



**Isle of Man  
Government**

*Reilrys Ellan Vannin*

**Department of Environment, Food and Agriculture**

**NOTIFICATION OF CONFIRMATION OF DESIGNATION  
OF AN AREA OF SPECIAL SCIENTIFIC INTEREST**

**Curragh Pharrick ASSI  
(previously known as Curragh Beg 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. The only change made following the consultation was with regard to the name, which changed from 'Curragh Beg ASSI' to 'Curragh Pharrick ASSI'.
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 It has effect immediately and continues in force until rescinded.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:** 8<sup>th</sup> September 2022

**Signed:**

Dr Michelle Haywood MHK,  
Member with delegated responsibility for the Environment,  
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND AGRICULTURE

# Curragh Pharrick ASSI

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## Citation

### CONFIRMATION OF AN AREA OF SPECIAL SCIENTIFIC INTEREST Appendix I

**Site name:** Curragh Pharrick

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

**Area:** Isle of Man

**Parish:** Bride

**Local authority:** Bride

**Planning Authority:** Department of Environment, Food and Agriculture

**Central Grid Reference:** SC 449 978

**Date notified:** 8<sup>th</sup> April 2022

**Date confirmed:** 8<sup>th</sup> September 2022

**Date of last revision:** N/A

### Purpose

The purpose of this designation is to formalise the protection of an area which is important for its fauna, flora and physiographical features including topogenous swamp, tall herb fen, mire, fen woodland habitats and deep peat habitats.

### Description

Curragh Pharrick is a diverse mosaic of topogenous swamp, tall herb fen, mire and fen woodland habitats with deep peat substrates.

At all points sampled the peat depth at Curragh Pharrick was in excess of 1m and the site is a significant carbon store. The high water table enables suitable conditions for peat formation and maintains the existing peat as a carbon store.

There is a central area dominated by common reed *Phragmites australis* swamp. Surrounding this is a band of tall herb fen with common reed, hemp-agrimony *Eupatorium cannabinum*, meadowsweet *Filipendula ulmaria*, wild angelica *Angelica sylvestris*, marsh thistle *Cirsium palustre*, water mint *Mentha aquatica* and great willowherb *Epilobium hirsutum*. The remainder of the site is grey sallow *Salix cinerea* – marsh bedstraw *Galium palustre* woodland and grey sallow – downy birch *Betula pubescens* – common reed woodland. Where there are breaks in the canopy and more light is getting to the ground the plant community is tall-herb fen and mire and the following species are found: bottle sedge *Carex rostrata*, marsh cinquefoil *Potentilla palustris*, common reed, bogbean *Menyanthes trifoliata*, pointed spear moss *Calliergonella cuspidata*, marsh bedstraw *Galium*

## Curragh Pharrick ASSI

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*palustre*, cuckoo flower *Cardamine patense*, marsh willowherb *Epilobium palustre*, marsh-marigold *Caltha palustris*, marsh pennywort *Hydrocotyle vulgaris*, common sedge *Carex nigra*, ragged robin *Lycnhis flos-cuculi*, bog pimpernel *Anagalis tenella*, square-stalked St John's-wort *Hypericum tetrapetrum*, common twayblade *Listera ovata*\*\* , heath spotted-orchid *Dactylorhiza maculata*\*\* , marsh arrowgrass *Triglochin palustre*, common spike-rush *Eleocharis palustris*, flat-topped bog moss *Sphagnum fallax* and blunt-leaved bog moss *Sphagnum palustre*.

### Other Information

There are occasional records of grasshopper warbler\*, reed warbler and tree sparrow\* on the site and these are rare birds on the Isle of Man. Reed bunting\*, sedge warbler and willow warbler regularly breed on the site. The site is also used by European eel *Anguilla anguilla* for part of their life cycle. Historic records exist of tubular water-dropwort *Oenanthe fistulosa*\*\*.

\*Protected under Schedule 1 of the Wildlife Act 1990

\*\*Protected under Schedule 7 of the Wildlife Act 1990

### Research

The site has a long-standing use for bird ringing work.

## Annex 2

### List of operations requiring consultation with DEFA

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 **Curragh Pharrick ASSI**. Before any of these operations are undertaken you must notify DEFA in writing, following 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.

Site Name: **Curragh Pharrick**

#### Operations likely to damage the special interest of the site

	<b>Type of Operation</b>
1	Cultivation, including ploughing, rotovating, harrowing and re-seeding.
2	Introduction of grazing and alterations to the grazing regime (including type of stock, intensity or seasonal pattern of grazing).
3	Stock feeding and alterations to stock feeding practice.
4	Mowing or cutting vegetation 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 fungicides and herbicides (weed killers) whether terrestrial or aquatic, and veterinary products.
7	Dumping, spreading or discharging of any materials.
8	Burning and lighting of fires.
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, fungus, seaweed or plant remains including tree, shrub, herb, hedge, dead or decaying wood, moss, lichen, fungal fruiting body, leaf-mould or turf.
12	Tree and/or woodland management 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).

## Curragh Pharrick ASSI

13	Draining (including the use of mole, tile, tunnel or other artificial drains).
14	Alterations to water levels and tables and water utilisation (including irrigation, storage and abstraction from existing water bodies and through boreholes). Also the modification of current drainage operations.
15	Management of aquatic and bank vegetation for drainage purposes.
16	Infilling, modification or digging of ditches, dykes, drains, ponds, pools, marshes or pits.
17	Extraction of minerals including hard rock, sand and gravel, topsoil, subsoil, peat and subsoil.
18	Destruction, construction, removal, re-routing 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.
19	Storage of materials.
20	Erection of permanent or temporary structures or the undertaking of engineering works, including drilling.
21	Use of vehicles or crafts.
22	Recreational or other activities likely to damage or disturb the interest features of special interest.
23	Game and waterfowl management and hunting practices and alterations to game and waterfowl management and hunting practice.
24	Modification of natural or man-made features (including dams), clearance of boulders, large stones, loose rock or scree and bettering, buttrussing or grading rock faces and cuttings, infilling of pits, and quarries.
25	Modification of existing illuminations or new illuminations.

### Notes:

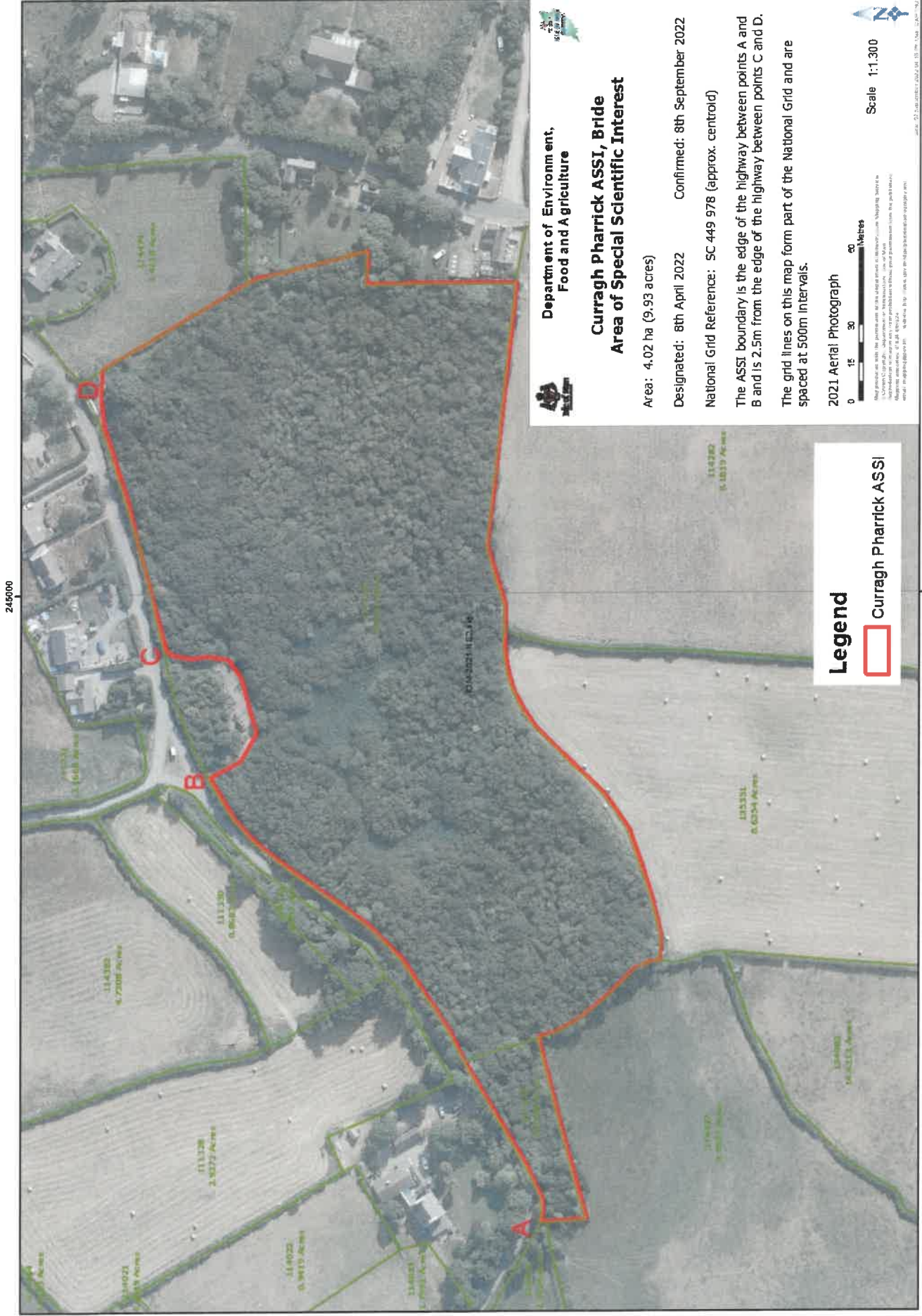
1. This is a list of operations appearing to DEFA to be likely to damage the special features of this ASSI, as required under Section 27 of the Wildlife Act 1990.
2. Any reference to 'animal' in this list shall be taken to include any mammal, reptile, amphibian, bird, fish or invertebrate.


**Date notified:** 8<sup>th</sup> April 2022

**Date confirmed:** 8<sup>th</sup> September 2022



# Curragh Pharrick ASSI




**Department of Environment, Food and Agriculture**  
**Curragh Pharrick ASSI, Bride Area of Special Scientific Interest**  
 Area: 4.02 ha (9.93 acres)  
 Designated: 8th April 2022      Confirmed: 8th September 2022  
 National Grid Reference: SC 449 978 (approx. centroid)  
 The ASSI boundary is the edge of the highway between points A and B and is 2.5m from the edge of the highway between points C and D. The grid lines on this map form part of the National Grid and are spaced at 500m intervals.  
 2021 Aerial Photograph  
 0 15 30 45 60 Metres  
 Scale 1:1.300  
Map produced with the permission of the Ordnance Survey. All rights reserved. Ordnance Survey Licence No. 100019200. The map is a reproduction of the original map. All rights reserved. Ordnance Survey Licence No. 100019200. The map is a reproduction of the original map. All rights reserved. Ordnance Survey Licence No. 100019200.

**Legend**  
 Curragh Pharrick ASSI

## Annex 4

### Views about Management

#### **A statement of DEFA's views about the management of Curragh Pharrick 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 likely to damage the special interest'. 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**

##### Eradication of non-native species

Eradicate all non-native species, concentrating initially on the invasive species listed on Schedule 8 of the Wildlife Act 1990 (cotoneaster species, montbretia, gunnera, skunk cabbage, Spanish bluebell and rhododendron). This could be delivered through a Section 30 Management Agreement.

##### Water level management

The water level needs to be maintained at its existing level to prevent the peat from drying out and degrading. Peat stores vast amounts of carbon which must be kept wet and unexposed to maintain it in good condition and enable further carbon capture. If peat is exposed and dries out it degrades and releases the captured carbon in to the atmosphere as carbon dioxide and this is major contributor to climate change and associated extreme weather events.

We acknowledge the legal requirement to enable the flow of water through the ditch network from neighbouring upstream land, but any ditch work must be undertaken conservatively with the aim of allowing the water to flow in the ditch without deepening or widening the existing ditch network.

- Timber from trees cleared (with a tree felling licence) to access the ditch must not be stored on any legally protected species including common twayblade, marsh orchids and spotted orchids.
- Spoil from the ditch must not be stored on any legally protected species including common twayblade, marsh orchids and spotted orchids.

##### Tree management

The tall herb fen and mire habitats would benefit from some willow removal; DEFA Tree Officers can advise on the requirements for a tree felling licence (<https://www.gov.im/categories/home-and-neighbourhood/tree-protection/application-to-carry-out-work-on-trees/>). A mosaic of tall herb fen, mire and willows will maximise the biodiversity value of the site.



## Recreation and Access

The central area of the site should remain undisturbed to protect nesting birds. A path around the periphery of the site may be appropriate provided the path construction does not damage the peat substrate in any way.

**Date notified:** 8<sup>th</sup> April 2022

**Date confirmed:** 8<sup>th</sup> September 2022

This document can be provided in large print or audio tape on request.



**Isle of Man**  
**Government**

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