



Isle of Man
Government

Reillys Ellan Vannin

Department of Environment, Food and Agriculture

**NOTIFICATION OF CONFIRMATION OF VARIATION
OF AN AREA OF SPECIAL SCIENTIFIC INTEREST
Cronk e King ASSI**

1. The Department of Environment, Food and Agriculture having consulted in accordance with Section 27 of the Wildlife Act 1990 has considered representations received within the prescribed period and has confirmed the area covered by the Notification of Variation.
2. The Department continues to be of the opinion that the area of land, outlined on the designation map, is of special interest by reason of its flora, fauna, geological or physiographical features.
3. The Confirmation of Variation consists of this Notice and the attached designation documents (Maps, Citation, Operations requiring DEFA's consent and Views about Management).

Date: 20th September 2021

Signed:

Hon Geoffrey Boot
MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND AGRICULTURE

Citation

Site name: Cronk e King ASSI

Status: Area of Special Scientific Interest (ASSI) notified under Section 27 of the Wildlife Act 1990.

Area: Isle of Man

Parish: Patrick

Planning Authority: Department of Food, Environment and Agriculture

Local Authority: Patrick Commissioners

National Grid Reference: SC 2697 7960 **Area:** 3.48ha (8.6 acres)

Ordnance Survey Sheets: 1:50,000 OS Landranger Map 95 and 1:10,560 sheet SC 28 SE

Date notified: 21st October 2013

Date confirmed: 19th February 2014

Date of last revision: 14th June 2021, extending the area by 0.44ha

Date of variation confirmation: 20th September 2021

Purpose

This site is designated for its species-rich neutral grassland dominated by sweet vernal grass *Anthoxanthum odoratum*.

Description

Cronk e King is comprised of six hay meadows that have received traditional hay meadow management consistently for many years. There is a narrow strip of wet, sedge-rich land to the upper north-westerly boundary. The meadows are dominated by sweet vernal grass *Anthoxanthum odoratum* and a number of plants which are indicative of a species-rich meadow. The site supports northern marsh *Dactylorhiza purpurella*^{***}, heath spotted *D. maculata*^{***} and common spotted orchids *D. fuchsii*^{***}. Other floral interest includes yellow rattle *Rhinanthus minor*, greater bird's-foot trefoil *Lotus pedunculatus*, common bird's-foot trefoil *Lotus corniculatus*, common sorrel *Rumex acetosa*, heath bed straw *Galium saxatile* and meadow buttercup *Ranunculus acris*.

The marshy grassland supports sedges including oval sedge *Carex ovalis* with rushes such as toad rush *Juncus bufonius* and sharp-flowered rush *Juncus acutiflorus*. Marsh thistles *Cirsium palustre* provide nectar for visiting butterflies including dark green fritillaries *Argynnis aglaja*.

Brown hares *Lepus europaeus* are abundant in the meadows; common blue butterflies *Polyommatus icarus* are recorded throughout the warmer summer months. Curlew *Numenius arquata*^{*}, linnet *Carduelis cannabina*[#], goldfinch *Carduelis carduelis* and meadow pipit *Anthus pratensis* breed on the site. House sparrow *Passer domesticus*^{##}, house martin *Delichon urbica*, starling *Sturnus vulgaris*^{##} and swallow *Hirundo rustica* also breed in the vicinity and utilise these fields. Visiting (non-breeding) birds include lesser black backed gull *Larus fuscus*, short-eared owl *Asio flammeus*^{*}, wheatear *Oenanthe oenanthe* and snipe *Gallinago gallinago*.

* = species on Schedule 1 of the Wildlife Act 1990

*** = species on Schedule 7 of the Wildlife Act 1990

= Red List Bird of Conservation Concern (UK, IoM and Channel Islands)

Annex 2

List of operations requiring DEFA's consent

The operations listed below may damage the features of interest of **Cronk e King ASSI**. Before any of these operations are undertaken you must notify DEFA in writing, following the procedure in section 27 of the Wildlife Act.

It is usually possible to carry out some of these operations in certain ways, or at specific times of year, or on certain parts of the ASSI, without damaging the features of interest. If you wish to carry out any of these activities please contact a DEFA Biodiversity Officer who will give you advice and, where appropriate, issue consent. Please help us by using the form sent to you with the notification documents to ask us for consent to carry out these operations.

In certain circumstances it will not be possible to consent these operations, because they would damage the features of interest. Where possible a Biodiversity Officer will suggest alternative ways in which you may proceed, which would enable consent to be issued. To proceed without DEFA's consent may constitute an offence. If consent is withheld, or conditions attached to it, which are not acceptable to you, you will be provided with details of how you may appeal to DEFA or agree arbitration.

Standard reference number	Type of operation
1	Cultivation, including ploughing, rotovating, harrowing and re-seeding.
2	Grazing, the introduction of grazing and alterations to the grazing regime (including type of stock, intensity or seasonal pattern of grazing).
3	Stock feeding, the introduction of stock feeding and alterations to stock feeding practice.
4	Mowing or cutting of vegetation (where already damaging), the introduction of mowing and alterations to the mowing or cutting regime (such as from haymaking to silage).
5	Application of manure, slurry, silage liquor, fertilisers and lime.
6	Application of pesticides, including herbicides (weed killers) whether terrestrial or aquatic, and veterinary products.
7	Dumping, spreading or discharge of any materials.
8	Burning and alterations to the pattern or frequency of burning.
9	Release into the site of any wild, feral, captive-bred or domestic animal, plant, seed or micro-organism (including genetically modified organisms).
10	Killing, injuring, taking or removal of any wild animal (including dead animals or parts thereof), or their eggs and nests, including pest control and disturbing them in their places of shelter.
11	Destruction, displacement, removal or cutting of any plant or plant remains, including tree, shrub, herb, hedge, dead or decaying wood, moss, lichen, fungus, leaf-mould, and turf.
12	Tree and/or woodland management (where already damaging), the introduction of tree and/or woodland management (where applicable) and alterations to tree and/or woodland management (including planting, felling, pruning and tree surgery, thinning coppicing, changes in species composition,

	removal of fallen timber).
13 a)	Draining (including moor- gripping, the use of mole, tile, tunnel or other artificial drains).
13 b)	Modification to the structure of water courses (e.g. rivers, streams, springs, ditches and drains), including their banks and beds, as by re-alignment, regrading, damming, or dredging.
13 c)	Management of aquatic and bank vegetation for drainage purposes.
14	Alterations to water levels and tables and water utilisation (including irrigation, storage, abstraction from existing water bodies and through boreholes). Also the modification of current drainage practices.
15	Infilling of ditches, dykes, drains, ponds, pools, marshes or pits.
20	Extraction of minerals including peat, shingle, hard rock, sand, gravel, topsoil, subsoil, lime, limestone pavement, shells and spoil.
21	Destruction, construction, removal, rerouting, or re-grading of roads, tracks, walls, fences, hardstands, banks, ditches or other earthworks, including soil and soft rock exposures or the laying, maintenance or removal of pipelines and cables, above or below ground.
22	Storage of materials.
23	Erection of permanent or temporary structures or the undertaking of engineering works, including drilling.
24 a)	Modification of natural or man-made features (including cave entrances) and clearance of boulders, large stones, loose rock or scree.
26	Use of vehicles or craft.
27	Recreational or other activities.
28 a)	Game and waterfowl management and hunting practices (where already damaging), introduction of game or waterfowl management (where applicable) and alterations to game and waterfowl management and hunting practice.
29	Alterations to existing illuminations or new illuminations

Notes:

1. This is a list of operations appearing to DEFA to be likely to damage the special features of this ASSI, as required under Section 27 of the Wildlife Act 1990.
2. Any reference to 'animal' in this list shall be taken to include any mammal, reptile, amphibian, bird, fish or invertebrate.

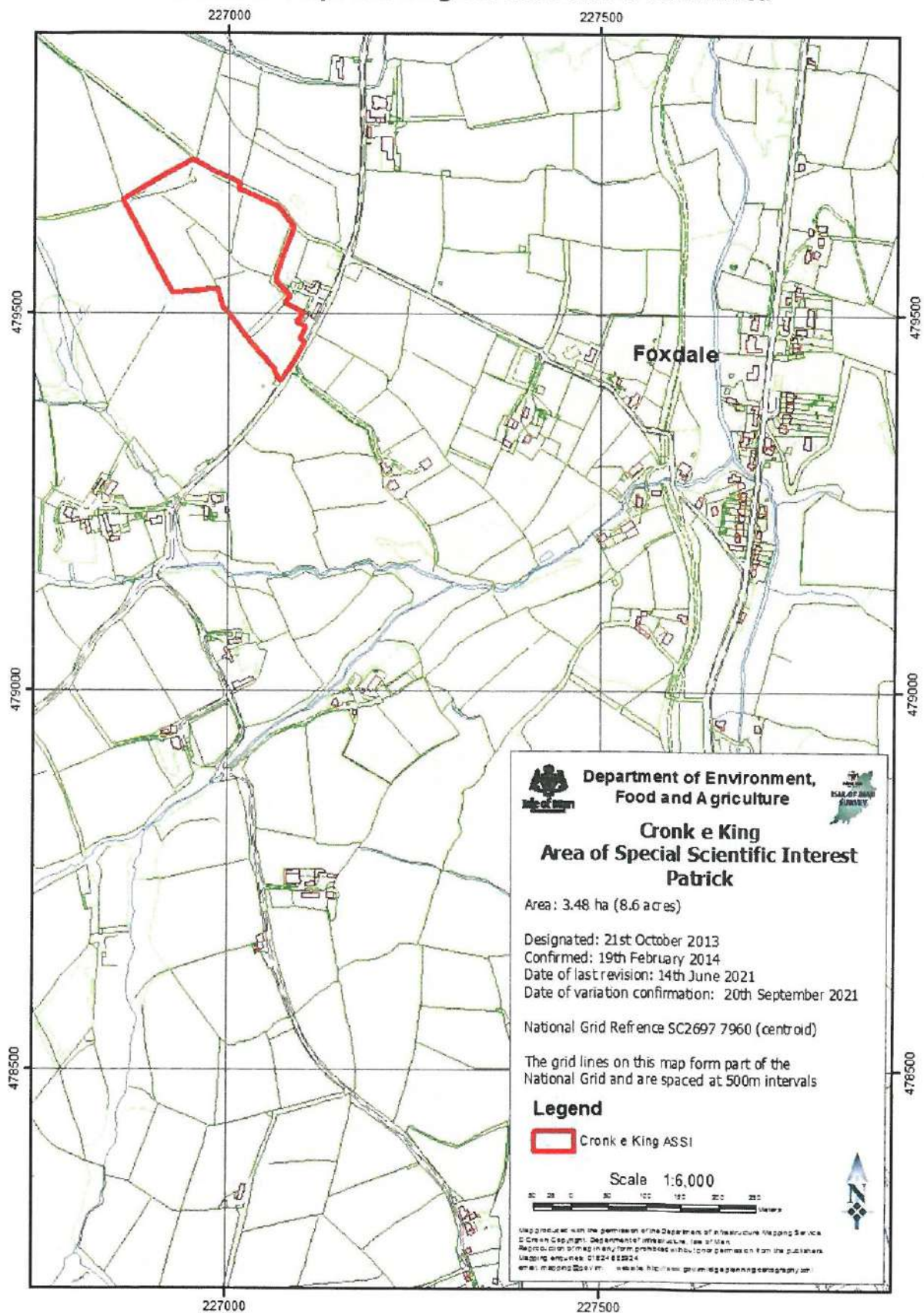
Date notified: 21st October 2013

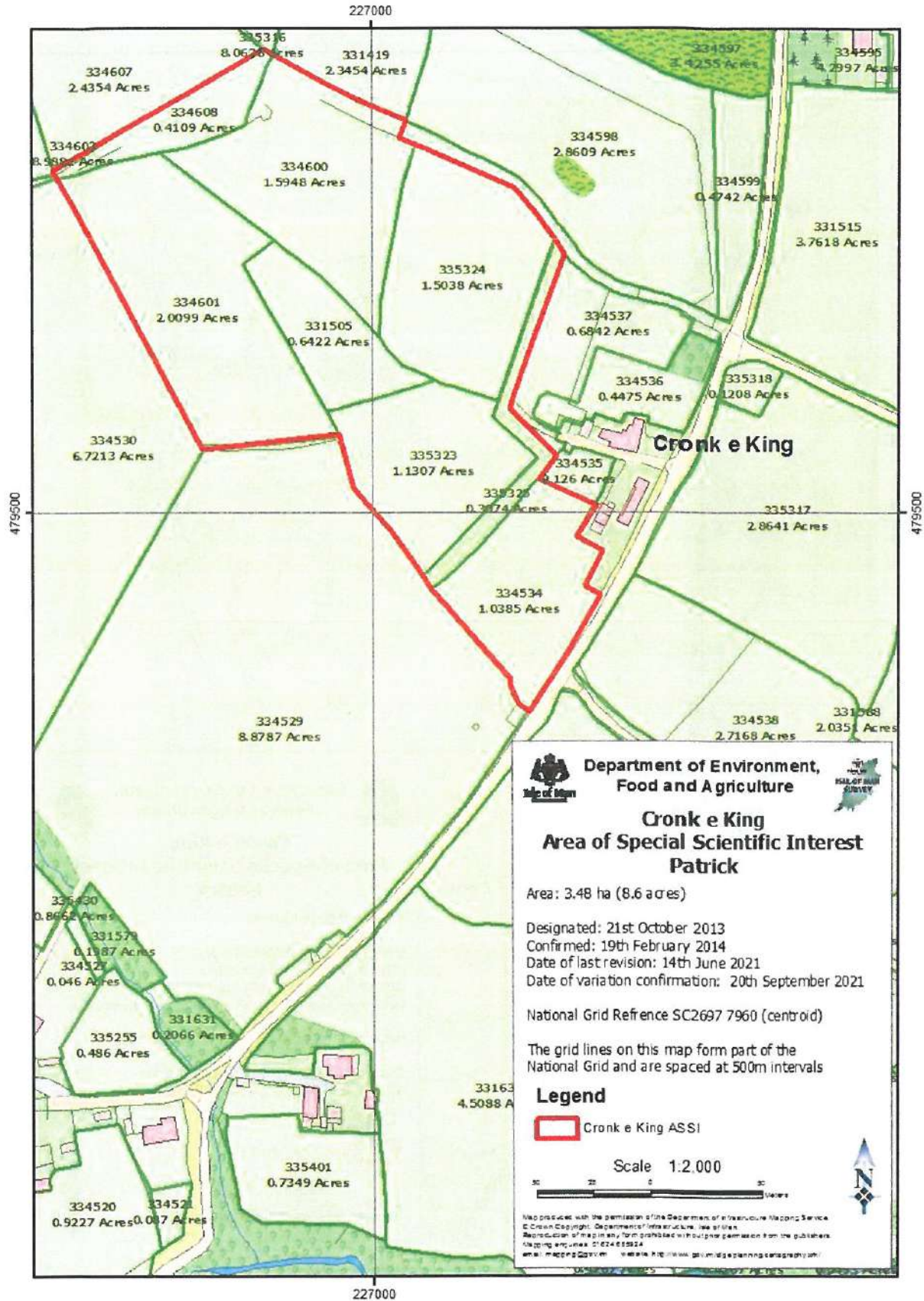
Date confirmed: 19th February 2014

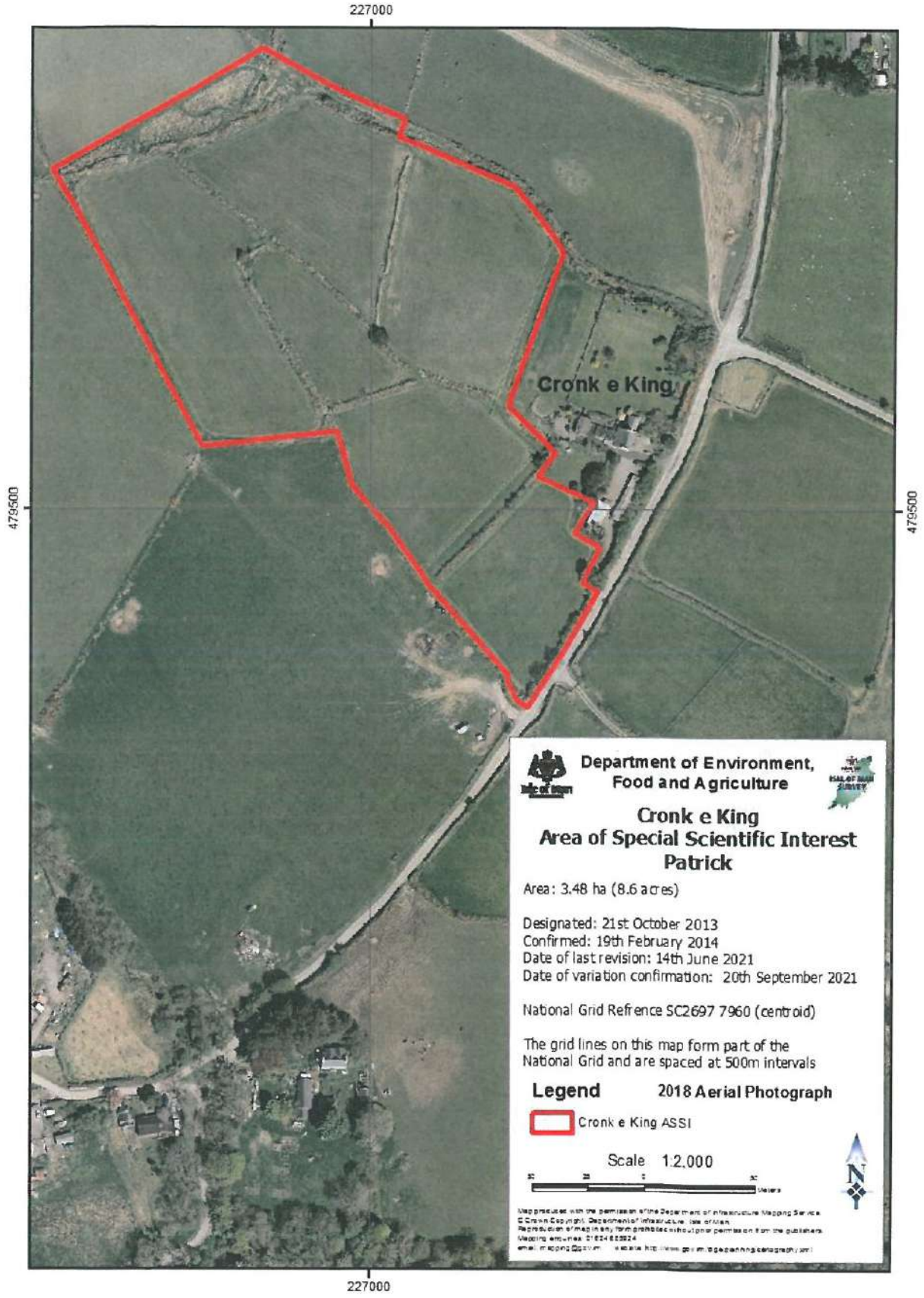
Date of last revision: 14th June 2021

Date of variation confirmation: 20th September 2021

Annex 3 Maps showing the land that is confirmed







Annex 4

Views about Management

A statement of DEFA's views about the management of Cronk e King Area of Special Scientific Interest (ASSI)

This statement represents DEFA's views about the management of the ASSI for nature conservation. This statement sets out in principle, our views on how the area's special conservation interest can be conserved and enhanced. DEFA does not have a duty to notify the owners and occupiers of ASSI of its views about the management of the land, but DEFA has determined that this would be good practice with ASSI designations.

Not all of the management principles will be equally appropriate to all parts of the ASSI. Also, there may be other activities, additional to our current views, which can be beneficial to the conservation and enhancement of the features of interest.

This statement does not constitute consent for any of the 'operations requiring DEFA's consent'. Notice to DEFA is required before carrying out any of those operations, as set out in section 27 of the Wildlife Act. DEFA welcomes consultation with owners, occupiers and users of the ASSI to ensure that the management of this site conserves and enhances the features of interest, and to ensure that all necessary prior consents are obtained.

Management Principles

Continuation of the hay meadow management will protect the existing natural habitats of interest on this site. This involves cutting after 31st July each year in a wildlife-friendly manner and removing the hay. Winter sheep grazing (November to April) should not cause a problem for the designated interest. Such management, avoiding agricultural improvement, will maintain the diverse grassland flora and suitable soil conditions for the orchids. Farmyard manure could be applied with prior consent in order to maintain productivity, but artificial fertilisers may be damaging and should be avoided. The application of pesticides should be avoided generally but the Department will discuss issues arising and the most appropriate way of tackling them within the designated area.

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