

**CYNGOR CEFN GWLAD CYMRU
COUNTRYSIDE COUNCIL FOR WALES**

SITE OF SPECIAL SCIENTIFIC INTEREST CITATION

GWYNEDD/CONWY

TRAETH LAFAN

<u>Date of Notification:</u>	1971, 1984
<u>National Grid Reference:</u>	SH 630750
<u>OS Maps:</u>	1:50,000 Sheet number: 115 1:25,000 Sheet number: SH67
<u>Site Area:</u>	2700 ha (2240 ha in Gwynedd) (460 ha in Conwy)

Description:

This large intertidal area contains a range of habitats from sands exposed to waves and tidal currents at the seaward edge to sheltered sand and mudflats. Freshwater streams flowing across the area add to the diversity. Dwarf eelgrass *Zostera noltii* occurs near Aber. The abundant invertebrate fauna of species such as *Cyathura* and *Scrobicularia* attracts large flocks of birds. For wintering waders this is the third most important ground in Wales, with an annual peak of 10,000-14,000 waders of ten species. In addition, there are up to 1,500 wintering duck. The sands are of national importance for their assemblies of moulting great-crested grebes and red-breasted mergansers, and are regionally important for shelduck.

Remarks:

1. Part of this site is also a Local Nature Reserve.

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