the lower road that skirts around the bottom of the cliffs providing access to Douglas Head Lighthouse located on the rocky promontory. There is a strong Victorian seaside feel to the area, whose main character is determined by Douglas and Onchan whose built up form along with the sea, exert the strongest influence on the area. Douglas Bay has a low sense of tranquillity but an interesting character. The Douglas Promenade Conservation Area, on the edge of the bay, was established to protect a small surviving section of the old town, parts of the 19th century town and an early example of Victorian Street improvements.

Key Views

- Inter-visibility is possible in numerous places along the sea front from the coastal path around Onchan to the various piers and at the lighthouse at Douglas Point.

- Views inland are dominated almost exclusively by the built form of Douglas with its terrace of white Victorian hotels, the built form of Onchan on the cliff tops and the various paraphernalia associated with the Harbour.
- Views along the coast constrained and dominated by the two large headlands that enclose the area.

Historic Features

- Douglas Head Lighthouse.
- Tower of Refuge.
- Settlement of Douglas.

Ecological Features

- Inter-tidal zone with numerous habitats.
- Marine Habitats.
- Sea cliff nesting sites for sea birds.

Evaluation of Inherent Landscape Sensitivities

- Built-up areas of Douglas and Onchan.
- Victorian esplanade with metal railings forms a promenade.
- Ecologically diverse coastline with marine and inter-tidal habitats.
- Sea cliff nesting sites for sea birds.
- Open views enclosed by headlands.
- Sites of archaeological and cultural importance.

Landscape Strategy

The overall strategy should be to conserve and enhance the character, quality and distinctiveness of Douglas harbour, promenade and beach, the urban setting between two large open headlands and to maintain the rich maritime and coastal habitats of the area.

E4 - CLAY HEAD



RUGGED COAST

E4 – CLAY HEAD

Key Characteristics

- Jagged indented rocky coastline with some natural arches.
- Rocky foreshore with banded bedrock and scattered large offshore rocks.
- Sheltered cove and graded shale beach at Groudle Glen.
- Steeply shelving grassy slopes with intermittent heath vegetation surrounding irregular shaped pastoral fields at cliff tops.
- Groudle Glen railway runs along the cliff edge to reach Sea Lion Cove.
- Open and exposed headland with medium sense of tranquillity.
- Colour and movement of the sea contrasts with the coastal landforms, and combine to create a dramatic landscape.

Overall Character Description

Gentle to steep sloping land leads down to rounded cliffs. Irregularly shaped arable and pastoral fields surrounds Clay Head Farm with additional areas of heathland vegetation on the land that descends to cliff tops. Steeply sloping jagged rock faces, covered in places with grasses and lichen, descend from the cliff tops to the rocky foreshore. This is characterized by folded laminate bedding planes of the Manx slate groups that gives the rock a banded character. Numerous rock pools with seaweed and other marine life are exposed at low tide on the rocky foreshore. Numerous large off shore rocks such as 'The Clett', providing habitat for the sea birds that nest on the cliffs and creating a jagged coastline with sizable natural arches around Bath Doo.

The grey pebbled dashed holiday houses at the bottom of the steep sided Groudle Glen are the only settlement in the area, bar the small farmstead and house at Clay Head and the buildings at the former Howstrake Hotel holiday campsite. Port Groudle forms the only access point to the foreshore, with a winding road descending alongside this wooded National Glen to a gently graded beach of shale and small stones surrounded by eroded banded rock from the Manx Group. There is a tranquil feel in the area, mainly due to the inaccessibility of much of the area with the coastal path located inland away from the cliff top until it meets the Groudle Glen railway south of the area. This railway brought Victorian visitors to the abandoned Sea Lion Cove. The Electric Railway still runs alongside the A11 road that forms the inland boundary of the area halfway up the rounded hill of Banks Howe at the periphery of Onchan and the built-up area of Douglas Bay. The proximity of Onchan and views up to the settlement of Laxey has the effect of reducing the feeling of remoteness.

Key Views

- Channelled views out to sea from the beach at Port Groudle.
- Extensive panoramic views out to sea and across Douglas Bay from the A11 around Howstrake Camp Electric railway stop and at the periphery of the settlement of Onchan.
- Glimpsed views towards Laxey Bay and up to the Northern Uplands over heathland from the eastern end of Clay Head Road.

Historic Features

- Abandoned Sea Lion Cove
- Mounds and Tumulus on Clay Head.

Ecological Features

- Inter-tidal zone with numerous habitats.
- Marine habitats.
- Sea cliff nesting sites for sea birds.
- Coastal Heath.
- Marginal farmland and grassland habitats.
- Fragmented network of hedgerow habitats.

Evaluation of Inherent Landscape Sensitivities

- Groudle Glen railway.
- Heathland vegetation.
- Irregular shaped pastoral fields at cliff top.
- Ecologically diverse coastline with marine and inter-tidal habitats.
- Sea cliff nesting sites for sea birds.
- Strong sense of tranquillity.
- Open and expansive panoramic views.
- Sites of archaeological importance.

Landscape Strategy

The overall strategy should be to conserve the character, quality and distinctiveness of the tranquil coastal area with its rich ecological habitats, open and expansive panoramic views and numerous sites of archaeological importance.

E5 - LAXEY BAY



E5 LAXEY BAY

Key Characteristics

- Glen Mooar and Glen Roy converge at Laxey and flow out towards the sea (via a relatively steeply incised valley) culminating within the bay.
- Rugged coastline lined by cliffs that fall steeply, from the Incised Inland Slopes to west, towards the sea.
- Green and vegetated cliffs provide a relatively strong sense of north-south enclosure within the bay.
- A cluster of two and three-storey white-washed houses, which overlooking Laxey Bay and climbing the steep enclosing slopes.
- Houses nestle around the bay and overlook the wide expanse of blue sea to the east.
- Shallow stony beach marks the transition from sea to shore, lined to the south by a wide promenade and seafront road.
- Rigid form of the grey stone harbour wall (housing two small lighthouses), and marking the entrance to a colourful harbour, is dominant within views northwards.
- A strong sense of enclosure is provided by rising headlands to the east and west, contributing to a sense of remoteness and seclusion.
- Within the harbour, the masts of yachts provide dominant vertical elements against the strongly wooded headland sides.
- Little sense of remoteness and relatively low tranquillity due to the influence of Laxey, the railway and the A2.
- Colour and movement of the sea contrasts with the coastal landforms, and combine to create a dramatic landscape.

Overall Character Description

Laxey Bay is situated at the eastern edge of the Island, adjacent to Laxey village. Glen Mooar and Glen Roy converge at Laxey and flow out to the sea (via a relatively steeply incised valley). At this point, the coastline is rugged and is lined by cliffs that fall steeply from the Incised Inland Slopes to west, towards the sea. These cliffs (which appear green and vegetated) provide a relatively strong sense of north-south enclosure within the bay, from the top of which, panoramic, open views eastwards across the sea can be gained. A cluster of two and three-storey white houses overlooks Laxey Bay (Old Laxey village), which line the seafront and cliff sides (where they are interspersed by mature deciduous trees), exhibiting a green and white dappled landscape pattern. These houses nestle round the bay and overlook the wide expanse of blue sea to the east. At the bottom of the cliffs, several clusters of eroded and jagged dark rocks spread out into the sea. At the foot of the bay, a shallow stony beach marks the transition from sea to shore, lined to the south by a wide promenade and seafront road. The rigid form of the grey stone harbour wall (housing two small lighthouses) and marking the entrance to a colourful harbour is dominant within views northwards. Within the harbour, the masts of yachts (which clink in high winds) provide dominant vertical elements against the strongly wooded headland sides. A strong sense of enclosure is provided by rising headlands to the east and west. These headlands have a generally open character, with occasional single mature trees visible against the sky on the horizon. Little sense of remoteness due to influence of Baldrine on Garwick Bay and the coastal settlement of Laxey with the railway and A2 running close to the water's edge, that also detracts from the tranquillity of the area. The harbour has a bustling, yet relaxing character, with a general sense of remoteness and sheltered seclusion as a result of the strong sense of enclosure provided by the cliffs and glen sides.

Key Views

- Extensive, panoramic open views eastwards across the ever-changing seascape.
- Grey stone wall of the harbour, is a landmark within views westwards.
- Views across the bay contained by protruding headlands to the north and south.

Historic Features

- Cloven Stones at Baldrine.

Ecological Features

- Inter-tidal zone with numerous habitats.
- Marine habitats.
- Sea cliff nesting sites for sea birds.
- Coastal heath.
- Marginal farmland and grassland habitats.
- Fragmented network of hedgerow habitats.

Evaluation of Inherent Landscape Sensitivities

- Settlement of Laxey nestled around the bay.
- Colourful marina.
- Wooded headlands.
- Ecologically diverse coastline with marine and inter-tidal habitats.
- Sea cliff nesting sites for sea birds.
- Sites of archaeological importance.

Landscape Strategy

The overall strategy should be to conserve and enhance the character, quality and distinctiveness of Laxey bay, with its harbour, beach and urban setting and to maintain the area's rich maritime and coastal habitats.

E6 - DHOON BAY AND PORT CORNAA



RUGGED COAST

E6 DHOON BAY AND PORT CORNAA

Key Characteristics

- Three semi-enclosed, rugged coastal bays (Port Cornaa, Dhoon Bay and Bulgham Bay).
- Rugged cliffs, which rise steeply from the expansive open sea to the east, to the Incised Inland Slopes to the west.
- Rugged coastal edges leading to shallow beaches, strongly enclosed by the surrounding topography within the three bays.
- Strong sense of openness at the top of the cliffs.
- Narrow, incised course of Ballaglass Glen flows into the sea at Port Cornaa.
- Strongly wooded path of Dhoon Glen flows meets the sea at Dhoon Bay.
- Strong sense of remoteness and tranquillity throughout the character area.
- Lack of settlement pattern or communications (major or minor roads).
- Extensive, panoramic views across the sweeping and ever-changing seascape to the east.
- Colour and movement of the sea contrasts with the coastal landforms, and combine to create a dramatic landscape.

Overall Character Description

Situated at the eastern edge of the Island, south of Maughold Head, this character area encompasses three semi-enclosed, rugged coastal bays (Port Cornaa, Dhoon Bay and Bulgham Bay). Character is dominated by rugged cliffs, which rise steeply from the expansive open sea, to the Incised Inland Slopes of Ballajora and Ballaglass to the west. Where the coastline has been incised, a series of relatively enclosed bays have formed, with rugged coastal edges leading to shallow beaches, strongly enclosed by the surrounding topography. At the top of the cliffs, there is a strong sense of openness, facilitating panoramic, open views across the adjacent seascape and towards the Uplands to the west. At Port Cornaa, the narrow, incised course of Ballaglass Glen flows into the sea, enclosed between two steeply sided protruding rugged coastal edges. The strongly wooded Dhoon Glen flows down to meet the sea at Dhoon Bay, providing a recognisable wooded horizon at the coast. At Port Cornaa, large shingle banks at the foot of Ballaglass Glen contain a shimmering lagoon, which changes with the tides. At Bulgham Bay, the cliffs are vegetated with patches of gorse, brambles and bracken, and speckled with jagged rock outcrops, which descend steeply to the sea below. There is a strong sense of remoteness and tranquillity throughout the character area. The bays are generally not served by the minor rural road network, but are connected by circular coastal footpaths (Road of the Gull). Extensive, panoramic views across the sweeping and ever-changing seascape to the east can be gained from the rugged coastal edge. Within the bays, views are more greatly limited by protruding headlands.

Key Views

- Extensive, panoramic views across the sweeping and ever-changing seascape to the east can be gained from the rugged coastal edge.
- Within the bays, views are more greatly limited by protruding headlands.
- Panoramic, open views from the top of the series of rugged cliffs, eastwards across the sea and westwards towards the dramatic Northern Upland backdrop.
- Dramatic recognisable views northwards along the course of Ballaglass Glen from Port Cornaa.

Historic Features

- Lookout at Port Cornaa

Ecological Features

- Inter-tidal zone with numerous habitats.
- Marine habitats.
- Sea cliff nesting sites for sea birds.
- Coastal heath.
- Marginal farmland and grassland habitats.

Evaluation of Inherent Landscape Sensitivities

- Rugged coastal cliffs and some shallow beaches.
- Ecologically diverse coastline with coastal heath, marine and inter-tidal habitats.
- Deep wooded Dhoon Glen (National Glen) meets the sea.
- Lack of settlement pattern or communications.
- Strong sense of tranquillity and remoteness.
- Open and expansive panoramic views.

Landscape Strategy

The overall strategy should be to conserve the character, quality and distinctiveness of the tranquil and remote coastal area with its rich ecological habitats, open and expansive panoramic views and numerous sites of archaeological importance.

E7 - BALLANAYRE STRAND AND PEEL



RUGGED COAST

E7 – BALLANAYRE STRAND AND PEEL BAY

Key Characteristics

- Steeply shelving grassy slopes.
- Occasional sandy strip at base of rocky rugged sea cliffs.
- Numerous small coves, vegetated gullies and stretches of rocky foreshore.
- Gently graded sandy beach in Peel Bay, with the settlement of Peel confined between the rocky headland of St. Patrick's Isle, complete with Peel Castle and the red sandstone cliffs of 'The Stack'.
- Raad ny Foillan long distance footpath following line of dismantled railway.
- Various cairns and other archaeological remains.
- Colour and movement of the sea contrasts with the coastal landforms, and combine to create a dramatic landscape.

Overall Character Description

The pastoral and arable fields of the incised slopes lie to the west and within this character area patches of gorse, brambles and bracken shelve steeply down grassy slopes to a rocky foreshore. Stretches of rocky cliffs, that house a variety of sea birds, with rocky offshore outcrops, small sea stacks, natural arches and caves cut into the Manx slate around Ballanayre Strand. This stretch of coastline is interspersed with inaccessible coves formed where small streams such as Glion Broigh and Glion Cam join the sea by way of deep vegetated gullies to form coves with small beaches. There are two stretches of sandy beach in this character area – one at Whitestrand in the south and the other extending northwards from Natural Arch to Glen Beg on the northern edge of the character area. These stretches of sandy beach sit at the base of the rocky sea cliffs and vary in width according to the tide. Peel Bay is a gently graded large sandy beach with the settlement of Peel as a backdrop with the harbour sheltered by St. Patrick's Isle on which Peel Castle sits to the south and the Red Peel Sandstone headland 'The Stack' blocks views north along the coastline from Peel beach.

The A4 forms the inland boundary of the character area, while the change in coastal material north of Glen Beg, from Manx slates to post-glacial deposits, results in a different coastal profile and thus a different character area of Orrisdale Head. The disused railway track with numerous dismantled viaducts, tunnels, cuttings and embankments runs parallel to the coastline following the line of the Raad ny Foillan coastal path at a varying distance and represents the only conspicuous human interventions in this northern area. A Promontory Fort lies near Ballanayre and a number of small cairns and tumuli present along the cliff tops are traces of former human activities.

Key Views

- Views from Peel Bay enclosed by St. Patrick's Isle and by headland to the north.
- Distant views along the coastline in both directions are gained from the cliff tops and in the northern areas at the sea's edge.
- Views west to The Mountains of Mourne on the Irish mainland.

Historic Features

- Dismantled railway with various cuttings and bridges.
- Peel Castle.

Ecological Features

- Inter-tidal zone with numerous habitats.
- Marine habitats.
- Sea cliff nesting sites for sea birds.
- Rough grassland and semi-heathland habitat on cliff tops and sloping areas.
- Marginal farmland and grassland habitats.

Evaluation of Inherent Landscape Sensitivities

- Built up area of Peel around Peel Bay with sandy beach.
- Peel harbour mouth.
- Rugged coastal cliffs and some small beaches.
- Ecologically diverse coastline with marine and inter-tidal habitats.
- Sense of tranquillity and remoteness.
- Open and expansive panoramic views.
- Sites of archaeological importance including Peel Castle.
- Remnants of former steam railway.

Landscape Strategy

The overall strategy should be to conserve the character, quality and distinctiveness of the area, with its tranquil coastal area, rich ecological habitats, open and expansive panoramic views, numerous sites of archaeological importance and to conserve and protect the coastal setting of Peel and Peel Castle.

E8 - DALBY POINT AND NIARBYL BAY



RUGGED COAST

E8 –DALBY POINT AND NIARBYL BAY

Key Characteristics

- Rocky indented coast with various small coves and beaches.
- Steep sea cliffs with wave cut platform at Niarbyl Point
- Gentle to steeply sloping medium sized arable and pastoral fields shelve down to sea, divided by substantial sod hedges with gorse and some deciduous trees.
- Open and extensive panoramic coastal views south from Niarbyl Point to Calf of Man.
- Colour and movement of the sea contrasts with the coastal landforms, and combine to create a dramatic landscape.

Overall Character Description

Gentle to steeply sloping medium sized arable and pastoral fields, divided by substantial Manx hedgerows with gorse, descend to steep grassy slopes (with some areas of soil slippage) and these subsequently shelve down to jagged rocky cliffs by the sea. Various small coves and small sandy beaches are located at the foot of the cliffs, where small streams such as the Lagg and Kylley descend to the sea in waterfalls. Niarbyl Point marks the division between the Dalby and Manx geological groups where a large wave cut platform has been formed at this jutting, windy headland. This offers spectacular panoramic views south along the coastal cliffs towards Bradda Hill and the Calf of Man, north along the rocky coastline and west over the Irish Sea towards Ireland where the Mountains of Mourn are sometimes visible.

Small farm tracks enclosed by hedgerow trees run perpendicular to the A27 down the hillside towards the sea providing access for the scattered farms with corrugated iron roofed outhouses, isolated dwellings as well as the Visitor's Centre at Niarbyl Point. The A27 forms the inland boundary, east of which rough grass, patches of gorse and sheep grazing predominate on the peripheral upland slopes.

Key Views

- Glimpsed views through hedgerows over fields out to sea from the A27.
- Open and extensive panoramic coastal views south from Niarbyl Point to Calf of Man.

Historic Features

- Boraine earthworks

Ecological Features

- Inter-tidal zone with numerous habitats.
- Marine habitats.
- Rough grassland habitat on cliff tops and sloping areas.
- Marginal farmland and grassland habitats.
- Patches of heathland habitats on lower upland slopes.
- Fragmented hedgerow habitats.

Evaluation of Inherent Landscape Sensitivities

- Rugged coastal cliffs and some small coves and beaches.
- Ecologically diverse coastline with coastal heath, marine and inter-tidal habitats.
- Sense of tranquillity.
- Open and expansive panoramic views.
- Rectilinear field pattern with Manx hedges on shelving land.

Landscape Strategy

The overall strategy should be to conserve the character, quality and distinctiveness of the tranquil coastal area with its rich ecological habitats, open and expansive panoramic views and the field pattern on the shelving land.

E9 - BAY NY CARRICKEY



RUGGED COAST

E9 BAY NY CARRICKEY

Key Characteristics

- Relatively flat topography, with a gently shelving stony beach, marking the transition between the shore and sea.
- A series of rugged wave-cut platforms extend into the sea (visible at low tide).
- Distant sense of enclosure to the east and west;
- Relatively strong sense of openness within views across the area.
- Sense of tranquillity disturbed as a result of proximity to the main coastal (A5) road and Port St. Mary to the west.
- Terraced housing fronting beaches at Port St. Mary with occasional individual houses or small groups of houses fronting seashore in eastern part of bay.
- Colour and movement of the sea contrasts with the coastal landforms, and combine to create a dramatic landscape.

Overall Character Description

Bay Ny Carrickey, is situated at the southern edge of the Island, between Port St. Mary to the west and Castletown to east (although not encompassing Castletown Bay). Topography along the bay is relatively flat, with a gently shelving stony beach, marking the transition between the shore and sea. A series of rugged wave-cut platforms extend into the sea, providing visual interest and drawing the eye out across the adjacent seascape at low tide. The main coastal road (A5), hugs the path of the relatively wide bay, facilitating open, extensive panoramic views across the sea. To the east, the low protruding headland creates a distant sense of enclosure. To the west the developed coastal edge at Port St. Mary is visible on a clear day. Terraced housing and groups of individual houses overlooking beaches and waterfront at Port St. Mary. Settlement pattern to the east of Port St. Mary consists of occasional individual houses and small clusters of houses alongside the coastal road, and these take advantage of open views across the bay. In places, these buildings are visually intrusive, introducing a modern visual element to the coastal edge. Sense of openness is relatively strong (due to the relatively wide nature of the bay), with extensive open views across the sea to the south. Sense of tranquillity throughout the area is somewhat disturbed, as a result of the proximity of the A5 to the coastal edge and also proximity to Port St. Mary and Castletown. The notable call of sea birds further contributes to a recognisable sense of place.

Key Views

- Extensive, panoramic views from Raad ny Foillan across the sweeping and ever-changing seascape to the south.
- Open views across the bay, with distant sense of enclosure provided by headlands to the east and west.
- Open views across adjacent Undulating Lowland Plain to the north.

Historic Features

- Promontary Fort (Close-ny-Chollagh).

Ecological Features

- Wave cut platforms.

Evaluation of Inherent Landscape Sensitivities

- Small-scale nature of housing at Port St. Mary and harbour.
- Ecologically diverse coastline with marine and inter-tidal habitats.
- Wave cut platforms and shelving stony beaches.
- Open views along coastline and headlands and out towards sea.
- Sense of tranquillity away from A5.
- Open panoramic views.
- Sites of archaeological importance.

Landscape Strategy

The overall strategy should be to conserve the character, quality and distinctiveness of the tranquil and coastal area with its rich ecological habitats, open and expansive panoramic views, sites of archaeological importance and to conserve the coastal setting of Port St. Mary.

E10 - CASTLETOWN BAY



RUGGED COAST

E10 CASTLETOWN BAY

Key Characteristics

- Adjacent to the large settlement of Castletown.
- Castle Rushen, Castletown harbour wall and the lighthouse are all landmark features.
- Relatively wide, sandy bay is dotted in places by weed-covered rocks, and is lined to the north by an expanse of large, jagged boulders.
- Beach slopes gradually downwards in a south-easterly direction towards the vast expanse of sea.
- Bay is lined by a colourful array of predominantly modern houses, overlooking the seashore, and by the coastal road, which hugs the line of the shore.
- Settled character (particularly to the west), with sense of tranquillity generally disturbed by the hustle and bustle associated with Castletown.
- Extensive open views across the dynamic shoreline and constantly changing, colourful sea.
- Recognisable sense of place provided by views across the Bay, towards Langness Point to the southeast and rising landscape to the north of Castletown.
- Colour and movement of the sea contrasts with the coastal landforms, and combine to create a dramatic landscape.

Overall Character Description

Castletown Bay is situated at the southern edge of the Island, adjacent to the large settlement of Castletown. The relatively wide, sandy bay is dotted in places by weed-covered rocks, and is lined to the north by an expanse of large, jagged boulders. The beach slopes gradually downwards in a south-easterly direction towards the vast expanse of sea. The bay is lined by a colourful array of predominantly modern houses, overlooking the seashore and the coastal road, which hugs the line of the shore. Towards the western edge of the bay, the strong, relatively harsh form of Castletown harbour wall extends into the bay. The wall and the small red and white lighthouse are landmarks within views across the bay. The western side of the outstretched arm of the Langness peninsula contains the eastern end of the bay. The bay has a settled character, with sense of tranquillity generally disturbed by the hustle and bustle associated with Castletown and traffic using the seafront road. Open views across the bay are a characteristic feature of this character area. To the northwest, distant rising higher farmland landscape provides a sense of enclosure to views. The familiar landmark of Castle Rushen (within Castletown) is dominant within views northwestwards from the character area.

Key Views

- Extensive, panoramic open from Raad ny Foillan views southwards across the ever-changing seascape.
- Grey stone wall of the harbour, marking the entrance to Castletown, is a landmark within views westwards.
- Views across the bay contained by protruding headlands to the east and west.

Historic Features

- Small lighthouse on Castletown harbour wall.

Ecological Features

- Beach and foreshore, provides habitats for birds.

Evaluation of Inherent Landscape Sensitivities

- Built up area of Castletown and harbour creates a settled character.
- Sandy bay with scattered rocks.
- Ecologically diverse coastline with marine and inter-tidal habitats.
- Open and expansive panoramic views.
- Sites of archaeological importance.

Landscape Strategy

The overall strategy should be to conserve the character, quality and distinctiveness of the coastal area with its rich ecological habitats, open and expansive panoramic views, and conserve the coastal setting of Castletown.

E11 - LANGNESS



RUGGED COAST

E11 LANGNESS

Key Characteristics

- Relatively narrow peninsula /isthmus of predominantly flat landscape, protruding from the southern edge of the Island.
- Eastern rocky shore of the peninsula is indented with a series of rugged small indentations (gulleys).
- St. Michael's Island (a small island connected to the north-eastern edge of the peninsula) facilitates dramatic views northeastwards along the coastline.
- Castletown Golf Course/ Links dominates the northern end of this landscape character area.
- Generally lacking in settlement, but with occasional white-washed buildings visible on the horizon and a concentration of housing at Derbyhaven.
- Two minor rural roads provide access to the area (Langness Road and Fort Island Road).
- Panoramic views across adjacent ever-changing seascape.
- General sense of openness throughout the area.
- Sense of tranquillity greatly disturbed at times by proximity to Ronaldsway airport.
- Colour and movement of the sea contrasts with the coastal landforms, and combine to create a dramatic landscape.
- Lighthouse and Dreswick Point act as dominating landscape features.
- Numerous historic features, including the chapel at St. Michael's Island and the lighthouse at Dreswick Point.

Overall Character Description

Langness encompasses a relatively narrow peninsula of predominantly flat landscape, protruding from the southern edge of the Island. The eastern rocky shore of the peninsula is indented with a series of rugged small indentations (gulleys), including Clabbery, Gullet Buigh, The Cooil, Spire Gullet and Grave Gullet. Shallow beaches flank the northeastern and northwestern sides of the peninsula, with Derbyhaven (a relatively enclosed, shallow bay) to the north. St. Michael's Island facilitates dramatic views northeastwards along the coastline. Castletown Golf Course/ Links (introducing a humanised character to the landscape) dominates the northern end of the landscape character area, and extends like a finger out into the sea. The geometric white architecture of the clubhouse hotel, associated with Castletown Golf Links, is a dominant built vertical element on the peninsula, which is otherwise generally lacking in settlement. Two minor rural roads provide access to the area, with Fort Island Road leading eastwards to St. Michael's Island and Langness Road leading southwards to the southernmost Dreswick Point. At Dreswick Point, the white lighthouse provides a dominant landscape feature, which contributes to a recognisable sense of place. From this point, extensive, open views across Castletown Bay to the west and panoramic views across adjacent ever-changing seascape can be gained. Much of the area is covered with grassland, with generally few vertical elements visible along the skyline. This leads to a general sense of openness throughout the area. Dependent on time of day, sense of tranquillity is disturbed by the arrival and departure of aeroplanes serving Ronaldsway Airport, directly adjacent and to the north of the area. Sense of tranquillity is stronger at Dreswick Point to the south.

Key Views

- Panoramic, open views across surrounding, ever-changing seascape, from several points along the peninsula, in particular from Dreswick Point (at the southernmost tip).
- Dramatic views northwards from St. Michael's Island, along the northeastern shore.
- Open views across Castletown Bay to the west.

Historic Features

- Herring Tower (Registered Building).
- The Powder House (Registered Building).
- Langness Lighthouse (Registered Building).
- Chapel and burial ground on St. Michael's Island.
- Fort at Langness Point.

Ecological Features

- Rocky foreshore provides several wildlife habitats
- Area of Special Scientific Interest covers the whole Isthmus

Evaluation of Inherent Landscape Sensitivities

- Open and sandy isthmus with some coastal heath habitats.
- Rugged rocky foreshore.
- Sand dune ecological systems.
- Ecologically diverse coastline with marine and inter-tidal habitats.
- Open and expansive panoramic views.
- Sites of archaeological importance.
- Strong sense of remoteness and tranquillity.

Landscape Strategy

The overall strategy should be to conserve the character, quality and distinctiveness of the coastal area with its rich ecological habitats, open and expansive panoramic views, and to conserve the tranquil and rugged character of the area with its numerous sites of archaeological importance.

F1 - BRIDE HILLS



UNDULATING LOWLAND PLAIN

F. UNDULATING LOWLAND PLAIN

F1 BRIDE HILLS

Key Characteristics

- Group of undulating low hills, forming the most prominent topographical feature within the northern plain.
- Series of intimate dry valleys dissecting the hills.
- Relatively strong sense of enclosure amongst the hills.
- Strongly recognisable sense of place, as a result of views to dramatic upland backdrop to the south.
- Patchwork of sheep-grazing and rough grassland on lower slopes.
- Patches of arable farmland at the foot of the slopes.
- Distant views to upland peaks to the south.
- Deciduous woodland and shrubs covering the low peaks.
- Mixture of stone walls and relatively tall Manx hedge-banks, delineating field boundaries.
- Scattered and isolated settlement pattern.
- Strong sense of tranquillity throughout the area.

Overall Character Description

The Bride Hills form the most prominent topographical feature within the northern plain, encompassing a group of undulating low hills, comprised of tills, sands and gravels. A series of relatively intimate dry valleys dissect the hills, which were formed as a result of glacial deposits (moraine). In comparison to the surrounding open, predominantly arable landscape of the northern plain, there is relatively strong sense of enclosure and intimacy amongst the folds of the hills, with views to wooded low peaks. There is also a very strong sense of tranquillity along several of the single-track, narrow lanes leading through the area. Views obtained across arable farmland towards the distant peaks of Uplands to the south from the top of Bride hills, provide recognisable sense of place. Sheep grazing and areas of rough grassland dominate the slopes, with small-scale patches of arable farmland at the foot of the lower slopes. The low peaks of the Bride hills, are covered by a pattern of non-continuous predominantly deciduous woodland and shrubs. Sinuous belts of trees also fringe the lower slopes. A mixture of traditional stone walls and relatively tall Manx hedgerows delineate field boundaries and line the network of narrow lanes. Hedgebanks (consisting of a stone wall with hedge planting directly on top) and species-rich verges also contribute to the interesting and diverse character of the area. Settlement pattern consists predominantly of isolated farmsteads and scattered single houses, with four main roads merging at Bride and connecting the village to Ramsey, Andreas, Jurby and the Point of Ayre. Bride is situated on top of the hills and the landmark church tower is therefore visible within views southwards from other character areas to the north. Low voltage electricity poles also cross the area, but do not dominate landscape character.

Key Views

- Distant views to upland in the south.
- Glimpsed views to the sea from the northern edge of the area.
- Bride Church tower is a landmark, within several views from the character area to the north.

Historic Features

- Bride Church (St. Bridget's).
- Celtic cross within Bride churchyard.

Ecological Features

- Species-rich verges and Manx hedgerows.
- Mature deciduous trees.
- Patches of woodland.

Evaluation of Inherent Landscape Sensitivities

- Strong sense of tranquillity.
- Scattered isolated settlement pattern.
- Vernacular character of buildings and churches.
- Field pattern delineated by a mixture of stone walls and relatively tall Manx hedge-banks.
- Deciduous woodland and shrubs covering the low peaks.
- Dramatic views south to Uplands.

Landscape Strategy

The overall strategy should be to conserve the matrix of deciduous woodland and enhance the relatively strong field pattern permeating the rest of the area and conserve the sparsely settled character of the area.

F2 - THE LHEN



UNDULATING LOWLAND PLAIN

F2 THE LHEN UNDULATING LOWLAND PLAIN

Key Characteristics

- Predominantly arable farmland, delineated by a combination of stone walls and low Manx hedgerows.
- Mixture of small to medium, relatively regular rectangular fields.
- Flat, to gently sloping, landscape which falls from south to north towards the sea.
- Several narrow, single-track lanes which connect the area with the beaches and coastal strip to the north.
- Scattered and isolated settlement pattern, consisting of several traditional Manx stone buildings.
- Generally few vertical elements.
- Open and glimpsed views to sea from several locations within the area.
- Civic Amenity waste site at Ballacallow
- Glen Truan Golf Course
- In places, the ruins of former farm buildings, set against the dramatic distant upland backdrop, provides strong recognisable character and sense of place.

Overall Character Description

Situated towards the northern edge of the Island, and surrounded to the north, west and east by coastal strips, the Lhen incorporates an area of predominantly arable farmland, which comprises a mixture of small to medium, relatively regular rectangular fields. Field boundaries are delineated by a combination of stone walls and low hedgerows. Towards the east of the area, Glen Truan Golf Course is a relatively dominant human-made landscape feature in the local landscape and to the east of the golf course, a patch of marshy ground (Lough Cranstal) is visible (but does not dominate this part of the character area). Several small streams are interspersed throughout the area, and drain farmland. The landscape is flat to gently sloping and falls from north to south towards the sea. At the western end of the area, a low ridge (or spur) rises to meet the coast, and overlooks Cronk y Bing, within the adjacent area of Smooth Coastal Strip (at which point, the coastline falls more steeply down towards the sea than within shallower areas of foreshore further to the east). Several narrow, single-track roads run in a parallel arrangement through the area, connecting the A10 (main east-west route) with a series of 'points' along the Coastal Strip. Settlement pattern is scattered and relatively isolated, with several single farmsteads and houses (many in traditional vernacular style). Other than these buildings, there are few vertical elements within the area. Open and glimpsed views, northwards to the sea (and of areas of adjacent Smooth Coastal Strip) can be gained from several locations along the A10, and views southwards are framed by a distant backdrop of Upland horizon. There is a relatively strong sense of tranquillity and remoteness throughout the area, particularly away from the A10 road corridor.

Key Views

- Open and glimpsed views northwards towards the sea from several locations along the A10 road corridor.
- Distant backdrop of uplands within views southwards.
- Open views across the sea (and adjacent coastal strip) from the western ridge.

Historic Features

- Ship Burial – Knock-e-booney
- Tumuli, including those at Cronk Bouyr and Cronk Ruy.
- Lough Cranstal - deposits include Middle Neolithic and Bronze Age artefacts.

Ecological Features

- Biodiversity value within hedgerows.
- Lough Cranstal.
- Wildlife habitats within several small streams, which drain the landscape.

Evaluation of Inherent Landscape Sensitivities

- Strong sense of tranquillity.
- Scattered isolated settlement pattern.
- Several small narrow tracks leading to the beach.
- Vernacular character of buildings and churches.
- Dramatic views south to Uplands.
- Strong field pattern delineated by a mixture of stone walls and relatively tall Manx hedgebanks.
- Open character.

Landscape Strategy

The overall strategy should be to conserve the relatively strong sense of openness throughout the area, enhance the strong field pattern permeating the area and conserve the sparsely settled character of this area.

F3 - ANDREAS AND JURBY



UNDULATING LOWLAND PLAIN

F3 ANDREAS AND JURBY

Key Characteristics

- Swathe of farmland (covering the breadth of the Island).
- Irregular pattern of medium-sized arable and pasture fields.
- Field boundaries demarcated by traditional Manx hedges and simple post and wire fences.
- Inter-linking network of minor rural roads serve the area, together with the A10, A17 and A19.
- Generally few vertical elements, other than occasional telegraph poles.
- Scattered and relatively isolated settlement pattern.
- Traditional farm buildings (characteristically white, with grey roofs).
- Key settlements include the small town of Andreas and the villages of Bride, Jurby and Sandygate.
- The Isle of Man Government Industrial Estate and adjacent Jurby Aerodrome
- Disused airfield at Andreas
- Churches provide prominent landmarks within views.
- Views to dramatic upland backdrop to the south provide strong sense of place.
- Strong sense of openness and tranquillity (at distance from main A19 and A17 roads).
- Slightly marked sinuous valley of Lhen Trench.
- Sandpit at Cronk-y-Scotty

Overall Character Description

Situated to the north of the Island, this landscape character area encompasses a swathe of farmland underlain by the predominantly flat topography of the northern plain. To the west, the relatively narrow course of the Lhen trench meanders through the landscape, which exhibits an irregular pattern of medium-sized arable fields and rough grassland/pasture. A variety of different forms of hedgerows and simple post and wire fences demarcate field boundaries. To the west, mature, intact low, trimmed hedges dominate the hedgerow network. Several single mature deciduous trees within Manx hedgerows and fields also contribute to a mature recognisable landscape structure. The main A19 and A17 roads (a source of noise and visual intrusion) cross the area and an inter-linking network of minor roads, often lined with species-rich verges, help to provide access to farms and settlements. Generally, few vertical elements punctuate the skyline of the area. However, telegraph poles and the telecommunications mast at Jurby Industrial Estate are a visible human influence. Settlement pattern is scattered and relatively isolated, with the Andreas and Jurby Industrial Estates providing the largest groups of buildings within the area. Several isolated farmsteads and individual houses also pepper the landscape. Traditional farm buildings characteristically exhibit white walls (which often provide a bright contrast to the muted upland backdrop to the north) and grey roofs. Alongside these traditional buildings, modern agricultural sheds and warehouses are sometimes visually intrusive. In addition, the distinctive churches of St. Andrews Church at Andreas (built predominantly from Sulby Glen stone) and St. Patrick's Church to the west of Jurby and their associated medieval crosses are landmark features landscapes within the area. St. Patrick's Church is particularly prominent within views across the surrounding open, flat landscape. The prefabricated buildings on an old air force base and disused runway at Jurby (now housing several small businesses and shops, including Jurby Junk) exhibit a strong human influence over the character of this part of the area. Construction of the new prison development is also associated with this part of the area. Overall, there is a strong sense of tranquillity and openness throughout the area. A strong recognisable sense of place is provided by views to the dramatic backdrop of the Uplands to the south, views of St. Patrick's Church and distant views to the sea at the eastern and western edges of the area.

Key Views

- Glimpsed views to the sea from the eastern and western edges of the area.
- Panoramic open views southwards towards a dramatic upland backdrop.
- Open views to landmark church towers (particularly St. Patrick's Church) to the west of Jurby.

Historic Features

- St. Patrick's Church and medieval crosses.
- St. Andrew's Church and medieval crosses.
- Old airfields at Jurby and to the east of Andreas.

Ecological Features

- Species-rich verges.
- Mature hedgerows and single mature deciduous trees.
- Patches of rough grassland
- Area of Special Scientific Interest at Ballacrye

Evaluation of Inherent Landscape Sensitivities

- Strong sense of tranquillity.
- Scattered isolated settlement pattern.
- Enclosed minor rural roads.
- Vernacular character of buildings and churches.
- Presence of Manx Mile stones.
- Few tall vertical elements.
- Dramatic views south to Uplands.
- Field pattern delineated by a mixture of stone walls, relatively tall Manx hedge-banks and post and wire fences.

Landscape Strategy

The overall strategy should be to conserve and enhance the character, quality and distinctiveness of this rural area including the scattered settlement pattern, relatively strong field pattern delineated by a mixture of stone walls and relatively tall Manx hedge-banks and its network of enclosed minor rural roads.

F4 - SULBY



UNDULATING LOWLAND PLAIN

F4 SULBY

Key Characteristics

- Predominantly flat landscape underlain by subdued mounds of sand and gravels.
- Belt of farmland, running east-west and consisting of a patchwork of predominantly arable fields (interspersed with patches of rough grassland and pasture).
- Fields delineated by a combination of mature Manx hedgerows and simple post and wire fences.
- Main A3 (TT course) and A13 roads run east-west across the area, connected by several north-south running minor rural roads.
- Predominantly rural character, with built character dominated by traditional Manx architecture.
- Strong sense of tranquillity at distance from A13, A3 and Ramsey.
- Strong sense of place throughout the area, provided in part, by views to the dramatic skyline of the Northern Uplands.
- Black and white Manx milestones lining the path of the A3.

Overall Character Description

Underlain by platforms and subdued mounds of sand and gravels, landscape within this area is predominantly flat (to very slightly undulating) and is situated on the northern plain, to the north of the Northern Uplands. This character area forms an east-west belt of farmland, which lies adjacent to the Curragh (to the west), Sulby River Valley (at the base of the uplands to the south) and Ramsey (to the east). A patchwork of predominantly arable fields (interspersed with small patches of rough grassland and pasture) dominates the character of the area. Field boundaries delineated by a combination of mature hedgerows and simple post and wire fences. Occasional drainage ditches are also visible at field boundaries. Medium to large-scale arable fields dominate the pattern of the eastern half of the character area. Further to the west, a belt of intricate, small-scale irregular fields, delineated by a network of mature hedgerows, stretches from the east of the Curraghs and south of St. Jude's. The main A3 and A13 roads roughly follow the southern and northern boundaries of the area respectively. Several minor connecting rural roads run at right angles (north-south) to the main roads. Settlement patterns are relatively isolated, consisting of scattered farmsteads, houses small hamlets such as St. Jude's. Traditional architecture is similar to other adjacent character areas, with a small, yet distinctive church at St. Jude's. The landscape within the eastern part of the area abuts the western urban edge of Ramsey, facilitating views both into and out of the urban area. The built character of the urban edge has an impact upon the otherwise predominantly rural character of the area. There is a strong sense of tranquillity at distance from A3, A13 and the urban edge of Ramsey. Throughout the area a strong recognisable sense of place is provided in part by views to the skyline of the imposing and dramatic uplands to the south. The A3 is lined with sporadic distinctive black and white Manx milestones and the instantly recognisable black and white kerbs denoting the TT course. Sense of tranquillity is greatly disturbed during TT season.

Key Views

- Dramatic views southwards to the imposing skyline of the uplands, which often provide a dark contrast to the adjacent landscape.
- Relatively open views across farmland, framed in places by mature hedgerows.
- Views into and out of the western urban edge of Ramsey (at the eastern edge of the character area).

Historic Features

- St. Jude's Church.
- Fort Ballachurry.

Ecological Features

- Species-rich verges.
- Mature hedgerows at field boundaries.

Evaluation of Inherent Landscape Sensitivities

- Strong sense of tranquillity away from main roads.
- Scattered isolated settlement pattern.
- Minor rural roads enclosed by roadside vegetation.
- Vernacular character of buildings and churches.
- Presence of Manx Mile stones.
- Few vertical elements.
- Dramatic views south to Uplands.
- Field pattern delineated by a mixture of stone walls, relatively tall Manx hedge-banks and post and wire fences.

Landscape Strategy

The overall strategy should be to conserve and enhance the character, quality and distinctiveness of this rural area with its scattered settlement pattern, relatively strong field pattern and enclosed network of minor rural roads.

F5 - SULBY RIVER



UNDULATING LOWLAND PLAIN

F5 SULBY RIVER

Key Characteristics

- Lower reaches of the Sulby River corridor (as it flows across the northern plain towards the sea at Ramsey).
- River corridor lined with mature deciduous vegetation, creating a sense of enclosure.
- Small and medium-scale irregular fields set along both sides of the river channels.
- Fields delineated by a combination of mature, low Manx hedgerows and traditional grey stone walls (which also line the main road corridors).
- Scattered settlement pattern, along the river course (relatively isolated farmsteads and houses).
- Sulby forms main settlement at western edge (marking point at which river emerged from Sulby Glen), and Ramsey to the east (where the river flows out into the sea).
- Dramatic views to the typically wooded slopes of the Northern Uplands to the south.
- Relatively strong sense of tranquillity throughout most of the character area.

Overall Character Description

This landscape character area contains the lower reaches of the Sulby River as it flows across the northern plain, eastwards towards the sea at Ramsey Bay. The course of the river begins within the Uplands, further to the south and flows rapidly, down Sulby Glen. At the foot of the Uplands, the course of the river becomes flatter and wider, with slower moving water. Within the character area, the river is lined along almost its entire length by mature deciduous vegetation, which often channels views along the river corridor and provides a strong sense of enclosure. Several small and medium-scale irregular fields are set along both sides of the river channel (comprising a mixture of rough grassland, pasture and arable). These fields are delineated by a combination of mature, low Manx hedgerows and traditional grey stone walls. The main A3 (also forming part of the TT course) runs through the southern half of the area, hugging the base of the uplands to the south and a dismantled railway line also runs to the north of the river (now providing a mature landscape and recreation corridor). Several minor rural roads provide access to the area, and the river is crossed at fairly regular intervals along the west-east corridor. Sulby Bridge provides one of the main crossing points, and is a distinctive landmark feature within the surrounding landscape, alongside the colourful Ginger Hall hotel. Several farmsteads and relatively isolated houses also line the course of the river, set slightly back from the river channel. Traditional white walls and grey roofs dominate built character. The relatively intimate Sulby village nestles at the western end of the character area, marking the point at which the river corridor meets the low northern plain after its journey through Sulby Glen. Settlement character within the village is dominated by traditional Manx architecture, with several rows of colourful terraced houses and cottages. At the eastern end, the river flows into Ramsey (a medium-sized seaside town), where the corridor becomes more open and is influenced by surrounding urban built development. As it meanders amongst the urban fabric, the river eventually forms the basis for Ramsey's working harbour and then flows out to sea. Although views are generally channelled along the river corridor, a strong recognisable sense of place is apparent at Sulby, Sulby Bridge, Ramsey and set slightly back from the river corridor along its length (views to the dramatic southern upland backdrop). Overall, there is a relatively strong sense of tranquillity throughout the character area.

Key Views

- Views along the river corridor generally channelled by vegetation which lines the banks of the river.
- Dramatic views to the adjacent southern uplands, which provide a wooded backdrop within views southwards.
- At bridging points, open views from the river corridor may be obtained across adjacent fields which are set back from the line of the river.
- Views to and from the urban edges of Ramsey.

Historic Features

- Sulby Church (Registered Building)
- St. Stephen's Church (Registered Building).
- Lezayre Road War Memorial and Cemetery.

Ecological Features

- Mature, diverse deciduous vegetation lining the river corridor.
- Mature hedgerows at field boundaries.
- Diverse habitats within the river corridor.

Evaluation of Inherent Landscape Sensitivities

- Strong sense of tranquillity away from main roads.
- Scattered settlement patterns of farmsteads along river's course.
- Enclosed and wooded river corridor.
- Valuable aquatic riparian and wet meadow habitats alongside river.
- Minor rural roads enclosed by roadside vegetation.
- Vernacular character of buildings and churches.
- Presence of Manx Mile stones.
- Few vertical elements.
- Dramatic views south to Uplands.
- Field pattern delineated by a mixture of stone walls, relatively tall Manx hedge-banks and post and wire fences.

Landscape Strategy

The overall strategy should be to conserve and enhance the character, quality and distinctiveness of this rural area with its scattered settlement pattern, relatively strong field pattern, a network of enclosed minor rural roads and its ecologically valuable aquatic and riparian habitats.

F6 - THE CURRAGHS



UNDULATING LOWLAND PLAIN

F6 THE CURRAGHS

Key Characteristics

- Predominantly flat area of wet willow carr woodland, situated on the site of the peat filled Lake Andreas
- Areas of willow and birch woodland, underlain by a diverse wet understorey
- Intricate, damp and shady landscape
- Pockets of traditionally managed meadows
- Curraghs Wildlife Park provides public access and trails through the woodland and other associated habitats
- Strong sense of tranquillity throughout the area, especially at distance from A3

Overall Character Description

Situated to the south of Jurby, east of Ballaugh and nestling at the foot of the uplands, this character area encompasses an area of wet woodland and associated habitats. The area is predominantly flat and lies upon the site of the peat-filled Lake Andreas. ‘Curragh’ is a Manx term, which describes an area of ‘wet, boggy, willow wood’ (known elsewhere as willow carr). Landscape within the area, characteristically consists of areas of willow and birch woodland (coppiced in places), underlain by a diverse wet or boggy understorey of ferns, brambles and other damp-thriving flora. These conditions facilitate the creation of an intricate, shady and damp landscape, which provides a diverse habitat for wildlife. The area would previously have been less wooded (open meadow) and was previously also a peat digging area with trenches and ditches. Pockets of the area are traditionally managed as meadows (often exhibiting colourful displays of orchids). The method by which the curragh system is drained is important for management as a wildlife habitat (determining the wetness of the surrounding landscape and hence the types of habitats that it can sustain). The Curraghs Wildlife Park (situated towards the southern edge of the area) provides public access to parts of this landscape, via a number of footpaths and trails. Other than this, one minor road runs through the area, connecting with minor roads to the north and the main A3 to the south. There is a strong sense of tranquillity throughout the area, and views to the directly adjacent uplands and slopes to the south provide recognisable sense of place.

Key Views

- Views to wooded and non-wooded upland slopes directly to the south of the area.
- Open views across the area are often constrained by woodland; however, views to adjacent farmland can be gained from the north, eastern and western edges of the area.

Historic Features

- ‘Ballaugh Curragh is the largest remaining intact example of the distinctive Manx habitat, historically important as a plentiful source of fish, waterfowl and willow, and an important part of the Island’s cultural heritage’ (DEFRA).
- Manx National Heritage manages much of the site for its wildlife and for public enjoyment, while the Manx Wildlife Trust manages the orchid-rich hay meadows.

Ecological Features

- Area of Special Scientific Interest and RAMSAR site for birds and wildlife.
- Hen harrier roost.
- Traditionally-managed meadows with displays of thousands of orchids.

Evaluation of Inherent Landscape Sensitivities

- Strong sense of tranquillity.
- Ecologically sensitive and nationally valuable Curragh wetland containing numerous habitats.
- Pockets of traditionally managed meadows.
- Carr woodland and fragmented deciduous woodland in surrounding field boundaries.
- Few vertical elements.
- Very sparse settlement pattern.
- Dramatic views south to Uplands.
- Field pattern delineated by a mixture relatively tall Manx hedge-banks and substantial hedgerows with deciduous trees.

Landscape Strategy

The overall strategy should be to conserve and enhance the character, quality, distinctiveness and ecological value of this area as well as managing the area sensitively to accommodate the needs of farmers, tourists and visitors.

F7 - CASTLETOWN AND BALLASALLA



UNDULATING LOWLAND PLAIN

F7– CASTLETOWN AND BALLASALLA

Key Characteristics

- Flat land with strong coastal influence.
- Area dominated by Ronaldsway Airport and the numerous associated aeroplane hangers, car parking, runways, control towers and access roads.
- Built-up areas of Castletown and Ballasalla influence the visual character of the area with the prominent crenulated tower of Castle Rushen visible from the surrounding areas.
- Riparian vegetation grows thickly on the banks of Silver Burn.
- Rectilinear arable and pastoral fields in a variety of sizes to the north and west of the airport with low Manx hedges.
- Busy A5 road corridor.
- Little sense of tranquillity.
- Route of the Isle of Man Steam railway runs along the area's western boundary with three stations.
- Ronaldsway Industrial Estate with large warehouses and areas of car parking.
- Open and panoramic views out to sea and over Langness' rocky shoreline beyond the Airport's numerous runways.

Overall Character Description

This flat, low lying area of land has sea to the east and south that exerts a strong coastal influence to the area with little substantial vegetation to enclose in views out to sea and over to Langness' rocky shoreline. Ronaldsway Airport dominates this small area with numerous runways, terminal buildings, access roads and roundabouts, car parking facilities, plane hangers and storage warehouses amongst other things. North of the airport are a number of rectangular arable fields, delineated by low manx hedges that run along the B53 which forms the area's northern boundary meeting the narrow coastal area of Langness. Along Derbyhaven Road the A12 forms the area's southern boundary beyond which lies a string of predominantly white sea facing houses as well as the blocky form of King William's Collage with a prominent angular bell tower that is visible from surrounding areas due to the flatness of the landscape.

The built-up edge of Castletown forms an abrupt but definite south-eastern boundary that includes the relatively modern extension consisting of culs-de-sac of Janet's Corner. The influence of the built-up area of Castletown on this area is substantial with Castle Rushen's red limestone tower visible from many places. Urban influences also occurring in the north of the area around the settlement of Ballasalla. Silver Burn with its lush bankside vegetation and fragmented riparian woodland forms the western boundary of the area. This is the only substantial woodland in an area largely devoid of trees. Rectangular fields are aligned geometrically between Silver Burn and the busy A5 road corridor and are interrupted by large warehouses and areas of car parking at Ronaldsway Industrial Estate. This estate is located next to the Ronaldsway Halt Station on the Isle of Man Steam railway that runs parallel with Silver Burn. The area has an overall urbanised character with industrial buildings and those associated with the airport. These land uses all detract from the coastal character of the area as the built up areas of Ballasalla and Castletown, the railway and the A5 give the area a distinctly active character with a low sense of tranquillity.

Key Views

- Open and panoramic views out to sea and over Langness' rocky shoreline beyond the Airport.
- Key views to the prominent landmark's of Castle Rushen's and King William's College.

Historic Features

- Hango Hill ruin.

Ecological Features

- Farmland and grassland habitats.
- Fragmented hedgerow habitats.
- Aquatic and riparian habitats along Silver Burn.

Evaluation of Inherent Landscape Sensitivities

- King William's College (Registered Building) and its setting.
- Rural character of land between Ballasalla and Castletown.
- Valuable aquatic, riparian and wet meadow habitats alongside Silver Burn river.
- Open and panoramic views out over Langness south-east of the airport and to hills.
- Open fields in a variety of sizes to the north and west of the airport with low Manx hedges.
- Hango Hill historic site.

Landscape Strategy

The overall strategies should be to conserve the character, quality and distinctiveness of this open area that contributes to the setting of Castletown and Ballasalla, to enhance the river fields pattern and to conserve the aquatic habitat corridor of the Silver Burn.

F8 - POYLLVAAISH AND SCARLETT PENINSULA



UNDULATING LOWLAND PLAIN

F8 –POYLLVAAISH AND SCARLETT PENINSULA

Key Characteristics

- Predominantly flat open arable and pastoral land with large rectilinear fields in a rough geometric pattern in close proximity to the coast.
- Little settlement in the area other than a few scattered farms surrounded by small woodland blocks.
- Eastern periphery meets and is influenced by the built up areas of Castletown, Ballasalla and the environs of Ronaldsway Airport.
- Various archaeological sites along the coastal areas including a Viking burial.
- Coastal views over open land with little intervening substantial tree cover.
- Some small rectilinear drainage ditches running along field boundaries.
- Few abandoned limestone quarries now flooded.
- Isle of Man Steam Railway with various stations cuts across the area east-west.
- Relative sense of tranquillity amongst the fields and on the Scarlett Peninsula, but reduced near main roads and Poyll and Vaaish quarries.
- Large country estates west of Malew Road

Overall Character Description

Predominantly flat open arable and pastoral land with large rectilinear fields in a rough geometric pattern spreads across this area in close proximity to the sea with the Scarlet Peninsula projecting out into Bay-ny-Carrickey. Manx hedges containing gorse, hedgerow shrubs and small windswept trees delineate the large fields that contain grazing stock as well as numerous horses. There is relatively little tree cover in the area with the exception of some fragmented woodland on the slightly higher ground around Balladoole House and along the road that runs to Maddrell's Bridge.

Other than the Silver Burn, whose lush banks marks the area's eastern boundary, and the vegetated valley of River Colby in the east of the area, there are few substantially sized water courses in the area. Small drainage ditches run along the sides of some fields with various aquatic species growing in them while numerous flooded limestone quarries in the east of the area represent ecologically valuable freshwater bodies.

Field boundaries meet the coastal strip with irregular edges that abut the low rocky foreshore as the area's southern boundary follows the coastal path. The area's northern boundary follows the A7, after which the land starts to gently rise as it leaves this limestone area with numerous nucleated settlements such as Colby and Ballabeg located on the northern edge of the road. The eastern periphery of the area has a few scattered farmsteads with associated outhouses nestled amongst the fields. The eastern area is also influenced by the built up area of Castletown and Ballasalla, whose grey pebble dashed housing estates form part of the southern boundary around Castle Rushen High School and Maddrell's Bridge. The numerous straight roads in the area follow the geometric field pattern and are enclosed by Manx hedges and have distinct road markings where they form the route of the Southern 100 Course with numerous viewing platforms and race marshals' boxes. The Viking burial north of Poyllvaish is one of the many archaeological sites in the area that include burial mounds and numerous earthworks usually located in prominent positions with sea views. The area has a rural and coastal character with its remoteness impaired slightly by the built-up character of the surrounding areas but with some tranquillity on the Scarlett Peninsula and along the coast.

Key Views

- Open and panoramic views out to sea, up to the Southern Upland peaks over open fields and towards the built-up areas of Castletown and Ballasalla are obtained from various slightly elevated positions within the area, where the cumulative effects of hedgerow trees does not intervene.
- Foreshortened views in some flatter areas where the accumulated effects of hedgerow trees creates a wooded horizon.

Historic Features

- Keeill Vael.
- Various Burial Grounds and earth works, most notable being Balladoole Viking Ship Burial.
- St. Lupus' Church.
- Round house.

Ecological Features

- Flooded limestone quarries with aquatic and marginal habitats.
- Aquatic and riparian waterside habitats in the numerous small drainage ditches, standing bodies of water as well as along Silver Burn and The Colby River.
- Riverside deciduous woodland.
- Farmland and grassland habitats.
- Hedgerow matrix containing high biodiversity and habitats.

Evaluation of Inherent Landscape Sensitivities

- Valuable aquatic, riparian and wet meadow habitats alongside Silver Burn river.
- Numerous archaeological sites.
- Open coastal views over agricultural land with little substantial woodland.
- Large rectilinear field pattern close to the coast.
- Low Manx hedges containing wind swept gorse and sparsely scattered deciduous trees

Landscape Strategy

The overall strategy should be to conserve the strong sense of openness throughout the area, with strong field pattern as well as the setting of the numerous archaeological sites within the area.

G1 - RAMSEY BAY



SMOOTH COASTAL STRIP

G SMOOTH COASTAL STRIP

G1 RAMSEY BAY SMOOTH COASTAL STRIP

Key Characteristics

- Soft, relatively abrupt cliffs mark transition from land to sea in the north.
- Shallow beach along Ramsey Bay, stretching out into the Bay.
- Distinctive long wrought iron pier runs out into the sea to the east of Ramsey.
- Predominantly sandy beaches visible along the length of the coastline.
- Seafront development at Ramsey, dominated by a series of residential (often tall with a modern character developments), alongside a series of seaside shops, nestling within the bay.
- Working harbour, to the north of Ramsey (at the mouth of the River Lhen, with associated concrete sea wall, parking and cranes) introduces a further degree of visible human influence.
- Vast, expansive seascape to the east.
- Rising uplands to the west of Ramsey provide a strong sense of enclosure.
- Sense of tranquillity within the area varies dependent on proximity to the hustle and bustle of Ramsey.
- Colour and movement of the sea contrasts with the coastal landforms, and combine to create a dramatic landscape.

Overall Character Description

Ramsey Bay extends from almost the tip of the Point of Ayre in the north southwards along the coastline to encompass the seafront at Ramsey and slightly further south as far as Maughold Head. In the north of the area, farmland meets the sea with a relatively abrupt fall via soft cliffs. Further to the south, along Ramsey Bay, the beach is shallower, with a gradual transition from land to sea visible. Here, a distinctive long wrought iron pier runs out into the sea, extending the visual panorama and leading the eye along the natural curve of the coastline. Along the length of the coastline, predominantly sandy beaches are visible, providing a strong visual contrast to the dramatic dark wooded backdrop of the rising uplands to the east of Ramsey Bay, which is designated as an Area of Special Scientific Interest. The character of the seafront at Ramsey is dominated by a series of residential developments (often tall with a modern character), alongside a series of seaside shops, nestling within the bay. Further to the north, the working harbour (at the mouth of the River Lhen, with associated concrete sea wall, parking and cranes) introduces a further degree of visible human influence adjacent to the vast expansive seascape to the east. Throughout the character area, there is a strong sense of openness as a result of open, panoramic views across the ever-changing colour and texture of the adjacent sea. To the south of Ramsey, the rising Northern Uplands to the west (adjacent landscape character area) provide a level of enclosure. Sense of tranquillity within the area varies, depending on the proximity to Ramsey.

Key Views

- Expansive, open, panoramic views north and south along the coastline, with the wrought iron Queen's Pier (extending out into the sea) as a visible landmark within views south.
- Dramatic rising backdrop of the wooded Northern Uplands frames views westwards from Ramsey.
- Open views from the Raad ny Foillan coastal footpath across an ever-changing, dynamic seascape to the east.

Historic Features

- Queen's Pier (Ramsey)

Ecological Features

- Sandy beach and sometimes-pebbly foreshore (Area of Special Scientific Interest).

Evaluation of Inherent Landscape Sensitivities

- Extensive dramatic views out to sea.
- Open sandy beaches along the coastline.
- Sense of tranquillity away from the settlement of Ramsey.

Landscape Strategy

The overall strategy should be to conserve the setting of the built up area of Ramsey and its harbour, conserve tranquil stretches of beach that sit at the base of the sea cliffs, and enhance harsh urban areas and existing field pattern.

G2 - THE AYRES



SMOOTH COASTAL STRIP

G2 THE AYRES

Key Characteristics

- Symbiotic relationship between sea, gravely foreshore, dune and heath habitats along the coastal strip.
- Distinctive red and white striped landmark lighthouses (Registered Buildings) at the Point of Ayre.
- Relatively shallow coastal profile to the west, with a series of gravel ridges to the east.
- Strong sense of remoteness and tranquillity throughout the area.
- Diverse habitats support a range of (often rare) wildlife, plant and insect communities;
- Patches of human influence visible at Blue Point, Rue Point and the Point of Ayre.
- Open and expansive views of sea and sky dominate the visual horizon to the north.
- Distant views to upland peaks to the south.
- Colour and movement of the sea contrasts with the coastal landforms, and combine to create a dramatic landscape.
- Sand and gravel pit and landfill site in eastern part of area.
- Network of tracks and public roads, together with the Raad ny Foillan coastal footpath

Overall Character Description

Situated at the northern edge of the Island, and stretching from Blue Point in the west to the Point of Ayre in the east, the diverse and intricate landscape of the Ayres has a symbiotic relationship with the Irish Sea to the north. The area derives its name from the Old Norse word 'eyrr' meaning 'gravelbank'. To the east, at the Point of Ayre, the coastal strip encompasses a series of gravel ridges (the result of a raised post glacial beach), which create a gravely pebble foreshore leading down to the sea. Two distinctive red and white striped lighthouses and a large foghorn are landmarks on the foreshore, which help contribute to a strong recognisable sense of place. Further to the west, the profile of the shore becomes shallower, with a mixed pebble and sandy beach leading down to the sea. The nature and character of the foreshore varies depending upon tide levels. Set back from the immediate foreshore, a discontinuous system of soft cliffs and marram sand dunes support colourful and diverse plant communities, including Burnet Rose and Pyramidal Orchids. Character within the area is also influenced by an expanse of colourful low hummocky heath, which supports extensive lichen flora and provides an important habitat for nesting stonechats, oystercatchers and lapwings. Despite the relative sense of remoteness, human influence is visible at several of the 'Points' within the area. A series of stark white houses associated with the lighthouse and nearby World War II defences at the Point of Ayre and the rifle range and old coastguard lookout at Rue Point and Blue Point provide elements that contrast with the surrounding predominantly natural landscape. Landfill sites at the Point of Ayre also exert a strong human influence upon the surrounding landscape. The coastal footpath, which runs around the coast of the whole Island, (Raad ny Foillan - 'Road of the Gull') provides access to the area, which is also accessible from a series of narrow single-track roads leading from the south. Along the entirety of the Ayres coastal strip, open and expansive views of sea and sky dominate the visual horizon. On a clear day, the strongly undulating shore of Scotland (to the south of Stranraer) is visible as distant backdrop to views northwards. During the summer months, the cries of nesting arctic terns on the foreshore and diving gannets offshore punctuate the strong sense of tranquillity throughout the character area, and contribute to recognisable sense of place.

Key Views

- Panoramic open views from Raad ny Foillan coastal footpath across an expansive horizon of seascape to the north.
- View to the strongly undulating shore of Scotland to the north on a clear day.
- Distant views southwards to undulating upland peaks.
- Open, panoramic views eastwards along the shore and gravely beach.

Historic Features

- World War II defences at the Point of Ayre.
- Lighthouses (Registered Buildings) at Point of Ayre.

Ecological Features

- Marram sand dunes provide important habitats for wildlife, insect and plant communities (including Burnet Rose and Pyramidal Orchids).
- Gravely foreshore provides a habitat for nesting Arctic Terns during the Summer months.
- The heath supports extensive habitats of rare lichens and also provides a habitat for nesting Stonechats, Oystercatchers and Lapwings.
- Nature Reserve – The Ayres.

Evaluation of Inherent Landscape Sensitivities

- Open sandy beaches along the coastline with extensive and open gravel banks.
- Strong sense of tranquillity throughout the area, with open and expansive views across adjacent seascape.
- Diverse patchwork of ecological habitats.
- Lighthouses form prominent landmarks.
- Overall strong sense of remoteness throughout the area.

Landscape Strategy

The overall strategy should be to conserve the strong sense of tranquillity along stretches of beach, sand dunes and gravel, conserve the area's diverse patchwork of ecological habitats and strong sense of openness and conserve the open views across the area.

G3 - JURBY HEAD



SMOOTH COASTAL STRIP

G3 JURBY HEAD

Key Characteristics

- Relatively wide foreshore, consisting of a shallow sandy beach, becoming pebblier as sand forms dunes further to the east.
- Low sand dunes have formed in some locations to the east of the coastal strip.
- Adjacent to western edge of incised inland slopes, which are covered with rough grassland and tall vegetation.
- Shore accessible via a series of short dead-end roads, which lead westwards from the main coastal road.
- General lack of settlement, other than occasional single house and crofts which overlook the beach.
- Strong sense of remoteness and tranquillity throughout the area.
- Panoramic views dominated by ever-changing colour and nature of sea and sky.
- Colour and movement of the sea contrasts with the coastal landforms, and combine to create a dramatic landscape.

Overall Character Description

This character partly lines the northwestern shore of the Island and connects to the Ayres coastal strip in the north and Orrisdale Head to the south. Character is dominated by the relatively wide foreshore, consisting of a shallow sandy beach, closest to the sea, which gradually becomes pebblier further to the east. Along some stretches of this part of the coastal strip, sand dunes have formed to the east of the foreshore (with associated emerging dune vegetation). Adjacent and directly to the east, the western edge of the Undulating Lowland Plain, rises sharply and quite dramatically up from the foreshore. In places, these slopes are covered with grass and rough shrubby/ tall vegetation, and provide a backdrop to views eastwards. The shore is accessible via a number of short dead-end roads, which lead westwards from the main coastal A10 (Bayr Ny Killane – Road of the Brushwood). Car parks at the end of several of these dead-end roads provide access points to the shore for pedestrians, who can also access the area via the ‘Raad Ny Foillan’ (Road of the Gull) footpath which crosses the area. There is a general lack of settlement, however occasional single houses and crofts overlook the beach and foreshore. Lack of settlement, coupled with access only via minor rural roads, results in a strong sense of remoteness and tranquillity throughout the area. Views are dominated by the ever-changing nature and colour of the sea and sky. On a clear day, dramatic views to the strongly undulating shore of Scotland provide a backdrop to views north-westwards across the sea.

Key Views

- Panoramic open views across the ever-changing seascape, towards low hills in the distance, which form part of the Scottish foreshore.
- Western edge of Undulating Lowland Plain frames and truncates views eastwards.
- Views northwards and southwards along the length of the beach.

Historic Features

- Several tumuli scattered across the area.

Ecological Features

- Intricate sand dunes set back from the foreshore.
- Sandy beach and pebbly foreshore (Area of Special Scientific Interest).
- Cronk y Bing Nature Reserve.

Evaluation of Inherent Landscape Sensitivities

- Extensive sandy beaches alongside loose conglomerate cliffs.
- Strong sense of tranquillity throughout the area.
- Strong sense of openness throughout the area.
- Sensitive and diverse patchwork of ecological habitats.
- Several small vegetated ravines giving access to the foreshore.
- General lack of settlement.
- Overall strong sense of remoteness throughout the area.

Landscape Strategy

The overall strategy should be to conserve the strong sense of remoteness and tranquillity, openness along the expansive stretches of sandy beaches, to conserve the numerous highly sensitive ecological habitats, and managing the area for visitor access.

G4 - ORRISDALE HEAD



SMOOTH COASTAL STRIP

G4 – ORRISDALE HEAD

Key Characteristics

- Continuous wide gently graded sandy beach.
- Sea cliffs formed of loose yellowy post-glacial conglomerates.
- Small gullies and vegetated glens at Glen Wyllin and Glen Trunk (National Glens) cut down to meet the sea.
- Abrupt transition at cliff top to meet arable field pattern of Undulating Lowland Plain.
- Colour and movement of the sea contrasts with the coastal landforms, and combine to create a dramatic landscape.

Overall Character Description

Continuous wide and gently graded sandy beaches sit at the base of a 10-15 metre high cliff formed of loose yellowy post-glacial conglomerate. The soft cliff face is deeply rilled in places with conical deposits of various sized rounded pebbles collecting at the cliff base. Rough grasses grow along sections of the more gently graded cliffs, where slope slip and erosion is less pronounced. There is a relatively abrupt transition at the cliff top to meet the arable fields of the Undulating Lowland Plain, from where the coastline is barely perceptible for the most part due to the large drop in levels to the sea.

The National Glens of Glen Mooar and Glen Wyllin are two of the larger of a series of vegetated glens that have cut deeply down in to the soft cliffs to form narrow valleys and gullies. These enable access down to the beach via various tracks and roads, where rough parking provision is provided. The southern boundary of this character area is determined by the expression of the harder slates of the Manx Group in the cliffs south of Glen Mooar.

Key Views

- Extensive views along the coastline from the beach north to Jurby Head, south to Peel and St. Patrick's Isle and out to sea.
- Views inland blocked by tall sea cliffs.

Historic Features

- Keeill Pharlane site.

Ecological Features

- Sandy foreshore with inter-tidal habitats.
- Marine habitats.

Evaluation of Inherent Landscape Sensitivities

- Extensive sandy beaches alongside loose conglomerate cliffs.
- Strong sense of tranquillity of area.
- Strong sense of openness, with open views across the area.
- Patchwork of sensitive and diverse habitat types.
- Several small vegetated ravines that are, in cases, the mouth of National Glens, giving access to the foreshore.
- General lack of cliff top settlement.

Landscape Strategy

The overall strategy should be to conserve the strong sense of tranquillity along the expansive stretches of sandy beaches, conserve and enhance the numerous highly sensitive ecological habitats and provide sensitive access for visitors.

H1 - PEEL HILL



COASTAL CLIFFS

COASTAL CLIFFS

H1 PEEL HILL

Key Characteristics

- Elongated, wind swept, open and exposed linear upland hill.
- High dramatic rocky coastal cliffs with indented rugged coastline composed of rocks from the Dalby Group.
- Uninhabited wild headland of Peel Hill forms shelter for the Harbour and built up area of Peel.
- Numerous tumuli, burial grounds and the prominent landmark of Corrin's Tower along the hill tops.
- Medium sized rectilinear fields with regular patterns on the inland and southern slopes around Glen Maye.
- Colour and movement of the sea contrasts with the coastal landforms, and combine to create a dramatic landscape.

Overall Character Description

Windswept rounded and elongated hill top is covered with patches of heather, gorse and grasses on steep slopes leading down to high dramatic sea cliffs. Scree and rock on ever steeping land drops steeply down high jagged rocky cliffs to a rugged and rocky inaccessible foreshore. Contrary Head and Thistle Head are two notable rocky headlands along this rugged indented coast line, dominated by the sandstones and silts of the Dalby Group, with numerous small coves and jagged rocky outcrops such as Creag Vollan.

Peel Hill forms a dominant headland of Peel Harbour with Peel Castle built on the grassy promontory of St. Patrick's Isle, connected by a causeway along Fenella Beach to the mainland. Peel Harbour protrudes inland and separates Peel Hill from the built up edge of Peel on the eastern side of the moorings. The River Neb flows into the Harbour and skirts around the settlement forming the area's inland boundary for a short distance before it contours around the hill side to the south of the Knockaloe Plantation, which forms the only vertical protrusion on an otherwise smooth and monotonous inland hill slope.

There is little settlement in the area other than Knockaloe Farm which is surrounded by medium sized rectilinear fields of rough grazing in a fairly regular pattern. These field types cover the majority of the area's inland slopes and are enclosed by Manx hedges with some low gorse bushes. Patches of gorse and heather grow in some ungrazed areas, which impart an upland character to the area, but with a strong coastal influence and dramatic views. A strong sense of tranquillity in the area.

Key Views

- Extensive and panoramic views from coastal path along the dramatic coastal cliffs to Calf of Man.
- Extensive and panoramic views from coastal path inland to southern uplands and over the Island.

Historic Features

- St. Patrick's Well.
- Folly of Corrin's Tower.
- Tumuli.
- Burial grounds and chapel.

Ecological Features

- Inter-tidal zone with numerous habitats.
- Sea cliffs for nesting birds.
- Maritime habitats along coastal area.
- Heathland habitats on sea facing slopes.

Evaluation of Inherent Landscape Sensitivities

- Open and windswept.
- Generally uninhabited.
- Medium sized rectilinear fields with regular patterns on the inland slopes.
- Sites of archaeological importance.
- Corrin's Tower forms a prominent landmark.

Landscape Strategy

The overall strategy should be to conserve the character, quality and distinctiveness of this open, unsettled and rugged area with expansive and dramatic views and to conserve the wild setting of the numerous archaeological features.

H2 - FLESHWICK



COASTAL CLIFFS

H2 FLESHWICK

Key Characteristics

- Very high steeply sloping grass slopes above dramatic and jagged sea cliffs.
- Small rocky coves with small sandy beaches formed where small streams drain off the upland areas.
- Rocky stacks, wave cut platforms and an inaccessible rocky foreshore.
- Colour and movement of the sea contrasts with the coastal landforms, and combine to create a dramatic landscape.
- Remote and wild area.
- Dramatic coastal views.

Overall Character Description

High, very steep grassy slopes with soil slips and areas of exposed rock drop dramatically from the adjacent Southern Uplands, with patches of heathland vegetation, down to the sea where high rocky sea cliffs, composed of rocks of the Manx Group have been eroded by wave action to form a variety of rocky stacks and wave cut platforms. In places where streams drain off the upland areas, narrow gullies lead down to the sea and form inaccessible small enclosed coves with sandy beaches in places such as Geinnagh Vane. The rocky coastline drops height rapidly around Fleshwick Bay, where a gently graded sandy beach is located, which gives access inland along Grampus Hill Road.

Key Views

- Distant views out towards Ireland over the sea from the Raad ny Foillan coastal path.
- Panoramic expansive views out to sea and along the coastline from Fleshwick Bay.
- Dramatic views over the coastal cliffs and along the coastline from the coastal path.

Historic Features

- Small chapel and burial ground at Creg Venagh Lag ny Keeilley.

Ecological Features

- Inter-tidal zone with rock pools.
- Sea cliffs for nesting birds.
- Maritime habitats along coastal area.

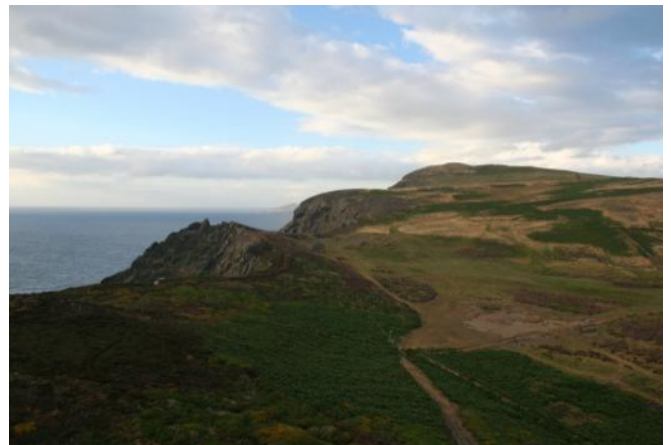
Evaluation of Inherent Landscape Sensitivities

- Open and windswept character.
- Dramatic panoramic expansive views over high sea cliffs.
- Uninhabited and strong sense of remoteness.
- Several archaeological sites.

Landscape Strategy

The overall strategy should be to conserve the character, quality and distinctiveness of this open, unsettled and rugged area with expansive and dramatic views and to conserve the wild setting of the numerous archaeological features.

H3 - BRADDA HEAD



COASTAL CLIFFS

H3 BRADDA HEAD

Key Characteristics

- Open and exposed steeply sided pronounced upland hill.
- Prominent landmark of the Milner's Tower on Bradda Head.
- Steeply sloping grass slopes above high and dramatic jagged sea cliffs.
- Small rocky coves, stacks and off shore rocks.
- Network of surfaced and unsurfaced paths criss-cross the areas.
- Numerous abandoned mines and associated buildings as well as a derelict coast guard look out post.
- Expansive and dramatic panoramic views along the coastal cliffs, out to sea and inland.
- Colour and movement of the sea contrasts with the coastal landforms, and combine to create a dramatic landscape.

Overall Character Description

Open and exposed steeply sided pronounced hill with upland vegetation drops steeply to the western seaward side forming dramatic coastal cliffs. The rounded and rolling hill tops are covered in patches of gorse, heather, bracken and grass. Some rectilinear pastoral fields delineated by low Manx hedges lie on the lower eastern slopes around the coniferous Fleshwick Plantation. They are also located above the white-washed farm houses and other dwellings at Bradda West that are scattered along the A32, which forms the area's eastern boundary. From the top of the hill around the very prominent landmark of the Milner's Tower on Bradda Head, the grassy slopes drop steeply down high jagged and rocky cliffs to a rugged and rocky inaccessible foreshore. These coastal cliffs are very high and steep, with numerous small coves and indentations such as Johnson's Beach and Port ny Ding interspersed between rocky protrusions such as those at Lhoob ny Charran, where dark coloured rocks from the Manx Group jut out into the sea. The land drops steeply to the gently graded shale beach of Fleshwick Bay that is enclosed by dramatic cliffs and accessible by the narrow winding Grampus Hill Road.

Numerous informal and formal paths with hand rails run across the area providing access from Port Erin, passing the houses and gardens of Bradda West on the way. Numerous abandoned mines and associated buildings as well as a derelict coast guard look out post represent recent human activities in the area while the various cairns scattered over the area reflect historic habitation. With no settlement in the area and the exposed elevated aspect and dramatic views along the coastal cliffs, the area has a very distinct and inspiring character.

Key Views

- Extensive and panoramic views out towards Ireland over the sea from hill tops and inland over Port Erin and Port St. Mary.
- Sublime and expansive views along the south to the Calf of Man over the coastal cliffs of the Meayll Peninsula and north up the dramatic coastline of Fleshwick.

Historic Features

- Milners Tower.
- Numerous cairns.
- Disused mines.

Ecological Features

- Inter-tidal zone with rock pools.
- Sea cliffs for nesting birds.
- Maritime habitats along coastal area.
- Heathland habitats.

Evaluation of Inherent Landscape Sensitivities

- Windswept cliff top moorland.
- Open, expansive and dramatic views.
- Unsettled character on the tops with some houses around Bradda East.
- Medium sized rectilinear fields on the lower eastern slopes.
- Sites of archaeological importance including various abandoned mines.
- Milner's Tower forms a prominent landmark.

Landscape Strategy

The overall strategy should be to conserve the strong sense of openness throughout this rugged area with its expansive and dramatic views and to conserve the setting of the numerous archaeological features.

H4 - CREAGNEASH AND MEAYLL PENINSULAR



COASTAL CLIFFS

H4 CREGNEASH AND MEAYLL PENINSULA

Key Characteristics

- Situated at the south-western tip of the Island, overlooking the Calf of Man.
- Landform rises from south to north.
- Series of rugged bays line the coast, with rugged rocky outcrops extending into the sea.
- Landmark Sugar Loaf Stack and a series of deep chasms to the south of Cregneash village (north of Bay Stacka).
- Patchwork of regular pasture fields, delineated by traditional stone walls at field boundaries and occasional low Manx hedges.
- Settlement pattern consists of a series of isolated, scattered farmsteads with an old crofting village Cregneash Village (the oldest on the Island) at the centre of the area.
- The Cregneash Automatic Wireless Transmitting Direction-Finding Station and a telecommunications mast on elevated ground in the southern part of the peninsula.
- Dramatic views across Calf Sound to the Calf of Man, often with seals basking on Kitterland rocky outcrop.
- The Sound Café at an isolated location overlooking Calf Sound.
- Coastline provides a haven for birds and wildlife.
- Strong sense of isolation, openness and tranquillity throughout.
- Atmospheric character, as a result of crashing waves, calls of sea birds and general lack of disturbing elements.
- Dramatic views of rising uplands to the north and across Port St. Mary Bay to the northeast, provide strong recognisable sense of place.
- Colour and movement of the sea contrasts with the coastal landforms, and combine to create a dramatic landscape.

Overall Character Description

The Meayll Peninsula is situated at the south-western tip of the Island, and overlooks the Calf of Man. Landform rises from Port Erin and Port St. Mary to the north, towards the coastline to the south, where rugged dark cliffs rise from the dramatic sea below. A series of rugged bays line the coast and, in several places, rugged rocky outcrops extend into the sea. At the southernmost point, the distinctive rocky cliffs of Spanish Head form the boundary between land and sea, whilst further to the east (at the eastern head of Bay Stacka) the rocky landmark of Sugar Loaf stack provides a strong sense of place. Land use within the area varies, with patches of rough grassland and heathland in higher areas and in close proximity to the coast; and a patchwork of regular (often sheep-grazed) fields. Field boundaries are delineated by characteristic traditional stone walls, which denote a relatively regular field pattern. In places, low Manx hedges and patches of scrub also demarcate fields. Settlement pattern consists of a series of isolated, scattered farmsteads, which are peppered throughout the area. The area is served by Cregneash Road/Sound Road, which provides access to the southernmost point of the Island. From this, two minor, rural roads branch north and south, providing access to Port Erin to the north and Cregneash Automatic Wireless Transmitting Direction-Finding Station to the south. The distinctive traditional small village of Cregneash (now a folk museum) sits at the centre of the peninsula. This is the oldest village in the Isle of Man and encompasses an atmospheric arrangement of 19th century traditional crofter's cottages. At the southern end of Sound Road, the Sound Café (a traditional stone buildings with modern glass panoramic window and green roof) facilitates views across the Sound, towards the Calf of Man. From this point, dramatic views across the Sound to the Calf of Man, often with seals basking on Kitterland rocky outcrop in the foreground, can be gained. There is a strong sense of isolation and tranquillity, with chanting flocks of sea birds and the background crash of waves contributing to character and recognisable sense of place. A landmark white cross marks a memorial to loss of life as a result of shipwrecks within the Sound. Across the area, a sense of tranquillity and openness is strong, with panoramic views across peninsula and the surrounding ever-changing seascape. Dramatic views of rising uplands to the north and across Port St. Mary Bay to the northeast

can be gained from the highest points. To the south of Cregneash, communication mast provides a dominant vertical element within views across the area.

Key Views

- Dramatic views of rising uplands to the north and across Port St. Mary Bay to the northeast.
- Dramatic views across the Sound to the Calf of Man.
- Panoramic, open views across the peninsula.
- Extensive, panoramic, open views across ever-changing sea and sky engulfing the character area on three sides.

Historic Features

- Meayll Circle (Meayll – in Manx meaning Bald or Bare Hill dates back to the late Neolithic or early Bronze Age). Used primarily as a prehistoric burial place, it is unique in archaeological terms combining the circle form with six pairs of cists (stone coffins) each pair having passage between which radiates outwards.
- Thatched crofts of Cregneash Village.
- Promontory fort to the south of the Sound Café.
- Circle close to the Chasms.
- Tumuli.

Ecological Features

- Patches of rough grassland, heathland and scrub.
- Inter-tidal zone with rock pools.
- Sea cliffs for nesting birds.
- Maritime habitats along coastal area.
- Heathland habitats.

Evaluation of Inherent Landscape Sensitivities

- Open and windswept coastal moorland.
- Sparsely settled character with traditional crofting village of Cregneash.
- Numerous sites of archaeological importance.
- Patchwork of regular pasture fields, delineated by traditional stone walls and occasional low Manx hedges.
- High and dramatic sea cliffs providing nesting for numerous species of bird.
- Dramatic panoramic views.

Landscape Strategy

The overall strategy should be to conserve the strong sense of openness of this rugged area, its expansive and dramatic views and to conserve the setting of the numerous archaeological features including Cregneash village and the surrounding traditional field pattern.

H5 - MAUGHOLD HEAD



COASTAL CLIFFS

H5 MAUGHOLD HEAD

Key Characteristics

- Encompasses a rocky shore and coastline, which is strongly indented in places.
- Series of narrow, incised bays fold round the southern edge of the Head.
- Rugged, rocky foreshore (with jagged rocky outcrops protruding into the sea) is generally inaccessible.
- Traditional small Manx church at Maughold is a distinctive landmark within views across the area.
- General sense of enclosure openness and exposure throughout the area.
- Patchwork of pasture fields, delineated by intact, low stone walls.
- Land cover is dominated by medium-sized rectilinear pasture fields.
- Patches of gorse, heather, bracken and grass contribute to landscape pattern;
- Sense of tranquillity is relatively strong throughout the area.
- Lighthouse at Maughold Head

Overall Character Description

Maughold Head is situated at the north-eastern edge of the Island and encompasses a rocky shore and coastline, which is strongly indented in places. A series of narrow, incised bays fold round the southern edge of the Broogh (Gob ny Strona, Gob ny Skey, Traie Farkan, Traie Foillan) contributing to creation of a sense isolation and tranquillity within the area. This rugged, rocky foreshore (with jagged rocky outcrops protruding into the sea) is generally inaccessible, other than via the circular coastal footpath (Raad Ny Foillan). At Maughold Head, rugged steep cliffs rise out of the sea, overlooked by the small village of Maughold to the west. Within Maughold (traditional Manx) village, the distinctive grey church with its associated large graveyard, set in a prominent position to the east of village, contributes to the distinctive, somewhat isolated character of this area. Further to the east, a lighthouse (accessible via a narrow, windswept track) overlooks the eastern shoreline. From this position, dramatic, sweeping views along the coastline to south can be gained. There is a general sense of enclosure openness and exposure throughout the area, with dramatic views to the dark rising uplands to the west, contributing to recognisable sense of place. Settlement pattern is dominated by a series of isolated farmsteads, which are scattered throughout the area. Land cover is dominated by medium-sized rectilinear pasture fields, upon the gently undulating landform, delineated in places by low, predominantly intact stone walls. Patches of gorse, heather, bracken and grass are also scattered throughout the area. Field pattern is relatively distinctive and striking throughout the area. Belts of mature deciduous woodland surround Maughold Church, providing some sense of enclosure. Sense of tranquillity is relatively strong throughout the area.

Key Views

- Extensive views across Ramsey Bay to the north (with the pier jutting out into the sea).
- Expansive open views across the surrounding ever-changing seascape.
- Dramatic views southwards along the dramatic shoreline.
- Generally open views across the Broogh.

Historic Features

- Maughold Conservation Area
- Maughold Parish Church and cemetery.
- Site of ancient monastery at Maughold
- Ruined Keeills
- Cross House with 45 crosses

Ecological Features

- Patches of mature deciduous woodland surrounding Maughold church.
- Patches of gorse, heather, bracken and grass.
- Rocky foreshore provides a key habitat for birds and wildlife.
- Inter-tidal zone with rock pools.
- Sea cliffs for nesting birds.

Evaluation of Inherent Landscape Sensitivities

- Windswept cliff top moorland.
- Open, expansive and dramatic views.
- Scattered settlement with isolated farmsteads.
- Medium sized rectilinear field pattern.
- Sites of archaeological importance.
- Strong sense of tranquillity.
- Inaccessible, rugged and dramatic coastline.
- Enclosed rural roads.

Landscape Strategy

The overall strategy should be to conserve the scattered settlement pattern and expansive and dramatic views, conserve the setting of the Maughold Church tower and enhance field boundaries that contribute to recognisable field pattern.

J1 - CALF OF MAN



J ISLANDS

J1 CALF OF MAN

Key Characteristics

- Small islet separated from the main Isle of Man by a tidal (often turbulent) channel (the Sound).
- Island rises dramatically from the surrounding sea.
- Series of rugged cliff faces visible around the perimeter of the Island.
- Patchwork of heathland and grassland covering the area.
- Important habitat for breeding birds.
- Colonies of grey seals bask on the rough outcrops that jut out from the Island into the sea.
- Few built structures or built vertical elements.
- Only accessible at certain times of the year.

Overall Character Description

Located off the south-western most point of the Isle of Man, the Calf is separated from the main Island via a swirling and often choppy tidal channel (the Sound). To the north of the Calf, a small rocky outcrop/ Island (Kitterland) occupies the centre of the channel and provides a visible landmark in views to the Isle of Man. The Calf rises dramatically from the surrounding sea and is underlain by geology of mud and stone of the Manx Group. A series of striking rugged cliff faces are visible around the perimeter of Island. Land cover is dominated by a patchwork of grassland and heathland, with patches of scrub. These habitats, alongside the rugged cliffs, provide an ideal habitat for breeding birds (including choughs, Manx shearwater, razorbill, cormorant, shag, fulmar, guillemots and puffins). A bird observatory (run by Manx National Heritage) is situated on the Island, and provides visitors the opportunity to view this diverse range of species, against the striking landscape backdrop. Colonies of grey seals also bask on the rough outcrops and wave cut platforms that jut out from the Island into the sea. There are few built structures on the Calf, other than a variety of derelict cottages (including one known as Jane's House) a 20th century lighthouse station and two 19th century lighthouse towers (Ancient Monuments), which are built from limestone. An additional lighthouse rises up from the sea at Chicken Rock, some 1km to the southwest of the Calf of Man. The Calf is only accessible via boat from either Port Erin or Port St. Mary. However, access is restricted at certain times of the year because of breeding birds. Across the Island, there is very strong sense of isolation and tranquillity.

Key Views

- Long distance, panoramic views across an ever-changing seascape from several locations on the Calf.
- Dramatic skies are dominant within views from the Island.
- Striking views northwards across the often-turbulent 'Sound' channel, towards the modern circular glass-fronted visitor centre and Sound cafe on the Isle of Man.
- Views to the striking white memorial cross on the southern most tip of the Isle of Man.

Historic Features

- Lighthouses.
- Derelict cottages, including Jane's House.
- Late 1800's farmhouse.
- Site of 18th century military batteries.

Ecological Features

- Nature reserve, particularly important for nesting and breeding birds.
- Seal colonies.
- Mosaic of diverse ecological habitats.

Evaluation of Inherent Landscape Sensitivities

- Isolated, inaccessible and remote island.
- Rich marine habitats and sea cliff nesting sites.
- Few built structures or built vertical elements.
- Grassland and heathland habitats.
- Striking views of the island from the main land.
- Strong sense of tranquillity and isolation.

Landscape Strategy

The overall strategy should be to conserve the strong sense of tranquillity and remoteness throughout this area (with minimal human intervention or impact), and to conserve the patchwork of rich ecological habitats.

4.0 CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

4.1 General

- 4.1.1 This section sets out the main conclusions of the Study, and provides recommendations to the DLGE for its consideration and action as appropriate. Recommendations are provided for the application of the Landscape Character Assessment, and in relation to landscape policy advice for the preparation of Area Plans

4.2 Conclusions

Diversity of the Island's Landscapes

- 4.2.1 This assessment has confirmed the diversity of the Island's landscapes, identifying 9 different types of landscape within only 572 square kilometres. This diversity is largely influenced by the varied geology of the Island (slates, sandstone, limestone and granite) and its topographic variety (e.g. uplands, narrow upland glens, undulating lowland plain, smooth coastal strip, rugged coast, etc.). This assessment also confirms that the historical settlement, development and use of the Island's landscape, and its ecological character, reflect this diversity. Within the context of this diversity of landscape types, the assessment has identified 59 areas of distinctive landscape character. These areas reflect distinct and recognisable patterns of different natural and cultural elements that combine to create a particular experience or 'sense of place.'
- 4.2.2 Overall, the diversity and distinctiveness of the Island's landscapes are considered to be a major environmental asset, contributing significantly to the Island's uniqueness and to the quality of life for the Island's communities. Protecting landscape features and patterns that contribute to landscape diversity, including enhancing their quality, character and function where necessary, should be a key aim for planning and land management policy on the Island.

Inherent Qualities and Sensitivities of the Island's Landscapes

- 4.2.3 The profiles set out in Section 3.0 identify, in broad terms, the current key sensitivities of each of the 59 landscape character areas. This information highlights the main issues affecting landscape character that need to be considered in decisions involving the development and use of land within a particular character area. The key issues in relation to development planning can be summarised as follows:
- Built development – expansion of suburban character and pattern; ribbon development, use of standardised housing designs/inappropriate building methods/materials/details that ignore local vernacular; expansion of industrial, leisure and retail developments on settlement edges; pressure on open character of countryside gaps.
 - Infrastructure - loss of tranquillity from road and development growth; increase in waste treatment plants, telecommunication masts and associated buildings etc.
 - Small-scale and incremental change - gentrification, suburbanisation and extension of rural settlements, dwellings and gardens; increased use of concrete for highway structures, urban style walls and lighting; loss of locally distinctive features such as Manx hedges and traditional road signage; increased car use with adverse impact on landscape and settlement character; obtrusive road signage etc.
 - Settlements in their landscape settings - relationship between settlement core and landscape severed by settlement expansion; new development unsympathetic to original

settlement pattern and relationship with landscape; poor relationships between settlement and landscape/key views/landmarks/other landscape features.

- Recreation and tourism – access infrastructure; horse-related developments, golf courses; loss of tranquillity from off-road motor sports activities.
- Climate change – mitigating the causes of climate change through energy conservation/efficiency and increased use of renewable energy sources; adapting to the consequences of climate change in relation to flood risk and coastal erosion.

4.3 Applications of the Landscape Character Assessment

4.3.1 It is intended that this Landscape Character Assessment can be used by all those with an interest in landscape planning, design and management on the Island.

4.3.2 In line with the aims and objectives set out in Section 1.2, the principal application of this Landscape Character Assessment is in relation to the DLGE's development planning functions. Practical uses of the Landscape Character Assessments in this regard include:

- Raising the general awareness in the planning process of the importance of landscape character in contributing to quality of life on the Island by recognising:
 - * both the differences and similarities between places
 - * what gives different places their special local identity and distinctiveness
 - * the need to protect and enhance special and valued characteristics
 - * that development needs to be sympathetic to these special qualities
 - * the need to actively improve the quality of places through good design.
- Providing the spatial framework for considering the landscape character implications of options for different scales and patterns of development in the Area Plans.
- Informing the formulation of criteria-based landscape character policies in the Area Plans.
- Informing development control decisions about proposals for built development and other forms of land use change.
- Providing a framework for more detailed studies to enhance the evidence base, and for the targeting of landscape enhancements in concert with development schemes.
- Informing design guidance to promote higher quality landscape design.
- Providing a baseline for monitoring the impact of new development on landscape character and quality.

4.3.3 Planners, developers, architects, urban designers, landscape architects and other professionals may also find the characterisation information useful as a reference source for informing the site masterplanning and building design process for specific development schemes. Other applications of the Landscape Character Assessments include its use by those involved in the targeting and delivery of environmental land management schemes - e.g. Government departments, the Manx Electricity Authority, landowners and land managers etc. Local communities and other stakeholders may also find the Study useful as a basis for guiding their responses to consultations by the planning authority on plans, strategies and planning applications that may have significant implications for their local landscapes.

4.4 Landscape Policy Recommendations

Areas of High Landscape Value and Scenic Significance

- 4.4.1 This Study clearly identifies the specific characteristics and features within a landscape character area that require protection; it also highlights potential measures for enhancing landscape character and distinctiveness within these areas. Taking this into account, it is recommended that the DLGE consider replacing ‘Areas of High Landscape Value and Scenic Significance’ within the landscape character areas approach.

Landscape Character Policy

- 4.4.2 It is recommended that the DLGE consider incorporating a criteria-based Landscape Character policy or policies into the Area Plans to provide a character area-based approach to landscape protection and enhancement. It is recommended that the wording of any Landscape Character policy or policies should include reference to the following main components:

- Landscape character and local distinctiveness should be conserved and, where possible, enhanced.
- Proposals for development should:
 - * take into account the key landscape characteristics, distinctive features and sensitivities of the relevant Landscape Character Area(s).
 - * have regard to highways, access, scale, design, materials, location, siting, landscaping and other appropriate environmental considerations.
- Development should only be permitted where it can protect, conserve and enhance:
 - * landscape character and local distinctiveness of the area (including its historical, biodiversity and cultural character and its tranquillity)
 - * the distinctive setting of, and relationship between, settlement and buildings and the landscape including important views
 - * the function of watercourses, woodland, trees, field boundaries, vegetation and other landscape features as ecological corridors
 - * the special qualities of rivers, waterways, wetlands and their surroundings
 - * the distinctive topography of the area including sensitive skylines, hillsides and geological features.

- 4.4.3 It is recommended that the supporting explanatory text for the landscape character policy should include reference to the following:

- Landscape character is of fundamental importance to the quality of life for communities in all areas.
- High priority to be afforded to the protection, conservation and enhancement of landscape character in delivering sustainable development.
- A clear definition of landscape character and local distinctiveness.
- Any other studies that provide part of the evidence base for landscape character on the Island.
- Well-designed, high quality new development within rural areas that helps sustain and/or create landscapes with a strong sense of place and local identity to be encouraged.
- Encouragement for landscape enhancement schemes, submission of landscape design statements with planning applications and provision of landscape-scale management plans/strategies.

- The characteristics and qualities of Landscape Character Areas as set out in the Island's LCA should inform the implementation of policy.

APPENDIX A
STAKEHOLDER CONSULTATION WORKSHOP RECORD



**ISLE OF MAN
LANDSCAPE CHARACTER ASSESSMENT**

A WORKSHOP FOR STATUTORY BODIES

**13 July 2006, 2-5pm
Tynwald Mill Programme**

2.00pm Welcome and Introductions

2.05pm The Landscape Character Assessment – An Overview by CBA

- Purpose and Programme
- The Characterisation Process – Assessing Distinctiveness
- The Evaluation Process – Identifying Landscape Condition, Qualities, Sensitivities and Developing Management Strategies/Guidelines

2.30pm Review of Draft Character Area Map - Discussion Groups

- What characteristics make different areas distinctive from each other and why?

4.00pm Feedback from Discussion Groups

- Character Area Boundary Amendments
- Character Area Name Amendments

4.45pm Next Steps and Close

Participants:

Sarah Corlett (Department of Local Government and the Environment)
Ian McCauley (Department of Local Government and the Environment)
Andrew Johnson (Manx National Heritage)
Dr. Andrew Foxon (Manx National Heritage)
Colin Kelly (Farming and Wildlife Advisory Group)
Ffinlo Costain (Manx National Farmers' Union)
David Morter (Department of Trade and Industry)
Geoff LePage (Department of Tourism and Leisure)
Keith Kerruish (Flockmasters' Association)
Duncan Bridges (Manx Wildlife Trust)
John Smith (Isle of Man Water Authority)
Dr. Richard Selman (Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry)
Peter Davey (Centre for Manx Studies)
Richard Lole (Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry)
Stephen Kirkpatrick (Chris Blandford Associates)
Paul Smith (Chris Blandford Associates)

1. Welcome and Introduction

Ian McCauley gave an introduction to the workshop and set out the purposes of the Landscape Character Assessment Study.

2. The Landscape Character Assessment – An Overview by CBA

Stephen Kirkpatrick initially explained the principles and processes involved in landscape character assessment, explaining the differences between the two key stages of the process, characterisation and evaluation. Paul Smith presented the preliminary map of Landscape Character Types that had been identified and the Study processes that had led to their identification.

3. Review of Draft Character Area Map - Discussion Groups

Stephen Kirkpatrick explained that the purpose of the workshop was to obtain views on the following:

- Landscape Character Type Boundary Amendments
- Landscape Character Area Boundary Amendments
- Character Name Amendments

4. Feedback from Discussion Groups

The following Stakeholder comments were observed:

- A new Landscape Character Type was conceived to cover the rocky sea cliffs on the south east coast where the uplands descend directly into the sea. This Type would include the following character areas: CORRINS HILL + GLEN MAYE, FLESHWICK, BRADDA MOUNTAIN and the MEAYLL PENINSULA but would exclude DALBY POINT AND NIARBYL BAY that would remain in Type E: Rugged Coast (due to the gentler slope down to the sea). The name 'Brooghs' was suggested to describe these rocky sea cliffs. However, the name 'Coastal Cliffs' was eventually adopted by the consultant team as discussions after the workshop revealed that the meaning of 'Brooghs' was too specific to fully describe this new Landscape Character Type.
- The inland boundary of Type E: Rugged Coast from MAUGHOLD HEAD down to PORT GRENAUGH has been moved closer to the coast line and now follows the Coastal Path in places.
- CASTLETOWN and the POYLLVAAISH AND SCARLETT PENINSULA Character areas have been included in Landscape Type F: Undulating Lowland Plain.
- Various small amendments have been made to the Character Area boundaries in the Northern Undulating Plain, Type F.
- Stoney Mountain plantation has been included in the Southern Uplands
- The names of some the preliminary Landscape Character Types and Landscape Character Areas were revised following Stakeholder comments. The revised list is set out below and those landscape character areas where boundaries need to be further verified on site are highlighted in brackets.

UPLANDS

NORTHERN UPLANDS

SOUTHERN UPLANDS

NARROW UPLAND GLENS

SULBY GLEN

GLEN AULDYN

(CORNAA VALLEY)

(LAXEY GLEN)

(GLEN ROY)

EAST BALDWIN

WEST BALDWIN

GLEN HELEN

GLEN DHOO / BALLAUGH GLEN

GLEN RUSHEN

BROAD LOWLAND VALLEY

GREEBA VALLEY

(ST JOHNS)

(UNION MILLS / GLEN VINE / CROSBY)

INCISED INLAND SLOPES

BALLAJORA + BALLAGLASS

LAXEY

CONRHENNY

ORRISDALE + BALLAUGH

KIRK MICHAEL

CRONK-Y-VODDY

(THE NEB / PEEL)

GLEN MAYE

(BRAAID)

FOXDALE

(COOIL + CARNANE)

DOUGLAS HEAD

SANTON

(BALLAMODHA + ST. MARKS + (ARBORY?))

BALLASALLA (check that this an area)

(PORT ERIN / PORT ST. MARY)

RUGGED COAST

PORT GRENAUGH

PORT SODERICK

DOUGLAS BAY

CLAY HEAD

LAXEY BAY

DHOON BAY + PORT CORNAA

MAUGHOLD HEAD

BALLANAYRE STRAND + PEEL

DALBY POINT AND NIARBYL BAY

BAY NY CARRICKEY

CASTLETOWN BAY

LANGNESS

PORT GRENAUGH

UNDULATING LOWLAND PLAIN

BRIDE HILLS

THE LHEN

(ANDREAS (MERGE WITH JURBY?))

JURBY

SULBY

SULBY RIVER

(CURRAGH)

(CASTLETOWN)

(POYLLVAAISH AND SCARLETT PENINSULA)

SMOOTH COASTAL STRIP

RAMSEY BAY

THE AYRES

JURBY HEAD

ORRISDALE HEAD

COASTAL CLIFFS

CORRINS HILL / GLEN MAYE

FLESHWICK

BRADDA MOUNTAIN

(MEAYLL PENINSULA)

ISLANDS

CALF OF MAN

APPENDIX B
SOURCES OF INFORMATION

APPENDIX B

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

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