

Ballacrye Meadow Area of Special Scientific Interest (ASSI)

Designation Documents

Please note:

- Notification as an ASSI confers no public right of entry to any land without the permission of the landowner.
- The citations and lists of operations requiring the Department of Environment, Food and Agriculture's consent may be subject to minor editorial changes and should not be assumed to be an exact facsimile of the original legal document.

Department of Environment, Food and Agriculture

Rheynn Chymmiltaght, Bee as Eirinys

The Slieau Whallian, Foxdale Road, St John's, Isle of Man IM4 3AS

www.gov.im



**Isle of Man
Government**

Reiltys Ellan Vannin



Department of Agriculture,
Fisheries and Forestry

**BALLACRYE MEADOW
AREA OF SPECIAL
SCIENTIFIC INTEREST**

Area: 0.55ha



Site Boundary

Designated: 7th February 2005

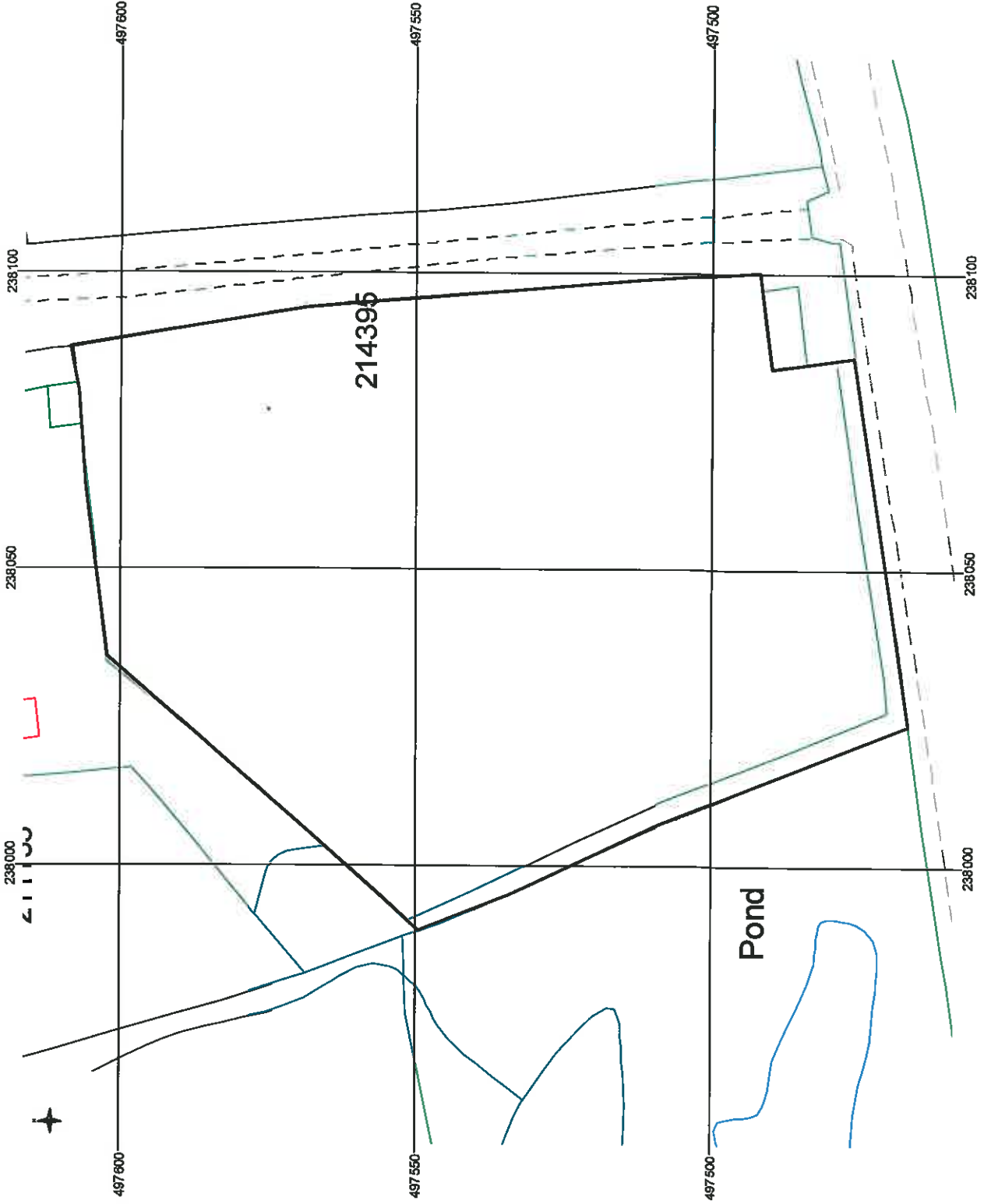
Confirmed: 11th July 2005

The grid lines on this map form
part of the National Grid,
and are spaced at 50m intervals

0 10 Meters



Crown Copyright
Department of Local Government
and the Environment, Isle of Man.
Unauthorised production
infringes copyright.



NOTIFICATION OF AN AREA OF SPECIAL SCIENTIFIC INTEREST Appendix I

Site name: Ballacrye Meadow

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

Area: Isle of Man

Parish: Jurby

Planning Authority: Department of Local Government and the Environment

Local authority: Jurby Commissioners

Ordnance Survey Sheet: 1:50,000 OS Landranger Map No.95 and 1:10,560 sheets SC 39SE & SC39NE

National Grid Reference (centroid): SC 38059754

Area: 0.55 ha (1.36 acres)

Date notified: February 7th 2005

Date confirmed: July 11th 2005

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 flora and habitat - species-rich rush pasture of the *Juncus acutiflorus* – *Galium palustre* (Sharp-flowered rush and Marsh bedstraw) type.

Description and reasons for notification:

Ballacrye Meadow is a species-rich rush pasture of the *Juncus acutiflorus* – *Galium palustre* (Sharp-flowered rush and Marsh bedstraw) type. Nearly all of the species typical of the best Manx examples of this habitat have been recorded from this site, giving it an unusually high level of diversity.

The vegetation is characterised by a high proportion of whorled caraway *Carum verticillatum*, which is abundant throughout. The meadow is bounded on two sides by thick hedges of willow, ash and other shrubs, and is consequently a sheltered site ideally suited to whorled caraway, which has a very limited range of ecological preferences. Whorled caraway meadows are a distinctive kind of fen meadow found in southwest England, southwest Scotland, west Wales, western Ireland and the Isle of Man. This meadow, although small in extent, is considered to be one of the best examples of the habitat type in the Isle of Man, both in terms of its composition and its sheltered setting. The thick woody hedges around the edge of the meadow have been included in the site boundary for this reason.

Managed as a hay meadow, the grassland also has some corresponding similarities to other hay meadows on the Island, including species typical of *Cynosurus cristatus* – *Centaurea nigra* (Crested dog's-tail – Black knapweed) neutral grassland, such as Yellow rattle *Rhinanthus minor*. In addition to a high overall diversity, this site is notable for the presence of large numbers of orchids, including Heath spotted-orchid *Dactylorhiza maculata*, Common spotted-orchid *Dactylorhiza fuchsii* and Northern marsh orchid *Dactylorhiza purpurella*, all of which are protected under Schedule 7 of The Wildlife Act 1990. Such species-rich examples of either fen meadows or hay meadows are known to be very restricted and fragmented on the Island, mostly occurring in small field corners or field margins.

Although a small site, this meadow qualifies for ASSI selection because it fulfils the Priority Site Criteria for diversity, naturalness, representativeness and rarity, for the reasons described above.

Other information:

Species-rich rush pastures are internationally threatened, having suffered very heavy losses due to agricultural improvement, drainage and development. Countries within the British Isles are considered to have a special responsibility for the protection of this habitat, which is in danger of extinction if the current European rate of loss continues. In view of this, "Purple moor-grass and Rush Pastures" are now a Priority Habitat in the UK Biodiversity Action Plan, and several key sites have been designated SSSIs and/or SACs in recent years. Examples with whorled caraway as a prominent component are particularly important as this species has a distinct western distribution in the British Isles and is reliant on a very limited range of ecological preferences.

NOTIFICATION OF AN AREA OF SPECIAL SCIENTIFIC INTEREST Appendix II

Site Name: Ballacrye Meadow

Operations likely to damage the special interest of the site

Type of operation

1. Cultivation including ploughing, rotovating, harrowing and reseeding;
2. Introduction of grazing and changes in grazing regime (including type of stock or intensity or seasonal pattern of grazing and cessation of grazing) or continuation of grazing known to be damaging;
3. Supplementary stock feeding, where already damaging, or the introduction of supplementary stock feeding and changes in stock feeding practice;
4. Mowing or other methods of cutting where they are already damaging, changes in mowing or cutting regime (including conversion from hay making to silage or cessation of mowing);
5. Changes in the application of manure, fertilisers and lime (including introduction of a new regime, and changing existing amounts and timing of application), or continuation of applications which are known to be damaging;
6. Application of pesticides, including herbicides (weedkillers);
7. Dumping, spreading or discharge of any materials;
8. Burning, and lighting of fires;
9. The release into the site of any wild, feral or domestic animals *, plant or seed (excluding domestic dogs);
10. The killing or removal of any wild animal * (excluding recognised game species in season);
11. The destruction, displacement, removal or cutting of any plant or plant remains, including herbs, dead or decaying wood, moss, lichen, fungus, leaf mould or turf, (excluding accepted management, i.e. hay cuts and control of statutory injurious weeds by non-chemical methods);
12. The introduction of tree and /or woodland management and changes in tree and/ or woodland management;
13. Drainage (including moor-gripping, the use of mole, tile, tunnel or other artificial drains);
14. The changing of water levels and tables and water utilisation (including irrigation, storage and abstraction from existing water bodies and through boreholes);
15. Infilling or other deliberate modification of ditches, dykes, drains, ponds, pools, marshes or pits;
16. Extraction of minerals including peat, sand and gravel, topsoil and subsoil;
17. Construction, removal or destruction of roads, tracks, walls, fences, hardstands, banks, ditches or other earthworks, or the laying, maintenance or removal of pipelines and cables, above or below ground;
18. Storage of materials;
19. Erection of permanent or temporary structures, or the undertaking of engineering works;
20. Removal of geological specimens, including rock and soil samples, minerals and fossils.
21. Use of vehicles which are likely to damage or disturb features of interest;
22. Recreational or other activities likely to damage features of interest (excluding walking, with or without dogs).

* "animal" here includes any mammal, reptile, bird or invertebrate.

February 1st 2005