

# Ramsey Mooragh Shore 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.

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Department of Agriculture,  
Fisheries and Forestry

**RAMSEY MOORAGH SHORE  
AREA OF SPECIAL  
SCIENTIFIC INTEREST**

Area: 2.65ha (= 6.54 acres) \*

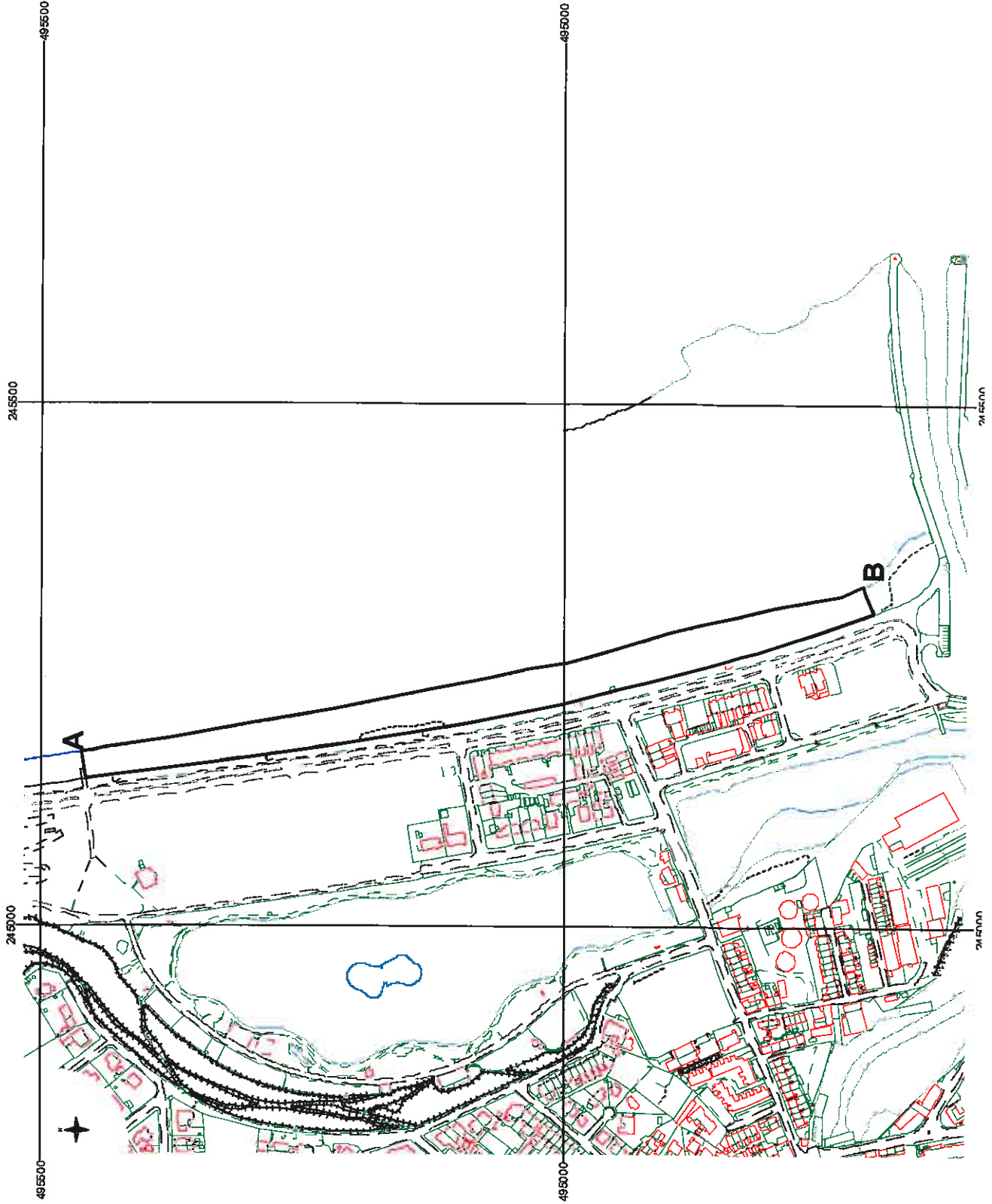
Designated: 27th February 2006

Confirmed: 9<sup>th</sup> August 2006

\*Note: the seaward boundary of the site is defined as the mean high water mark between points A and B on this map. The high water mark, and hence the overall site area, may be subject to variation with time.

The grid lines on this map form part of the National Grid, and are spaced at 500m intervals

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

**Site name:** Ramsey Mooragh Shore

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

**Area:** Isle of Man

**Parish:** Ramsey Town

**Planning Authority:** Department of Local Government and the Environment

**Local authority:** Ramsey Town Commissioners

**Ordnance Survey Sheet:** 1:50,000 OS Landranger Map No.95 and 1:10,560 sheets SC 49SE, SC 49NE

**National Grid Reference (centroid):** SC452951

**Area:** 2.65ha (6.54 acres)

**Date notified:** 27<sup>th</sup> February 2006

**Date confirmed:** 9<sup>th</sup> August 2006

**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 – vegetated strandline, vegetated shingle, semi-fixed dune and coastal grassland.

### **Description and reasons for notification:**

Ramsey North Shore is a stretch of beach located between the Ramsey Mooragh Promenade and the mean high tide level. This length of shore corresponds to the small area in the centre of Ramsey Bay which has seabed sediments of sand, as opposed to gravel. This has resulted in a low sand dune forming against the promenade wall, with a zone of fine shingle on the seaward side, and associated vegetation and invertebrate life. Good examples of sandy strandline, vegetated shingle and dune grassland communities are all present on the site, which supports several rare or uncommon plants.

The sandy gravel on the seaward edge of the site has a continuous, stable strandline which has typical vegetated strandline species including sea rocket *Cakile maritima*, curled dock *Rumex crispus*, sea sandwort *Honckenya peploides*, and sand sedge *Carex arenaria*. The accumulated seaweed, driftwood and other organic flotsam supports abundant sandhoppers, which are particularly evident at high tide, when they in turn attract feeding birds including black redstart\* and starlings\*.

The vegetated strandline zone grades into foredune and semi-fixed “yellow” dune, often with very little foredune zone. The semi-fixed dune is pure sand at the north end of the site, and grades into fine shingle towards the south end. A wide range of coastal plant species is present, including prickly saltwort *Salsola kali*, marram grass *Ammophila arenaria*, sand sedge *Carex arenaria*, sand couch *Elytrigia juncea ssp boreoatlantica*, sea mayweed *Matricaria maritima*, sea beet *Beta vulgaris ssp maritima*, sea bindweed *Calystegia soldanella*, sea plantain *Plantago maritima*, hare’s-foot clover *Trifolium arvense\*\**, Isle of Man cabbage *Coincya monensis ssp monensis\*\**, and abundant sea holly *Eryngium maritimum*, which is parasitised by conspicuous spikes of lesser broomrape *Orobanche minor*.

The most well-established zone of the dune is adjacent to the sea wall, where a range of coastal grassland species thrive, many of which are also characteristic of unimproved, neutral grassland (also a rare habitat on the Island). Species include lady’s bedstraw *Galium verum*, red fescue *Festuca rubra*, sheep’s fescue *Festuca ovina*, common cat’s-ear *Hypochoeris radicata*, wild carrot *Daucus carota*, ribwort plantain *Plantago lanceolata*, yarrow *Achillea millefolium*, rest harrow *Ononis repens*, kidney vetch *Anthyllis vulneraria* and bird’s-foot trefoil *Lotus corniculatus*.

Ramsey North Shore is significant in research terms, because it is the remaining Manx stronghold for Isle of Man cabbage, *Coincya monensis ssp monensis*\*\* . This species was the subject of the earliest known specific botanical record on the Island, as recorded in 1660 "...from the landing-place at Ramsey to the Town"<sup>†</sup>. Isle of Man cabbage is known to be in decline in all but its central range (northwest England), and has declined likewise on the Island. Ramsey North Shore is therefore a critical site for the monitoring and conservation of this species, both because of the continuity of records and because it is so suitable for the plant, and can provide seed for re-introduction programmes to suitable sites elsewhere.

\* = Protected under Schedule 1 of the Wildlife Act 1990

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

† Rev J Ray, *Catalogus plantarum* 103 (per D.E. Allen, Flora of the Isle of Man, 1984 p67)

#### **Other information:**

As an additional point of botanical interest, the range of coastal habitats and vegetation communities present at Ramsey North Shore offers an important refuge for those plant species which are ephemeral in nature, and which do not appear at the same site year after year. Such species require a certain amount of suitable habitat in order to maintain their presence as part of the native flora of the Island, and will become extinct if no habitats are available for them to colonise on an occasional basis. Examples which have been recorded here in the past include several rare and protected species, such as oysterplant *Mertensia maritima*\*\*, dune fescue *Vulpia fasciculata*\*\* and viper's bugloss *Echium vulgare*\*\*.

NOTIFICATION OF AN AREA OF SPECIAL SCIENTIFIC INTEREST Appendix II

Site Name: Ramsey Mooragh Shore

Operations likely to damage the special interest of the site

Type of operation

1. Cultivation including ploughing, rotovating, harrowing and reseeded.
2. The introduction of grazing.
3. The introduction of stock feeding and changes in stock feeding practice.
4. Mowing or other methods of cutting.
5. Application of manure, fertilisers and lime.
6. Application of pesticides, including herbicides (weedkillers).
7. Dumping, spreading or discharge of any materials.
8. Burning, lighting of fires and changes in frequency or pattern of burning, where applicable.
9. The release into the site of any wild, feral or domestic animals \*, plant or seed.
10. The killing or removal of any wild animal \*, including pest control.
11. The destruction, displacement, removal or cutting of any plant or plant remains, including herb, dead or decaying wood, moss, lichen, fungus, leaf mould or turf.
12. The introduction of tree and /or woodland management and changes in tree and/ or woodland management.
13. Reclamation of land from sea, estuary or marsh.
14. Erection of sea defences or coastal protection works, including cliff or land-slip drainage or stabilisation measures.
15. Extraction of minerals including peat, shingle, sand and gravel, topsoil, subsoil, chalk, lime, limestone pavement, shells and spoil.
16. 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.
17. Storage of materials.
18. Erection of permanent or temporary structures, or the undertaking of engineering works, including drilling.
19. Modification of natural or man-made features (including cave entrances), clearance of boulders, large stones, loose rock or scree and bettering, buttressing or grading rock faces and cuttings, in-filling of pits, and quarries.
20. Removal of geological specimens, including rock samples, minerals and fossils.
21. Use of vehicles or craft 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" includes any mammal, reptile, bird, fish or invertebrate.