

# **Glen Maye 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  
Government**

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Department of Agriculture,  
Fisheries and Forestry

**GLEN MAYE  
AREA OF SPECIAL  
SCIENTIFIC INTEREST**

□ Designation boundary

Area: 15.92ha (39.34 acres)

O/S Grid reference: SC229798  
(approximate centre of site)

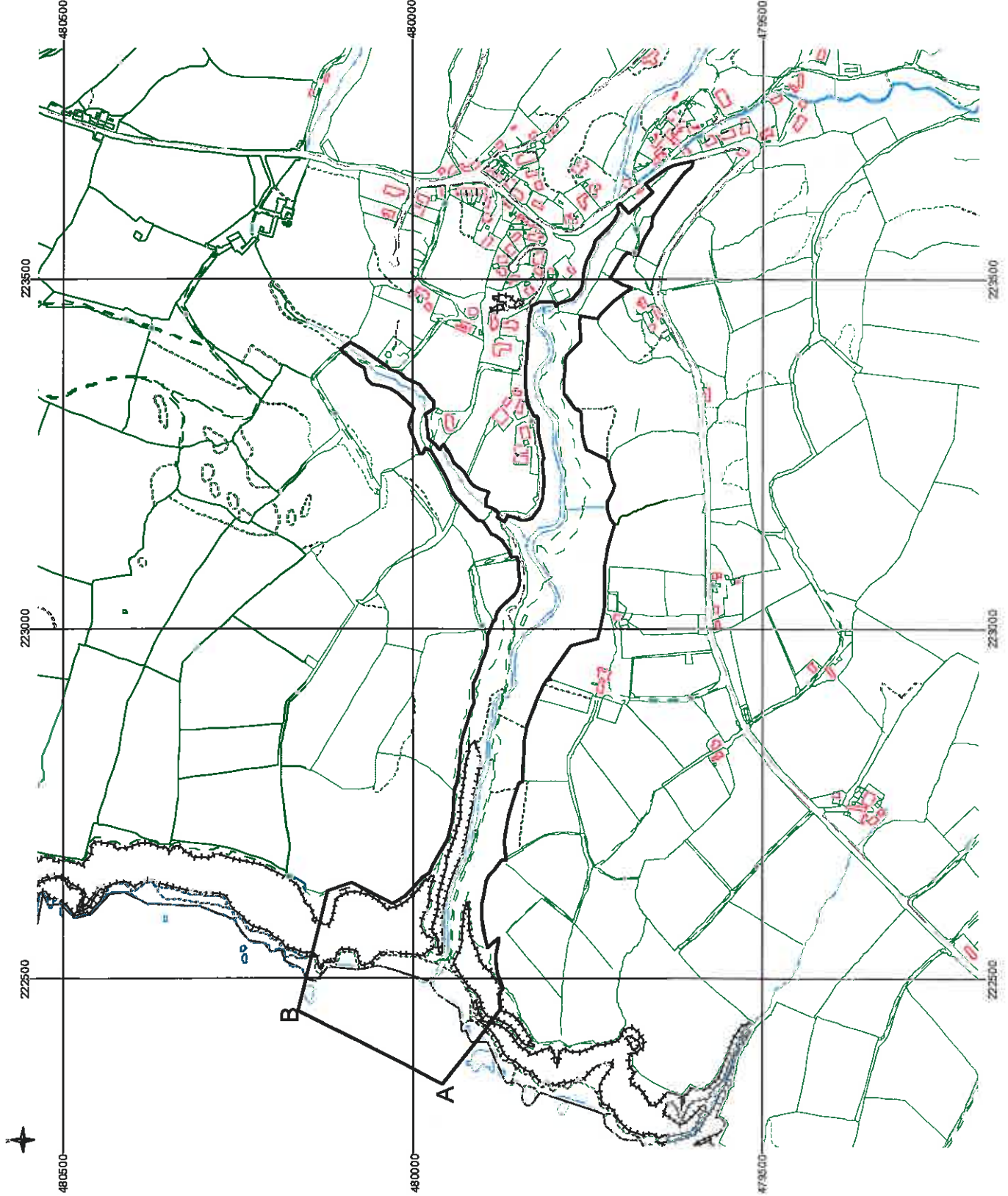
Designated: 31/10/2007

Confirmed: 22/04/2008

\*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:** Glen Maye

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

**Area:** Isle of Man

**Parish:** Patrick

**Local authority:** Patrick Commissioners

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

**Ordnance Survey Sheet:** 1:50,000 OS Landranger Map No.95 and 1:10,560 sheets SC27, SC28

**National Grid Reference (centroid):** SC229798

**Area:** 15.92ha (39.34 acres)

**Date notified:** 31<sup>st</sup> October 2007

**Date confirmed:** 22<sup>nd</sup> April 2008

**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, coastal scrub, open water, hard coastal cliffs and slopes, coastal grassland and intertidal habitats.

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

Glen Maye is one of the largest National Glens, consisting of a steep, wide gorge with broadleaved and mixed plantation on the sides, leading up to very tall, south-facing cliffs and west-facing coastal slopes. An exceptional range of associated habitats is present on the site, with good natural gradation between woodland and scrub, scrub and grassland, coastal slopes and the shore. The type and aspect of the open water on the site is also varied, as several small streams and flushes, and one large tributary, feed into the Glen from both the north and south sides. The largest tributary forms a substantial glen in its own right, also with semi-natural broadleaved vegetation and scrub on either side of the watercourse. The Glen Maye ASSI boundary has been chosen to include the full range of these habitats.

The Glen woodland is varied both in the canopy and the groundflora. The canopy reflects Victorian tree-planting, but also contains semi-natural regrowth and native scrub species. Trees and shrubs include ash *Fraxinus excelsior*, oak *Quercus petraea*, sycamore *Acer pseudoplatanus*, wych elm *Ulmus glabra*, alder *Alnus glutinosa*, beech *Fagus sylvatica*, blackthorn *Prunus spinosa*, hazel *Corylus avellana*, grey willow *Salix cinerea*, eared willow *Salix aurita*, rowan *Sorbus aucuparia*, holly *Ilex aquifolium*, elder *Sambucus nigra*, Wild and naturalised roses *Rosa spp.*, and small patches of sweet chestnut *Castanea sativa* and conifers including Scots pine *Pinus sylvestris*. Introduced shrubs such as snowberry, *Symphoricarpos albus*, rhododendron, *Rhododendron ponticum agg.* and fuchsia, *Fuchsia magellanica*, occur but in small amounts.

The majority of the woodland, and also the scrub on the coastal slopes, has a groundflora which is semi-natural in character and supports a good range of typical native woodland herbs, including bluebell *Hyacinthoides non-scriptus*, wild garlic *Allium ursinum*, wood sorrel *Oxalis acetosella*, red campion *Silene dioica*, primrose *Primula vulgaris*, pignut *Conopodium majus*, greater stitchwort *Stellaria holostea*, yellow pimpernel *Lysimachia nemorum* and hairy woodrush *Luzula pilosa*. There are small populations of the rare, protected species, wood vetch *Vicia sylvatica\*\** and hairy brome *Bromopsis ramosa*. Wet areas of the glen banks support shade-tolerant marsh plants such as marsh marigold *Caltha palustris*, wild angelica *Angelica sylvestris*, lesser spearwort *Ranunculus flammula* and opposite-leaved golden saxifrage *Chryso-splenium oppositifolium*.

At the coastal end of the site, the woodland grades into coastal slopes and sheer cliffs. In addition to providing valuable nesting habitat for a range of coastal birds such as fulmar *Fulmarus glacialis*, the cliffs support patches of diverse coastal grassland, cliff crevice plants and scrub.

Detached cliff sections which now lie within the intertidal zone have similar characteristics to the main cliffs and slopes. Plants present include abundant thrift *Armeria maritima*, English stonecrop *Sedum anglicum*, sea plantain *Plantago maritima*, sea spleenwort *Asplenium marinum*, sea campion *Silene uniflora*, wild thyme *Thymus polytrichus*, sheep's-bit scabious *Jasione montana*, common bird's-foot trefoil

*Lotus corniculatus*, red fescue *Festuca rubra*, silver hair-grass *Aira caryophyllaea*, honeysuckle *Lonicera periclymenum*, cat's ear *Hypochoeris radicata*, bramble *Rubus fruticosus* agg., dandelion *Taraxacum* sp., and a good range of plants typical of short, neutral grassland. Small freshwater flushes on the sides of the coastal slopes vary the flora, with species such as brookweed *Samolus valerandi*, yellow-sedge *Carex viridula* and lesser spearwort *Ranunculus flammula*.

The whole site is notable for its abundance and diversity of ferns. At the coastal end there is frequent sea spleenwort *Asplenium marinum*, maidenhair spleenwort *Asplenium trichomanes*, black spleenwort *Asplenium adiantum-nigrum* and bracken *Pteridium aquilinum*. The mild and sheltered climate of the river banks and woodland supports abundant soft shield fern *Polytrichum 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*, western polypody *Polypodium interjectum* and hard fern *Blechnum spicant*. The rarities narrow buckler-fern *Dryopteris carthusiana*\* and southern polypody *Polypodium cambricum* were last recorded from this area.

The Glen Maye river and its main tributary are too shaded and fast-flowing to support a wide range of submerged and emergent plants. Where these factors permit, small populations of tenacious species such as willow moss *Fontinalis antipyretica* and the freshwater alga *Lemanea* sp. are present. The river is rocky, with one substantial waterfall and several smaller torrents, occasional small pools and numerous small caves on the rocky banks. The conditions are ideal for breeding grey wagtail *Motacilla cinerea* which breed here. The Glen forms part of a migratory route for sea trout.

The well-developed semi-natural habitats throughout the Glen provide excellent breeding and feeding territory for birds, which are almost diverse enough to merit site selection on the grounds of breeding bird diversity alone. Recorded glenside breeding birds include song thrush *Turdus philomelos*\*#, mistle thrush *Turdus viscivorus*, blackbird *Turdus merula*, blackcap *Sylvia atricapilla*, chaffinch *Fringilla coelebs*, goldcrest *Regulus regulus*, kestrel *Falco tinnunculus*\*, willow warbler *Phylloscopus trochilus* and dunnock *Prunella modularis*. Breeding birds on the cliffs, coastal grassland and scrub at the mouth of the Glen include fulmar, linnet *Carduelis cannabina*#, rock pipit *Anthus spinoletta*, stonechat *Saxicola torquata*, meadow pipit *Anthus pratensis*, whitethroat *Sylvia communis*, herring gull *Larus argentatus* and great black-backed gull *Larus marinus*. Eider *Somateria mollissima* have bred here and shelduck *Tadorna tadorna*\* have been recorded from the intertidal waters adjacent to the Glen mouth. Other birds recorded on the site include twite *Carduelis flavirostris*\*#, ringed plover *Charadrius hiaticula*\*, peregrine *Falco peregrinus*\* and grey heron *Ardea cinerea*. A total of 29 definite or probable breeding bird species has been recorded since 1998; there are also recent records of a further 36 species of non-confirmed breeding and/or passage or wintering birds, of which 13 are listed on Schedule 1 of the Wildlife Act 1990 and one of these is confirmed breeding. For birds this represents one of the most diverse National Glens.

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

# = Birds of Conservation Concern Red List species <sup>1</sup>

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

#### **Other information:**

This is a very well-documented and popular Glen, long recognised as an important botanical site. Recreational access is of importance and there is a long history of use as a "pleasure glen" both for walking access and fishing. The Glen Maye River corridor reaches back inland as far as Glen Rushen ASSI; Glen Maye represents the culmination of this important habitat corridor.

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<sup>1</sup> Gregory Richard D, Wilkinson Nicholas I, Noble David G, Robinson James A, Brown, Andrew F, Hughes, Julian, Proctor Deborah, Gibbons David W, and Galbraith Colin A. (2002) The population status of birds in the United Kingdom, Channel Islands and Isle of Man: an analysis of conservation concern 2002-2007. **British Birds** Vol 95 No 9 Pages 410-448

NOTIFICATION OF AN AREA OF SPECIAL SCIENTIFIC INTEREST Appendix II

**Site Name: Glen Maye**

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	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, lighting of fires (where already damaging) 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 herbs, 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.
18	Bait digging on inter-tidal areas, (where already 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, 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).
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.