

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

**CORE MANAGEMENT PLAN
INCLUDING CONSERVATION OBJECTIVES**

FOR

**Coedwigoedd Dyffryn Elwy/ Elwy Valley Woods Special Area of
Conservation (SAC)**

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Approved by: Nick Thomas

**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(s) named. It sets out what needs to be achieved on the site(s), 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(s). 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.

At Coedwigoedd Dyffryn Elwy/Elwy Valley Woods SAC at least 90% of the site will be covered by a sustainable semi-natural broadleaved woodland, and will be maintained as far as possible by natural processes. The trees will be locally native broadleaf species, with a dominance of ash or oak in the canopy. Other non-native canopy forming species including conifers, beech, hornbeam and sycamore will be discouraged.

In the long term, the canopy will include trees of all ages, and particular attention will be paid to maintaining old, veteran trees for the lower plants that thrive on their bark. Dead wood, standing and fallen, will be retained to provide habitat for invertebrates, fungi and other woodland species. This is particularly important for the scarce mosses found on site. The canopy will not be completely closed; approximately 20% of the woodland will include a dynamic shifting pattern of gaps.

The woodland field and ground layers will be a patchwork of many species, developed in response to local soil and humidity conditions, with such species as dog's mercury and spurge laurel abundant across the majority of the woodland and stinking hellebore is found in areas of exposed and partially shaded locations in the woodland.

Areas of calcareous grassland, which currently occupies around 1% of the site, will be retained and managed to retain its floristic diversity, which includes the scarce spiked speedwell, and spring cinquefoil. The expansion of this grassland will be encouraged by the removal of invading scrub.

The remaining unexcavated deposits in Cefn, Galltfaenan and Pontnewydd Caves will continue in an undisturbed condition, thereby providing a unique and irreplaceable resource, allowing future investigations for scientific purposes.

2. SITE DESCRIPTION

2.1 Areas and Designations Covered by this Plan

Grid reference(s): see map below

Unitary authority: Denbighshire

Area (hectares): 83.1 ha

Designations covered:

The Coedwigoedd Dyffryn Elwy /Elwy Valley Woods SAC is notified as 1 component SSSI.

Coedydd ac Ogofau Elwy a Meirchion SSSI

A map showing the locations of the management units is available on the site's web page.

2.2 Outline Description

Coedwigoedd Dyffryn Elwy/ Elwy Valley Woods SAC is one of the three sites selected to represent *Tillio-acerion* forests across its geographical range on the Carboniferous limestone of North Wales, and is an example of the habitat with an outstanding lower-plant flora. The majority of Coedwigoedd Dyffryn Elwy SAC is comprised of Ancient Semi-Natural Woodland (ASNW). The interest of the site as regards the SAC is the NVC W8 Ash *Fraxinus excelsior*- Field maple *Acer campestre*- Dog's Mercury *Mercurialis perennis* and W9 Ash *Fraxinus excelsior*- Rowan *Sorbus aucuparia*- Dog's Mercury *Mercurialis perennis* woodland communities. These occur in mixture with other NVC types including: W7 Alder *Alnus glutinosa*-Ash *Fraxinus excelsior*- Small Lime tree *Tilia cordata* woodland, W10 Oak *Quercus robur*- Bracken *Pteridium aquilinum*- Brambles *Rubus fruticosus* woodland and W12 Beech *Fagus sylvatica*- Dog's Mercury *Mercurialis perennis* woodland. There is a rich, calcicolous under storey and ground flora, and rare bryophytes that include *Bryum canariense*, *Cololejeunea rossettiana*, *Plagiochila britannica*, *Platydictya confervoides* and *Isoetecium striatulum*.

The site also contains small areas of limestone grassland that is found at Coed yr Allt and Cefn Rocks. Here the Schedule 8 species Spiked speedwell *Veronica spicata* is found as well as the nationally scarce Spring cinquefoil *Potentilla neumanniana*. Another Nationally scarce plant that makes up the rare plant assemblage is the stinking hellebore *Helleborus foetidus* that is found at Garn Dingle.

The well-wooded and sheltered watercourses afford lying-up sites for otter *Lutra lutra*. Natterer's *Myotis nattereri*, brown long-eared *Plecotus auritus*, pipistrelle *Pipistrellus pipistrellus* and lesser horseshoe bats *Rhinolophus hipposideros*, are recorded in caves within the woodland.

2.3 Outline of Past and Current Management

The majority of the site is considered to be Ancient Semi-Natural Woodland (ASNW), with the small areas of plantation counted as Ancient Replanted Woodland (ARW). The woodland in the south was formerly managed in a variety of different systems including oak and birch coppice, hazel coppice under ash and oak standards, as well as ash and oak high forest. Over the years the practice of coppicing has fallen into neglect so that the coppiced stands have grown up in to the high forest structure. During the 19th Century species such as hornbeam, beech and yew were planted for game cover.

The northern woodland area of the River Elwy has been subject to more recent silvicultural operations. Areas of ASNW were replanted with douglas fir, scots pine and beech plantations,

with mixed commercial success. Other operations that have been carried out on site include that removal of dead elm.

The northern section of the woodland owned by the Wigfair Estate was covered by the Forestry Commission dedication scheme (1991-1996). The Cefn Estate woodlands at Bryn Cefn, Cefn rocks and the very south at Coed y Trap were under the Woodland Grant Scheme (WGS) that lasted 5 years, for the most part to maintain boundaries, rides and public rights of way. Small areas within the SAC are worked commercially. The remaining owners and occupiers undertake little or no woodland management.

The grassland at this site (which supports two of the species included in the rare plant assemblage) is not currently managed and suffers from a lack of grazing which has led to an increase in the amount of scrub. Although the site is grazed by rabbits the difficult terrain and the lack of water makes keeping stock impractical.

It is currently estimated that around 300 fallow deer occupy the river valley and surrounding countryside. Numbers are currently controlled annually by shooting, however evidence of localised severe damage e.g. absence of tree regeneration and bare ground in the woodland, indicates that greater efforts are required to control the local population. The methods need to be reviewed to reduce the impact of deer and improve the condition of the woodland.

Currently 6 of the owner-occupiers have a Section 15 Management agreement with CCW. The management agreements CCW hold are at 5 out of the 6 management units. Some of the management agreements include provisions for the removal of scrub on calcicolous grassland and the removal of non-native species of trees such as Hornbeam, Sycamore and Beech.

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 partly on a tenure basis, but some areas have been sited together because of the features and management requirements.

A map showing the management units referred to in this plan is shown below (or in an Annex for large sites):

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

Unit number	SAC	SSSI	CCW owned
<i>Coedwigoedd Dyffryn Elwy/Elwy Valley Woods SAC</i>			
1. Bryn Cefn & Coed yr Allt	✓	✓	
2. Cefn rocks and Plas Iola Wood	✓	✓	
3. Pencraig wood	✓	✓	
4. Coed carreg wen & Garn Dingle	✓	✓	
5. Pentre Dingle	✓	✓	
6. Coed Dingle	✓	✓	

N.B. The management units listed above are revised from the units used for SAC monitoring at the site. See map1 in the SAC Monitoring Report (2002)

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>
<i>SAC feature</i>		
<i>Annex I habitats that are a primary reason for selection of this site:</i> 1. <i>Tilio- acerion</i> forests of slopes, screes and ravines (EU Habitat Code: 9180)	Generally referred to as ' <i>Tilio- acerion</i> ' in this plan.	1
<i>SPA features</i>		
Not applicable		
<i>Ramsar features</i>		
Not applicable		
<i>SSSI features</i>		
2.Semi-natural broadleaved woodland	This feature is considered to include the woodland feature of <i>Tilio - acerion</i> forest of slopes, screes and ravines,	1
3.Calcareous grassland	This feature includes CG1e <i>Festuca ovina- Carlina vulgaris</i> grassland: <i>Koeleria macrantha</i> sub community, CG2 <i>Festuca ovina- Avenula pratensis</i> grassland and CG6 <i>Avenula pubescens</i> grassland	To be completed
4.Assemblage of Rare vascular plants	Spiked speedwell, spring cinquefoil, stinking hellebore	To be completed
5. Spiked Speedwell <i>Veronica spicata</i>	Is also part of the vascular plant assemblage	To be completed
6. Lesser Horseshoe bat <i>Rhinolophus hipposideros</i>		To be completed
7. Mixed Bat Assemblage	Natterers bat, Common Pipistrelle, Brown long-eared bat, lesser horseshoe bat	To be completed
8. Cave Interest	Pleistocene Vertebrata: Finite mineral, fossil or other geological sites; Caves Quaternary of Wales: Finite mineral, fossil or other geological sites	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 drives 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:

Background Information for Coedwigoedd Dyffryn Elwy/ Elwy Valley Woods SAC

	Management Units					
	1	2	3	4	5	6
SAC	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
SSSI	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
NNR/CCW owned						
SAC features						
1. <i>Tilio- Acerion</i> forests of slopes, screes and ravines	KH	KH	KH	KH	X	KH
SSSI features						
2. Semi-natural broadleaved woodland	KH	KH	KH	KH	KH	KH
3. Calcareous grassland	Sym	X	X	X	X	X
4. Assemblage of Rare vascular plants	Sym	X	X	Sym	X	X
5. Spiked speedwell <i>Veronica spicata</i>	Sym	X	X	X	X	X
6. Lesser Horseshoe bat <i>Rhinolophus hipposideros</i>	Sym	Sym	Sym	Sym	Sym	Sym
7. Mixed Bat Assemblage	Sym	Sym	Sym	Sym	Sym	Sym
8. Cave Interest (GCR site)	Sym	X	Sym	X	X	X

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.

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

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.

4.1 Conservation Objective for Feature 1: *Tilio-Acerion* forests of slopes, screes and ravines (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.
- The woodland is maintained as far as possible by natural processes.
- The following canopy species Ash, field maple, rowan, Wych elm and small leaved lime should be present throughout.
- The remainder of the site will be other semi-natural habitat.
- Trees and shrubs are mainly locally native broadleaved species
- The abundance and density of individual native species varies across the site
- Trees and shrubs of a wide range of ages and sizes are present
- Tree seedlings are plentiful throughout the site
- Other canopy forming species including conifers (except yew *Taxus baccata* which is native), beech, hornbeam and sycamore will be discouraged.
- Deadwood, standing or fallen, will be retained to provide habitat for invertebrates, fungi and other woodland species.
- Field and ground layers are well developed with a patchwork of vegetation communities characteristic of local soil and humidity conditions.
- All factors affecting the achievement of these 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. Habitat extent (ha)	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> woodland is defined as Woodland occurring on steep, rocky or sloping ground with rocky outcrops in which <i>Fraxinus excelsior</i> tends to dominate with <i>Tilia cordata</i> and <i>Sorbus torminalis</i> present in the canopy. Other species that may occur in the canopy	Upper limit: None set, but extent should not increase at the detriment of the calcareous grassland Lower limit: 58ha extent

	<p>include <i>Quercus spp.</i>, <i>Fagus sylvatica</i>, <i>Salix spp</i>, <i>Prunus avium</i> and <i>Taxus baccata</i>. <i>Corylus avellana</i> is constant in the shrub layer along with occasional <i>Daphne laureola</i> on thin basic soils.</p> <p>There is potential for the <i>Tilio-acerion</i> to increase, if management were applied to areas where non-native species dominate.</p>	
A2. Quality/ Condition	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 Dyffryn Elwy SAC.	<p>Upper Limit: Not required</p> <p>Lower limit: For each woodland unit 70% of the <i>Tilio-aerion</i> woodland meets the quality criteria for <i>Tilio-acerion</i> woodland as characterised below.</p>
A2. Structure and Natural processes	<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> <p>Dead wood will consist of a mixture of standing or fallen trees, broken branches, dead branches on live trees and should be >20cm in diameter and >1m in length</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The woodland canopy is comprised of no more than 50% <i>Acer pseudoplatanus</i> • 1 – 5 gaps present in each compartment. • Shrub layer present in 50% of each compartment. • 25% of sample points should have >2 over mature trees in each compartment. • At least 3 dead canopy forming trees in each compartment. • Standing and fallen deadwood
A3. Regeneration Potential	This should include the level and distribution of saplings and young trees that we would expect to see- namely ash, oak	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Saplings of any species present in 50% of sample points in each compartment. • Young trees present in >50% of each compartment (groups of 5+ trees noted at least 5 times on walkabout).
A4. Composition: Trees and shrubs	This should include the level of native trees and shrubs we expect to see overall	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • At least 50% of the canopy forming trees are locally native broadleaves and conifers. • <i>Acer pseudoplatanus</i> forms <50% of canopy forming trees and regeneration in each compartment. • <10% of sample points in each compartment will have <i>Fagus sylvatica</i>, <i>Carpinus betulus</i> and conifers.
Performance indicators for factors affecting the feature		
Factor	Factor rationale and other comments	Operational Limits
F1. Grazing / browsing	Parts of the woodland have been subject to inappropriately high grazing levels by fallow deer <i>Dama dama</i> . This has	<p>Upper limit: Light browsing</p> <p>Lower limit: Not applicable</p> <p>Deer browsing:</p>

	<p>prevented the natural regeneration of the woodland, since seedlings are given no opportunity to grow. The total exclusion of the deer is unfeasible.</p> <p>Some suggested actions are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Erection of deer enclosure to exclude deer from vulnerable areas of regeneration • Monitor effect of grazing • Undertake deer density survey • Deer Culling <p>Livestock: Currently the fences are stock proof. These need to be maintained to exclude livestock from the woodland.</p>	<p>Heavy - Absence of shrub layer, topiary effect on shrubs and young trees, browse line on mature trees, ground vegetation <10cm mostly grasses and mosses. Abundant dung, paths.</p> <p>Moderate - Patchy understorey with some evidence of browse line. Ground vegetation >30cm with mixture of species, locally some close cropped area. Tree saplings projecting above ground vegetation but may show some evidence of browsing</p> <p>Light - Well-developed understorey with no obvious browse line, lush ground vegetation with sensitive species such as bramble, honeysuckle and ivy. Tree seedlings and saplings common.</p>
F2. 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: Canopy composition not to exceed 50% sycamore and or 5% beech, hornbeam and non-native conifers</p> <p>Lower Limit: absent from site</p>
F3. Fly Tipping	<p>A small section of the eastern bank of the River Meirchion is subject to persistent fly tipping. Garden waste is included in the materials tipped, and may represent a route by which non-native species are introduced within the SAC. The area has been fenced to try and prevent further fly tipping in the area.</p>	<p>Upper limit: No increase beyond existing site</p> <p>Lower Limit: absent from site</p>

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: *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 2007 found the feature to be in an **Unfavourable Declining** condition

Management Requirements of Feature 1

From the monitoring report it is clear that at Coedwigoedd Dyffryn Elwy/Elwy Valley Woods SAC, the majority of the woodland is lacking regeneration (which is a result of deer browsing), in many places there is little to no shrub-layer and the ground is often devoid of any ground flora, regularly resulting in a dusty slope, which may (in time) lead to soil erosion.

Current and future positive management should concentrate to remove non-native species from the woodland, and reduce the presence of sycamore in the canopy. Where natural gaps occur in such circumstances intervention may be required to reduce the likelihood-undesired species replenishing the canopy.

Due to the heavy disturbance and grazing of fallow deer upon the area, it is advised that action is taken to try and control the number of animals grazing in the wood by using appropriate measures e.g. deer exclosures.

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	000001	Bryn Cefn and Coed yr Allt	<p>Management issues at Bryn Cefn and Coed yr Allt include a lack of regeneration and damage to vegetation due to the large increase in population of fallow deer in the area. The deer use the woodland habitat to shelter, rest and feed during the day. Active management should be taken to try and control the numbers of fallow deer. There are a number of options for deer management, but at Elwy Valley Woods culling seems to be the only realistic option to try and control the population and the damage they inflict upon the regeneration in the woodland. Any culling that take place should be in accordance with the Deer Act (1991) and with the Regulatory Reform (Deer) (England and Wales) Order 2007.</p> <p>Management should also concentrate on the removal of scrub on the limestone grassland glades at Bryn Cefn and Coed yr Allt. Management agreement is held with the Cefn Estate here, but is in need of renegotiation.</p>	Yes
2	000002	Cefn Rocks and Plas Iola wood	<p>Management issues at Cefn Rocks and Plas Iola Wood include a lack of regeneration and damage to vegetation due to the large increase in population of fallow deer in the area. The deer use the woodland habitat to shelter, rest and feed during the day. Active management should be taken to try and control the numbers of fallow deer. There are a number of options for deer management, but at Elwy Valley Woods culling seems to be the only realistic option to try and control the population and the damage they inflict upon the regeneration in the woodland. Any culling that take place should be in accordance with the Deer Act (1991) and with the Regulatory Reform (Deer) (England and Wales) Order 2007.</p> <p>The canopy varies here with some areas being dominated by conifers, beech and hornbeam. Management should be taken to control these non-native species by removal.</p>	Yes

Unit Number	CCW Database Number	Unit Name	Summary of Conservation Management Issues	Action needed?
3	000003	Pencraig wood	<p>Management issues at Pencraig wood include a lack of regeneration and damage to vegetation due to the large increase in population of fallow deer in the area. The deer use the woodland habitat to shelter, rest and feed during the day. Active management should be taken to try and control the numbers of fallow deer. There are a number of options for deer management, but at Elwy Valley Woods culling seems to be the only realistic option to try and control the population and the damage they inflict upon the regeneration in the woodland. Any culling that take place should be in accordance with the Deer Act (1991) and with the Regulatory Reform (Deer) (England and Wales) Order 2007.</p> <p>To the South, the unit is heavily used by deer and has large amounts of Beech within the canopy. Management should be taken to control beech by removal, and helping native trees to regenerate.</p>	Yes
4	000004	Coed Carreg wen a Garn Dingle	<p>Management issues at Coed Carreg Wen & Garn Dingle include a lack of regeneration and damage to vegetation due to the large increase in population of fallow deer in the area. The deer use the woodland habitat to shelter, rest and feed during the day. Active management should be taken to try and control the numbers of fallow deer. There are a number of options for deer management, but at Elwy Valley Woods culling seems to be the only realistic option to try and control the population and the damage they inflict upon the regeneration in the woodland. Any culling that take place should be in accordance with the Deer Act (1991) and with the Regulatory Reform (Deer) (England and Wales) Order 2007.</p> <p>The North of the unit is heavily impacted by deer and has beech seedlings within the canopy. Management should be taken to control beech by removal, and helping native trees to regenerate.</p>	Yes
5	000005	Pentre Dingle	<p>Management issues at Pentre Dingle include a lack of regeneration and damage to vegetation due to the large increase in population of fallow deer in the area. The deer use the woodland habitat to shelter, rest and feed during the day. Active management should be taken to try and control the numbers of fallow deer. There are a number of options for deer management, but at Elwy Valley Woods culling seems to be the only realistic option to try and control the population and the damage they inflict upon the regeneration in the woodland. Any culling that take place should be in accordance with the Deer Act (1991) and with the Regulatory Reform (Deer) (England and Wales) Order 2007.</p>	Yes

Unit Number	CCW Database Number	Unit Name	Summary of Conservation Management Issues	Action needed?
6	000026	Coed Dingle	<p>Management issues at Coed Dingle include a lack of regeneration and damage to vegetation due to the large increase in population of fallow deer in the area. The deer use the woodland habitat to shelter, rest and feed during the day. Active management should be taken to try and control the numbers of fallow deer. There are a number of options for deer management, but at Elwy Valley Woods culling seems to be the only realistic option to try and control the population and the damage they inflict upon the regeneration in the woodland. Any culling that take place should be in accordance with the Deer Act (1991) and with the Regulatory Reform (Deer) (England and Wales) Order 2007.</p> <p>The North of the unit is heavily impacted by deer and has beech seedlings within the canopy. Management should be taken to control beech by removal, and helping native trees to regenerate.</p>	Yes

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	<p>The condition of feature can be categorised, following condition assessment as one of the following²:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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.
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.

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

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
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

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

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	<p>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.</p> <p>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.</p>
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

- Creer, J. (2007) Coedwigoedd Dyffryn Elwy/ Elwy Valley Woods SAC Monitoring report. CCW internal report. Available on request
- Creer, J. (2002) Coedwigoedd Dyffryn Elwy/ Elwy Valley Woods SAC Monitoring report. CCW internal report. Available on request