

# Glen Rushen 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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**Isle of Man  
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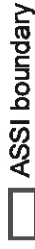
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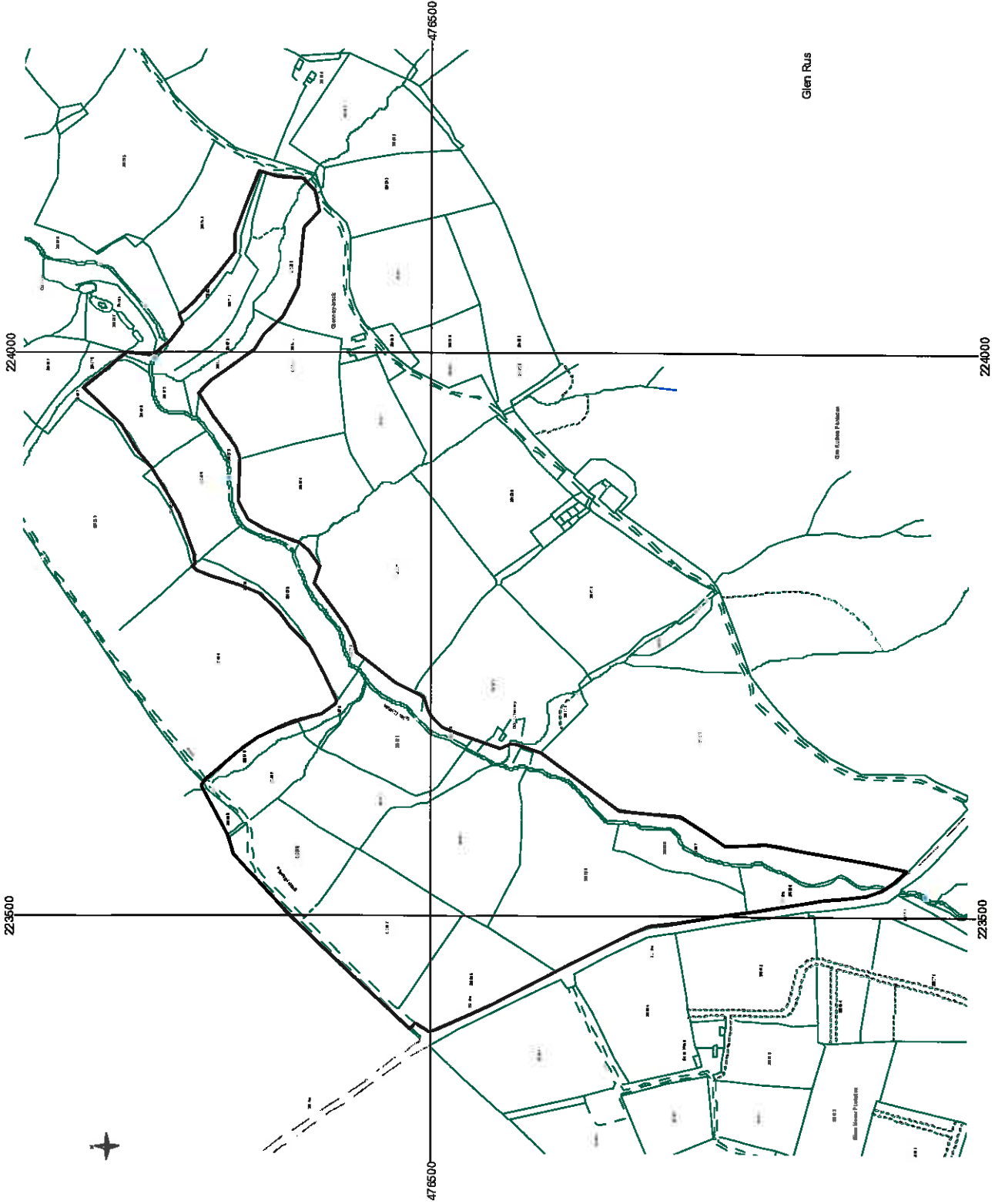
Department of Agriculture,  
Fisheries and Forestry

**GLEN RUSHEN  
AREA OF SPECIAL  
SCIENTIFIC INTEREST**



Area: 12.27ha (= 30.32 acres)  
O/S Grid reference: SC23667652  
(approximate centre of site)  
Designated: 20th December 2006  
Confirmed: 2nd May 2007

The grid lines on this map form  
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## NOTIFICATION OF AN AREA OF SPECIAL SCIENTIFIC INTEREST Appendix I

**Site name:** Glen Rushen

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

**Area:** Isle of Man

**Parish:** Patrick

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

**Local authority:** Patrick Commissioners

**Ordnance Survey Sheet:** 1:50,000 OS Landranger Map No.95 and 1:10,560 sheets SC27

**National Grid Reference (centroid):** SC23667652

**Area:** 12.27ha (30.32 acres)

**Date notified:** 20<sup>th</sup> December 2006

**Date confirmed:** 2<sup>nd</sup> 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: wet unimproved acid grassland, valley mire and flush, developing native broadleaved woodland, river valley and streams.

### Description and reasons for notification:

Glen Rushen forms part of an important river habitat corridor leading from Dalby Mountain moorland through Glen Rushen and Glen Moar to eventually reach the sea at Glen Maye. The Glen Rushen stretch is notable for its naturalness and diversity, which includes sloping, damp acid grassland with patches of mire vegetation and small, boggy flushes on the valley sides. These support abundant orchids *Dactylorhiza maculata subspecies ericetorum*\*\*\* and a thriving colony of pale butterwort *Pinguicula lusitanica*\*\*\*, a carnivorous plant which requires undisturbed, nutrient-poor acidic habitats and which has a very localised distribution on the Island. A wide range of wet, acid grassland species is present including Purple moor-grass *Molinia caerulea*, sharp-flowered rush *Juncus acutiflorus*, heath rush *Juncus squarrosus*, heath woodrush *Luzula multiflora*, yellow sedge *Carex viridula subspecies oedocarpa*, common sedge *Carex nigra*, star sedge *Carex echinata*, common lousewort *Pedicularis sylvatica*, marsh lousewort *Pedicularis palustris*, marsh arrowgrass *Triglochin palustris*, devil's-bit scabious *Succisa pratensis*, marsh pennywort *Hydrocotyle vulgaris*, marsh thistle *Cirsium palustre* and bog stitchwort *Stellaria uliginosa*. Drier grassland areas such as the sides of old sod banks support plants such as sheep's fescue *Festuca ovina*, sweet vernal-grass *Anthoxanthum odoratum*, red fescue *Festuca rubra*, mat-grass *Nardus stricta*, pill sedge *Carex pilulifera*, spring sedge *Carex caryophyllaea*, cat's-ear *Hypochaeris radicata*, heath milkwort *Polygala serpyllifolia*, hard fern *Blechnum spicant*, eyebright *Euphrasia agg.*, common bird's-foot trefoil *Lotus corniculatus*, bilberry *Vaccinium myrtillus* and abundant tormentil *Potentilla erecta*.

The grassland habitat throughout the Glen Rushen area is characterised by small flushes, boggy areas and mire alongside the watercourses, which support a range of bog and marsh plants including common cotton-grass *Eriophorum angustifolium*, *Sphagnum* mosses, flea sedge *Carex pulicaria*, star sedge *Carex echinata*, round-leaved sundew *Drosera rotundifolium*, pale butterwort *Pinguicula lusitanica*, heath spotted-orchid *Dactylorhiza maculata subspecies*

*ericetorum*\*\*\*, bog asphodel *Narthecium ossifragum*, bog pondweed *Potamogeton polygonifolius*, bog pimpernel *Anagallis tenella*, lesser spearwort *Ranunculus flammula* and marsh violet *Viola palustris*.

The river itself is notable for its natural course and the presence of marshy, valley mire vegetation alongside, locally dominated by whorled caraway *Carum verticillatum*, a distinctive western British species with a limited distribution on the Island. Scattered broadleaved trees and willow scrub alongside the river and the larger tributary include ash *Fraxinus excelsior*, wych elm *Ulmus glabra*, common alder *Alnus glutinosa* and rowan *Sorbus aucuparia*. Some of these have been planted, and some have grown up naturally. The groundflora in both cases is diverse, with some woodland species including bluebell *Hyacinthoides non-scriptus*, primrose *Primula vulgaris*, pignut *Conopodium majus*, and red campion *Silene dioica*.

The Glen Rushen valley provides a diverse and structurally varied habitat for birds, invertebrates, small mammals and frogs *Rana temporaria*\*\*. Hen harrier *Circus cyanea*\*, chough *Pyrrhocorax pyrrhocorax*\* and peregrine falcon *Falco peregrinus*\* breed near to Glen Rushen, and its fields and river banks form a key feeding area. The marshy fields also support breeding curlew *Numenius arquata*\*

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

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

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

**Other information:**

This area links several important areas of semi-natural habitats, notably wet heath on Dalby Mountain, dry dwarf shrub heath on either side of the valley, and the Glen Moar/Glen Maye River.

**NOTIFICATION OF AN AREA OF SPECIAL SCIENTIFIC INTEREST**  
**Appendix II**

**Site Name: Glen Rushen**

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.
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.
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.