

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

**CORE MANAGEMENT PLAN
INCLUDING CONSERVATION OBJECTIVES**

FOR

Coedwigoedd Penrhyn Creuddyn/Creuddyn Peninsula Woods SAC

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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.

The Creuddyn Peninsula Woods SAC is a site that comprises 4 SSSI's namely, Gloddaeth SSSI, Marle Hall Woods SSSI, Coed Bron Garth SSSI and Pydew SSSI.

Here, the habitat should be stable in area or increasing (except not to the detriment of other SAC habitats). Factors that could have a negative impact upon these habitats will be controlled.

The semi-natural broadleaved woodland will be maintained as far as possible by natural processes. It will be dominated by locally native species, with a dominance of Ash and Oak, except in local areas where Yew may be dominant in the canopy. Species not native to the site, including conifers and sycamore, should be discouraged. These areas will be managed to favour native broad-leaved species. All canopy species should be present within the field layer as seedlings and within the shrub layer as saplings.

The woodland field and ground layers will be a patchwork of many species, developed in response to local soil and humidity conditions. The rich and varied ground layer will include such species as dog's mercury and hart's tongue fern. These shall be abundant across the majority of the woodland.

In the long term the canopy will include species as seedlings and saplings, as well as locally native woodland shrubs and plants species suited to a site where the bedrock is carboniferous limestone, trees of all ages and particular attention will be given to maintaining old veteran trees. Dead wood, standing and fallen, will be in abundance throughout the woodland providing habitat for invertebrates, fungi and other woodland species.

The areas of calcareous grassland will be retained and managed to retain their floristic diversity. The expansion of this grassland will be encouraged by the removal of invading scrub. Areas of grassland shall be retained to encourage the population of silver studded blue butterfly and the grassland invertebrate assemblage.

The populations of spiked speedwell, dwarf mouse-ear, hoary rock-rose, dark-red helleborine, spring cinquefoil, white horehound, nottingham catchfly, spring sandwort, ivy broomrape and hutchinsia should all be maintained, and conditions provided for them to increase where possible.

2. SITE DESCRIPTION

2.1 Areas and Designations Covered by this Plan

Grid reference(s): SH797790

Unitary authority: Conwy

Area (hectares): 118.86ha

Designations covered:

The Coedwigoedd Penrhyn Creuddyn/ Creuddyn Peninsula Woods SAC is notified as four component SSSIs:

- Gloddaeth SSSI (SH803809)
- Marle Hall Woods SSSI (SH800790)
- Coed Bron Garth SSSI (SH820792)
- Pydew SSSI (SH817797)

Detailed maps of the designated sites are available on CCW's web page for this site.

2.2 Outline Description

The Coedwigoedd Penrhyn Creuddyn/Creuddyn Peninsula Woods SAC 118ha site comprises nine separate blocks of woodland spread over four SSSI's (Gloddaeth SSSI, Marle Hall Woods SSSI, Coed Bron Garth SSSI and Pydew SSSI). The site lies on a series of craggy Carboniferous limestone hills, and is a large example of 'Tilio-acerion forest of slopes, screes and ravines' near its western extreme at this latitude in the UK. The site is one of three selected to represent the geographic range and variation of this habitat across the Carboniferous limestone of North Wales. The canopy is primarily of ash *Fraxinus excelsior* and sycamore *Acer pseudoplatanus*, with a calcicolous understorey and ground flora. Characteristic species include dog's mercury *Mercurialis perennis*, hart's-tongue *Phyllitis scolopendrium* and spurge laurel *Daphne laureola*. Yew *Taxus baccata* dominates locally, and contributes as the second SAC feature. In places there are graduations to oak *Quercus petraea* woodland.

Several small areas of species rich calcicolous grassland constitute the third SAC feature 'Semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies: on calcareous substrates (*Festuco – brometalia*)'. These rich calcareous grasslands contain many rare species such as the Schedule 8 species *Veronica spicata*, *Potentilla neumanniana*, *Cerastium pumilum*, *Helianthemum oelandicum* and *Minuartia verna*.

2.3 Outline of Past and Current Management

Gloddaeth SSSI

The broadleaved woodland is managed for high quality timber suitable for furniture production. These forestry practices may have altered the species composition of the woodland, in particularly by creating a canopy with more oak and beech than may be typical in this region. The woodland has been subject to a Woodland Grant Scheme (WGS) since

September 2000. Here the WGS removed the non-native species and replanted with broadleaved species such as oak, field maple, small leaved lime and yew.

The grassland within the site has been subject to scrub removal, which has included the removal of holm oak. Most of the areas of grassland within the site are currently sheep grazed.

Some areas of heath have been managed by burning in the past. Presently there is no known management regime for the heathland.

The woodland is also subject to damage, in particular to the yew trees, as it suffers from accidental damage from bonfire and barbeque sites.

Marle Hall Woods SSSI

Past Management of Marle Hall Woods have seen the introduction of Beech, conifers and Yew all planted during the late 19th Century to convert the coppice with standards to high forest. Parts of the woodland have also been planted with oak, larch, pine and sycamore and more beech in the 1960's. Selective areas of the woodland have undergone felling in the past. The Southern section of the woodland leased by Coed Cadw is currently being managed as high forest, with the selective removal of non-native species. A large area of limestone grassland lies within this unit, where a programme of scrub and exotic species removal is in place.

Coed Bron Garth SSSI

The majority of the site is woodland (high forest) although there are small areas of calcicolous grassland and scrub around the boundaries. Most of the site has been relatively unmanaged in recent years. A small area has been coppiced and felled during the last 10 years. Areas of woodland are known to have been planted with beech and larch in the 1960's whilst sycamore and chestnut are believed to have been planted in the 19th century. For the most part, little or no management is undertaken within the wood. The exception of this is the section owned by Coed Cadw/Woodland Trust where selective felling to remove non-native species including sycamore, larch and beech is undertaken. The majority of the woodland is fenced off from the adjacent fields, however grazing does still occur within the site on the western edge of the woodland.

Pydew SSSI

Previously management at Pydew consisted of grazing by livestock, but today this has declined, which in turn has led to the increase in the amount of scrub and secondary woodland on site. In some units livestock grazing has decreased. The only unit that still has active grazing is unit 6, Obelisk field. In one unit supplementary feeding and grazing by young cattle has led to an impoverishment of the grassland.

2.4 Management Units

The plan area has been divided into management units to enable practical communication about features, objectives, and management. This will also allow us to differentiate between the different designations where necessary. In this plan the management units have been based primarily on tenure, with reference to features and land management requirements. A map showing the management units referred to in this plan is shown in Annex 1.

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

Unit number	Unit name	SAC	SSSI
<i>Gloddaeth SSSI</i>			
1	Gloddaeth Woods	✓	✓
2	Nant y Gamar grasslands		✓
3	Hen Dŵr		✓
<i>Marle Hall Woods SSSI</i>			
1	Marle Hall woods and Goedlodd	✓	✓
2	Bodysgallen Parkland		✓
3	Bodysgallen Terrace glades		✓
4	Chwareli Esgyryn		✓
5	Maesglas		✓
6	Marle Hall Grounds		✓
<i>Coed Bron Garth SSSI</i>			
1	Coed Bron Garth	✓	✓
2	Tan y Bryn	✓	✓
3	Five Gables		✓
<i>Pydew SSSI</i>			
1	Tan y Bryn Pastures	✓	✓
2	Bryn Pydew Nature Reserve	✓	✓
3	Gilfach	✓	✓
4	Gloddaeth bach		✓
5	Cilmeityn woodland	✓	✓
6	Obelisk Field		✓
7	Bryn Pydew grassland		✓
8	Bron Heulog		✓
9	Chwarel Pabo Bach		✓

3. THE SPECIAL FEATURES

3.1 Confirmation of Special Features

<i>Designated feature</i>	<i>Relationships, nomenclature etc</i>	<i>Conservation Objective in part 4</i>
SAC features		
<i>Annex I habitats that are a primary reason for selection of this site</i>		
1. Tillio-Acerion forest of slopes, screes and ravines (EU Habitat Code: 9180)	Generally referred to as 'Tilio-Acerion', Semi-natural dry grassland and 'Taxus baccata Woods' in this plan.	4.1
2. Semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies: on calcareous substrates (<i>Festuco-Brometalia</i>)(EU Habitat Code: 6210)		4.2
3. <i>Taxus baccata</i> woods of the British Isles (EU Habitat Code: 91JO)		4.3
SPA features		
Not applicable		
Ramsar features		
Not Applicable		
SSSI features		
4. Semi- Natural Broadleaved woodland	This feature is considered to include both woodland features of <i>Tilio - Acerion</i> forest of slopes, screes and ravines, and <i>Taxus baccata</i> woods	4.1 & 4.3
5. Calcareous grassland	This feature corresponds to Semi-natural dry grassland and scrubland facies: on calcareous substrates (<i>Festuco-Brometalia</i>)	4.2
6. Dry Heath		To be completed
7. Assemblage of Rare vascular plants:	Spiked speedwell, dwarf mouse-ear, hoary rock-rose, dark-red helleborine, spring cinquefoil, white horehound, nottingham catchfly, spring sandwort, ivy broomrape and hutchinsia	To be completed
8. Spiked speedwell <i>Veronica spicata</i>		To be completed
9. Silver studded blue <i>Plebejus argus caernensis</i>		To be completed
10. Grassland Invertebrate Assemblage		To be completed

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.

Background information on Creuddyn Peninsula Woods SAC

Creuddyn Peninsula Woods SAC comprise four component SSSIs; Gloddaeth, Marle Hall Woods, Coed Bron Garth and Pydew. These sites are included in the Natura 2000 series primarily for the areas of *Tillio- acerion* and *Taxus baccata* woods with semi- natural dry grassland adding to the importance of the site.

The site also hosts 7 SSSI features, namely Semi-Natural broadleaved woodland, Calcareous grassland, Dry Heath, an Assemblage of RDB and/or Nationally Scarce vascular plants, *Veronica spicata* (spiked speedwell), *Plebejus argus caernensis* (Silver studded blue) and a grassland invertebrate assemblage.

Gloddaeth SSSI is the largest SSSI in the SAC (90ha). The site was treated as three management units, based on its features. All three SAC features, *Tillio-acerion*, *Taxus baccata* woods and semi- natural dry grassland (*Festuco-brometalia*) are present within unit 1, Gloddaeth woods. The other two units comprise the rest of the SSSI with calcareous grassland, dry heath and semi-natural broadleaved woodland. The silver studded blue is found on the calcareous grassland areas of Unit 1 and Unit 2.

Marle Hall Woods SSSI (45ha) comprises 6 units that have been broken down partly because of their habitats and tenure. Two of the SAC features, *Tilio-acerion* and Semi-natural dry grassland are present at this SSSI, and are all present in unit 1: Marle Hall Woods and Goedlodd. The site also comprises semi natural broadleaved woodland, and an Assemblage of RDB and/or Nationally Scarce vascular plants. The silver studded blue is found on the open glades at Unit 1 and Unit 4.

Coed Bron Garth SSSI is the smallest SSSI (13.7ha) within the SAC. The main focus of the management in all units is the semi- natural broadleaved woodland. There are small areas of *Tilio- acerion* within the woodland, and the SSSI has been split into 3 management units. The *Tilio-acerion* is located within unit 1- Coed Bron Garth.

Pydew SSSI comprises 9 separate units, where 3 of the units are part of the Creuddyn Peninsula Woods SAC. Here the units were broken down due to tenure. The 3 areas notified as SAC are Unit 1-Tan y Bryn Pastures for its semi- natural dry grassland (*Festuco-brometalia*), Unit 2-Bryn Pydew Nature reserve for its *Tilio-acerion* and Semi-natural dry grassland, and Unit 5-Cilmeityn woodland. At unit 5 an area of semi-natural dry grassland is at risk of decline within this unit as a result of meeting the management needs of the key feature.

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

Creuddyn Peninsula Woods SAC	Management Units								
	Gloddaeth			Marle Hall woods					
	1	2	3	1	2	3	4	5	6
SAC	✓			✓					
SSSI	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
SAC feature									
1. <i>Tilio-acerion</i> forest of slopes, screes and ravines	KH	X	X	KH	X	X	X	X	X
2. Semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies: on calcareous substrates (<i>Festuco-brometalia</i>)	KH	X	X	KH	X	X	X	X	X
3. <i>Taxus baccata</i> woods of the British Isles	KH	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
SSSI features									
4. Semi-natural broadleaved woodland	KH	Sym	X	KH	KH	KH	KH	KH	KH
5. Calcareous grassland	KH	KH	KH	Sym	X	X	Sym	X	X
6. Dry Heath	X	Sym	Sym	X	X	X	X	X	X
7. Assemblage of RDB and/or Nationally Scarce Vascular Plants	Sym	Sym	X	Sym	X	X	X	X	X
8. Spiked speedwell <i>Veronica spicata</i>	Sym	Sym	X	Sym	X	X	X	X	X
9. Silver studded blue <i>Plebejus argus caernensis</i>	Sym	KS	X	Sym	X	X	KS	X	X
10. Grassland invertebrate Assemblage	Sym	Sym	Sym	Sym	Sym	Sym	Sym	X	X

Creuddyn Peninsula Woods SAC	Management Units											
	Coed Bron Garth			Pydew								
	1	2	3	1	2	3	4	5*	6	7	8	9
SAC	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓		✓				
SSSI	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
SAC feature												
1. <i>Tilio-acerion</i> forest of slopes, screes and ravines	KH	KH	X	X	KH	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
2. Semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies: on calcareous substrates (<i>Festuco-brometalia</i>)	X	X	X	KH	KH	KH	X	NM	X	X	X	X
3. <i>Taxus baccata</i> woods of the British Isles	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
SSSI features												
4. Semi-natural broadleaved woodland	KH	KH	KH	Sym	KH	KH	KH	KH	Sym	Sym	KH	KH
5. Calcareous grassland	X	X	Sym	KH	KH	KH	X	Sym	KH	KH	X	X
6. Dry Heath	X	X	X	Sym	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
7. Assemblage of RDB and/or Nationally Scarce Vascular Plants	X	X	X	Sym	Sym	X	X	X	Sym	X	X	X
8. <i>Veronica spicata</i>	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	Sym	X	X	X
9. <i>Plebejus argus caernensis</i>	X	X	X	X	KS	X	X	X	KS	X	X	X
10. Grassland invertebrate Assemblage	X	X	X	Sym	Sym	Sym	Sym	Sym	Sym	Sym	Sym	Sym

5*- Unit 5-Cilmeityn woodland is described as unclassified woodland.

4. CONSERVATION OBJECTIVES

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 Monitoring¹.

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 which have an important influence on the condition of the feature are identified in the performance indicators.

¹ Web link: <http://www.jncc.gov.uk/page-2199>

4.1 Conservation Objective for Feature 1: *Tilio-acerion* forest of slopes, screes and ravines (priority feature) (EU Habitat Code: 9180)

Vision for feature 1

The vision for this feature is for it to be in a favourable conservation status, where all of the following conditions are satisfied:

- The area of *Tilio-acerion* woodland is stable or increasing, at the expense of areas of non-native trees, including beech, but not encroaching on *Festuco-brometelia* grassland or *Taxus baccata* wood.
- The woodland is maintained as far as possible by natural processes
- Ash is the main native tree species. The rest of the canopy should be formed of locally native broadleaved species such as oak, lime, downy birch and hazel.
- Sycamore may be present but will not become dominant in the canopy or the under-storey.
- Beech and non-native conifers will be largely absent from the canopy, under-storey and woodland as a whole, however Holm oak shall not be tolerated.
- The field and ground layers will contain species such as dog's mercury and spurge laurel will be abundant across the majority of the woodland, with ferns, in particular hart's tongue fern also being common.
- The site supports the present or greater abundance and diversity of vascular plants and lower plants (mosses, liverworts, lichens, fungi and slime moulds) and invertebrates typical of *Tilio-acerion* woodland
- The abundance and distribution of rare or scarce plant and animal species of *Tilio-acerion* woodland is maintained or increased and they are able to sustain or reproduce themselves.
- The woodlands have a diverse structure with all stages of woodland growth and decay, including mature and ancient trees, standing and fallen deadwood, natural regeneration of native tree and shrub species and canopy gaps.
- All factors affecting the achievement of the above conditions are under control.

Performance indicators for Feature 1

The performance indicators are part of 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.

<i>Performance indicators for feature condition</i>		
<i>Attribute</i>	<i>Attribute rationale and other comments</i>	<i>Specified limits</i>
A1. Extent	Monitoring is likely to be a map-based exercise. The area of <i>Tilio-Acerion</i> woodland will be mapped as a baseline extent and the total area measured. <i>Tilio-Acerion</i> forest can be defined as mixed broadleaf woodland on base-rich soils, in moist shady conditions, associated with ravines and rocky slopes <i>Fraxinus excelsior</i> and <i>Acer</i>	Gloddaeth Upper limit: As limited by other habitat types. Any increases in extent will not be at the expense of the calcareous grassland, or <i>Taxus baccata</i> woodland Lower limit: Extent shown on map x in Annex 2. Extent includes areas of unclassified woodland, but excludes areas of W12- beech woodland (2.2ha) in Unit 1-Gloddaeth Woods Marle Hall Woods Upper limit: As limited by other habitat types. Any increases in extent will not be at the expense of the calcareous grassland.

	<p><i>pseudoplatanus</i> tend to dominate. The ground flora includes <i>Mercurialis perennis</i>, <i>Phyllitis scolopendrium</i> and <i>Daphne laureola</i>.</p> <p>The main NVC types conforming to <i>Tilio-Acerion</i> forests are the ‘western’ forms (sub communities d-g) of <i>W8 Fraxinus excelsior-Acer campestre- Mercurialis perennis</i> woodland, and the equivalent north-western community <i>W9 Fraxinus excelsior-Sorbus aucuparia-Mercurialis perennis</i> woodland.</p> <p>No upper limit is set, but extent should not increase at the detriment of other SAC features. Lower limit is based on extent at time of SAC notification being 86.9% of total site area.</p>	<p>Lower limit: Extent shown on map x in Annex 2. Extent includes areas of unclassified woodland, but excludes areas of W12- beech woodland. Unit 1-Marle Hall Woods and Goedlodd</p> <p>Coed Bron Garth Upper limit: As limited by other habitat types. Any increases in extent will not be at the expense of the calcareous grassland.</p> <p>Lower limit: Extent shown on map x in Annex 2. Extent includes areas of unclassified woodland, but excludes areas of W12- beech woodland. Unit 1-Coed Bron Garth</p> <p>Pydew Upper limit: As limited by other habitat types. Any increases in extent will not be at the expense of the calcareous grassland.</p> <p>Lower limit: Extent shown on map x in Annex 2. Extent includes areas of unclassified woodland in Unit 1 Tan y Bryn Pastures, Unit 2-Bryn Pydew Nature Reserve, Unit 3-Gilfach and Unit 5 Cilmeityn Woodland.</p>
<p>A2. Quality/ Condition</p>	<p>These specified limits have been based on the Standard CSM attribute for the Woodland habitat feature. This has been modified according to site-specific requirements at Coedwigoedd Penrhyn Creuddyn SAC.</p>	<p>Where <i>Tilio-Acerion</i> forests is the Key Habitat in the Management Units, Gloddaeth: Unit 1-Gloddaeth Woods Marle Hall Woods: Unit 1-Marle Hall Woods and Goedlodd Coed Bron Garth: Unit 1-Coed Bron Garth Pydew: Unit 2-Bryn Pydew Nature Reserve, Unit 5-Cilmeityn woodland</p> <p>Upper Limit: Not required Lower limit: For each woodland block 70% of the <i>Tilio-Acerion</i> woodland meets the quality criteria for <i>Tilio-Acerion</i> woodland as characterised below.</p>
<p>A3 Structure and Process</p>	<p>This is to include the balance between canopy and shrub layers, the importance of old trees versus open space on a site and the level of dead wood present.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1-5 canopy gaps present in each compartment. • Canopy cover present in 50-90% of stand area. • Shrub layer present in 50% of each compartment • >2 mature trees present in the area. • Understory (2-5m) present in at least 20% of the total stand area. (Except in parkland • Dead wood, standing or fallen>20cm in diameter and >1m in length present
<p>A4.Regeneration.</p>	<p>This should include the level</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Natural regeneration (of native trees,

	and distribution of saplings and young trees that we would expect to see- namely ash, oak, except in local areas where yew may be the dominant species	<p>excluding <i>Acer pseudoplatanus</i>) is present in 50% of sample points.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Young trees present in >50% of each compartment (groups of 5 + trees noted on walkabout)
A5.Composition.	This should include the level of native trees and shrubs we expect to see overall. It should also set a target for an increase in any non-native trees on site	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • At least 50% of the canopy forming trees are locally native broadleaves and conifers • <i>Acer pseudoplatanus</i> should form no more than 50% of the canopy • Collectively the presence of <i>Fagus sylvatica</i>, <i>Quercus ilex</i> and non-native conifers will be <5% of the canopy-forming trees • Saplings >50cm in height of any canopy-forming species (excluding <i>Acer pseudoplatanus</i>) native to the site
A6.Exotic Species	At this location this would include evergreen Holm oak	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Any species not native to Coedwigoedd Penrhyn Creuddyn/Creuddyn Peninsula Woods SAC
Performance indicators for factors affecting the feature		
Factor	Factor rationale and other comments	Operational Limits
F1. Non-Native species	<p>Beech and Sycamore Non-native beech and Sycamore trees can be accepted as part of the canopy in the short to medium term, as they represent the veteran tree composition of the wood, but the longer term objective in areas where they comprise >50% of the canopy should be replaced with oak and ash.</p>	<p>Upper Limit: Sycamore should not form more than 50% of the canopy and Beech, holm oak and non-native conifers should be <5% of the canopy. Lower Limit: absent from site</p>
F2. Grazing	Periods of grazing can limit sapling growth due to browsing. Light grazing may be acceptable in some parts of the site, but overall grazing should be excluded	<p>Upper Limit: Grazing should not occur at the detriment of the natural regeneration of the woodland Lower Limit: Some light grazing might be acceptable</p>
F3. Recreational pressure	<p>Some areas of the woodland are subject to trampling by walkers that damage the ground flora. Public footpaths cross the woodland at:</p> <p>Gloddaeth SSSI: Unit 1:Gloddaeth Wood Marle Hall Woods SSSI: Unit 1:Marle Hall Woods Coed Bron Garth SSSI: Unit 1:Coed Bron Garth, Unit 2:Tan y Bryn. Pydew SSSI: Unit 2:Bryn Pydew Nature Reserve, Unit 3:Gilfach and Unit 5: Cilmeityn woodland</p>	<p>Upper Limit: 5% of bare ground in each area surveyed. Lower Limit: Not required</p>

4.2 Conservation Objective for Feature 2: Semi-natural dry grassland and scrubland facies: on calcareous substrates (Festuco- brometalia) (EU Habitat Code: 6210)

Vision for feature 2

The vision for this feature is for it to be in a favourable conservation status, where all of the following conditions are satisfied:

- The calcareous grassland will maintain its current extent, as limited by underlying geology, and an increase will be sought into areas that have shrubs.
- The grassland will be a rich mix of herbs and grasses reflecting the calcareous grassland community present, with a high broadleaved herb component
- Terricolous lichens and acrocarpous mosses are present in any CG1 community
- Species indicative of agricultural improvements will be rare or absent
- Scrub species and bracken will be rare or absent
- Introduced species such as cotoneaster will be absent
- All factors affecting the achievement of these conditions are under control

Performance indicators for Feature 2

The performance indicators are part of 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.

<i>Performance indicators for feature condition</i>		
<i>Attribute</i>	<i>Attribute rationale and other comments</i>	<i>Specified limits</i>
A1. Extent of the Calcareous grassland	Lower limit is based on extent at time of SAC notification being 1.9 % of total site area.	Upper limit: None necessary- limited by edaphic factors Lower limit: Mapped extent of calcareous grassland at SAC designation. See map x in Annex 2
A2. Condition of Calcareous grassland	Based on the Standard CSM attribute for this feature. Modified according to site-specific requirements.	Where the Calcareous grassland is present: Gloddaeth: Unit 1:Gloddaeth Woods Marle Hall Woods: Unit 1: Marle Hall Woods and Goedlodd Pydew: Unit 1- Tan y Bryn Pastures, Unit 2- Bryn Pydew Nature Reserve, Unit 3- Gilfach Upper limit: Not required Lower limit: At least 70% of the calcareous grassland meets the criteria below for good quality NVC community CG1 <u>And</u> At least 70% of the calcareous grassland meets the criteria below for good quality NVC community CG2 <u>And</u> At least 70% of the calcareous grassland meets the criteria below for good quality NVC community CG6

<p>A3. Good Quality CG1</p>	<p>NVC community CG1 <i>Festuca ovina- Carlina vulgaris</i> grassland is defined as stands of short open vegetation.</p>	<p>In any 1m radius(as set out in the SAC Monitoring report 2003):</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Sward height is between 2cm and 10cm. 2. Scrub species are absent 3. <i>Cirsium arvense</i>, <i>C.vulgare</i>, Coarse grasses and <i>Cotoneaster</i> sp. are not present. 4. At least 3 of the following are present: <i>Carlina vulgaris</i>, <i>Sanguisorba minor</i>, <i>Anthyllis vulneraria</i>, <i>Thymus polytrichus</i>, <i>Carex flacca</i>, <i>Linum catharticum</i>, <i>Festuca ovina</i> and <i>Helianthemum canum</i>. 5. Terricolous lichens and acrocarpous mosses should be present. 6. Bare ground/rock cover is between 5 and 25%
<p>A4. Good Quality CG2</p>	<p>NVC community CG2 grassland is defined as <i>Festuca ovina-Avenula pratensis</i> grassland.</p>	<p>In any 1m radius:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Sward height is between 2cm and 20cm 2. <5% bare ground present 3. Scrub species are absent 4. No more than two of the following are present: <i>Cerastium fontanum</i>, <i>Cirsium arvense</i>, <i>C.vulgare</i>, <i>Cotoneaster</i> sp., <i>Lolium perenne</i>, <i>Senecio jacobaea</i> and <i>Trifolium repens</i> 5. <i>Dactylis glomerata</i> and <i>Arrhenatherum elatius</i> individually or together do not exceed 5% cover. 6. At least 4 of the following species are present: <i>Avenula pratensis</i>, <i>Briza media</i>, <i>Festuca ovina</i>, <i>Dicranium scoparium</i>, <i>Helianthemum spp.</i>, <i>Pilosella officinarum</i>, <i>Filipendula vulgaris</i>, <i>Koeleria macrantha</i>, <i>Sanguisorba minor</i>, <i>Thymus polytrichus</i>, <i>Carex flacca</i>, <i>Linum catharticum</i>.
<p>A5. Good Quality CG6</p>	<p>NVC community CG6 <i>Avenula pubescens</i> grassland.</p> <p>For CG6 grassland, it is acceptable that rank grasses are greater than 10% cover, as this does not denote a degraded form of grassland.</p>	<p>In any 1m radius:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Sward height is between 5-50cm 2. <5% bare ground 3. Scrub species are absent 4. Agricultural favoured species are rare or absent 5. At least four of the following are present: <i>Agrimonia eupatoria</i>, <i>Anthyllis vulneraria</i>, <i>Carex flacca</i>, <i>Centaurea nigra</i>, <i>Centaurea scabiosa</i>, <i>Clinopodium vulgare</i>, <i>Filipendula vulgaris</i>, <i>Geranium sanguineum</i>, <i>Helianthemum nummularium</i>, <i>Hypericum</i> spp., <i>Knautia arvensis</i>, <i>Leontodon hispidus</i>, <i>Lotus corniculatus</i>, <i>Orchidaceae</i> spp., <i>Origanum vulgare</i>, <i>Pimpinella</i> spp., <i>Primula veris</i>, <i>Sanguisorba minor</i>, <i>Thalictrum minus</i>, <i>Thymus</i> spp

<i>Performance indicators for factors affecting the feature</i>		
<i>Factor</i>	<i>Factor rationale and other comments</i>	<i>Operational Limits</i>
F1. Livestock Grazing	Without an appropriate light grazing regime, the grassland would become rank and eventually turn to scrub and woodland. If possible grazing should be carried out in a sympathetic way.	Upper Limit: Grazing should not occur at a high density, where the grassland structure begins to break up and bare ground begins to appear. Lower Limit: Grazing should be at a sufficient level to stop scrub encroachment onto the grassland.
F2. Scrub encroachment	As a result of no or low levels of grazing, bracken, trees, scrub and saplings encroach onto the grassland Bracken should be limited to the occasional frond	Upper Limit: scrub and bracken absent Lower Limit: Occasional scrub seedlings or bracken frond
F3. Recreation	Part of the feature is subject to trampling by people. Areas where this occur are Gloddaeth SSSI: Unit 1:Gloddaeth Wood. Marle Hall Woods SSSI: Unit 1:Marle Hall Woods, Pydew SSSI: Unit 1: Tan y Bryn Pastures, Unit 2: Bryn Pydew Nature Reserve and Unit 3:Gilfach	Upper Limit: 10% bare ground in area surv Lower Limit: No bare ground

4.3 Conservational Objective for Feature 3: *Taxus baccata* woods of the British Isles (EU Habiata Code: 91J0)

Vision for feature 3

The vision for this feature is for it to be in favourable conservation status, where all of the following conditions are satisfied:

- *Taxus baccata* woodland continues to be present in Woods that contribute to the Creuddyn Peninsula Woods SAC
- The woodland is maintained as far as possible by natural processes
- The location of open glades varies over time
- Trees and shrubs are dominated by yew, with abundance and density of individual native species varying across the site.
- Trees and shrubs of a wide range of ages and sizes are present
- Tree seedlings are plentiful throughout the site
- The woodlands have a diverse structure with all stages of woodland growth and decay, including mature and ancient trees, standing and fallen dead wood, natural regeneration of native tree and shrub species, especially Yew (*Taxus baccata*) and canopy gaps.
- Dead wood dependent species of moss, liverwort, fungi and specialised invertebrates are present, in spatially and temporally variable abundance, throughout the site
- All factors affecting the achievement of these conditions are under control.

Performance indicators for feature condition		
Attribute	Attribute rationale and other comments	Specified limits
A1. Extent of <i>Taxus baccata</i> woods	<p>Monitoring is likely to be a map-based exercise. The area of <i>Taxus baccata</i> woods will be mapped as a baseline extent and the total area measured. Repeat monitoring will either re-map the site or review the baseline map in the field.</p> <p>Woodland where <i>Taxus baccata</i> achieves dominance or co-dominance, and is usually associated with a very sparse shrub and tree layer. Only a few species, such as dog's mercury <i>Mercurialis perennis</i>, can survive beneath the dense shade cast by the canopy of mature yew trees.</p> <p>Lower limit is based on extent at time of SAC notification being 5.99% of total site area.</p>	<p>Gloddaeth- Unit 1-Gloddaeth woods.</p> <p><i>Upper limit:</i> None set. However, any increase in extent will not be at the expense of the calcareous grassland, or <i>Tilio-acerion</i> woodland.</p> <p><i>Lower limit:</i> Extent as shown on the map x in Annex 2</p>
A2. Condition of the <i>Taxus baccata</i> woods	Based on the Standard CSM attribute for this feature. Modified according to site-specific requirements.	<p>The habitat will be considered favourable when 100% of the woodland meets the following criteria:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1.Area <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No loss in extent 2.Structure and processes. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dead wood standing or fallen present 3.Regeneration. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Natural regeneration of <i>Taxus baccata</i> (trees <2m in height) is present under any group of broadleaves. 4.Composition. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • At least 40% of the canopy forming trees are <i>Taxus baccata</i>. • Collectively the presence of <i>Fagus sylvatica</i>, <i>Quercus ilex</i> and non-native conifers will be <5% of the canopy-forming trees.
Performance indicators for factors affecting the feature		
Factor	Factor rationale and other comments	Operational Limits
F1. Livestock grazing	Refer to Feature 1	Refer to Feature 1
F2. Recreational pressure	Refer to feature 1. Only Unit 1: Gloddaeth Woods applies	Refer to Feature 1
F3. Fire	The area is subject to campfires and barbeque sites, which result in some of the trees being damaged.	None set

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: *Tilio-Acerion* forests of slopes, screes and ravines (EU Habitat Code: 9180)

Conservation Status of Feature 1

The SAC monitoring carried out on the feature in 2003 found the feature to be in an **Unfavourable-Recovering** condition.

Management Requirements of Feature 1

Looking at the attributes for the monitoring of the wood, not one failed consistently throughout the monitoring of the site. The sample plots in the monitoring show that the condition of the *Tilio-acerion* forests is in need of restoration management.

Current and future positive management should continue to remove non-native and exotic species from the woodland, and reduce the presence of sycamore in the canopy. The presence of non-natives not only affects the canopy composition of the woodland but also the regeneration potential due to the large number of non-native seedlings/saplings. Where natural gaps occur in such circumstances intervention may be required to reduce the likelihood-undesired species replenishing the canopy.

Restoration management is currently occurring at Marle Hall woods (SSSI), where selective thinning of undesirable species is occurring.

5.2 Conservation Status and Management Requirements of Feature 2: Semi-natural dry grassland and scrubland facies: on calcareous substrates (*Festuco- brometalia*) (EU Habitat Code: 6210)

Conservation Status of Feature 2

The SAC monitoring carried out on the feature in 2003 found the feature to be in an **Unfavourable-Recovering** condition.

Management requirement for Feature 2

The unfavourable condition of this feature is mainly due to the fact that the sward is under threat from undesirable species and tending towards a ranker nature. Here a combination of scrub clearance works and the continued grazing and possible population increase of the local population of rabbits could bring the feature back into favourable condition.

Some restoration management is occurring on Marle Hall Woods SSSI, where scrub control and *Quercus ilex* control is occurring.

5.3 Conservation Status and Management Requirements of Feature 3: *Taxus baccata* woods of the British Isles (EU Habitat Code:91JO)

Conservation Status of Feature 3

The *Taxus baccata* woods were monitored in 2003. The assessment of *Taxus-baccata* woods at Gloddaeth Woods was that the feature was in **favourable- maintained** condition.

Management Requirements of Feature 3

The current status of the feature overall is favourable. The site- specific monitoring report provides more detail on the condition of the *Taxus baccata* feature in the woodland; these outline, which attributes are considered favourable/unfavourable at each site.

The *Taxus baccata* woods are maintained through minimum intervention.

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	000878	Gloddaeth Woods	Management should focus on controlling non-native species within the woodland to try and increase the potential for native regeneration of Ash and locally native species such as oak, lime, downy birch and hazel. Management should be focussed on the selective felling of beech and non native conifers. Selective felling of sycamore should also be carried out to create glades to encourage regeneration. The Yew woodland at Gloddaeth Woods is in favourable condition. However, at this location the Yew trees are prone to damage from bonfire and barbeque sites. Areas of calcareous grassland are in unfavourable condition mainly due to the presence of scrub and non-native species. Scrub removal should be carried out.	Yes

Unit Number	CCW Database Number	Unit Name	Summary of Conservation Management Issues	Action needed?
2	000881	Marle Hall Woods and Goedlodd	<p>Management should focus on controlling non-native species within the woodland to try and increase the potential for native regeneration of Ash and locally native species such as oak, lime, downy birch and hazel.</p> <p>Management should be focussed on the selective felling of beech and non native conifers and the removal of holm oak. Selective felling of sycamore should also be carried out to create glades to encourage regeneration. The area should remain stockproof.</p> <p>Areas of calcareous grassland are in unfavourable condition mainly due to the presence of scrub and non-native species. Scrub removal should be carried out and mowing of the grassland as required.</p>	Yes
3	000887	Coed Bron Garth	<p>Management should focus on controlling non-native species within the woodland to try and increase the potential for native regeneration of ash and locally native species such as oak, lime, downy birch and hazel.</p> <p>Management should be focussed on the selective felling of beech and non native conifers and the removal of holm oak to provide glades for ash to regenerate. The area should be re fenced to exclude livestock from the woodland.</p>	Yes
9	000888	Tan y Bryn	This unit is considered to be under appropriate conservation management.	No
5	000890	Tan y Bryn Pastures	Management should be focused on scrub removal on the calacarous grassland at Tan y Bryn Pastures.	Yes
6	000891	Bryn Pydew Nature Reserve	<p>Management should focus on controlling non-native species within the woodland to try and increase the potential for native regeneration. Selective felling of beech and non native conifers and the removal of holm oak should be the priority.</p> <p>The areas of calcareous grassland are in need of scrub control. Here management should be taken to try and remove scrub encroachment onto the grassland and mow some areas that are accesible.</p>	Yes
7	000892	Gilfach	<p>Management should focus on controlling non-native species within the woodland to try and increase the potential for native regeneration. Selective felling of beech and non native conifers should be undertaken. The removal of holm oak is essential.</p> <p>Scrub encroachment seems a problem in the area. Scrub control should be carried out here to help get the area into favourable conservation status.</p>	Yes
8	000894	Cilmeityn Woodland	Management should focus on controlling non-native species within the woodland to try and increase the potential for native regeneration. Management should be focussed on the selective felling of beech and non native conifers and the removal of holm oak. Although Cilmeityn woodland has a small area of calcareous grassland, management should concentrate on the woodland habitat.	Yes

7. GLOSSARY

This glossary defines 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 ² : 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

² See JNCC guidance on Common Standards Monitoring <http://www.jncc.gov.uk/page-2272>

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.

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**.³

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**

³ A full definition of favourable conservation status is given in Section 4.

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 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.
Unit	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 should 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

Coedwigoedd Penrhyn Creuddyn / Creuddyn Peninsula SAC Monitoring Report (J. Creer 2003) CCW internal report, available on request.