

IIEM
25



Isle of Man

Industrial wasteland to natural gem - The Manx BirdLife Point of Ayre National Reserve

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Managing Director, Manx BirdLife

Manx BirdLife is working to sustain the abundance and diversity of wild birds on the Isle of Man through:



- **Surveys and Censuses** e.g. the 2022 Hen Harrier census or the 2025 Chough Census
- **Conservation projects** e.g. working with Manx Wildlife Trust and other landowners on the Island's Farmland birds
- **Citizen Science projects** e.g. the Manx BirdLife Garden Birdwatch which has been running for over 20 years or the new Buzzard Citizen Science Project launched in 2025.
- **Environmental Education**, we are working with all of the Island's primary schools to educate children about the amazing wildlife found on the Isle of Man
- **Land Management**, in 2019 the charity embarked on a once in a generation opportunity to create a nature reserve at the Point of Ayre. This will be developed over the next 20+ years to produce a fantastic resource for both the people and the wildlife of the Isle of Man. In 2025, Manx BirdLife acquired 60 acres on the Langness Peninsula.



**Manx
BirdLife**
Nature. For generations

Point of Ayre
National Reserve



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Isle of Man

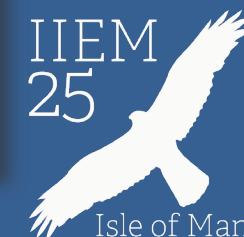
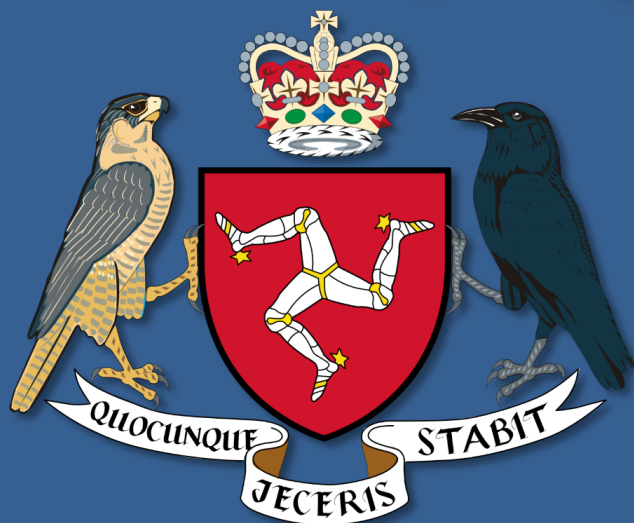




view South West from plant



Working in Partnership



OUR VISION FOR THE RESERVE

- A unique nature reserve in a remarkable location.
- New wetlands supporting thriving Manx wildlife.
- Significant biodiversity gains across many species.
- A valuable outdoor resource for residents and an important destination for visitors.
- A hub for conservation, education, and natural sciences







For birds.....



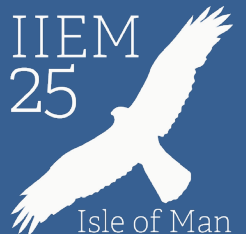
Security for native species

Recovering
lost breeding species

Attracting
new breeding species

A haven
for wintering birds

A way-marker and
pitstop for migrants



BoCCIoM 2021 and the Point of Ayre

Red	45 / 48 species
Amber	61 / 68 species



For birds.....



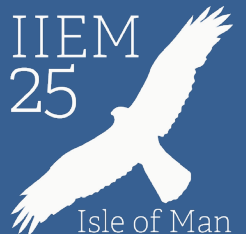
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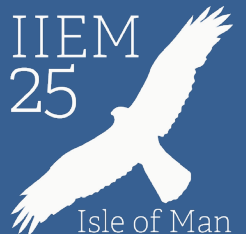
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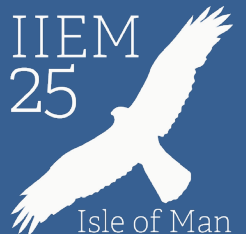
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For all nature....



Pyramidal



Heath



Spotted



Bee



Northern Marsh

For all nature.....



Black Tailed Skimmer



Red Admiral



Hummingbird Hawk Moth



Viviparous Lizard



Painted Lady



Heath Bee Fly

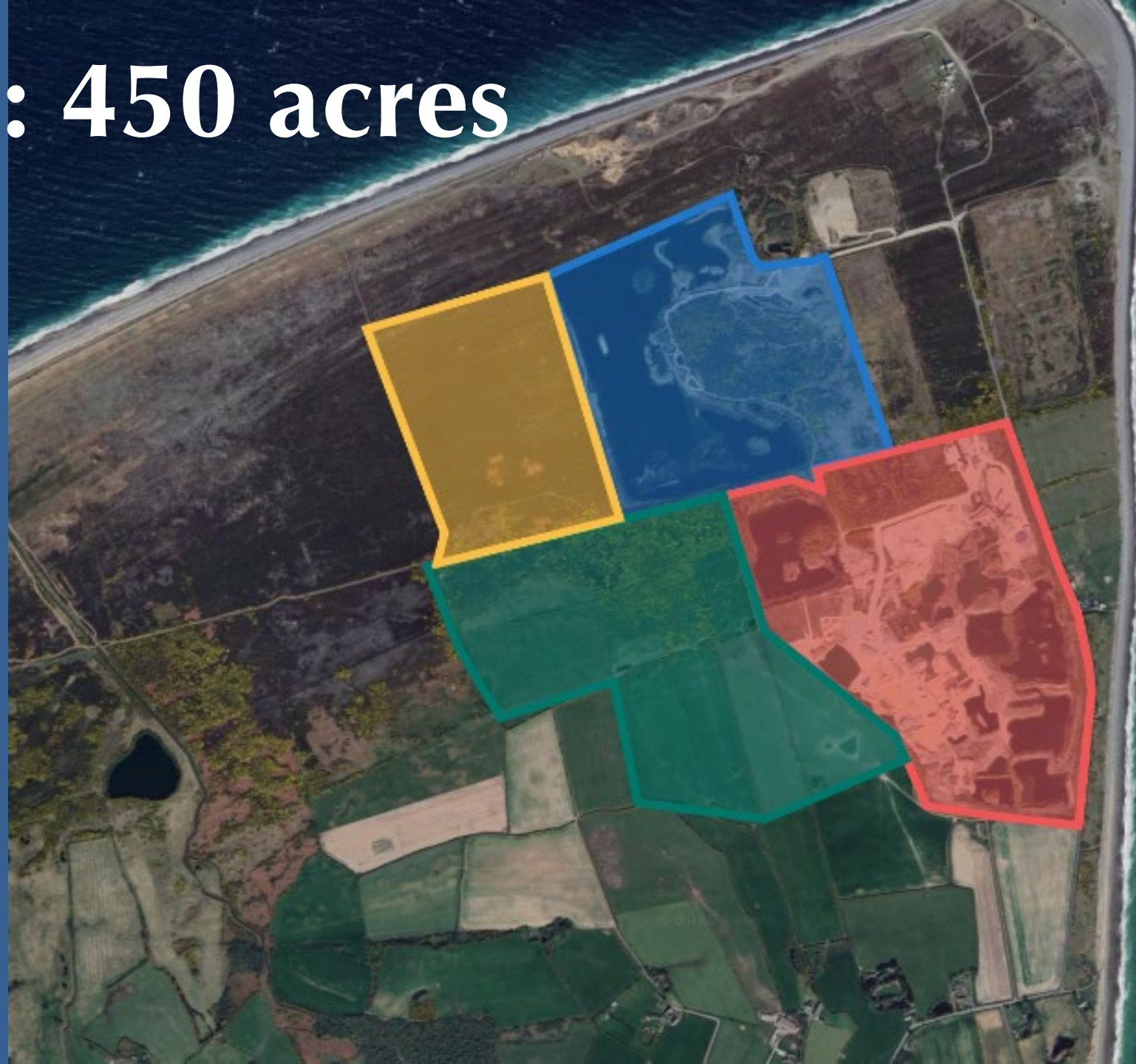
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For people.....

- Boosting the green economy
- Supporting health and wellbeing
- Expanding learning opportunities
- Shaping attitudes and encouraging change



The Future: 450 acres



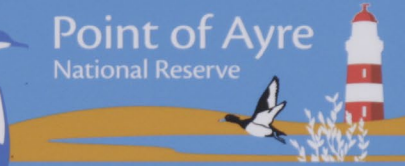
An investment in our future

- Get closer to nature and rediscover its wonders at any age.
- Explore and enjoy amazing wildlife, from plants to animals.
- Experience the Isle of Man's unique mix of nature and culture.
- Creating benefits for everyone — from wellbeing to the local economy.
- Inspiring a love of nature that will live on through future generations.





Point of Ayre
National Reserve



Valley of the Dragons: *Work in Progress*

Over time, these recently excavated ponds will become covered in vegetation, providing a perfect wetland habitat for dragonflies and other water creatures.

We plan to install a boardwalk through the 'valley' so you can enjoy seeing these amazing creatures close-up. The pond edges are soft and easily collapse. We need to

give them time to harden up and to stabilise. Hence, for the time being, there is no access to the ponds.

Already, the ponds have attracted dragonflies such as Black-tailed Skimmer, Emperor, Red-veined Darter and Migrant Hawker, as well as birds such as Little Ringed Plover, Green Sandpiper and Oystercatcher.



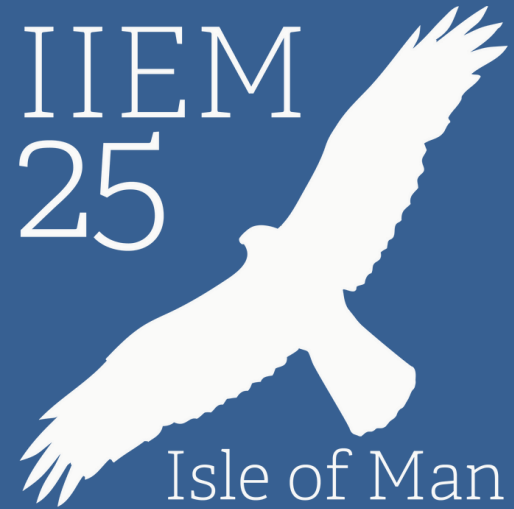
1. The freshly excavated Valley of the Dragons



2. The ponds will naturally vegetate over time



3. Male Migrant Hawker *Aeshna mixta*



Thank You!

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