CYNGOR CEFN GWLAD CYMRU
COUNTRYSIDE COUNCIL FOR WALES

CORE MANAGEMENT PLAN
INCLUDING CONSERVATION OBJECTIVES

FOR

GLAN-TRAETH SPECIAL AREA OF CONSERVATION (SAC) AND SITE OF SPECIAL SCIENTIFIC INTEREST (SSSI)

Version: **1.0**

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Approved by: **Mike Willis**

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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PREFACE

This document provides the main elements of CCW's management plan for the sites named. It sets out what needs to be achieved on the sites, 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 sites. 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 site should support a sustainable population of great crested newts with at least 100 adult great crested newts being counted during torch counts. Larvae will be present in at least two ponds on site. This population of newts should be stable or increasing and all of the factors that might affect the newts should be under control.

There should be at least three main ponds on the site with a scattering of smaller seasonal pools. There will be water present in the main ponds all year round in most years. The ponds should support a range of insects and submerged and floating water plants. There should be areas of open water over bare substrate. Predatory fish are absent, the pool margins are shallow and there is sufficient marginal vegetation to provide cover for newts entering and leaving the water.

The land surrounding the ponds should be undulating, with a varied sward height, providing a variety of terrain including seasonally flooded wet ground and dry ridges and hummocks for dispersing, foraging, sheltering and hibernating amphibians. Small areas of blackthorn scrub will be tolerated and scattered clumps of gorse should be present throughout the site.

The site should also support typical species of dune grassland in this area, notably early sand grass and meadow saxifrage.

2. SITE DESCRIPTION

2.1 Area and Designations Covered by this Plan

Grid reference: SH 425677 (centre of site)

Unitary authority: Isle of Anglesey County Council

Area (hectares): 14.1

Designations covered: The site is designated as both a SAC and a SSSI with both designations sharing the same feature and common boundary.

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

2.2 Outline Description

Glan-traeth SAC lies to the southwest of the village of Newborough and is part of the adjacent Newborough Warren / Ynys Llanddwyn sand body although separated by the A4080 road.

The shallow pools at Glan-traeth, which were created by the extraction of sand, supported one of the largest breeding populations of great crested newt *Triturus cristatus*. At time of SSSI notification over 500 animals were counted during torch survey. The actual total population would have been considerably larger. The pools are also the breeding site for significant numbers of palmate newt *T helveticus*, common frog *Rana temporaria* and toad *Bufo bufo*.

Surrounding areas of land comprise grazed dune grassland developed in former sand workings, and a sand ridge to the southeast which is ungrazed by domestic stock. There are also areas of dumped material that have now grassed over and form valuable hibernacula. These are important foraging and wintering areas for the adult amphibians and are an essential component of the habitat of these species.

The early sand grass *Mibora minima*, a rarity in Britain (restricted to a few areas in Anglesey and the Gower Peninsula) occurs in the grazed dune grassland, particularly near the edge of bare or eroded sand patches. Meadow saxifrage *Saxifraga granulata*, which is uncommon in Gwynedd, occurs in the grassland, whilst variegated horsetail *Equisetum variegatum* and round-leaved wintergreen *Pyrola rotundifolia* occur in the damp depressions.

2.3 Outline of Past and Current Management

Glantraeth is privately owned by three landowners. Historically the site has been used for sand extraction and later as a tipping area of rubble waste and topsoil with the view to reclaim the dunes for agricultural use. The infill areas have now vegetated over and probably provide valuable hibernacula and foraging areas for amphibians and reptiles.

There are two main breeding ponds on this site. The ponds can dry out in exceptionally dry summers and in wet seasons further pools of water form in the depressions on the land. Because the ponds do dry out occasionally they tend to be cleared of fish, which might otherwise predate the amphibians. An attempt was made in the mid 1980's to create additional "back up ponds" elsewhere on the site but unfortunately the then owner of unit 1 was unwilling to proceed. The ownership of unit 1 has since changed.

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 mainly on tenure, but also with reference to features and field names.

A pdf version of this map using an OS base also accompanies this plan.

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

Unit number	**SAC**	**SSSI**	**CCW owned**	**Other**
Glan Traeth SSSI/SAC				
1	✔	✔	No	*Glantraeth*
2	✔	✔	No	*Clogwyn*
3	✔	✔	No	*Rhosyr*

3. THE SPECIAL FEATURES

3.1 Confirmation of Special Features

Designated feature	***Relationships, nomenclature etc***	***Conservation Objective in part 4***
SAC features		
Annex II species that is a primary reason for selection of this site: 1. Great crested newt *(Triturus cristatus)*	EU Species Code: 1166	1
SPA features		
Not applicable		
Ramsar features		
Not applicable		
SSSI features		
A population of great crested newts (*Triturus cristatus)*	See above	1

3.2 Special Features and Management Units

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

Key Features
KH - a 'Key Habitat' in the management unit, i.e. the habitat that is the main driver of management and focus of monitoring effort, perhaps because of the dependence of a key species (see KS below). There will usually only be one Key Habitat in a unit but there can be more, especially with large units.
KS – a 'Key Species' in the management unit, often driving both the selection and management of a Key Habitat.
Geo – an earth science feature that is the main driver of management and focus of monitoring effort in a unit.

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

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

Nm - an infrequently used category where features are at risk of decline within a unit as a result of meeting the management needs of the key feature(s), i.e. under Negative Management. These cases will usually be compensated for by management elsewhere in the plan, and can be used where minor occurrences of a feature would otherwise lead to apparent conflict with another key feature in a unit.
Mn - Management units that are essential for the management of features elsewhere on a site e.g. livestock over-wintering area included within designation boundaries, buffer zones around water bodies, etc.
x – Features not known to be present in the management unit.

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

Glantraeth	**Management unit**		
	1	**2**	**3**
SAC	✔	✔	✔
SSSI	✔	✔	✔
SAC features			
Great Crested Newt	**KS**	**KS**	**KS**
SSSI features			
Great Crested Newt	**KS**	**KS**	**KS**

The blue line in the map above delineates the SAC and SSSI boundary. Unfortunately an error was made in plotting the site boundary during notification resulting in sections of breeding ponds being outside the SAC/SSSI boundary. This matter will be addressed and rectified in the action plan.

The great crested newt is both the SAC/SSI feature for this site and the Key Species. Because the species cannot be managed in isolation the habitats are managed for the conservation of the species.

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.

4.1 Conservation Objective for Feature 1: *Triturus cristatus* (EU Species Code: 1166)

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 will be satisfied:

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

- There will be a viable breeding great crested newt population present on the site.
- Ample display/breeding ponds will be found on site.
- Great crested newt larvae will be found in most of the breeding ponds.
- Most of the display/breeding ponds on the site will have standing water during the average summer months.
- The breeding ponds will dry out by mid summer occasionally (>5year intervals).
- There will be adequate native water plants (macrophytes) for egg laying and adequate areas of bare pond bottom for displaying newts.
- Surrounding vegetation will not heavily shade breeding and display ponds.
- Algal blooms and surface sheens will be absent from display/breeding ponds.
- Fish will be absent or rare in breeding/display ponds that support great crested newts.
- Only small numbers of wildfowl will occur on the ponds.
- The terrestrial habitat surrounding breeding ponds will comprise of refuge areas for newts, foraging areas, areas of hibernacula and corridors that will aid the movement of great crested newts back and forth with the neighbouring Newborough Warren – Ynys Llanddwyn SSSI (for migration, dispersal, foraging and genetic exchange purposes).
- There will be no significant loss of great crested newts as a result of road engineering such as gully-pots.
- Non-native aquatic species will be absent or if present, not at more than "occasional" frequency.
- All factors affecting the achievement of the above conditions will be 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.

Performance indicators for feature condition		
Attribute	***Attribute rationale and other comments***	***Specified limits***
A1. Population size (adult newts)	Limits based on the number of great crested newts required to maintain a viable population - knowledge provided from experience of the site. (Monitoring should take place for 4 consecutive years in each reporting period to allow for climatic variation between years.)	*Upper limits*: None *Lower limits*: Total of 100 adults counted during night counts in the breeding season seen (For at least 1 year in every 3 years)
A2. Evidence of breeding success	Needed to indicate that there is regular recruitment to the newt population.	*Upper limits*: None *Lower limit:* Eggs and/or juveniles present during the breeding season. For at least 1 year in every 3.
Performance indicators for factors affecting the feature		
Factor	***Factor rationale and other comments***	***Operational Limits***
F1. Extent of breeding/display ponds	Based on the area required to maintain a viable population - *knowledge provided by staff with experience of the site.* Ponds drying out are an issue on this site. The site has the capacity to accommodate additional deep ponds in unit 1.	*Upper limit:* Up to 25% of unit 1 suitable as breeding ponds *Lower limits:* Existence of 2 ponds with dimensions similar to Pond A and Pond B

	The area covered by the ponds is very difficult to assess at Glan-traeth since the ponds vary so much in size over the course of the year. An estimate of the area of open water breeding ponds in spring will be used to assess change in habitat. (A breeding pond is defined as a pond in which *T. cristatus* is/or is likely to conduct egg laying, and successful metamorphosis once in every 4 years.) (A display pond is defined as a pond in which adults and sub-adults occur between March and May.)	
F2. Water plant cover	Based on the amount of plant material required for egg laying and the area of open water required for displaying - knowledge provided by experienced staff within CCW.	For each main water body in unit 1: *Upper limit:* 80% water plant cover *Lower limit:* 20% water plant cover
F3. Water depth	Based on the standard CSM parameters for this feature. The timing is to ensure that in most years newt efts are able to mature. Occasional droughts help to maintain fish-free conditions. Influenced by siltation and build-up of decaying vegetation.	*Upper limit:* None *Lower limit:* Water depth > 5 cm between July and September in all main water bodies in 4 years out of 5
F4. Extent of shading	Based on the water conditions that are appropriate for successful breeding - knowledge provided by staff with experience of the site. Pond shading: % estimated for any tree/shrub cover greater than 1 m, for trees and shrubs up to 5m from a pond. Shading estimated for trees/shrubs casting shadow over a pond between 10am and 4pm.	For each water main body: *Upper limits:* 10 % shading on the southern margins or 25 % of the total pond/water body margins shaded *Lower limit:* Not required
F5. Extent and quality of terrestrial habitat	Based on the habitat required to provide foraging areas, hibernacula and connectivity for dispersal - knowledge provided by staff with experience of the site. The key element here is that the site offers a very heterogenous environment, with tussocky foraging areas, bare ground for	*Upper limits:* Not required. *Lower limits:* <u>Unit 1</u> At least 60% quality terrestrial habitat <u>Unit 2</u> At least 80% quality terrestrial habitat <u>Unit 3</u> At least 80% quality terrestrial habitat

	burrowing, wet and dry ground, wood and rock piles, etc. Cattle stocking levels have increased over past decade. Unit one could be overgrazed and needs further investigation.	Quality terrestrial habitat should have: **Refuge areas** e.g. shady areas, tall vegetation, areas of birch, black thorn scrub and scattered clumps of gorse, underground crevices, root systems and rabbit burrows. **Foraging areas**, e.g. creeping willow (*Salix repens*), tussocky grasslands and scrub. **Potential hibernacula**, e.g. vegetated rubble piles with access cracks, dead wood.
F6. Dispersal routes	Existing dispersal corridors should be maintained and no new obstructions created. Existing obstructions (the A4080) where casualties are known to occur may be a significant constraint on movement and a drain on population. Appropriate measures may be required to address this. Assessed visually. Baseline from 2006 aerial photographs. Record losses on A4080.	*Upper limits* No increase (or change in position) of barriers, such as roads. *Lower limit* There should be no significant loss, or fragmentation, of hedgerows and other dispersal corridors.
F7. Presence of waterfowl	These can have an impact on newts through predation and habitat damage. Based on the standard CSM parameters for this feature.	*Upper limit:* No breeding waterfowl *Lower limit:* Not required.
F8. Presence of fish	These can have an impact on newts through predation and habitat damage. Since the ponds at Glan-traeth periodically dry out then any fish present will perish. For this reason we are able to tolerate the rare presence of fish. Based on knowledge from staff with experience of the site that the presence of fish will be detrimental to the great crested newt population. Occasional drought will eradicate fish from ponds.	Fish species (including sticklebacks) should be no more than "rare" in any pond.

*[1] 'Semi-natural habitat' includes woodland, scrub, parkland, un-improved/rough grassland, bracken/tall herbs, wetland and ponds, plus gardens and amenity grasslands, which can also provide valuable habitat for newts.

*[2] 'Waterfowl' are defined as stocked ducks, swans or geese and naturalised Canada geese but not natural populations of native water birds (wildfowl).

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: Great crested newt *Triturus crisatus* (EU species code 1166)

Conservation Status of Feature 1 within the site:

Unfavourable declining

The condition of the feature, as demonstrated by the most recent torch survey counts carried out on the site 2007, is assessed as **unfavourable, declining.** 63 newts were counted in Pond A and 3 in pond B. The lower limit for the site is 150 individuals. The data informing the above conclusions was derived from CCW in house monitoring by the Lead Officer.

Management Requirements of Feature 1:
There are a number of different factors that could damage the special feature at Glantraeth if they are not properly managed. These are the ones we regard as most important:

Pond Management – water quantity and quality

There must be sufficient water in the main ponds for the period February through to early August. This will enable most newt tadpoles time to develop into young adults. Drying of the main pools, one year in ten, may be tolerated (see below).

Plant nutrients can encourage algae, which cloud the water at the expense of other water plants making the ponds unusable for the great crested newts. Fertilisers, including spreading of effluent on land, should therefore be avoided anywhere on the site as they could pollute the pond water. Silage feeding on the site should also be avoided, as it will encourage livestock to spread highly enriched material and faeces in or near the water. Pollution by road run off should also be avoided as it may contain oil or other toxins

Excessive growth of aquatic and emergent plants, accumulation of decaying vegetation and silt and scrub encroachment can lead to the gradual loss of open water areas that are important to breeding newts. Gradually with time ponds tend to fill in due to the processes of siltation. This will make the ponds susceptible to drying out before the newt young have emerged from the water. The creation of additional ponds on the site would allow existing ponds to be cleaned in rotation. This would avoid the threat to the whole great crested newt population due to drying out of one or two crucial ponds.

Excessive growth of aquatic vegetation in Pond A is an issue. Pond B is less likely to have a problem since it is a much deeper body of water. Periodic weed and silt removal will be needed to maintain sufficient open water in both these water bodies but this must be undertaken very carefully at the correct time of the year to avoid disturbance to breeding newts.

Predation
Fish, especially sticklebacks, eat tadpoles and sometimes adult amphibians. Good breeding sites are fish-free, possibly due to occasional drying-out. Sticklebacks are abundant in the nearby Llyn Parc Mawr and the threat of transfer into the newt pools is a major concern. Waterfowl can also predate amphibians and should not be encouraged.

Amphibian breeding ponds should ideally contain no predatory fish, as fish will predate newt larvae and frog

tadpoles. Fish were found at Glantraeth pond B and should be removed.

Waterfowl, although not currently a significant problem, have the potential to predate newt eggs/larvae if numbers are allowed to increase. Consequently land managers must be advised to actively discourage the feeding or introduction of waterfowl. If waterfowl numbers increase, they may need to be controlled.

Grazing
Light grazing by cattle or ponies is beneficial for the site. The livestock help the control of water plants around the margins of the ponds, maintaining bare sections used for newt courtship purposes. Grazing also helps maintain diverse rough areas next to pools so that they can support a range of dwelling areas and food (slugs, crane flies, dung flies and dung beetles). Different types of vegetation provide a range of refuges amongst tussock bases and under scrub. Tall, grassy vegetation has high levels of humidity during the day, whilst tree roots, dense shrubby vegetation and stony or broken ground can provide refuges under the surface. Diverse vegetation structure is best achieved through the light grazing by cattle or ponies. Ideally, grazing should maintain a sward that is at least ankle high across the majority of the pasture and close mowing should be avoided when newts are likely to be present.

Hibernation sites
Great crested newts usually hibernate on dry land, where they can escape from frost. This includes burying down cracks in the ground, under tree roots and rabbit burrows. The piles of inert rubble at Glantraeth may be useful for this, especially as they have vegetated over and still have access cracks.

Other Factors to be considered:

Invasive Plants
Non-natives water plants, such as Azolla, Canadian pondweed and New Zealand Pygmyweed, can reproduce very rapidly and lead to a reduction in the open water habitat available for newts. At present (2007), they are not considered to be a significant factor, as none are present. However, they should not be introduced to the site.

Obstructions to Movement
Hedgerows and other linear landscape features must be present to enable the migration and dispersal of individuals, and facilitate genetic exchange between neighbouring newt populations. These features should not be removed or altered so as to restrict newt access.

Newts can become trapped in roadside gully pots during migration to and from breeding ponds. Once trapped, it is unlikely that animals will be able to escape. Where gully pots are present (measures should be undertaken to reduce the likelihood of newts becoming trapped and to rescue those that do. In the medium to long term, alternative surface water drainage schemes may need to be considered.

Other potential barriers to newts, such as new roads, paths, walls and high kerbs should not be installed without providing adequate crossing points.

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.

The main focus of management within Glantraeth SAC will be concentrated on the ponds and surrounding terrestrial habitat in unit 1.

Unit Number	CCW Database Number	Unit Name	Summary of Conservation Management Issues	Action needed?
1	000439	Glan-traeth breeding ponds	1. Create additional breeding pool to provide security for population 2. Ensure absence of fish 3. Protect from road drainage pollution 4. Remove obstructions to migration	Yes
2	000440	Clogwyn	Favourable management	No
3	000441	Rhosyr	Favourable management	No

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

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

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.

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.**

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

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 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

Lewis H (2003) Glantraeth SAC. Great Crested Newt (*Triturus cristatus*) Monitoring report. CCW *(available on request)*