

# **Cronk y Bing 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*

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

[www.gov.im](http://www.gov.im)



**Isle of Man  
Government**

*Keilts Eilan Vaunin*

---



**Isle of Man  
Government**  
Reillys Eilán Vammin

Department of Agriculture,  
Fisheries and Forestry

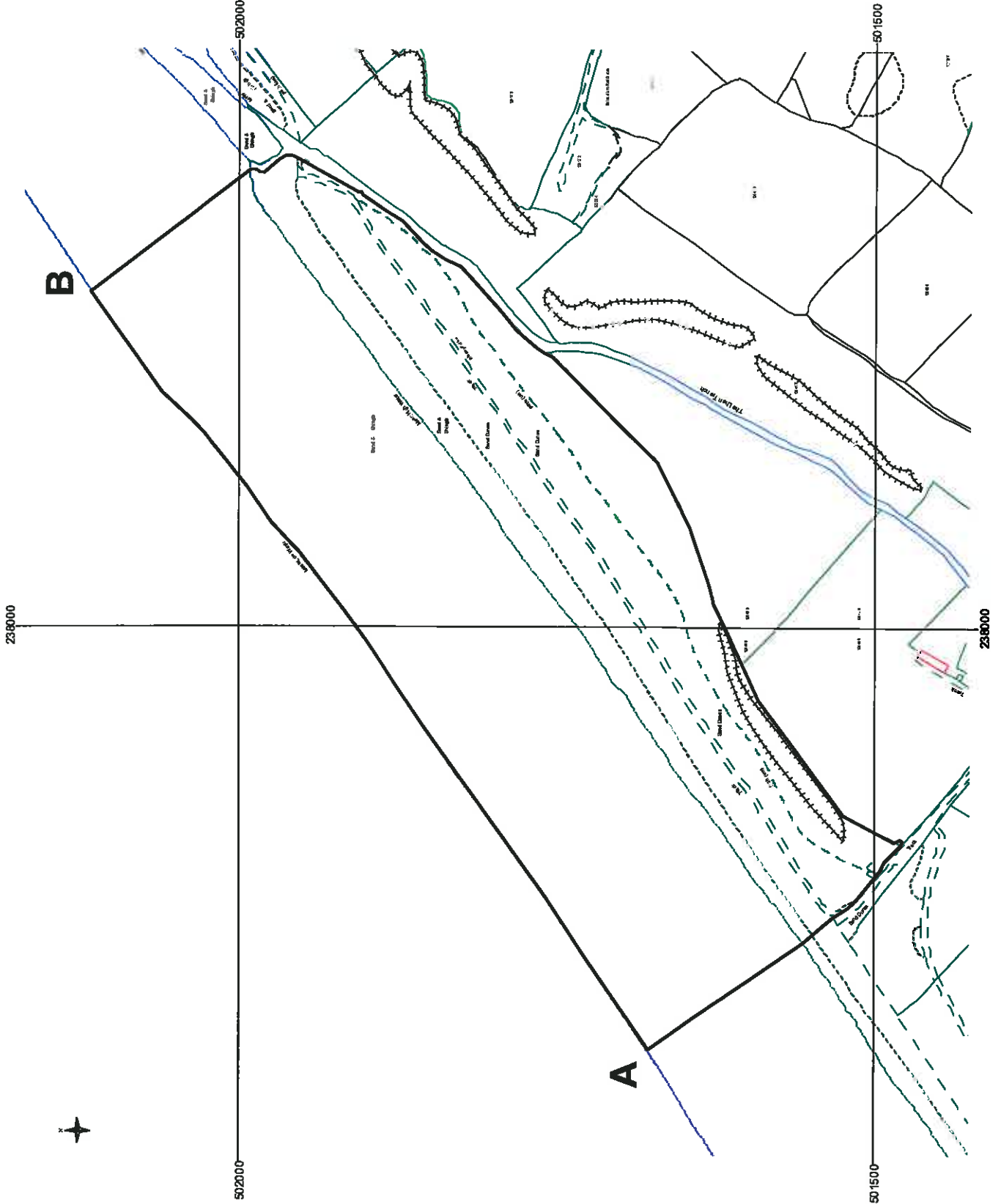
**CRONK Y BING  
AREA OF SPECIAL  
SCIENTIFIC INTEREST**

Area: 17.71ha (= 43.76 acres) \*  
Designated: 14th March 2006  
Confirmed: 9<sup>th</sup> August 2006

\*Note: the seaward boundary of the site is defined as the mean low water mark between points A and B on this map. The low 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

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:** Cronk y Bing

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

**Area:** Isle of Man

**Parish:** Andreas

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

**Local authority:** Andreas Commissioners

**Ordnance Survey Sheet:** 1:50,000 OS Landranger Map No.95 and 1:10,560 sheets NX 30

**National Grid Reference (centroid):** NX381017

**Area:** 17.71ha (43.76 acres)

**Date notified:** 14<sup>th</sup> March 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 wildlife habitat – soft cliffs, dunes and coastal grassland.

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

Cronk y Bing consists of a wide strip of sand dunes, with soft cliffs on the seaward side and a flat plateau of semi-fixed dune grassland on the landward side, where sand has been removed from the dunes in the past. The seaward dunes are “yellow dunes”, with a relatively mobile structure, dominated by marram grass *Ammophila arenaria*. The loose, sandy structure of the yellow dunes favours plants such as sea spurge *Euphorbia paralias*, sea bindweed *Calystegia soldanella*, sea holly *Eryngium maritimum*, and common cornsalad *Valerianella locusta*. These dunes rise to around 4m on the seaward edge, ending abruptly in soft cliffs in which the burrows of mining bees and other invertebrates can be seen in summer.

The plateau of grassland behind the high ridge of dunes has marram areas with short, coastal turf and almost-bare ground, some of which is dominated by lichens, notably “spaghetti lichen”, *Cladonia portentosa*. True dog-lichen, *Peltigera canina*, is also frequent in places, along with low-growing burnet rose *Rosa pimpinellifolia*. Coastal grassland plants in the more developed turf include sea storks-bill *Erodium maritimum*, common storks-bill *Erodium cicutaria* agg., rest harrow *Ononis repens*, wild thyme *Thymus polytrichus*, wild carrot *Daucus carota*, harebell *Campanula rotundifolia*, sheep’s-bit *Jasione montana*, and hundreds of spikes of pyramidal orchid *Anacamptis pyramidalis*\*\* . Several of the above species – notably pyramidal orchid and true dog-lichen – rely on calcareous grassland habitats, and are consequently of limited distribution on the Island. The grassland plateau is relatively sheltered by the dunes, and attracts invertebrates and songbirds such as nesting meadow pipit.

The seaward side of the dunes consists of sandy shingle, strandline and a wide intertidal zone from which material blows in on the prevailing wind to form and maintain the dunes. The beach zone attracts occasional ground-nesting birds including oystercatcher *Haematopus ostralegus* and ringed plover *Charadrius hiaticula*\*. It also offers suitable habitat for a range of other feeding and breeding birds including little tern *Sterna albifrons*\* and curlew *Numenius arquata*\*.

Cronk y Bing has been managed as a nature reserve, and remains relatively natural and representative of dunes and cliffs along this stretch of coast, unlike adjacent dune areas which have received vehicle damage, extensive quarrying, tipping and other disturbance. It therefore represents a good example of dune habitat, complementing the Ayres NNR habitats to the north.

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

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

**Other information:**

As an additional point of botanical interest, the range of coastal habitats and vegetation communities present at Cronk y Bing 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*\*\* , Isle of Man cabbage *Coincya monensis subsp. monensis*\*\* , smooth cat's-ear *Hypochoeris glabra*\*\* and viper's bugloss *Echium vulgare*\*\*.

The proximity to the Lhen Trench benefits birds and semi-aquatic invertebrates on the site, linking it with adjacent feeding wader habitats and other semi-natural habitats inland.

NOTIFICATION OF AN AREA OF SPECIAL SCIENTIFIC INTEREST Appendix II

Site Name: Cronk y Bing

Operations likely to damage the special interest of the site

<u>Standard reference number</u>	<u>Type of operation</u>
1	Cultivation including ploughing, rotovating, harrowing and reseeded
2	Grazing where already damaging, the introduction of grazing and changes in grazing regime (including type of stock or intensity or seasonal pattern of grazing and cessation of grazing).
3	Stock feeding, where already damaging, the introduction of 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	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.
15	Infilling of ditches, dykes, drains, ponds, pools, marshes or pits.
16	Coastal fishing or fisheries management and seafood or marine life collection, where already damaging, the introduction of coastal fishing and changes in coastal fishing practices or fisheries management and seafood or marine life collection, including the use of traps and fish cages.
17	Reclamation of land from sea, estuary or marsh.
18	Bait digging on inter-tidal areas, (if it is shown to be damaging).
19	Erection of sea defences or coastal protection works, including cliff or land-slip drainage or stabilisation measures.
20	Extraction of minerals including peat, shingle, sand and gravel, topsoil, subsoil, chalk, lime, limestone pavement, shells and spoil.
21	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.
22	Storage of materials.
23	Erection of permanent or temporary structures, or the undertaking of engineering works, including drilling.
24	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.
25	Removal of geological specimens, including rock samples, minerals and fossils.
26	Use of vehicles or craft likely to damage or disturb features of interest,
27	Recreational or other activities likely to damage features of interest (excluding walking, with or without dogs).

† Note: each type of operation has a standard reference number. For each site, only those operations which are relevant to the site will be listed, hence there may be gaps in the numbering for some sites.

\* “animal” includes any mammal, reptile, bird, fish or invertebrate.