

Dhoon Glen

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 Chymmltaght, Bee as Eirinys

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

www.gov.im



Isle of Man
Government

Reiltys Eilan Vannin



**Isle of Man
Government**
Relltys Ellan Vannin

Department of Agriculture,
Fisheries and Forestry

**DHOON GLEN
AREA OF SPECIAL
SCIENTIFIC INTEREST**

ASSI boundary
□ Dhoon Glen

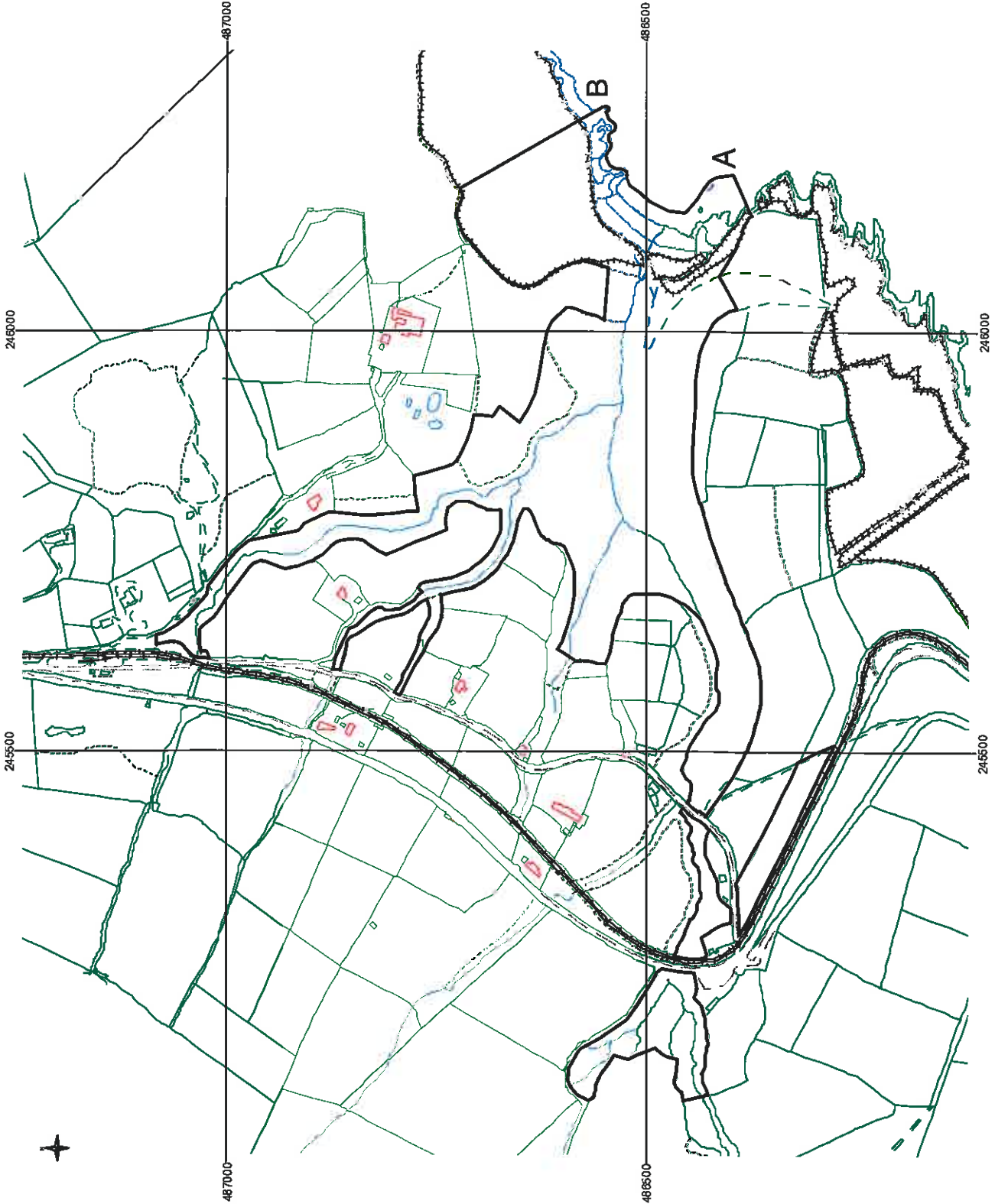
Area: 20.92ha (= 51.69 acres) *
OS Grid reference: SC458865
(approximate centre of site)

Designated: 27th September 2006
Boundary varied: 21st March 2007

*Note: the seaward boundary of the site is defined as the Lowest Astronomical Tide between points A and B on this map.

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: Dhoon Glen

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

Area: Isle of Man

Parish: Maughold

Planning Authority: Department of Local Government and the Environment

Local authority: Maughold Commissioners

Ordnance Survey Sheet: 1:50,000 OS Landranger Map No.95 and 1:10,560 sheets SC48

National Grid Reference (centroid): SC458865

Area: 20.92ha (51.69 acres)

Date notified: 27th September 2006

Date varied: 21st March 2007

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 wildlife habitats – broadleaved woodland, mixed plantation, open water, strandline and shingle.

Description and reasons for notification:

Dhoon Glen consists of a series of small, steep tributary valleys and one exceptionally deep glen, notable for a tall and powerful waterfall. The sides of the tributaries and glen have a very diverse assortment of woodland types, ranging from extensive areas of semi-natural broadleaved woodland through to mixed, broadleaved and conifer plantation. The most diverse areas have a canopy of ash *Fraxinus excelsior*, oak *Quercus petraea*, birch *Betula pendula* and rowan *Sorbus aucuparia*, although sycamore *Acer pseudoplatanus* and beech *Fagus sylvatica*-dominated areas also exhibit a diverse semi-natural groundflora. Herb species present include abundant bluebell *Hyacinthoides non-scripta*, with wood anemone *Anemone nemorosa*, yellow pimpernel *Lysimachia nemorum*, wood horsetail *Equisetum sylvaticum*, sanicle *Sanicula europaea*, wood sorrel *Oxalis acetosella*, opposite-leaved golden saxifrage *Chrysosplenium oppositifolium*, foxglove *Digitalis purpurea*, greater stitchwort *Stellaria holostea*, honeysuckle *Lonicera periclymenum* and primrose *Primula vulgaris*. The Glen is particularly rich in ferns, which include hay-scented buckler-fern *Dryopteris aemula*** , hard fern *Blechnum spicant*, soft shield-fern *Polystichum setiferum*, lady-fern *Athyrium filix-femina*, male fern *Dryopteris filix-mas*, scaly male fern *Dryopteris affinis*, broad buckler-fern *Dryopteris dilatata*, hart's-tongue *Phyllitis scolopendrium*, black spleenwort *Asplenium adiantum-nigrum* and, at the coastal end of the Glen, sea spleenwort *Adiantum marinum*. Killarney filmy fern *Trichomanes speciosum*** (gametophyte stage only) has been recorded from the base of the waterfall. This species is internationally rare and threatened, and is listed under Annex 2 of the EU Habitats and Species Directive. It is also protected under the Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats (Bern Convention).

The site boundary was chosen to include the full range of the Glen from fast-flowing tributaries to the sea, where the fresh water meets the tide in a series of small, inter-tidal rockpools noted for their diversity and consequent educational value. Other coastal features relating to the Glen include the presence of diverse, regenerating coastal woodland and scrub, with frequent coastal cliff and grassland plants also present. These notably include scattered clumps of very dwarf oak trees, kept to a height of a few feet only due to the very exposed conditions. These oaks are relatively safe from grazing livestock, and appear to represent a relict native oak population. They are consequently of research importance as well as providing a valuable habitat feature in their own right.

The large area of diverse, well-developed semi-natural habitats throughout the Glen provides excellent breeding and feeding territory for birds, which are almost diverse enough on the site to merit selection on the grounds of woodland or coastal breeding bird assemblage alone. Glenside breeding species include songthrush *Turdus philomelos** (an RSPB Red List species of concern), kestrel *Falco tinnunculus**, swallow *Hirundo rustica*, grey wagtail *Motacilla cinera*, wood warbler *Phylloscopus sybillatrix*, willow warbler *Phylloscopus trochilus* and goldcrest *Regulus regulus*. Breeding birds along the coastal edge of the Glen include chough *Pyrrhocorax pyrrhocorax**, stonechat *Saxicola torquata*, meadow pipit *Anthus pratensis*, oystercatcher *Haematopus ostralegus*, Fulmar *Fulmarus glacialis* and herring gull *Larus argentatus* (all the latter are on the RSPB Amber List).

The diversity of habit types that supports such a wide range of bird species also benefits invertebrates, in particular moths. Macro-moth species of note include the UK Nationally Notable Black-banded *Polymixis xanthomista*, and the Grey *Hadena caesia* ssp *mananii****. The Isle of Man is the "type location" for these species; hence their Manx populations are of importance to the taxonomic study of macro-moths. In total, 80% of all the recently-recorded macro-moth species on the Island have been recorded from Dhoon Glen and the adjacent coast, making this an exceptionally diverse site.

* = Protected under Schedule 1 of the Wildlife Act 1990

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

*** = Protected under Schedule 5 of the Wildlife Act 1990

Other information:

Dhoon Glen is centred on the Dhoon Granite, an igneous intrusion into the surrounding Manx slate. Igneous intrusions are an unusual feature on the Island and hence of geological as well as biological interest. The Glen also contains significant archaeological features, in particular the relics of mining and quarrying activity. The presence of spectacular waterfalls and dramatic geology and flora have led to a long history of use as a "pleasure glen", and recreational access is still of importance in the publicly-accessible parts of the site.

NOTIFICATION OF AN AREA OF SPECIAL SCIENTIFIC INTEREST Appendix II

Site Name: Dhoon Glen

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 reseeding
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	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 and lighting of fires.
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	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 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.
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, 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 or soil, fauna and flora (excluding walking, with or without dogs).
28	Game and waterfowl management and hunting practices, where already damaging, introduction of game or waterfowl management and changes in game or waterfowl management and hunting practices.

† 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, amphibian, reptile, bird, fish or invertebrate.

"vehicles" includes bicycles.