CYNGOR CEFN GWLAD CYMRU
COUNTRYSIDE COUNCIL FOR WALES

CORE MANAGEMENT PLAN
INCLUDING CONSERVATION OBJECTIVES

FOR

Dunraven Bay Special Area of Conservation (SAC)

Version: 1

Date: 21 January 2008

Approved by: David Mitchell

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.

Cyngor Cefn Gwlad Cymru
Countryside Council for Wales

NATURA 2000

Ramsar

Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru
Welsh Assembly Government
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CONTENTS

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. This relates to Southerndown Coast SSSI as a whole, of which Dunraven Bay SAC is a part.

The rock layers are exposed sufficiently for them to be examined, so that it is clear how each layer relates to the layers above and below in the sequence. The rocks and mineral deposits are clean and accessible in key areas along the current coastline within the site, and this is sustainable in the long term.

Woodland and scrub occurs in the steep sided Cwm Mawr. There is a gradual change from the lower growing shrubs such as gorse and blackthorn intermingled with bramble, which starts in the open mouths of the cwms, to more open mature woodland of ash with occasional sycamore in the steeper-sided parts of the cwms as you travel inland.

The species-rich neutral grassland covers half of the grassland areas and supports a mixture of grasses and other flowering plants, which bloom in succession from spring to late summer. The yellow pea flowers of birds-foot trefoil mix with the purple heads of betony and black knapweed. In more sheltered grassland areas, where soils are deeper and damp, slightly taller plants such as early summer populations of cowslips thrive. The north-facing slopes of Cwm-Bach are rich in mosses and liverworts, with frequent Neckera species, and calcareous (lime-rich soil) specialists such as rock-pocket moss. Many different insects and other invertebrates also find the conditions they need here. The dry soil and windy conditions limit the growth of these plants, and the turf is rarely very tall, although there is some variation in height. Breeding skylarks display between April and August, carefully hiding their nests in grass-tussocks.

The more calcareous grasslands, where soils are very thin and rocky outcrops occur, cover another quarter of the total grassland area. Such areas are associated with coastal herbs such as buck's horn plantain and wild or sea carrot. The close-cropped grassland is more open, with small patches of bare earth and rocks supporting drought tolerant plants such as wild thyme, knotted clover and yellow-wort, with its characteristic leaves joined in pairs to form a ring around the stem.

Approximately a quarter of the grassland on the site is covered by herb-rich, low-growing coastal grassland over the more exposed areas found on the south-facing seaward margins of both cwms, and part of the cliff edge at Trwyn-y-Witch. Although the turf in at least half of these areas is generally below ankle height, there is some variation in height. Within the lime-rich soils of Cwm Mawr and Cwm Bach, characteristic coastal herbs include bird's-foot trefoil, lady's bedstraw, common rockrose and salad burnet, together with carnation sedge, frequent wild or sea carrot and occasional buck's horn plantain, in a mainly a red fescue-dominated turf. At Trwyn-y-Witch, the buck's horn plantain is far more common in amongst the short red fescue grass, and occurs along with a characteristic coastal plant, thrift. Herbs, particularly cliff-edge species, flourish in a short turf of fescues. The turf has small patches of bare earth supporting drought tolerant plants like wild thyme and carline thistle. There is little or no bracken and scrub.

Species characteristic of disturbance, such as docks and creeping thistle are hard to find in any of the grasslands. Grasses indicative of rich soils such as rye-grass may be present but never dominate. The majority of the semi-improved grassland is reverting to its more unimproved form, with species typical of the surrounding species-rich neutral grassland.

The nationally rare and scarce plants have population sizes and distributions that are large enough to ensure their continued survival into the future. Shore dock can be found where fresh water seepages occur on the lower parts of the cliffs at Dunraven. Scattered across the slopes of Trwyn-y-Witch, Cwm Mawr and on the ramparts of the hill fort above Cwm Bach are frequent clumps of tuberous thistle, with slender, spineless flower stems over low mats of spiny leaves. Purple gromwell flourishes in the low scrub and maritime grassland on the south-facing slope of Cwm Mawr, and Trwyn-y-Witch. Clustered bellflower is scattered through the grasslands of the SSSI. Maidenhair fern grows in damp crevices on the cliff face.

Species-rich intertidal communities are found along this stretch of coast. The intertidal communities include reefs of honeycomb worms. These form crusts on rocky platforms and between boulders in the sand, with a variety of mussels, barnacles, sand binding red seaweeds, wracks and sand encrusted sea squirts. Overhanging rock and crevices harbour a wide variety of small marine animals such as sponges, sea mats and sea squirts and crabs. Caves at the back of the shore provide a habitat for animals that are able to withstand considerable scour from waves and sand. The inter-tidal remains a dynamic environment subject to the influence of the sea, and is mainly undisturbed by human influence.

2. DESCRIPTION OF THE SITE

2.1 Area and Designations Covered by this Plan

Grid reference: SS886727

Unitary authority: Vale of Glamorgan

Area (hectares): 6.47

Designations covered:

The Dunraven Bay SAC is notified as part of a much larger SSSI, Southerdown Coast SSSI. This has additional land or features that are not part of the cSAC interest features. Refer to Section 3.

Detailed maps of the designated sites are available through CCW's web site:

http://www.ccw.gov.uk/interactive-maps/protected-areas-map.aspx

For a summary map showing the coverage of this document see attached Unit Map.

2.2 Outline Description

Dunraven Bay SAC is situated on a southwest facing cliff about 1km south east of the village of Southerndown in the Vale of Glamorgan. The coastline is generally eroding and the 20 or so plants of shore dock growing here on damp coastal limestone are the only remnant of the species former Bristol Channel range. This has now declined to six individuals due to cliff falls removing plants. The Dunraven Bay population is a significant seed-source for recolonisation of Bristol Channel dunes and beachheads when future management restores these habitats to favourable condition.

2.3 Outline of Past and Current Management

The site has been sheep grazed over the years with possibly some hay cuts on an area of flatter ground within the SAC site grassland. It is still sheep grazed, but only in the winter months.

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 all the management units are in one ownership, and have been based on habitat and boundaries on the ground, such as fences. See map showing management units.

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

Unit no.	Unit name	SAC	SSSI	NNR/ CCW	Other
Dunraven Bay SAC					
1	**Dunraven Cliff face**	✔	✔		
2	**Dunraven Woodland**	✔	✔		
3	**Dunraven Grassland**	✔	✔		

3. THE SPECIAL FEATURES

3.1 Confirmation of Special Features

Designated feature	***Relationships, nomenclature etc***	***Conservation Objective no. in part 4***
SAC features		
Annex II species that are a primary reason for selection of this site ***1. Rumex rupestris (shore dock)*** **(EU species Code: 1441)***	Referred to as shore dock in this plan.	1
SPA features		
Not applicable		
Ramsar features		
Not applicable		
SSSI features (Southerndown Coast SSSI)		
2. Semi-natural woodland*		2
3. Scrub*		3
4. Species-rich neutral grassland*		4
5. Calcareous grassland*		5
6. Coastal grassland*		6
7. Tuberous thistle *Cirsium tuberosum**		7
8. Purple gromwell *Lithospermum purpurocaeruleum**		8
9. Assemblage of nationally rare and scarce vascular plants*		9
10. Sand-influenced biogenic reefs		10
11. Caves and overhangs*		11
12. Mineralogy of Wales – cliffs and foreshore		12
13 Permian - Triassic red beds		13
14. Hettangian – Pliensbachian*		14

Note: not all features within Southerndown Coast SSSI are present within the SAC. Those present indicated with an asterisk.

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 focus of management and monitoring effort, perhaps because of the dependence of a key species (see KS below). There will rarely be more than one Key Habitat in a unit.
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 focus of management and 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 focus of management or 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 are 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).

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 with no special feature present but which are of importance for management of features elsewhere on a site e.g. livestock over-wintering area included within designation boundaries.
x – Features not present in the management unit.

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

<u>Background information on Dunraven Bay SAC</u>

Dunraven Bay SAC is part of the much larger Southerndown Coast SSSI. This SSSI has a large number of other features, in addition to shore dock.

Where shore dock is present (i.e. on the cliff face) it is the focus of management. In other units, management concentrates on the main habitat present.

Dunraven Bay SAC	**Management unit**		
	1	**2**	**3**
Unit name	**Cliff face**	**Woodland**	**Dunraven grassland**
SAC	✔	✔	✔
SSSI	✔	✔	✔
SAC features			
1. Shore dock	**KS**	x	***x***
SSSI features			
3. Semi-natural woodland	*x*	Sym	x
4. Scrub	*x*	Sym	x
5. Species-rich neutral grassland	*x*	x	**KH**
6. Calcareous grassland	*x*	x	sym
7. Coastal grassland	*x*	x	sym
8. Tuberous thistle *Cirsium tuberosum*	*x*	x	sym
9. Purple gromwell *Lithospermum purpurocaeruleum*	*x*	**KS**	sym
10. Assemblage of nationally scarce vascular plants	*x*	part present (sym)	part present (sym)
11. Sand-influenced biogenic reefs	*x*	*x*	*x*
12. Caves and overhangs	sym	*x*	*x*
13. Mineralogy of Wales – cliffs and foreshore	sym	*x*	*x*
14. Permian - Triassic red beds	*x*	*x*	*x*
15. Hettangian - Pliensbachian	*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 Monitoring[1].

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: *Rumex rupestris* (shore dock) (EU Species Code: (1441)

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:

- There are at least 10 mature plants at the site
- The plant present are flowering and setting seed
- The population is stable and viable in the long term.

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.

Performance indicators for feature condition		
Attribute	***Attribute rationale and other comments***	***Specified limits***
A1. Extent of *Rumex rupestris*	A minimum number of plants are required to be present. They should not all be concentrated in one area, to reduce the chances of loss through cliff fall.	Shore dock continues to be present in Areas A and B (see Appendix 2)
A2. Condition of *Rumex rupestris*	A mature plant is one where inflorescence is greater than 10cm tall	At least 10 mature flowering plants.
Performance indicators for factors affecting the feature		
Factor	***Factor rationale and other comments***	***Operational Limits***
F1. Erosion and cliff fall	No limits have been set for this factor as they are beyond the control of the site manager.	None set.
F2. Scrub	There is the potential for scrub to spread onto areas where shore dock grows, shading it out.	*Upper limit*: no increase in area of scrub from 2003 area. *Lower Limit*: none set.

Other factors considered include – Availability of water seeping down the cliff face. Shore dock appears to prefer slightly damp ground.

FEATURES 2 TO 14 TO BE COMPLETED AT A LATER DATE.

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: *Rumex rupestris* (shore dock) (EU Species Code: (1441)

Conservation Status of Feature 1

In September 2003, 14 plants with flowering spikes greater than 10cm were identified (10 of which were confirmed as being shore dock). There was at least one plant found in each of the two areas, A and B. Therefore these two attributes were considered to be favourable.

In October 2004, 10 plants were identified again with at least one plant in Area A and one in Area B. Therefore these attributes are again considered to be favourable. It is noted however that due to lateness in the season it was extremely difficult to locate the plants, even with binoculars and it is likely that more plants were present.

In 2006 a cliff fall swept away 4 of the plants, leaving 6 remaining. The feature is therefore considered to be **unfavourable**.

Management Requirements of Feature 1

The population is vulnerable to factors outside of the control of the site manager. The most obvious of are cliff falls, indeed a single event could lead to the extinction of the population within the SAC. Because a cliff fall has removed nearly half the plants at the site, the **conservation status** of this population is considered to be unfavourable. This is likely to remain so until measures are undertaken within the wider landscape of the Bristol Channel to restore and secure the survival of other sub-populations. This monitoring result applies to the SAC and the SSSI feature.

FEATURES 2 TO 14 TO BE COMPLETED AT A LATER DATE.

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?
001	000852	Cliff face	The known site for shore dock is vulnerable to natural cliff falls and nothing can be done about this. Seeds from this population are held in the Wakehurst Place seed bank. CCW to monitor, and consider whether it would be appropriate to try to establish new plants at Dunraven Bay.	No
002	000853	Woodland	The woodland and scrub on the South side of Trwyn-y-Witch is important as the locality for stinking hellebore and as one of two localities within the SSSI for purple gromwell (the other is Cwm Mawr). Needs limited management to keep open the hellebore site. Purple gromwell favours woodland edge.	Yes
003	000854	Dunraven grassland	Grassland within the SAC is grazed by sheep during the winter months. This is considered beneficial, although the type and timing of grazing is dictated by the heavy recreational use of Trwyn y Witch. The Vale of Glamorgan Council's Heritage Coast Team manages and monitors recreation here.	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 — 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 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

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

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**

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

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

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**.