## CYNGOR CEFN GWLAD CYMRU COUNTRYSIDE COUNCIL FOR WALES

# CORE MANAGEMENT PLAN INCLUDING CONSERVATION OBJECTIVES

## FOR YNYS SEIRIOL/PUFFIN ISLAND SPA

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More detailed maps of management units can be provided on request. A Welsh version of all or part of this document can be made available on request









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## **PREFACE**

This document provides the main elements of CCW's management plan for the site named. It sets out what needs to be achieved on the site, the results of monitoring and advice on the action required. This document is made available through CCW's web site and may be

revised in response to changing circumstances or new information. This is a technical document that supplements summary information on the web site.

One of the key functions of this document is to provide CCW's statement of the Conservation Objectives for the relevant Natura 2000 site. This is required to implement the Conservation (Natural Habitats, &c.) Regulations 1994, as amended (Section 4). As a matter of Welsh Assembly Government Policy, the provisions of those regulations are also to be applied to Ramsar sites in Wales.

## 1. VISION FOR THE SITE

This is a descriptive overview of what needs to be achieved for conservation on the site. It brings together and summarises the Conservation Objectives (part 4) into a single, integrated statement about the site.

Ynys Seiriol/ Puffin Island should continue to provide nesting habitat for at least 1% of the NW European (Atlantic) population of cormorant Phalacrocorax carbo. Currently the site has 556 breeding pairs, at least 1.35% of the NW European (Atlantic) breeding population, (1996 – 2000 5 year mean).

Puffin Island should also support other features that contribute to the special interest. These include sea cliffs, maritime grassland, and intertidal rocks. Of particular marine interest are lower shore under-boulder communities and rock-boring seashells (piddocks) and seaweed communities. This mixture of habitats is important for much of the wildlife, including plants reflecting the early monastic occupation (such as alexanders), sea spleenwort, puffin, guillemot, black guillemot and razorbill, together with eider duck, shag, fulmar, kittiwake, herring gull, greater black-backed gull and lesser black-backed gull, the rare spider (*Meta bourneti*) and grey seals.

## 2. SITE DESCRIPTION

## 2.1 Area and Designations Covered by this Plan

Grid reference: SH650820

Unitary authority: Cyngor Sir Ynys M^n/ Isle of Anglesey Council

Area (hectares): 31.6 ha

Designations covered: Ynys Seiriol/ Puffin Island SPA Puffin Island – Ynys Seiriol SSSI (Seaward boundary of SSSI and SPA is drawn to Mean Low Tide.)

(This site is immediately adjacent to Y Fenai a Bae Conwy/ Menai Strait and Conwy Bay SAC. A Reg 33 Management Package has been prepared for this site.)

Detailed maps of the designated sites are available through CCW's web site: http://www.ccw.gov.uk/interactive-maps/protected-areas-map.aspx

See accompanying unit summary map which shows the coverage of this document.

## 2.2 Outline Description

Ynys Seiriol / Puffin Island is located just off the eastern tip of the Isle of Anglesey in North Wales. It is a Carboniferous limestone block rising to 55 m with steep cliffs on all sides. A layer of heavily guano-enriched soil masks the limestone over much of the surface, leading to impoverished vegetation dominated by a dense mat of grasses (mainly Red Fescue *Festuca rubra* and Cock's-foot *Dactylis glomerata*), Common Nettle *Urtica dioica*, Bramble *Rubus fruticosus* and Alexanders *Smyrnium olusatrum*. Dense woodland of Elder *Sambucus nigra* 

has developed, particularly in the past 40 years since the loss of rabbit grazing. The sea-cliffs support a typical maritime flora including sea spleenwort *Asplenium marinum*.

The site is of European importance for its breeding population of Cormorant *Phalacrocorax carbo*, which feed in the surrounding waters outside the SPA. The island is also of interest for

other nesting seabirds breeding both on its sea-cliffs and open grassland areas. These include the four auks, (puffin, guillemot, black guillemot and razorbill), together with shag, fulmar, kittiwake, eider duck, herring gull, greater black-backed gull and lesser black-backed gull. The breeding puffin population, which formerly numbered several thousand pairs, has declined significantly to currently number less than a hundred pairs. However, old records suggest substantial population fluctuations in the past.

The island is used as a hauling out ground by Atlantic grey seals. The cave spider, *Meta bourneti*, has been recorded here at its only Welsh location.

## 2.3 Outline of Past and Current Management

The island has long been unoccupied, though historically supported a medieval Christian community and more recently a 19<sup>th</sup> century semaphore signal station and the University of Liverpool Marine Biological Station. Rabbits grazed the Island until the arrival of myxomatosis in the mid 1950s. A large population of brown rat *Rattus norvegicus* appears to have been eradicated following a control programme undertaken in 1998, by CCW, in cooperation with the landowner.

#### 2.4 Management Units

The island is completely unenclosed and is considered as a single management unit.

The following table confirms the relationships between the management units and the designations covered:

Unit	SPA	SSSI	CCW owned	Other
number				
Puffin Island – Ynys Seiriol SPA				
1	✓	✓		

## 3. THE SPECIAL FEATURES

Phalacrocorax carbo

## 3.1 Confirmation of Special Features

Designated feature	Relationships, nomenclature etc	Conservation Objective in part 4
SPA features		
ARTICLE 4.2 QUALIFICATION (79/409/EEC) During the breeding season the area regularly supports: Phalacrocorax carbo (North-western Europe) 1.35% of the breeding population 5 year mean for 1996 - 2000		1
SSSI features		
Breeding population of Cormorant Phalacrocorax carbo	[See SPA feature above]	1
Under-boulders		2
Laminaria digitata and under- boulder fauna on sublittoral fringe boulders		3
Soft piddock bored substrata		4
Fucus serratus and piddocks on lower eulittoral soft rock		5
Laminaria digitata and piddocks on sublittoral fringe soft rock		6

## 3.2 Special Features and Management Units

This section sets out the relationship between the special features and each management unit. This is intended to provide a clear statement about what each unit should be managed for, taking into account the varied needs of the different special features. All special features are allocated to one of seven classes in each management unit. These classes are:

#### **Key Features**

**KH** - a 'Key Habitat' in the management unit, i.e. the habitat that is the main driver of management and focus of monitoring effort, perhaps because of the dependence of

a key species (see KS below). There will usually only be one Key Habitat in a unit but there can be more, especially with large units.

**KS** – a 'Key Species' in the management unit, often driving both the selection and management of a Key Habitat.

**Geo** – an earth science feature that is the main driver of management and focus of monitoring effort in a unit.

#### **Other Features**

**Sym** - habitats, species and earth science features that are of importance in a unit but are not the main drivers of management or focus of monitoring. These features will benefit from management for the key feature(s) identified in the unit. These may be classed as 'Sym' features because:

- a) they are present in the unit but may be of less conservation importance than the key feature; and/or
- b) they are present in the unit but in small areas/numbers, with the bulk of the feature in other units of the site; and/or
- c) their requirements are broader than and compatible with the management needs of the key feature(s), e.g. a mobile species that uses large parts of the site and surrounding areas.

Nm - an infrequently used category where features are at risk of decline within a unit as a result of meeting the management needs of the key feature(s), i.e. under Negative Management. These cases will usually be compensated for by management elsewhere in the plan, and can be used where minor occurrences of a feature would otherwise lead to apparent conflict with another key feature in a unit.

**Mn** - Management units that are essential for the management of features elsewhere on a site e.g. livestock over-wintering area included within designation boundaries, buffer zones around water bodies, etc.

**x** – Features not known to be present in the management unit.

The table below sets out the relationship between the special features and management units identified in this plan:

Puffin Island/ Ynys Seiriol		
	1	
SPA	✓	
SSSI	✓	
SPA features		
1. Breeding Cormorant	KS	
SSSI features		
Breeding Cormorant	Sym	
2. Under-boulders	Sym	
3. Laminaria digitata and under-boulder fauna on sublittoral fringe boulders	Sym	
4. Soft piddock bored substrata	Sym	
5. Fucus serratus and piddocks on lower eulittoral soft rock	Sym	
6. Laminaria digitata and piddocks on sublittoral fringe soft rock	Sym	

## 4. <u>CONSERVATION OBJECTIVES</u>

**Background to Conservation Objectives:** 

a. Outline of the legal context and purpose of conservation objectives.

Conservation objectives are required by the 1992 'Habitats' Directive (92/43/EEC). The aim of the Habitats Directives is the maintenance, or where appropriate the restoration of the 'favourable conservation status' of habitats and species features for which SACs and SPAs are designated (see Box 1).

In the broadest terms, 'favourable conservation status' means a feature is in satisfactory condition and all the things needed to keep it that way are in place for the foreseeable future. CCW considers that the concept of favourable conservation status provides a practical and legally robust basis for conservation objectives for Natura 2000 and Ramsar sites.

# Box 1 Favourable conservation status as defined in Articles 1(e) and 1(i) of the Habitats Directive

"The conservation status of a natural habitat is the sum of the influences acting on it and its typical species that may affect its long-term natural distribution, structure and functions as well as the long term survival of its typical species. The conservation status of a natural habitat will be taken as favourable when:

- Its natural range and areas it covers within that range are stable or increasing, and
- The specific structure and functions which are necessary for its long-term maintenance exist and are likely to continue to exist for the foreseeable future, and
- The conservation status of its typical species is favourable.

The conservation status of a species is the sum of the influences acting on the species that may affect the long-term distribution and abundance of its populations. The conservation status will be taken as 'favourable' when:

- population dynamics data on the species indicate that it is maintaining itself on a long-term basis as a viable component of its natural habitats, and
- the natural range of the species is neither being reduced nor is likely to be reduced for the foreseeable future, and
- There is, and will probably continue to be, a sufficiently large habitat to maintain its populations on a long-term basis."

Achieving these objectives requires appropriate management and the control of factors that may cause deterioration of habitats or significant disturbance to species.

As well as the overall function of communication, Conservation objectives have a number of specific roles:

• Conservation planning and management.

The conservation objectives guide management of sites, to maintain or restore the habitats and species in favourable condition.

Assessing plans and projects.

Article 6(3) of the 'Habitats' Directive requires appropriate assessment of proposed plans and projects against a site's conservation objectives. Subject to certain exceptions, plans or projects may not proceed unless it is established that

they will not adversely affect the integrity of sites. This role for testing plans and projects also applies to the review of existing decisions and consents.

## Monitoring and reporting.

The conservation objectives provide the basis for assessing the condition of a feature and the status of factors that affect it. CCW uses 'performance indicators' within the conservation objectives, as the basis for monitoring and reporting. Performance indicators are selected to provide useful information about the condition of a feature and the factors that affect it.

The conservation objectives in this document reflect CCW's current information and understanding of the site and its features and their importance in an international context. The conservation objectives are subject to review by CCW in light of new knowledge.

#### b. Format of the conservation objectives

There is one conservation objective for each feature listed in part 3. Each conservation objective is a composite statement representing a site-specific description of what is considered to be the favourable conservation status of the feature. These statements apply to a whole feature as it occurs within the whole plan area, although section 3.2 sets out their relevance to individual management units.

Each conservation objective consists of the following two elements:

- 1. Vision for the feature
- 2. Performance indicators

As a result of the general practice developed and agreed within the UK Conservation Agencies, conservation objectives include performance indicators, the selection of which should be informed by JNCC guidance on Common Standards Monitoring<sup>1</sup>.

There is a critical need for clarity over the role of performance indicators within the conservation objectives. A conservation objective, because it includes the vision for the feature, has meaning and substance independently of the performance indicators, and is more than the sum of the performance indicators. The performance indicators are simply what make the conservation objectives measurable, and are thus part of, not a substitute for, the conservation objectives. Any feature attribute identified in the performance indicators should be represented in the vision for the feature, but not all elements of the vision for the feature will necessarily have corresponding performance indicators.

As well as describing the aspirations for the condition of the feature, the Vision section of each conservation objective contains a statement that the factors necessary to maintain those desired conditions are under control. Subject to technical, practical and resource constraints, factors that have an important influence on the condition of the feature are identified in the performance indicators.

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Web link: http://www.jncc.gov.uk/page-2199

## **4.1 Conservation Objective for Feature 1:** Breeding population of cormorant *Phalacrocorax carbo*

#### Vision for feature 1

The conservation objective for the Cormorant is to achieve and maintain favourable conservation status, in which all the following conditions are satisfied:

- 1. The number of breeding cormorants within the SPA are stable or increasing.
- 2. The abundance and distribution of prey species are sufficient to support this number of breeding pairs and for successful breeding.
- 3. The management and control of activities or operations likely to adversely affect the Cormorants, is appropriate for maintaining the feature in favourable condition and is secure in the long term."

#### **Performance indicators for Feature 1**

The performance indicators are <u>part of</u> the conservation objective, not a substitute for it. Assessment of plans and projects must be based on the entire conservation objective, not just the performance indicators.

Performance indica	tors for feature condition	
Attribute	Attribute rationale and other comments	Specified limits
A1. Population	The number of breeding pairs of	<b>Lower limit:</b> A five year mean of
Size	Cormorants within the SPA is stable or	556 breeding pairs
	increasing.	
	[This is not just a function of the site as	Upper limit:
	a whole but also the population	Not set
	dynamics of the whole NW European	
	(Atlantic) population.]	
A2. Reproductive	Number of offspring successfully	Lower limit:
success	fledged. Within this SPA this is	To be determined
	primarily a function of successfully	Upper limit:
	occupied nests. Other factors that	Not set
	impinge on this attribute include	
	adequate food supply for adults and	
	fledglings, absence of human	
	disturbance and weather related issues.	
	The 5 yr mean number of apparently	
	occupied nests (AON) for 1996-2000	
	was 556, 1.35% of the biogeographical	
	population of around 41,000 pairs. In	
	2005 730 AON were counted in the	
	SPA.	
	The challenging terrain and access to the	
	site make direct measurement of annual	
	productivity difficult. Young are ringed	
	by SCAN ringing group and such	
	records should indicate average	
	young/nest each year.	
Performance indica	tors for factors affecting the feature	

Factor Factor rationale and other comments Operational Limits	
F1. Physical Breeding seabirds require secure nesting Lower limit:	
<b>Disturbance</b> sites, free from human disturbance. No public access	
Visits to the island should be controlled <b>Upper limit:</b>	
during the nesting season (February to To be determined	
July inclusive) and any visits necessary	
should seek to avoid disturbance to	
sensitive areas, particularly nesting	
cliffs. No dogs (except guide-dogs) or	
cats should be permitted at any time.	
F2. Fishing Non-sustainable exploitation of fishing Lower limit:	
stocks within the cormorants' feeding To be determined	
range during the breeding season can <b>Upper limit:</b>	
have a negative effect on breeding To be determined	
success and adequate recruitment of	
fledglings.	
Presence of fishing nets, especially fixed	
nets, close to the colony carries risk to	
foraging birds.	
F3. Introduction Breeding seabirds require freedom from Lower limit:	
of ground ground predators to thrive. Small To be determined	
offshore islands should be naturally Upper limit:	
ground predator-free. Rats, cats or other Presence of any ground predate	ors
ground predators can decimate breeding	
colonies. Although cormorants appear to	
have thrived alongside brown rats until	
their eradication in 1998, other seabirds	
appear to have been confined to	
marginal habitat. Every effort should be	
made to avoid introduction and to	
eradicate any ground predators present.	
Avian predators such as peregrine or	
greater black-backed gulls should be	
tolerated.	
F4. Supporting There is adequate space on the island to Lower limit:	
support the breeding colony – space for Adequate space to support 556	nests
nests and normal bird behaviour. Upper limit:	
Not set	
The expansion of the elderwood may be	
inimical to further expansion of the	
seabird numbers. Consideration is being	
given to the reintroduction of grazing	
animals to control the vegetation.	
F5. Food Supply There is sufficient fish stocks within the Lower limit:	
North West Europe (Atlantic) territorial Absence of signs of under-	
waters to support the Cormorant nourishment / population colla	pse
Population Upper limit:	~
Not set	
F6. Wintering Many seabirds are migratory / dispersive Lower limit:	
F6. Wintering Many seabirds are migratory / dispersive and spend much of their lives away from To be determined (an analysis	of

likely to impinge on the sustainability of	conducted) Upper limit:
the population should be addressed	To be determined
through appropriate mechanisms.	

## 4.2 Conservation Objective for Feature 2-6: Intertidal marine communities

Please refer to the Reg 33 package for Y Fenai a Bae Conwy/ Menai Strait and Conwy Bay SAC

Performance indicators for feature condition			
Attribute	Attribute rationale and other comments	Specified limits	
A1. Extent of Communities	refer to the Reg 33 package for Y Fenai a Bae Conwy/ Menai Strait and Conwy Bay SAC	Not set	
A2. Condition	refer to the Reg 33 package for Y Fenai a Bae Conwy/ Menai Strait and Conwy Bay SAC		

# 5. ASSESSMENT OF CONSERVATION STATUS AND MANAGEMENT REQUIREMENTS

This part of the document provides:

- A summary of the assessment of the conservation status of each feature.
- A summary of the management issues that need to be addressed to maintain or restore each feature.

## **5.1 Conservation Status and Management Requirements of Feature 1:** Breeding population of cormorant *Phalacrocorax carbo*

## **Conservation Status of Feature 1**

The population of breeding cormorant is believed to be in a favourable state, based on current monitoring records in relation to the overall European Population.

## **Management Requirements of Feature 1**

Ensure human disturbance is minimised.
 Visits to the island should be controlled during the nesting season (February to July inclusive) and any visits necessary should seek to avoid disturbance to sensitive areas, particularly nesting cliffs. No dogs (except guide-dogs), cats or other potential ground predators should be permitted at any time. Passing vessels, including pleasure cruisers and canoes, can cause birds to panic and thereby leave eggs and nestlings vulnerable to predators. Judgement should be exercised to give a wide berth (>100

metres) to the colonies, at nesting time, commensurate with navigational and safety requirements.

- Undertake annual counts of nesting cormorants
   There is a requirement to maintain a record of the breeding success and number of birds present. A consistent methodology based on ground and boat-based counters should be employed, ensuring disturbance is minimised.
- Undertake annual ringing of chicks
   To maintain records of nest productivity and adult dispersion and mortality, annual ringing is required and records made accessible.

## **5.2** Conservation Status and Management Requirements of Features 2-6: Intertidal marine communities

Please refer to the Reg 33 package for Y Fenai a Bae Conwy/ Menai Strait and Conwy Bay SAC

## 6. ACTION PLAN: SUMMARY

This section takes the management requirements outlined in Section 5 a stage further, assessing the specific management actions required on each management unit. This information is a summary of that held in CCW's Actions Database for sites, and the database will be used by CCW and partner organisations to plan future work to meet the Wales Environment Strategy targets for sites.

Unit Number	CCW Database Number	Unit Name	Summary of Conservation Management Issues	Action needed?
1	001098	Ynys Seiriol/ Puffin Island	This unit is believed to be in appropriate conservation management.	No

#### 7. GLOSSARY

This glossary defines the some of the terms used in this **Core Management Plan**. Some of the definitions are based on definitions contained in other documents, including legislation and other publications of CCW and the UK nature conservation agencies. None of these definitions is legally definitive.

#### Action

A recognisable and individually described act, undertaking or **project** of any kind, specified in section 6 of a **Core Management Plan** or **Management Plan**, as being required for the **conservation management** of a site.

#### **Attribute**

A quantifiable and monitorable characteristic of a **feature** that, in combination with other such attributes, describes its **condition**.

## **Common Standards Monitoring**

A set of principles developed jointly by the UK conservation agencies to help ensure a consistent approach to **monitoring** and reporting on the **features** of sites designated for nature conservation, supported by guidance on identification of **attributes** and monitoring methodologies.

#### **Condition**

A description of the state of a feature in terms of qualities or **attributes** that are relevant in a nature conservation context. For example the condition of a habitat usually includes its extent and species composition and might also include aspects of its ecological functioning, spatial distribution and so on. The condition of a species population usually includes its total size and might also include its age structure, productivity, relationship to other populations and spatial distribution. Aspects of the habitat(s) on which a species population depends may also be considered as attributes of its condition.

#### **Condition assessment**

The process of characterising the **condition** of a **feature** with particular reference to whether the aspirations for its condition, as expressed in its **conservation objective**, are being met.

#### **Condition categories**

The **condition** of **feature** can be categorised, following **condition assessment** as one of the following<sup>2</sup>:

Favourable: maintained; Favourable: recovered; Favourable: un-classified Unfavourable: recovering; Unfavourable: no change; Unfavourable: declining; Unfavourable: un-classified Partially destroyed;

Destroyed.

## **Conservation management**

Acts or undertaking of all kinds, including but not necessarily limited to **actions**, taken with the aim of achieving the **conservation objectives** of a site. Conservation management includes the taking of statutory and non-statutory measures, it can include the acts of any party and it may take place outside site boundaries as well as within sites. Conservation management may also be embedded within other frameworks for land/sea management carried out for purposes other than achieving the conservation objectives.

## Conservation objective

The expression of the desired **conservation status** of a **feature**, expressed as a **vision for the feature** and a series of **performance indicators**. The conservation objective for a feature is thus a composite statement, and each feature has one conservation objective.

#### **Conservation status**

A description of the state of a **feature** that comprises both its **condition** and the state of the **factors** affecting or likely to affect it. Conservation status is thus a characterisation of both the

current state of a feature and its future prospects.

See JNCC guidance on Common Standards Monitoring http://www.jncc.gov.uk/page-2272

#### **Conservation status assessment**

The process of characterising the **conservation status** of a **feature** with particular reference to whether the aspirations for it, as expressed in its **conservation objective**, are being met. The results of conservation status assessment can be summarised either as 'favourable' (i.e. conservation objectives are met) or unfavourable (i.e. conservation objectives are not met). However the value of conservation status assessment in terms of supporting decisions about **conservation management**, lies mainly in the details of the assessment of feature **condition**, **factors** and trend information derived from comparisons between current and previous conservation status assessments and condition assessments.

#### **Core Management Plan**

A CCW document containing the conservation objectives for a site and a summary of other information contained in a full site **Management Plan**.

#### **Factor**

Anything that has influenced, is influencing or may influence the **condition** of a **feature**. Factors can be natural processes, human activities or effects arising from natural process or human activities, They can be positive or negative in terms of their influence on features, and they can arise within a site or from outside the site. Physical, socio-economic or legal constraints on **conservation management** can also be considered as factors.

#### **Favourable condition**

See condition and condition assessment

#### **Favourable conservation status**

See conservation status and conservation status assessment.<sup>3</sup>

#### **Feature**

The species population, habitat type or other entity for which a site is designated. The ecological or geological interest which justifies the designation of a site and which is the focus of conservation management.

## **Integrity**

See site integrity

#### **Key Feature**

The habitat or species population within a **management unit** that is the primary focus of **conservation management** and **monitoring** in that unit.

## **Management Plan**

The full expression of a designated site's legal status, **vision**, **features**, **conservation objectives**, **performance indicators** and management requirements. A complete management

plan may not reside in a single document, but may be contained in a number of documents (including in particular **the Core Management Plan**) and sets of electronically stored information.

#### **Management Unit**

An area within a site, defined according to one or more of a range of criteria, such as topography, location of **features**, tenure, patterns of land/sea use. The key characteristic of management units is to reflect the spatial scale at which **conservation management** and

A full definition of favourable conservation status is given in Section 4.

**monitoring** can be most effectively organised. They are used as the primary basis for differentiating priorities for conservation management and monitoring in different parts of a site, and for facilitating communication with those responsible for management of different parts of a site.

#### **Monitoring**

An intermittent (regular or irregular) series of observations in time, carried out to show the extent of compliance with a formulated standard or degree of deviation from an expected norm. In **Common Standards Monitoring**, the formulated standard is the quantified expression of favourable **condition** based on **attributes**.

#### **Operational limits**

The levels or values within which a **factor** is considered to be acceptable in terms of its influence on a **feature**. A factor may have both upper and lower operational limits, or only an upper limit or lower limit. For some factors an upper limit may be zero.

#### **Performance indicators**

The **attributes** and their associated **specified limits**, together with **factors** and their associated **operational limits**, which provide the standard against which information from **monitoring** and other sources is used to determine the degree to which the **conservation objectives** for a **feature** are being met. Performance indicators are part of, not the same as, conservation objectives. See also **vision for the feature**.

## Plan or project

**Project:** Any form of construction work, installation, development or other intervention in the

environment, the carrying out or continuance of which is subject to a decision by any public body or statutory undertaker.

**Plan**: a document prepared or adopted by a public body or statutory undertaker, intended to influence decisions on the carrying out of **projects.** 

Decisions on plans and projects which affect Natura 2000 and Ramsar sites are subject to specific legal and policy procedures.

#### **Site integrity**

The coherence of a site's ecological structure and function, across its whole area, that enables it to sustain the habitat, complex of habitats and/or the levels of populations of the species for which it is designated.

#### **Site Management Statement (SMS)**

The document containing CCW's views about the management of a site issued as part of the legal notification of an SSSI under section 28(4) of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981, as substituted.

#### **Special Feature**

See feature.

#### **Specified limit**

The levels or values for an **attribute** which define the degree to which the attribute can fluctuate without creating cause for concern about the **condition** of the **feature**. The range within the limits corresponds to favourable, the range outside the limits corresponds to unfavourable. Attributes may have lower specified limits, upper specified limits, or both.

## See management unit.

## Vision for the feature

The expression, within a **conservation objective**, of the aspirations for the **feature** concerned. See also **performance indicators.** 

#### **Vision Statement**

The statement conveying an impression of the whole site in the state that is intended to be the product of its **conservation management.** A 'pen portrait' outlining the **conditions** that s hould prevail when all the **conservation objectives** are met. A description of the site as it would be when all the **features** are in **favourable condition**.

## **8. REFERENCES**

JNCC SPA account [http://www.jncc.gov.uk/pdf/SPA/UK9020285.pdf]
 JNCC Cormornant (breeding) summary account
 [http://www.jncc.gov.uk/pdf/UKSPA/UKSPA-A6-11A.pdf]