

Isle of Man Nature Recovery Network – description of site designations

This is a glossary of site terms used on the Nature Recovery Network dashboard.

ASP (Area of Special Protection)

Designated under section 3 (birds) or section 13 (animals and plants) of the Wildlife Act 1990, enabling certain restrictions on visitors, to protect the wildlife interest. This does not infringe any rights vested in the owner, lessee or occupier.

ASSI (Area of Special Scientific Interest)

Designated under section 27 of the Wildlife Act 1990, for their special fauna, flora, geological or physiographical features of interest, following published criteria. Can cover terrestrial, freshwater and intertidal areas. Requires notice to DEFA, by the owner/occupier, of listed activities which have the potential to cause damage to the interest. ASSIs are selected to safeguard areas of high natural heritage importance which collectively represent the diversity of habitats, species and geological and geomorphological features of the Isle of Man. A general ASSI guidance leaflet is available online in addition to designation details for each site.

Bird Sanctuary

Designated under the Wild Birds Protection Acts. Whilst the Acts are mostly repealed, the Bird Sanctuaries remain in force. Extends protection of the birds with respect to both owners/occupiers and visitors.

DEFA Hill Land

Hill land that forms part of the DEFA estate. Protected under the Forestry Byelaws (Forestry Act 1984).

Glen

The National Glens, which form part of the DEFA estate. Protected under the Forestry Byelaws (Forestry Act 1984).

MWT Reserve

Sites owned by Manx Wildlife Trust and managed as nature reserves.

National Nature Reserve

Designated under section 31 of the Wildlife Act 1990, where land of national significance is managed as a nature reserve. Enables the provision of byelaws.

Ramsar

Ramsar Sites are designated as wetlands of international importance, under the Ramsar Convention.

Registered Heathland

Areas of heathland registered under the Heath Burning Act 2003. Protect against burning or destruction. The Heath Burning Code has been provided under this Act, to provide guidance on activities which may be detrimental to registered heathland and promote desirable practices for avoiding or minimising damage to registered heathland.

Wilder IoM areas

Sites managed for nature and voluntarily added to the NRN by the landowner. These have been included in the NRN statistics where the web submission form scores >50%, though all of the submitted sites are mapped to the Wilder Isle of Man layer (if permission has been provided). Their status is checked by MWT every 5 years.

A note on figures shown in the dashboard

The total areas of individual designation types are given by hovering your mouse over the relevant section of the pie chart.

The 'combined' area shown bottom left, below the pie chart, sums these area figures, but includes many overlapping areas and is therefore larger than the true total area covered. If you select some sections of pie then a total for only those areas is shown, but this includes overlaps and so may give an inflated total area.

Bottom right are two headline figures. These are calculated by removing any areas of overlap and so provide good total figures for the area covered. The left of the two is 'Area Protected or in OECMs', which stands for Other Effective Conservation Measures (which have been defined by the IUCN). This is relevant to work and reporting under the Convention on Biological Diversity (and therefore also the Global Biodiversity Framework). The figure to the right, 'NRN Total Area (including Wilder IoM Registrations)' includes Wilder IoM areas that scored that scored over 50% on the registration form. Wilder IoM registrations do not fulfil the definitions of protected areas or OECMs but this records further efforts being made in the community to provide wildlife habitat and join up the Nature Recovery Network.