

Eary Vane 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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Government**

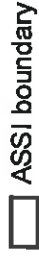
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Reilrys Ellan Vannin

Department of Agriculture,
Fisheries and Forestry

**EARY VANE
AREA OF SPECIAL
SCIENTIFIC INTEREST**



Area: 3.96ha (= 9.78 acres)

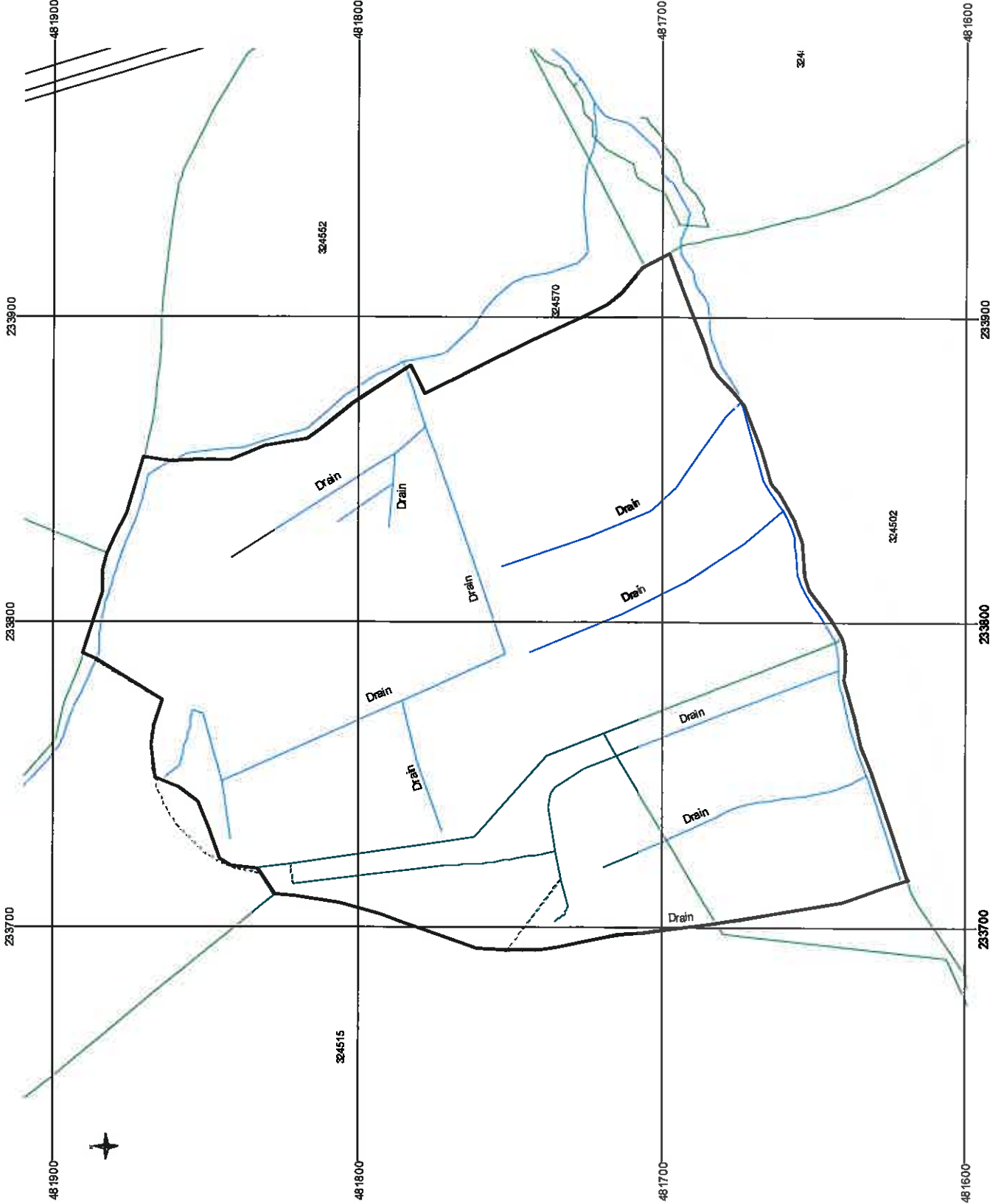
O/S Grid reference: SC338818
(approximate centre of site)

Designated: 20th December 2006

Confirmed: 2nd May 2007

The grid lines on this map form
part of the National Grid,
and are spaced at 100m intervals

Base Map is
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NOTIFICATION OF AN AREA OF SPECIAL SCIENTIFIC INTEREST Appendix I

Site name: Eary Vane

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

Area: Isle of Man

Parish: Marown

Planning Authority: Department of Local Government and the Environment

Local authority: Marown Commissioners

Ordnance Survey Sheet: 1:50,000 OS Landranger Map No.95 and 1:10,560 sheets SC38

National Grid Reference (centroid): SC338818

Area: 3.96ha (9.78 acres)

Date notified: 20th December 2006

Date confirmed: 2nd May 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 habitat: species-rich rush pasture of the Sharp-flowered rush and Marsh bedstraw *Juncus acutiflorus* – *Galium palustre* type, with Purple moor-grass and Tormentil *Molinia caerulea* – *Potentilla erecta* mire.

Description and reasons for notification:

Eary Vane consists of a series of small fields on the lower south-eastern edge of Slieu Ruy, with the smaller hill of Cronk Breck to the south. The hillside location has resulted in a localised mire which ultimately drains eastwards into a tributary of the River Glass. The fields have not been subjected to intensive agricultural improvement and now support fen meadow habitat, dominated by rush pasture of the Sharp-flowered rush and Marsh bedstraw *Juncus acutiflorus* – *Galium palustre* type. This is accompanied by a range of associated habitats including Purple moor-grass *Molinia caerulea*-dominated mire, ditches and streams with aquatic vegetation, gorse and willow scrub, and dry acid grassland. The area has good diversity, with over half of all the higher plant species typical of the best Manx examples of this habitat recorded in recent years.

The structure of the vegetation is varied, ranging from tall tussocky rush pasture to short turf on the sod banks and drier parts of the area, and short boggy vegetation alongside streams and drains and in dips and hollows. Large numbers of Heath spotted-orchid *Dactylorhiza maculata*** are present throughout most of the site. Other species of the marshy grassland areas include frequent Sharp-flowered rush *Juncus acutiflorus*, Jointed rush *Juncus articulatus*, Heath rush *Juncus squarrosus*, Purple moor-grass *Molinia caerulea*, Velvet bent *Agrostis canina*, Star sedge *Carex echinata*, Dwarf yellow-sedge *Carex viridula* subspecies *viridula*, Carnation sedge *Carex panicea*, Marsh violet *Viola palustris*, Common lousewort *Pedicularis palustris*, Devil's-bit scabious *Succisa pratensis*, Cuckoo-flower *Cardamine pratensis* and Marsh pennywort *Hydrocotyle vulgaris*. Plants more typical of dry, acid grassland occur on the edges of sod banks and around the drier parts of the site, including Red fescue *Festuca rubra*, Mat-grass

Nardus stricta, Wavy hair-grass *Deschampsia flexuosa*, Sweet vernal grass *Anthoxanthum odoratum*, Pill sedge *Carex pilulifera*, Green-ribbed sedge *Carex binervis*, Harebell *Campanula rotundifolia*, Heath bedstraw *Galium saxatile*, Tormentil *Potentilla erecta*, Heath milkwort *Polygala serpyllifolia*, Bilberry *Vaccinium myrtillus* and Ling *Calluna vulgaris*.

The grassland habitat is varied by the presence of small boggy areas dominated by Sphagnum moss, with bog plants such as Common cotton-grass *Eriophorum angustifolium*, Round-leaved sundew *Drosera rotundifolia*, Bog asphodel *Narthecium ossifragum* and Bog stitchwort *Stellaria uliginosa*. Other wetland plants grow in and alongside the stream and ditches which cross the site, most of which have both submerged and emergent vegetation. In addition to bog plants this includes aquatic and emergent species such as Ivy-leaved crowfoot *Ranunculus hederaceus*, Lesser spearwort *Ranunculus flammula*, Tufted forget-me-not *Myosotis laxa*, Creeping forget-me-not *Myosotis secunda*, Marsh willowherb *Epilobium palustre* and the moss *Philonotis fontana*.

A total of 78 plant species has been recorded at Eary Vane within the last year, making this a very good example of the habitat type. The presence of a wide variety of both sward structure and species also makes this area suitable for birds and invertebrates which are typical of Manx upland margin habitats, including breeding Wren *Troglodytes troglodytes*, Meadow pipit *Anthus pratensis*, and Curlew *Numenius arquata**

* = Protected under Schedule 1 of the Wildlife Act 1990

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

Other information:

This site is named after the old farmstead of Eary Vane, situated to the north of the ASSI fields.

Species-rich rush pastures are internationally threatened, having suffered very heavy losses due to agricultural improvement, drainage and development. This applies particularly to species-rich, lowland examples. 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 in recent years several of the most diverse UK examples have been designated SSSIs and/or Special Areas of Conservation.

NOTIFICATION OF AN AREA OF SPECIAL SCIENTIFIC INTEREST
Appendix II

Site Name: Eary Vane

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.
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.
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.
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, reptile, bird, fish or invertebrate.