

Maughold Cliffs & Brooghs 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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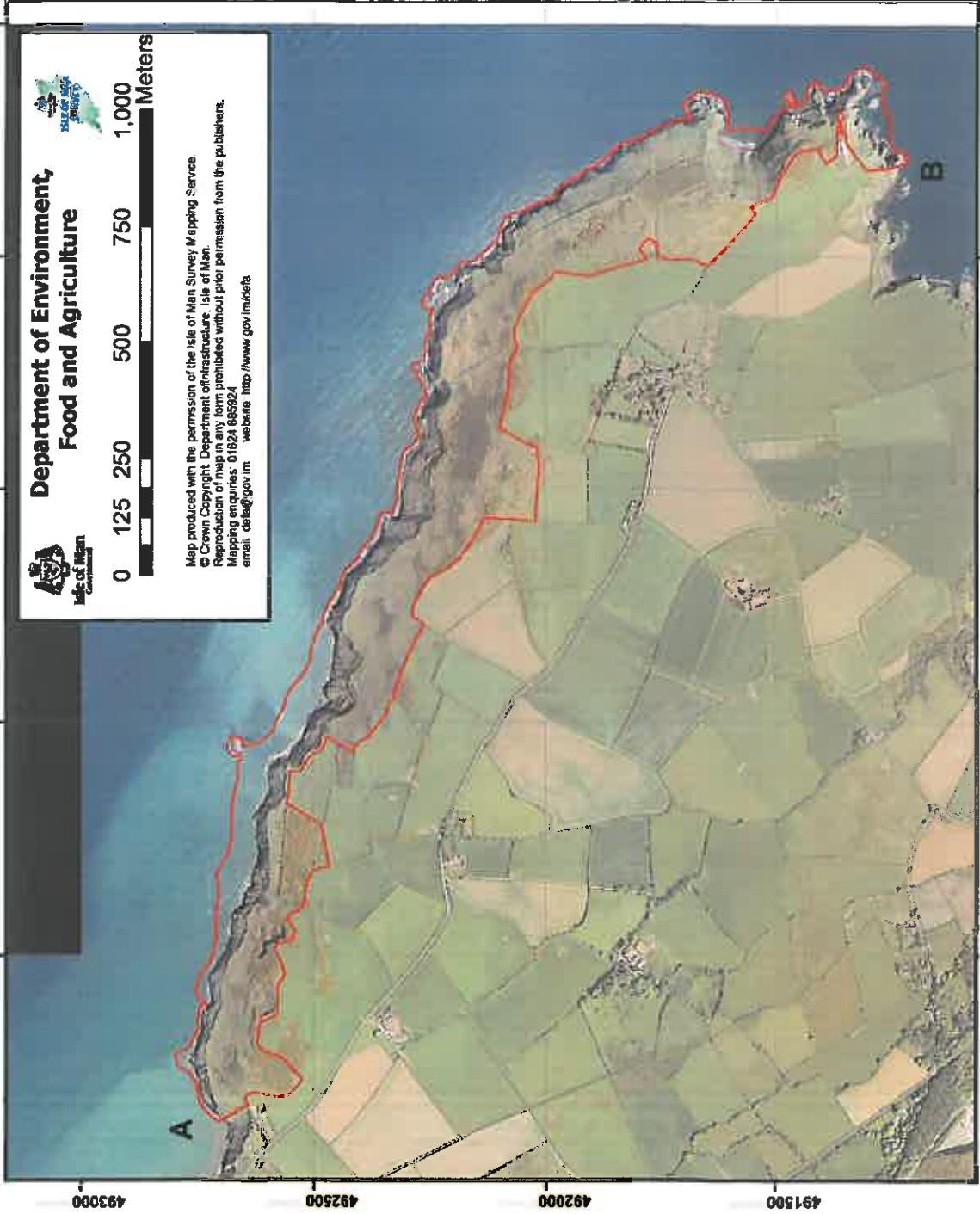




Isle of Man
Government

Reiltys Ellan Vannin

Maughold Cliffs & Brooghs ASSI

2009 aerial



**Department of Environment,
Food and Agriculture**

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Legend

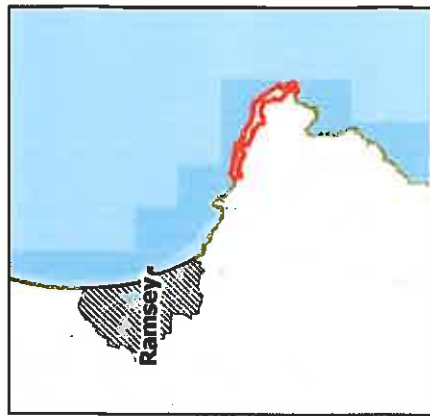
 Maughold Cliffs & Brooghs ASSI

Note: The seaward boundary follows the lowest astronomical tide between points A and B on the map.

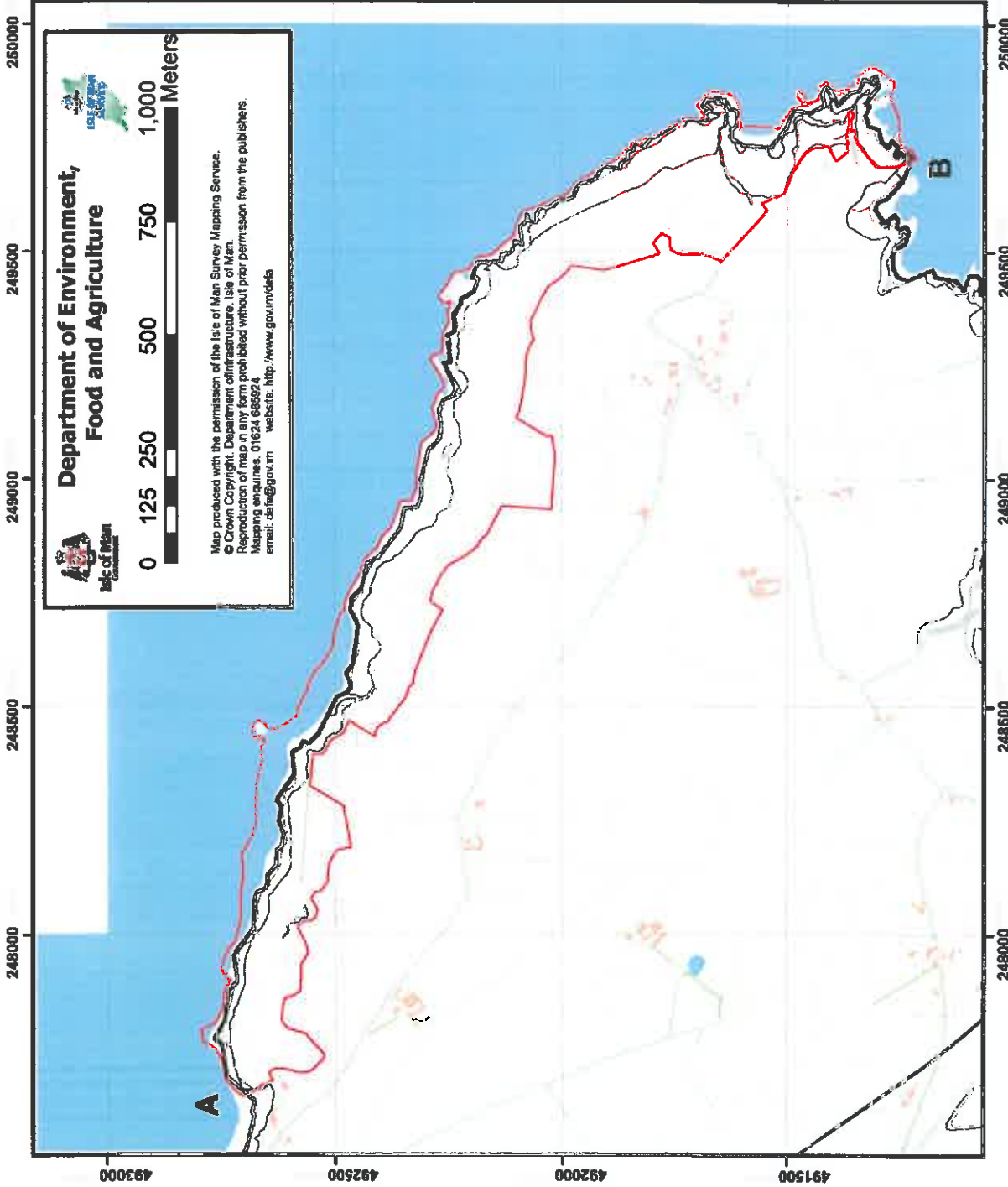
Area: 53.63 hectares (132.52 acres)

National Grid Reference (centroid) : SC 487923

Designated: 30th March 2011
Confirmed: 5th September 2011



Maughold Cliffs & Brooghs ASSI



Legend

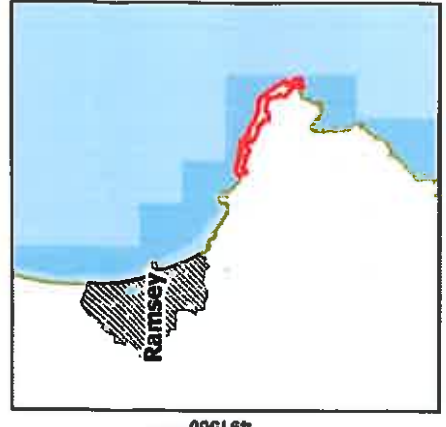
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NOTIFICATION OF AN AREA OF SPECIAL SCIENTIFIC INTEREST Appendix I

Site name: Maughold Cliffs & Brooghs

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

Area: Isle of Man

Parish: Maughold

Local authority: Maughold Commissioners

Planning Authority: Department of Infrastructure

Ordnance Survey Sheet: 1:50,000 OS Landranger Map No.95 and 1:10,560 sheet SC49SE

National Grid Reference (centroid): SC 487 923 **Area:** 53.63 hectares (132.52 acres)

Date notified: 30th March 2011

Date confirmed: 5th September 2011

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 breeding avifauna and semi-natural coastal habitats; hard cliffs and slopes, coastal grassland, acid grassland and scrub.

Description and reasons for notification:

Maughold cliffs and brooghs ASSI boundary encompasses a wide-range of semi-natural habitats grading from species-rich coastal grassland to hard cliff and intertidal rocky shore. It provides excellent breeding and feeding territory for seabirds and other coastal species, which are sufficient to merit site selection on the grounds of having a good range of representative breeding birds.

A total of 35 definite or probable breeding bird species has been recorded since 1999; there are also recent records of a further 47 species of possible breeders, passage or wintering birds, of which 5 are listed on Schedule 1 of the Wildlife Act 1990.

Of most interest is the colony of cliff-breeding sea birds which includes a colony of shags *Phalacrocorax aristotelis** and the largest colony of cormorants *Phalacrocorax carbo* on the Isle of Man. Other breeding seabirds include puffin *Fratercula arctica*, fulmar *Fulmarus glacialis*, kittiwake *Rissa tridactyla*, black guillemot *Cepphus grylle*, guillemot *Uria aalge* and razorbill *Alca torda*. Other important cliff breeders include raven *Corvus corax*, peregrine falcon *Falco peregrinus** and chough *Pyrhocorax pyrrhocorax**. In addition to providing valuable nesting habitat the cliffs support patches of diverse coastal grassland, cliff crevice plants and scrub.

The whole site is notable for its diversity and extent of typical coastal habitats. The steep rocky cliffs and coastal brooghs that stretch from Port-e-Vullen to an area south of the lighthouse, stopping short of Port Mooar are one of the largest continuous stretches of tall cliff and unimproved coastal habitat in the Isle of Man. The coast is generally composed of steep cliffs with *Fucus* covered rocks below and gently sloping grassy slopes above. A number of small flushes and streams occur in the grassland and add to the botanical-interest. One of these forms St Maughold's Well which is of cultural and historical interest. Bracken clothes the slopes in summer and small patches of scrub add to the habitat diversity. Heath-spotted orchid *Dactylorhiza maculata*** occur in large numbers (c.200) in a number of isolated patches. Grey seals*** haul out and breed on the beaches and rocks at the base of the cliffs.

Viviparous lizards *Lacerta vivipara**** have been recorded on the coastal broughs in the vicinity of the footpath at the southern end of the ASSI. It is likely that they occur on other south-facing areas of the 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

Geology and archaeology

The coastal cliffs expose Manx Group rocks of Ordovician age (about 482 million years old). Within this group, the Maughold Formation extends from Port e Vullen eastwards to Stack ny Skey, where it meets the Creg Agneash Formation. The Maughold Formation consists of typically "pin-stripe" lamination of thin bands of alternating mudstone and sandstone with some siltstone bedded between layers, whereas the Creg Agneash Formation is paler and more dominated by layers of sandstone. As with other rocks of this age, the exposures show the effects of tectonic forces in the earth's crust by much folding, distortion and the presence of faults.

Minerals were mined here in the past, particularly hematite or iron ore. Evidence of 6th – 7th century working of Maughold iron ore has been found by analysis of a smelting site near Andreas. Iron ore was produced in some quantity during the 19th century, the hey-day of mining in the Isle of Man, when annual production could reach 2,000 tons. The most visible remains of this now defunct industry is several adit entrances along the coast near the foot of the cliffs, and there is an old mine shaft at Maughold Head.

At the summit of Maughold Head near the site of the iron ore exposure is an earthwork enclosure or fortification, probably dating to the Iron Age. The summit of the Head later also served as a gathering point for medieval militia undertaking coastal lookout ('Watch and Ward') duties. A stone burial cist just south of the Head is probably of Bronze Age date and a cairn on the summit may be of similar age. On the north slope of the Head lies a spring which feeds a well, named after St Maughold and associated with an early medieval monastic settlement which stood nearby under the present churchyard. A shelter in the churchyard displays cross-slabs from the early Christian period which have been gathered from the churchyard and wider afield within the surrounding parish.

NOTIFICATION OF AN AREA OF SPECIAL SCIENTIFIC INTEREST Appendix II

Site Name: Maughold Cliffs & Brooghs

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 (weed killers).
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.
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.
17	Reclamation of land from sea, estuary or marsh.
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, 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, amphibian, bird, fish or invertebrate