



**Isle of Man**  
Government  
*Reillys Ellan Vannin*

**DEPARTMENT OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND THE ENVIRONMENT**

**TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING ACT 1999  
THE REGISTERED BUILDINGS REGULATIONS 2005**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that at a meeting held on the 4th December 2007, the Department of Local Government and the Environment, in pursuance of its powers under the above Acts and Regulations REGISTERED

**Orrisdale House Orrisdale Kirk Michael Isle Of Man IM6 2HP**

as represented by the buildings delineated on the plan hereto attached, in the PROTECTED BUILDINGS REGISTER by reason of its special architectural and historic interest.

THE EFFECT OF THIS REGISTRATION IS IMMEDIATE and prohibits the alteration or demolition of the structure or appearance of any part of the building except in compliance with an obligation imposed by or under any statutory provision or with the prior written consent of the Planning Committee.

Dated this 4th December 2007,  
By Order of the Department

**E J Callow**  
**Secretary, Planning Committee.**

1<sup>st</sup> Floor, Murray House,  
Mount Havelock,  
Douglas,  
IM1 2SF.

**NOTE :**

***Under The Town and Country Planning Act 1999;***

**Schedule 2  
The Protected Buildings Register**

*Notifications of entries on register etc.*

2. (1) As soon as may be after a building has been entered in the register, or the register has been amended by removal of a building from it, the Department shall serve a notice on the owner and the occupier of the building stating that it has been entered in or removed from the register.

(2) The owner or the occupier of, and any other person having an interest in, a building which has been entered in the register may apply to the Department to remove the building from the register-

(a) within the prescribed period after service on him of a notice under sub-paragraph (1);

(b) after the expiration of the prescribed period after the decision of the Department on a previous request under subsection in relation to the building.

***Under the Registered Building Regulations 2005***

**3. Periods for purpose of Schedule 2 paragraph 2(2)**

(1) The period specified for the purposes of paragraph 2(2)(a) of Schedule 2 to the Act (period after notice of registration, within which owner or occupier may request de-registration) is 21 days.

(2) The period specified for the purposes of paragraph 2(2)(b) of Schedule 2 to the Act (period after initial period, during which owner or occupier may not request a de-registration) is 5 years.

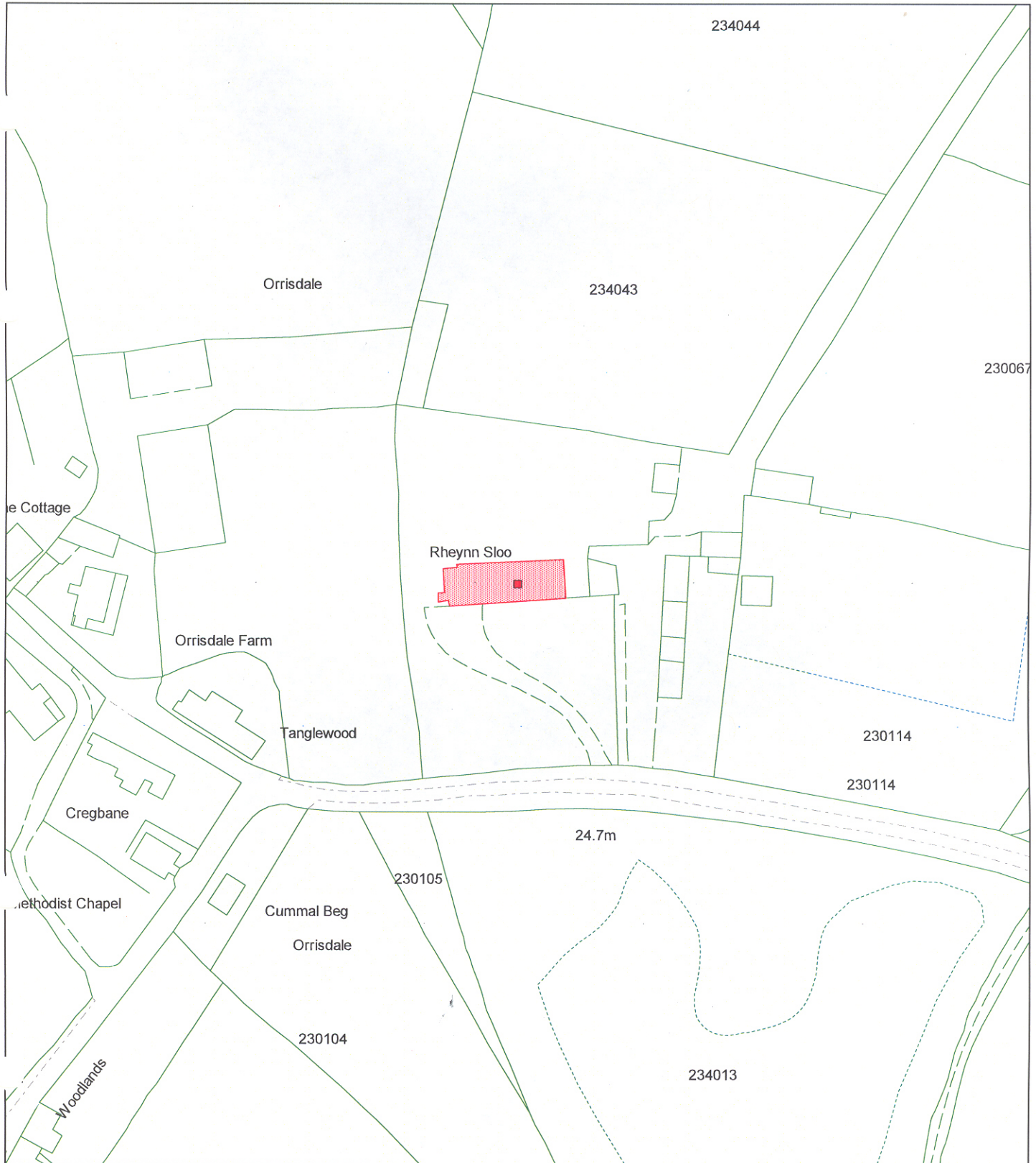
To: **Property Owner – FILE COPY**  
Commissioners Office, Main Road, Kirk Michael.  
Director, Manx National Heritage

# Department of Local Government and the Environment

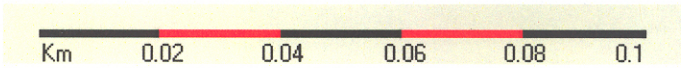
Directorate of Planning and Building Control



Isle of Man Government



1:1250



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<b>Comments</b>	07/00249/REGBLD
<b>Date</b>	04 December 2007

## REGISTERED BUILDING CONFIRMATION

**NAME:** Orrisdale House  
**ADDRESS:** Orrisdale, Kirk Michael  
**POST CODE:** IM6 2HP  
**LOCAL AUTHORITY:** Michael Commissioners  
**GRID REF:** 325 930

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### Introduction

Orrisdale House is a large residence situated in a secluded nook on the west coast of the Island, just north of Kirk Michael. The town of Orrisdale is steeped in history and was once thought to be the site of a Viking settlement and residence. In addition to this, the town possesses an old quartz mine dating back to the 12<sup>th</sup> century, the remains of a white quartz circle and early Christian burials.

The area is populated with many large trees which are likely to be of a significant age. The 1869 Ordnance Survey map of the area includes many of these trees and describes the area around Orrisdale House as a 'wood'.

The actual date of construction of the present Orrisdale House is unknown. We can assume that the oldest parts of the house date back to at least the time when Deemster John Frissell Crellin (1764-1816) lived there. This is because a drawing dating from that time shows the property, clearly recognisable, although it has been largely extended since.

Historically, Orrisdale has been the seat of the Crellin family for over 200 years. The Crellins are one of the most distinguished families in the north of the Island and although some of the family migrated to Ballachurry in Andreas, the old Orrisdale House remains in Crellin hands to the present day.

### History

In the Manorial Roll of 1515 the estate was known as Orestall, but it has also been called Oristal, Orristal and the Norse-sounding Orry's Dale. There have been many Norse artefacts unearthed on the estate and where the land reaches the west coast a number of pre-Christian and early Christian burials have been found. There used to be a chapel and graveyard called Keeill Pharlane, which was located at Orrisdale Head and during the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries coastal erosion was noted to be causing the graves to fall into the sea. A small portion of the keeill site was included on the 1869 Ordnance Survey map, although all traces have since been washed away.

### The Crellin family of Orrisdale

The estate of Orrisdale first came into possession of the Crellin family in the mid to late eighteenth century and it has remained in their hands ever since. There have been many notable members of the Crellin family, including a Deemster, a Colonel in Command of the Northern Manks Volunteers, a Vicar-General, a Captain of the Parish and several MHK's.

#### Rev. John Crellin (b. 1737, d. 1808)

Orrisdale quarterland came into the hands of the Crellin family when it was purchased by the Rev. John Crellin.

In 1761 he was appointed Chaplain of Ballure Chapel in Ramsey. This was followed in 1771 with the position of Vicar of Michael and the Episcopal Registrar, and in 1798 with the Rector of Bride and Vicar General.

In 1774 the well-known naturalist and traveller, Thomas Pennant (1726-1798) came to the Isle of Man and he was supplied with descriptions of each of the parishes by the vicars. Only the accounts of Michael, Ballaugh and Marown have survived, with the description of Michael parish being written by Rev. John Crellin.

John Crellin married Margaret Frissell, the daughter of John Frissell, who was the attorney-general. He resigned in 1808 and died that year at his home, Orrisdale House.

#### Deemster John Frissell Crellin (b. 1764, d. 1816)

He was the son of the Rev. John Crellin and Margaret (née Frissell). He married Charlotte Christian of Ballachurry, Andreas. Some of the Crellin family moved from Orrisdale to Ballachurry and it is likely that the Andreas farm came into Crellin hands through this marriage.

John Frissell Crellin was elected as a Member of the House of Keys in 1793 and was High-Bailiff of Ramsey until 1796, when he was appointed northern Deemster. In 1814 he was appointed southern Deemster and he began to build Beach House in Castletown with the intention of living there, but he died before its completion.

He was the last known Deemster to conduct his court in Manx and was also said to have been one of the pioneer scientific farmers (Kniveton G.N., 1997).

Deemster Crellin was described as being "*an accomplished lawyer and an excellent judge, he also did good service to his country as Commander of the Northern Battalion of the Manx Volunteers.*" (Moore A.W., 1901). The Northern Manks Volunteers was founded in October 1803 and the headquarters of the organisation were at Deemster Crellin's house, Orrisdale. After his death his widow Margaret was presented with the colours of the regiment on his behalf, following the Battle of Waterloo.

Deemster Crellin had a road named in his honour. Bishop Murray (Bishop from 1814 to 1827) was known for having an interest in construction improvements and alterations and he rebuilt much of Bishops court in a gothic style. He was said to have been behind the creation of the road leading from Orrisdale to the Ramsey highroad

which then became known as 'Deemster's Road', after Deemster John Frissell Crellin, although it is now referred to as 'Orrisdale Road'.

The oldest parts of the present day Orrisdale House date back to at least the time when Deemster John Frissell Crellin and lived there. This is due to the fact that there is a drawing of Orrisdale House which dates from that time and shows the property before it was largely extended.

John Christian Crellin (b. 1788, d. 1842)

He was born at Orrisdale and was the son of Deemster John Frissell Crellin and Charlotte (née Christian).

He married Catherine Quayle, a member of the well-known Quayle family from Castletown. He became MHK in 1816 and again in 1830 and was recorded as being the proprietor of the majority of Orrisdale quarterland in Wood's Atlas of 1867.

John Frissell Crellin (b. 1816, d. 1886)

He was the eldest son of John Christian Crellin of Orrisdale and his wife Catherine (née Quayle).

He was born, lived and died at Orrisdale House and married Annie Parsons. He studied medicine at St. Bartholomew's Hospital and returned to Orrisdale following his father's death in 1842, where he made use of his medical knowledge by treating the poor in the neighbourhood.

In 1843 he was elected a Member of the House of Keys and he remained a member until 1874, acting for many years as deputy-speaker. His interests included archaeology and coinage. He was one of the members of the committee who were appointed by Governor Loch in 1876 to report on the antiquities of the Island and his knowledge of Manx coinages was said to be unrivalled.

John Christian Crellin (b. 1853, d. 1913)

He was the son of John Frissell Crellin and Annie (née Parsons).

He married Sophie Anderson and they lived at Orrisdale House and also Ballachurry in Andreas. He became Captain of the Parish of Ballaugh in 1883 and was MHK from 1881 to 1907.

## Architecture

Orrisdale House is a large Manx mansion house which has been extended in the past, giving it an unusual elongated appearance. The property is located in a quiet nook and it faces onto 'Orrisdale Road' so it can be clearly seen by anyone passing by, making it an important feature of the local area.

A drawing of the property which was made during the time when John Crellin was northern Deemster (1796-1814) shows the house was originally a typical two storey Manx house with five windows on the first floor across the front elevation. There were

single storey extensions either side of the main house. The front door can be seen in this old drawing and unusually, it was located in the extension to the left of the main house (facing on) and this has remained the location of the front door to this day. The boundary wall to the road appears to be in the same location and is the same height as in the archive drawing, although the pillars and gate were located directly in front of the house in the drawing and today they are offset to one side. There may have been some artistic licence with the drawing however, and an archive photograph from the late nineteenth century shows the pillars and gate were then positioned where they are today.

Since the time when the archive drawing was made, a first floor has been added over the extension to the right of the main house (facing on). This extension matches the original property in its size and by the placement of the first floor windows, which are set out equally with the older first floor windows. The ground floor windows appear to be in their original position (as shown in the archive drawing) and therefore they do not match the positions of the newer windows above. This extension had been completed by the time the first Ordnance Survey map was surveyed in 1869, so it is likely to date from around the mid-nineteenth century. An archive photograph taken of the property in 1954 shows that at that time there was a chimney stack located in the centre of the building where the original house would have ended, although this has since been removed.

The property has a simple style, which is typical of many old Manx houses. It is smooth rendered, painted a light colour and has a pitched slate roof with chimneystacks at either end of the main body of the house. The sliding sash windows have been retained and these are in the same Georgian style as in the archive drawing, being six over six panes. There are a total of seventeen windows on the front elevation and due to this, the sliding sash windows are a significant feature of this property.

#### Other buildings

There are old cottages located near to the main house which have been renovated and are now used as tourist accommodation and there are also further outbuildings on the site. These buildings were included on the 1869 Ordnance Survey Map.

## **RECOMMENDATION**

Orrisdale House is suggested for inclusion on the Protected Buildings Register for the following reasons;

### **Architectural Interest and Aesthetic Quality**

Orrisdale House is a Manx mansion house which has been extended, giving it an unusual elongated appearance. There are seventeen windows on the front elevation and they are sliding sash in the Georgian style with six over six panes, making them an important characteristic of this property.

The property is situated in a secluded nook on the west coast of the Island, populated by many large trees. Being such a large building which faces onto 'Orrisdale Road', Orrisdale House is an important feature of the local area.

### **Historic Interest**

The estate of Orrisdale is steeped in history. A derivation of the name Orrisdale was included as far back as the Manorial Roll of 1515. The estate is thought to have been an ancient Viking settlement and there have been many Norse artefacts unearthed here. The remains have also been found of a 12<sup>th</sup> century quartz mine, an ancient white quartz circle, pre-Christian burials and a small chapel and graveyard (now washed away by the sea).

### **Close Historic Association**

Orrisdale House first came into possession of the Crellin family in the mid to late eighteenth century. The Crellins are one of the most distinguished families in the north of the Island and although some of the family migrated to Ballachurry in Andreas, the old Orrisdale House remains in Crellin hands to the present day.

There have been many notable members of the Crellin family, including a Deemster, a Colonel in Command of the Northern Manks Volunteers, a Vicar-General, a Captain of the Parish and several MHK's.

### **Age and Rarity**

The oldest part of the present property at least dates from the time when John Frissell Crellin was northern Deemster (1796-1814), although it could be much older than this, as the estate dates back to at least the time of the Manorial Roll of 1515.



## SOURCES AND REFERENCES

### Books

**Kitto J.**, 1990, *Historic Homes of the Isle of Man.*

**Kniveton G.N. (ed)**, 1997, *An Illustrated Encyclopaedia of the Isle of Man.*

### Maps and Plans

Wood's Atlas, 1867, **DoLGE.**

Ordnance Survey Map, 1869, **DoLGE.**

Current digital maps, **DoLGE.**

### Photographs

- Current photographs  
Taken on site.
- Archive photographs  
Manx National Heritage.

### Other - Internet Sites

Manx Note Book website  
[www.isle-of-man.com/manxnotebook](http://www.isle-of-man.com/manxnotebook)

Information on the Crellin family of Orrisdale  
[www.ancestry.com](http://www.ancestry.com)