

Ballachurry Meadows 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

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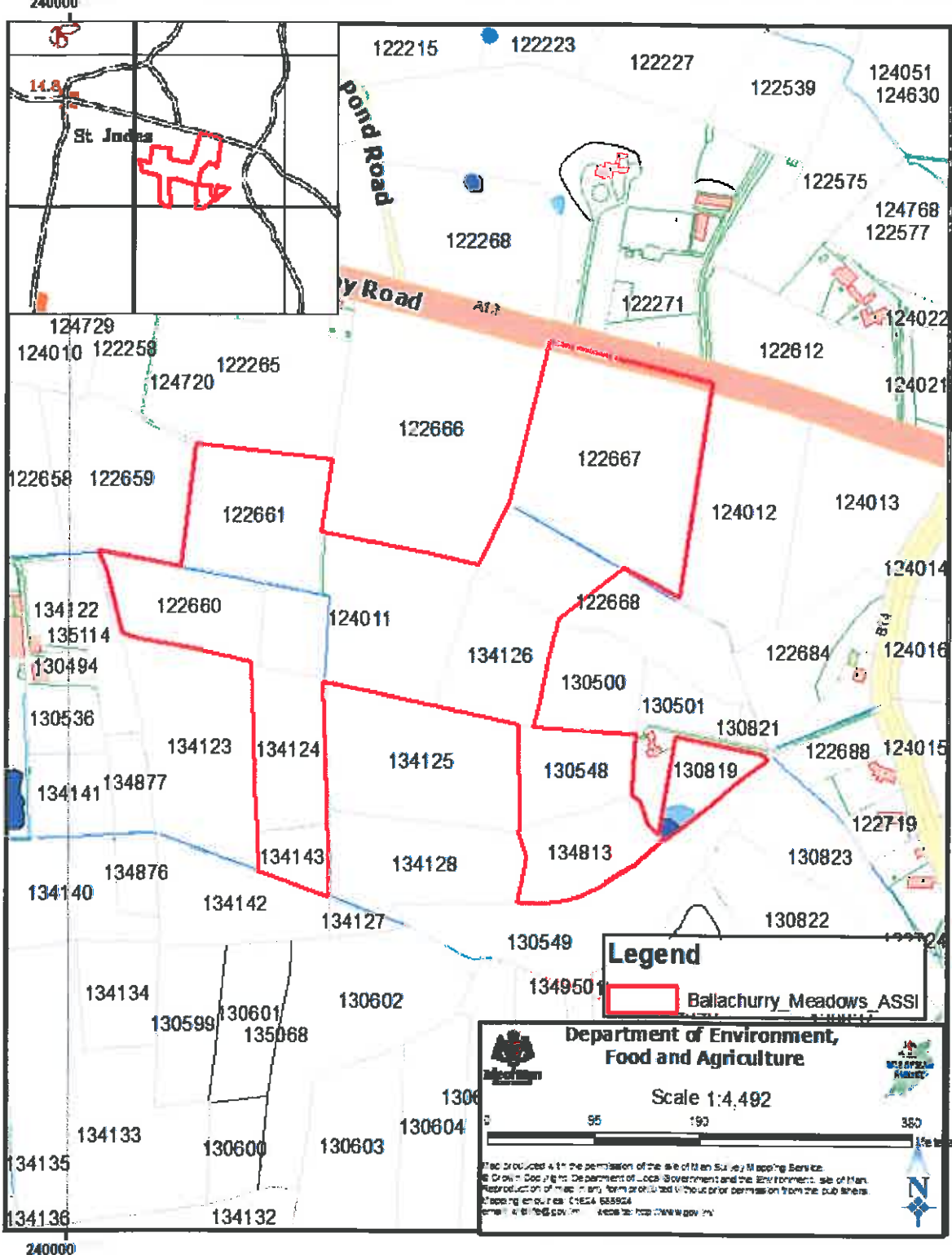
**Isle of Man
Government**

Reiltys Ellan Vannin

Ballachurry Meadows Area of Special Scientific Interest

Designated: 11th November 2009
 Varied and confirmed: 24th May 2010

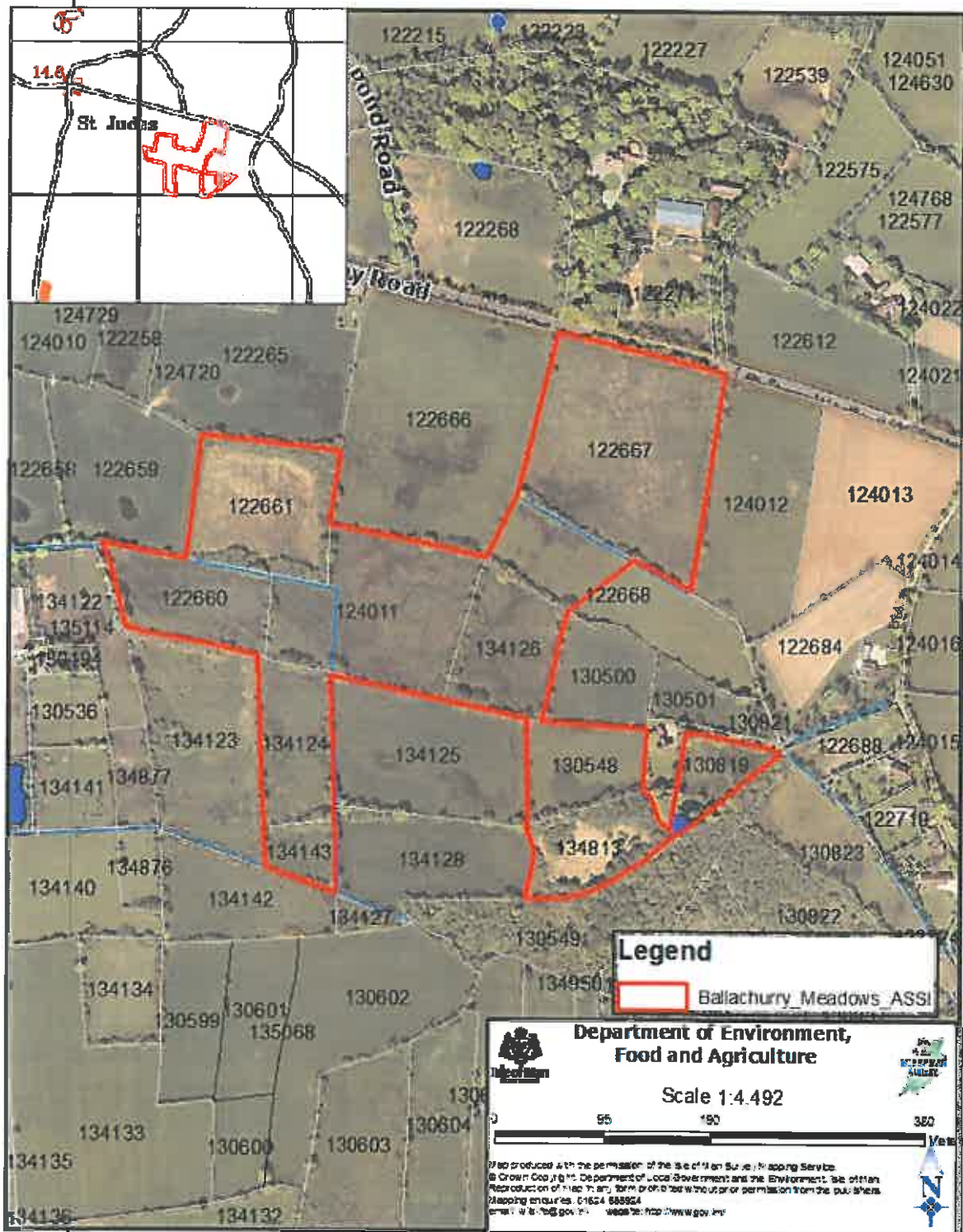
Area: 11.9 hectares (29.4 acres)
 National Grid Reference (centroid): SC 4025 9624



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240000

Text

2009 Aerial Photograph

NOTIFICATION OF AN AREA OF SPECIAL SCIENTIFIC INTEREST Appendix I

Area: Isle of Man

Site name: Ballachurry Meadows

Parish: Lezayre

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

National Grid Reference: SC 4025 9624

Area: 11.9ha (29.4 acres)

Ordnance Survey Sheets: 1:50,000 : Map 95

1:10,560 : SC 49 NW

1:25,000 Isle of Man Public Rights of Way and Outdoor Leisure Map (North)

Date notified: 17th November 2009

Date confirmed: 24th May 2010

Date of last revision: N/A

Purpose

This site is designated for its unimproved neutral grassland of the type, crested dog's-tail and knapweed *Cynosurus cristatus* - *Centaurea nigra* lowland grassland. This site comprises the majority of the 11.08ha (0.02% of the Island) that Sayle *et al* described as unimproved neutral grassland in the Phase 1 Habitat Survey report in 1995.

Description:

Ballachurry Meadows are a series of grasslands ranging from fairly dry hay meadows to very wet sedge-rich rushy meadows. They are on soils formed on glacial deposits. The meadows are species-rich and variously dominated by crested dog's tail *Cynosurus cristatus*, red fescue *Festuca rubra* and sweet vernal grass *Anthoxanthum odoratum*.

The site supports the largest population of greater butterfly orchids *Platanthera chlorantha*^{***} on the Island and is important for pale sedge *Carex pallescens*^{***} which is very rare on the Island. Four other orchids are also found on the site – northern marsh *Dactylorhiza purpurella*^{***}, heath spotted *D. maculata* subsp. *ericetorum*^{***}, common spotted *D. fuchsii*^{***} and common twayblade *Listera ovata*^{***}.

Other floral interest includes whorled caraway *Carum verticillatum*, devil's bit scabious *Succisa pratensis*, common knapweed *Centaurea nigra*, tufted vetch *Vicia cracca*, red clover *Trifolium pratense*, selfheal *Prunella vulgaris*, meadow vetchling *Lathyrus pratensis*, angelica *Angelica sylvestris* and meadow buttercup *Ranunculus acris*. Royal fern (*Osmunda regalis*) has been recorded.

In the wetter meadows there is yellow flag iris *Iris pseudacorus*, marsh marigold *Caltha palustris*, lesser spearwort *Ranunculus flammula*, greater bird's foot trefoil *Lotus pedunculatus* and purple loosestrife *Lythrum salicaria*. There is also a small pond.

A good range of sedges are found in addition to pale sedge. They include carnation sedge *Carex panicea*, common sedge *C. nigra*, oval sedge *C. ovalis* and common yellow sedge *C. viridula* ssp. *oedocarpa*.

Birds either definitely or probably breeding on or very close to the site include Barn Owl (*Tyto alba*)*, Blackbird (*Turdus merula*), Blackcap (*Sylvia atricapilla*), Blue tit (*Cyanistes caeruleus*), Chaffinch (*Fringilla coelebs*), Coal tit (*Parus ater*), Curlew (*Numenius arquata*)*, Dunnock (*Prunella modularis*), Goldcrest (*Regulus regulus*), Great Tit (*Parus major*), Robin (*Erithacus rubecula*), Song Thrush (*Turdus philomelos*)*, Spotted Flycatcher (*Muscicapa striata*)*, Swallow (*Hirundo rustica*), Whitethroat (*Sylvia communis*), Willow Warbler (*Phylloscopus trochilus*) and Wren (*Troglodytes troglodytes*).

Other information:

Full species lists are available from the Department of Environment, Food and Agriculture.

* = species on Schedule 1 of the Wildlife Act 1990

** = species on Schedule 5 of the Wildlife Act 1990

*** = species on Schedule 7 of the Wildlife Act 1990

= Red List Bird of Conservation Concern

Site Name: Ballachurry Meadows, Lezayre

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.
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, amphibian, bird, fish or invertebrate.