



Isle of Man
Government

Reiltys Ellan Vannin

Department of Environment, Food and Agriculture

NOTIFICATION OF CONFIRMATION OF DESIGNATION
OF AN AREA OF SPECIAL SCIENTIFIC INTEREST
Grenaby Garey 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 designation.
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 Notification consists of this Notice and the attached designation documents (Maps, Citation, Operations requiring DEFA's consent and Views about Management). It has effect immediately and continues in force until rescinded.

Date: 13th April 2021

Signed:

Hon Mr G Boot MHK
MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND AGRICULTURE

Citation

This is a legal document on which you have a right to make objections or representations, as explained in part 3 of this notification document.

Site name: Grenaby Garey

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

Area: Isle of Man

Parishes: Malew and Arbory

Local Authorities: Malew Parish Commissioners & Arbory Parish Commissioners

Planning Authority: Department of Environment, Food and Agriculture

National Grid Reference: SC 26376 73792 **Area:** 74.82 ha (184.89 acres)
(approx. centroid)

Ordnance Survey Sheets: 1:50,000 OS Landranger map No.95 and
1:10,560 sheet SC 27SE

Date notified: 19th August 2020

Date confirmed: 13th April 2021

Date of last revision: N/A

Purpose:

This site is designated for its complex mosaic of marshy grassland (fen meadow), species-rich neutral grassland, wet heath and dry heath.

Description:

A complex mosaic of marshy grassland (fen meadow), wet heath, dry heath, bracken and curragh (willow scrub), interspersed with species-rich neutral grassland and a small amount of open water, in blocks of close proximity.

The marshy grassland is composed of grasses (Purple Moor-grass *Molinia caerulea*, Sweet Vernal Grass *Anthoxanthum odoratum*, Velvet Bent *Agrostis canina* and Creeping Bent *Agrostis stolonifera*), sedges (including Star Sedge *Carex echinata*, Carnation Sedge *Carex panicea*, Oval Sedge *Carex ovalis*, Common Yellow Sedge *Carex viridula subsp. oedocarpa*) and rushes (Sharp-flowered Rush *Juncus acutiflorus*, Soft Rush *Juncus effusus* and Compact Rush *Juncus conglomeratus*). Notable species include Whorled Caraway *Carum verticillatum*, Devil's-bit Scabious *Succisa pratensis*, Heath Spotted Orchid *Dactylorhiza maculata*^{**}, Marsh Speedwell *Veronica scutellata*, Creeping Willow *Salix repens*, Marsh Arrowgrass *Triglochin palustris*, Chaffweed *Anagallis minima*, Bog Asphodel *Narthecium ossifragum*, Marsh Violet *Viola palustris* and Ragged Robin *Lychnis flos-cuculi*.

The scrub is most prevalent along the stream sides of the Awin ny Rheash. It is dominated by Grey and Eared Willow, *Salix cinerea* and *S. aurita*, with signs in places of successional transition to mature woodland (Ash *Fraxinus excelsior* and Sycamore *Acer pseudoplatanus*).

Wet dwarf shrub heath forms a mosaic with other habitats across the site. Constants for this habitat type are Ling *Calluna vulgaris*, Cross-leaved Heath *Erica tetralix*, Purple Moor-Grass *Molinea*

caerulea, Tormentil *Potentilla erecta* and Deer Grass *Trichophorum cespitosum*. Within the wet heath there are pockets of mire and bog vegetation communities with a diverse range of Bog Moss species including: *Sphagnum papillosum* (peat forming species), *Sphagnum capillifolium* subsp. *capillifolium*, *Sphagnum capillifolium* subsp. *rubellum*, *Sphagnum fimbriatum*, *Sphagnum palustre*, *Sphagnum subnitens* var. *subnitens*, *Sphagnum squarrosum*, *Sphagnum fallax*, *Sphagnum inundatum* and *Sphagnum cuspidatum*. These additional bog and mire species were recorded: Round-leaved Sundew *Drosera rotundifolia*, Bog Bead Moss *Aulacomnium palustre* and Bog Pond Weed *Potamogeton polygonifolius*, Hare's Tail Cottongrass *Eriophorum vaginatum*, Common Cottongrass *Eriophorum angustifolium*, Bog Asphodel *Narthecium ossifragum* and Many-stalked Rush *Eleocharis multicaulis*. Of particular importance is a small area of *Narthecium ossifragum* – *Sphagnum papillosum* valley mire.

Dry dwarf shrub heath occurs mostly in small but frequent pockets as part of the habitat mosaic. Ling and Western Gorse *Ulex gallii* are the dominant species. Bell Heather *Erica cinerea* is confined to the sod banks.

There are small areas of open water, such as small ponds, streams, scrapes and some ditches, providing additional habitat diversity.

Definite or probable breeding birds include Linnet *Carduelis cannabina*#, Whitethroat *Sylvia communis*, Grasshopper Warbler *Locustella naevia**#, Sedge Warbler *Acrocephalus schoenobaenus*, Willow Warbler *Phylloscopus trochilus*, Song Thrush *Turdus philomelos**#, Curlew *Numenius arquata** Meadow Pipit *Anthus pratensis* and Reed Bunting *Emberiza schoeniclus**.

Brown hares *Lepus europaeus* are known to occur on the site.

Other information

* = 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

This is a legal document on which you have a right to make objections or representations, as explained in part 3 of this notification document.

The operations listed below may damage the features of interest of **Grenaby Garey ASSI**. Before any of these operations are undertaken you must consult DEFA, and may require our consent.

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 refused, or conditions attached to it, which are not acceptable to you, you will be provided with details of how you may appeal to DEFA.

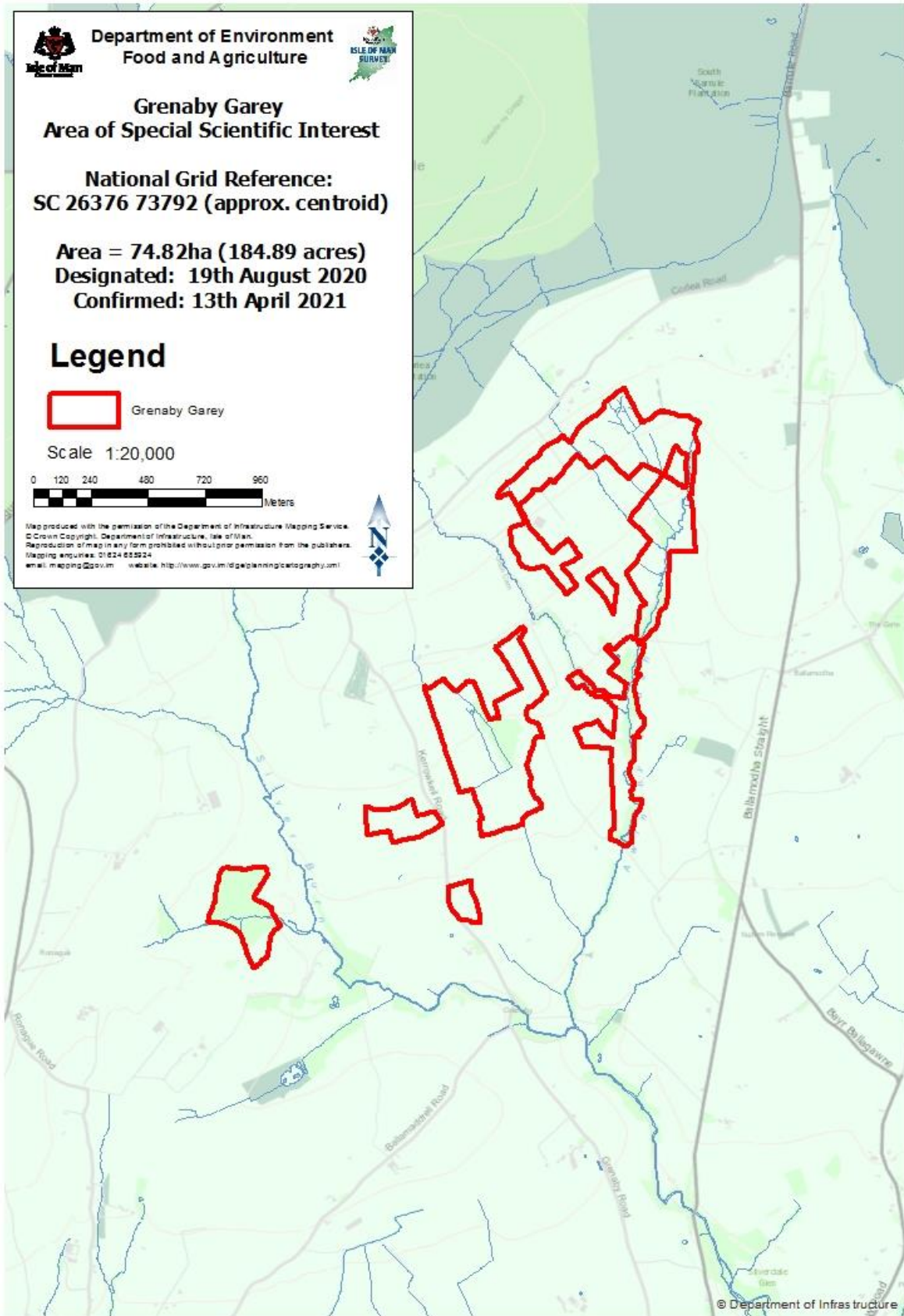
Standard reference number	Type of operation
1	Cultivation, including ploughing, rotovating, harrowing and re-seeding.
2	Grazing, the introduction of grazing and alterations to the grazing regime (including type of stock, intensity or seasonal pattern of grazing).
3	Stock feeding, the introduction of 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.

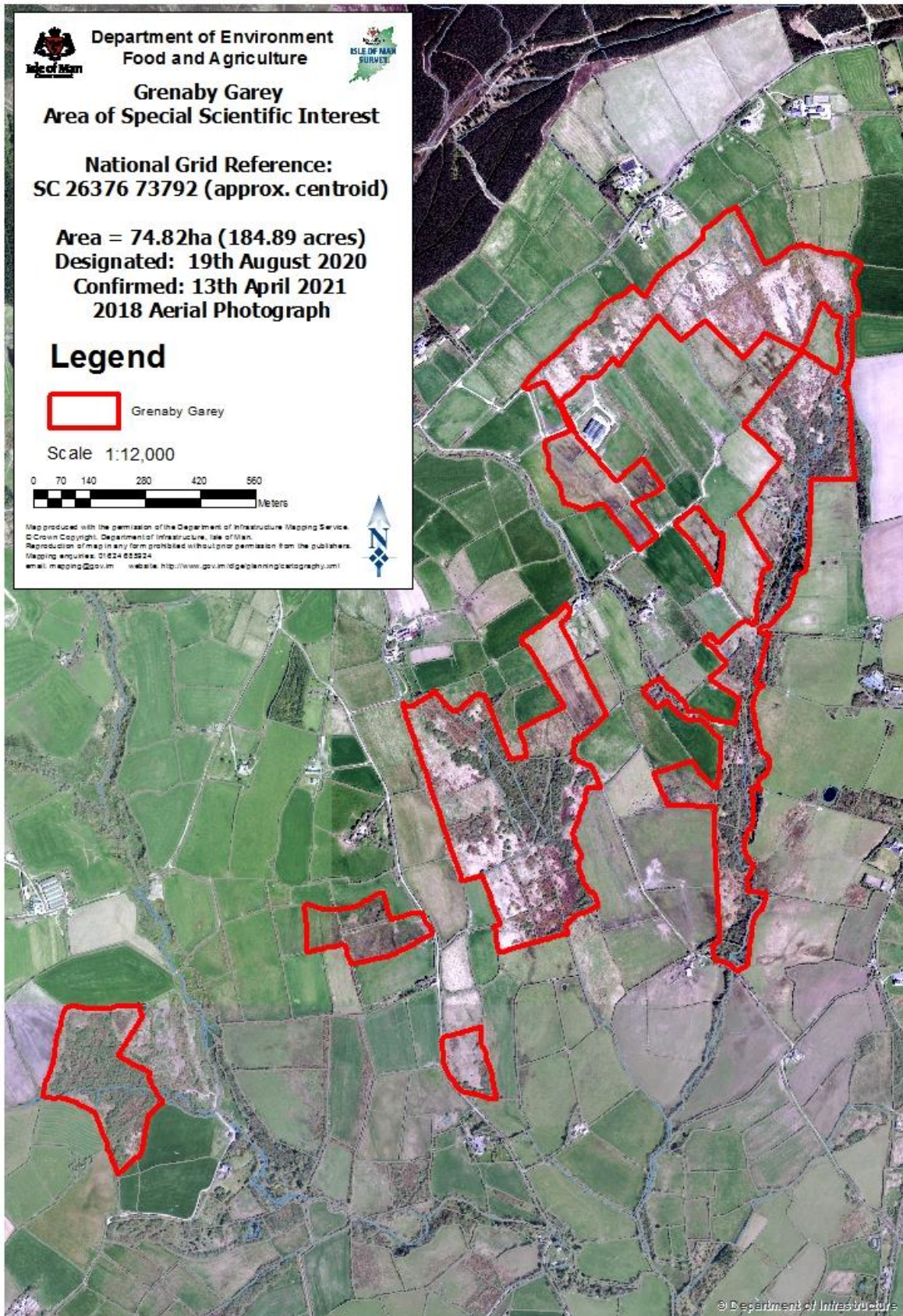
12	Tree and/or woodland management (where already damaging), the introduction of tree and/or woodland management (where applicable) and alterations to tree and/or woodland management (including planting, felling, pruning and tree surgery, thinning coppicing, changes in species composition, removal of 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. ditches, drains and streams), including their banks and beds, as by re-alignment, re-grading, 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 or digging of ditches, dykes, drains, ponds, pools, marshes or pits.
17	Reclamation of land from sea, estuary or marsh.
20	Extraction of minerals including peat, shingle, hard rock, sand, gravel, topsoil, subsoil, lime, limestone pavement, shells and spoil.
21	Destruction, construction, removal, re-routing, or regrading 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.
24 b)	Battering, buttressing or grading of geological exposures and cuttings (rock and soil) and infilling of pits and quarries.
25	Removal of geological specimens, including rock samples, minerals and fossils.
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.
28 b)	Use of lead shot.

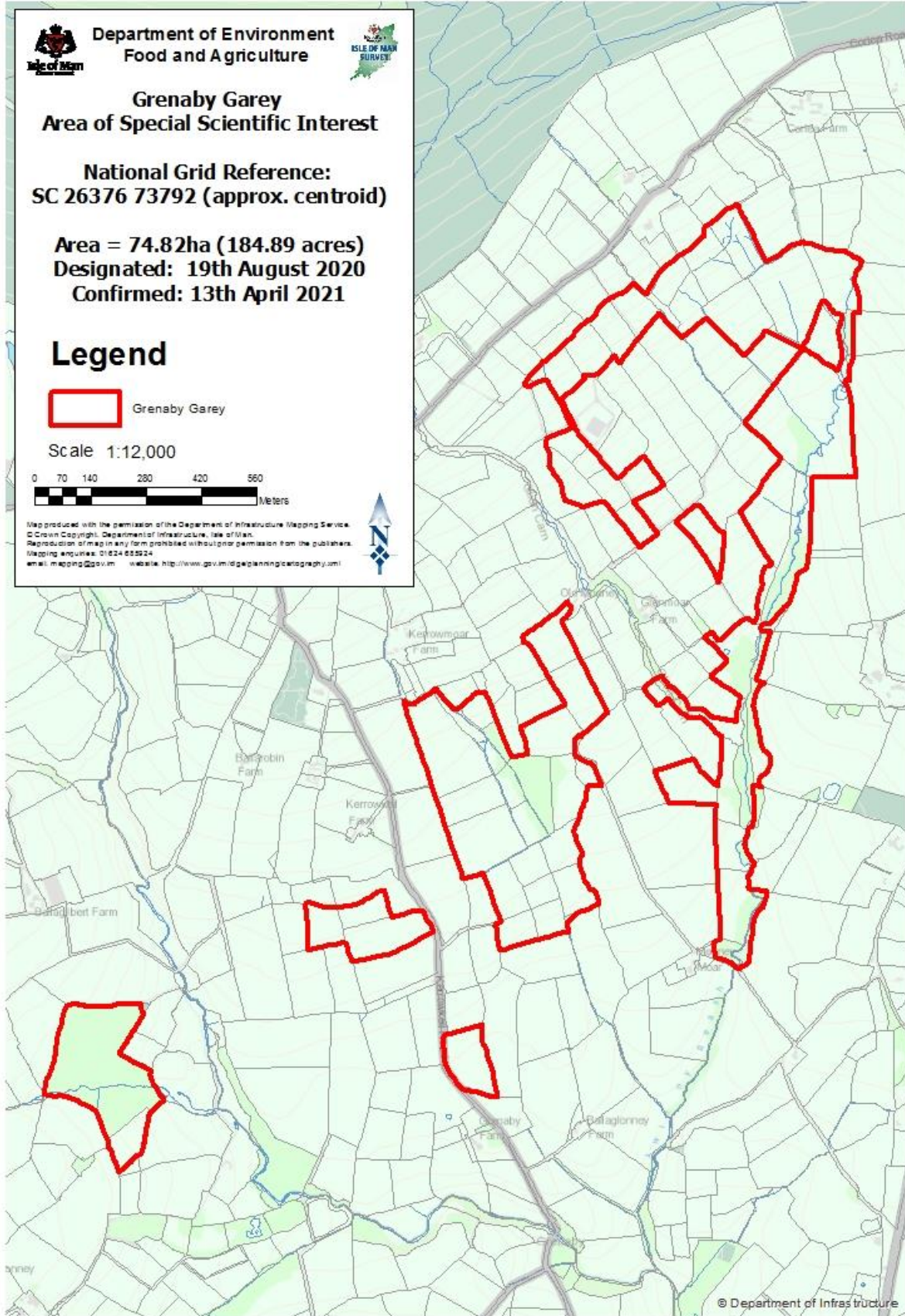
Notes:

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.
3. Any reference to 'plants' in this list is taken to include fungi.

Annex 3 Maps showing the land that is notified







Annex 4

Views about Management

This is not a legal document but you do have a right to make objections or representations, as explained in part 3 of this notification document

A statement of DEFA's views about the management of Grenaby Garey 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'. The written consent of DEFA is required before carrying out any of those operations. 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

Late summer/autumn cattle grazing (precise timing depending on ground conditions) can help to maintain the diversity of flowering species in the wet meadows by preventing the wildflowers and sedges from becoming overgrown by more vigorous rushes and grasses, or by scrub and preventing the build-up of thatch in the sward. As a general guide a grassland structure consisting of 50% tussocks and 50% short grass at the end of July provides a good structure for a variety of species. Up to 10% muddy poached ground is acceptable during grazing.

Willow and gorse scrub are a natural part of the mosaic of habitats across the site, providing structural diversity, with microhabitats for invertebrates, habitat for bird nesting and shelter for agricultural stock. We encourage the retention of a habitat mosaic, with scrub elements, but preventing its further encroachment onto wet grassland and heath.

The application of herbicides, artificial fertilisers or lime, or the introduction of cultivation or ploughing would be detrimental to the species-richness of the site so consent is unlikely to be forthcoming but applications for the control of weed infestations will be considered.

Due to the very wet nature of some of the fields, work to maintain the flow in the ditches may be necessary, to allow the grazing or protect against flooding other areas, but the deepening or widening of ditches or the provision of new drains may damage the wet habitats and cause oxidation and loss of peat and are therefore unlikely to receive consent.

The eradication of Himalayan Balsam is encouraged.