CYNGOR CEFN GWLAD CYMRU
COUNTRYSIDE COUNCIL FOR WALES

CORE MANAGEMENT PLAN
INCLUDING CONSERVATION OBJECTIVES

FOR

Granllyn Special Area of Conservation (SAC) and Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI)

Version: 2

Date: 20th February 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

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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.

The site supports a breeding population of over 100 adult great crested newts. This population of newts is stable or increasing and all of the factors that might affect the newts are under control.

At least 5% of the site is aquatic habitat that is suitable for breeding great crested newts. There are two main water bodies but new temporary wet areas may be created. The pool and moat contain plenty of weed cover but at least 40% is open water at all times. These water bodies are not polluted or subject to excessive nutrient inputs from surrounding land. Predatory fish are absent, the pool margins are shallow and there is sufficient tall marginal vegetation and woodland to provide cover for newts entering and leaving the water.

Scrub, grasslands, hedgerows and other habitats provide conditions suitable for dispersing, foraging, sheltering and hibernating amphibians. At least 5% of the site is broadleaved woodland. The pasture and amenity grassland have a sward that is suitable for foraging newts and there are plenty of suitable sites, such as fallen logs, large stones, hedge bottoms or man-made structures, where they can hide during the day or hibernate. Roads and other boundaries within the site do not present a major obstacle to the movement of newts.

2. SITE DESCRIPTION

2.1 Area and Designations Covered by this Plan

Grid references: SJ 224115 (centre of site)

Unitary authority: Powys County Council

Area (hectares): 21.0

Designations covered: The site is designated as both a SAC and a SSSI with both designations sharing the same features 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

For a summary map showing the area covered by this plan please see separate Unit Map.

2.2 Outline Description

Breeding population of Great Crested Newts (Triturus cristatus) for which this was, at the time of notification, the largest population in mid-Wales and one of the most important areas in Europe for this species. The site is situated in the village of Guilsfield just outside of Welshpool on the Mid Wales border. The site is made up of two water bodies Granllyn Pool and The Moat that act as breeding sites for the great crested newts. The Granllyn Pool is a kettle formation with a peat soil and pond bottom. Surrounding these water bodies the rest of the site in composed of generally improved and well-grazed pasture. The exception to this being the grassland surrounding the Granllyn Pool (the main breeding site) which was planted up in 2004 to form a community woodland site. There is a wet juncus area in the northern most pasture of the Moat & Field (unit 2). Small blocks of woodland, hedgerows, minor roads, a cemetery and orchard are also included within the site boundary.

2.3 Outline of Past and Current Management

Granllyn Pool has long been recognized as an important area for wildlife. The Pool is quite large (c 2ha) and has been largely in filled with willows and marsh vegetation in recent times. Prior to its purchase by the Woodland Trust in 1998, the Pool was privately owned and sat within a small pasture grazed by horses. In 2000, EAW paid for a patch of willow to be removed from Granllyn Pool by a digger to increase the area and depth of open water on the south side of the Pool. In the winter 2005/2006 a large-scale operation was funded by EAW to completely clear out the willow and other vegetation, which had completely taken over the Pool, which regularly dried up by July/August each year. This work re-profiled the Pool and created a number of small ponds and a large island in the middle with a causeway on to the island from the southwestern edge.

The Woodland Trust purchased the field adjacent to the Pool field in 2005 and planted up these fields (now one: unit 1) with native trees to form a 'woodlands on your doorstep' community site and a small area of apple orchard involving the local community. A bird hide was installed and a small area was left unplanted as a little meadow. In the summer of 2006 the local Scout Group constructed artificial newt refugia on the southern side of the pool.

Since the early 1990's, Guilsfield village has rapidly expanded and housing now borders the site on two sides with development pressure an ongoing issue around the site.

Outside of the Woodland Trust owned land, the SSSI boundary includes medium-sized pastures and paddocks that are managed moderately intensively for stock rearing (mainly sheep) or horse grazing. Fertiliser is regularly applied although re-seeding is infrequent.

Also included in the site is the moat, a linear water channel which feeds into the Nant Rhyd-y-Moch. The Moat, although privately owned, is managed by the Powysland Internal Drainage Board (IDB), who are responsible for land drainage. They undertake periodic clearance of vegetation, but only to maintain flows.

Powys County Council (environmental health) manage the cemetery is using a contractor. Maintenance works include grass mowing and hedgerow maintenance.

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.

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

Unit number	SAC	SSSI	CCW owned	Other
Granllyn SSSI/SAC				
1	✔	✔		Woodland Trust
2	✔	✔		
3	✔	✔		
4	✔	✔		
5	✔	✔		Powys County Council
6	✔	✔		
7	✔	✔		
8	✔	✔		
9	✔	✔		
10	✔	✔		

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:

Granllyn	**Management unit**							
	1	**2**	**3**	**4**	**5**	**6**	**7**	**8**
SAC	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔
SSSI	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔
SAC features								
1. Great Crested Newt	**KS**	**KS**	**KS**	**KS**	**KS**	**KS**	**KS**	**KS**
SSSI features								
(Great Crested Newt)	**KS**	**KS**	**KS**	**KS**	**KS**	**KS**	**KS**	**KS**

Granllyn	**Management unit**	
	9	**10**
SAC	✔	✔
SSSI	✔	✔
SAC features		
1. Great Crested Newt	**KS**	**KS**
SSSI features		
(Great Crested Newt)	**KS**	**KS**

The great crested newt is both the **SAC/SSI feature** for this site and the **Key Species**. Because you cannot manage the species 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.

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

4.1 Conservation Objective for Feature 1:
Great crested newt *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 are satisfied:

- No less than 100 great crested newts are present on the site.
- At least 2 display/breeding ponds are to be found throughout the entire site.
- Great crested newt larvae are found in Granllyn Pool breeding ponds in at least one out of every two years.
- The newt display/breeding ponds have a water depth of 10cm of more during the summer months.
- Native macrophytes cover no more than 75% of pond/water body surfaces. Aquatic marginal vegetation is present around the pond edges.
- Breeding/display ponds are not be heavily shaded by surrounding bank-side vegetation.
- Algal blooms and surface sheens are absent from display/breeding ponds.
- Fish are not present in breeding/display ponds supporting great crested newts.
- Only small numbers of water and wildfowl can be seen on the ponds.
- The terrestrial habitat surrounding breeding ponds comprise of refuge areas, foraging areas, hibernacula and corridors that aid the dispersal of great crested newts. If these features are not present the conservation management aim will be to provide them.
- Off site habitats that function as stepping stone or corridors located between SAC compartments are maintained for migration, dispersal; foraging and genetic exchange purposes.
- All factors affecting the achievement of the above conditions are under control.

Performance indicators for Feature 1

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

Performance indicators for feature condition		
Attribute	***Attribute rationale and other comments***	***Specified limits***
A1. Population size (adult newts)	Night counts of adults during the breeding season. Limits based on the number of great crested newts required to maintain a viable population - knowledge provided by staff with 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*: Present in the main water bodies in units 1 & 2 during the breeding season. **<u>And</u>** 100 individuals in Granllyn Pool (unit 1) and the Moat (unit 2) combined. For at least 1 year in every 4.

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 in the main water bodies in units 1 & 2 during the breeding season. For at least 1 year in every 4.
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. Maximum extent of wetland areas (winter), including marginal swamp and wet woodland.	*Upper limit:* Additional ponds could be created, especially in units 2, 4, 6, 7 & 8). *Lower limits:* Granllyn Pool (unit 1) = 1.15 ha The Moat (unit 2) = 0.5 ha
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 staff with experience of the site.	For each water main body (units 1 & 3): *Upper limit:* 70% water plant cover *Lower limit:* 50% water plant cover.
F3. Water depth	Based on the standard CSM parameters for this feature. Influenced by siltation and build-up of decaying vegetation.	*Upper limit:* None *Lower limit:* Water depth > 10 cm between July and September in both main water bodies (units 1 & 2).
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:* 20 % shading on the southern margins or 30 % of the total pond/water body margins shaded *Lower limit:* Some shading, on northern margins at least.
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.	*Upper limits:* No cultivated land or temporary grass leys within the site. *Lower limits:* 18% 'Semi-natural habitat'*[1] within the site as a whole. <u>Unit 1</u> Wetland – see F1. Woodland/scrub – 0.8 ha <u>Unit 2</u> Wetland – see F1. Rushy pasture – 0.4 ha

		Rough grass/scrub 0.05 ha Unit 3 Orchard (rough grass) – 0.4 ha Unit 4 Trees/scrub – 0.1 ha Unit 5 Amenity grassland/graves – 0.4 ha Unit 6 Scrub – 0.05 ha Unit 9 Amenity/garden – 0.1 ha **And** Habitat within a 250m radius from Granllyn Pool (unit 1) and the Moat (unit 2) should have all of the following characteristics: Refuge areas, e.g. shady areas, tall vegetation, scrub, fallen deadwood, underground crevices, tree root systems and mammal burrows. Foraging areas, e.g. grasslands and woodlands. Potential hibernacula, e.g. log piles rubble piles and/or old walls.
F6. Dispersal routes	Existing dispersal corridors should be maintained and no new obstructions created. Assessed visually. Baseline from 2006 aerial photographs.	*Upper limits* No increase (or change in position) of barriers, such as roads and hedges. *Lower limit* There should be no significant loss, or fragmentation, of hedgerows and other dispersal corridors.
F7. Presence of wildfowl	These can have an impact on newts through predation and habitat damage. Based on the standard CSM parameters for this feature.	*Upper limit:* 4 pairs of breeding 'wildfowl'*[2] per hectare of open water between April and September. *Lower limit:* Not required.

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

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

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:

Favourable (2007)

The condition of the feature, as demonstrated by the most recent torch survey counts carried out on the site 2007, is assessed as **unfavourable, recovering.** 91 newts were counted in the Granllyn Pool (unit 1) and The Moat (unit 2) water body always adds another 5 individuals making 96 in total. The lower limit for the site is 100 individuals. Evidence of egg laying confirms breeding in Granllyn Pool.

The recovery has largely been the result of pond restoration work at Granllyn Pool in 2005, which has fully restored the display/breeding habitat. Prior to this work, Granllyn Pool was almost completely choked (up to 95%) with willow scrub and other water plants, with a water depth of less than 5cm over this area between July-September. During the winter of 2006/2007 The Moat was dredged by the Powys Internal Drainage Board restoring water depth and clearing excessive vegetation.

The data informing the above conclusions was derived from CCW in house monitoring by the Lead Officer; other willing CCW staff and local volunteers. Great crested newt monitoring has taken the form of 4 or 5 torch counts and egg searching between April and June, in accordance with the national monitoring guidelines. However, monitoring may again become more difficult during successive years as the vegetation re-establishes around the pond margins – in turn affecting optimal counts.

Management Requirements of Feature 1:

Pond Management

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. This is likely to be an ongoing problem at Granllyn Pool (unit 1) but less so at the Moat (unit 2), which is deeper and has less silt input. 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 and with appropriate licences at the correct time of the year to avoid disturbance to breeding newts. Vegetation and silt should be left on the sides of the pool prior to disposal to allow amphibians and other aquatic creatures to return to the water.

Water Quality

There is some concern about excessive amounts of nutrients, silt or other pollutants entering the water bodies. This may be a particular problem in Granllyn Pool where drainage water entering the site from surrounding housing could contain a lot of silt and nutrients. Planted trees may act as a buffer but sources of pollution should be closely monitored. Possible mitigation of any impacts might be achieved by a number of measures including, creating a bund along the edge of the pool abutting the housing using coppiced willow and dredged silt, channelling polluted water away from the pool or

creating additional “interceptor pools” where the silt can settle out and plants such as reeds can be planted remove some of the nutrients from the incoming water.

Woodland, Scrub and Hedgerow Management

As far as possible, natural ecological processes should be allowed to operate within the wooded areas. These will, in time, create natural clearings, promote tree and shrub regeneration, and ideally allow the steady accumulation of both standing and fallen deadwood, which are essential elements in a natural woodland system. Any active management should aim to complement natural processes, to enhance the various vegetation communities now present, and to promote a greater diversity of woodland structures by encouraging a mixed-age distribution of trees and the wider development of a shrub and ground layer. Care should be taken during such work to avoid disturbance to the newts or their places of shelter.

Because this is a community woodland and amenity space it is expected that a high degree of public usage will prevail within this area. As a result dangerous trees, hanging branches and standing dead timber that could be a safety hazard may need to be cut down but large logs should be left on the ground and timber stacks created to provide shelter and hibernation sites for the newts.

Hedgerows should be managed by trimming and laying periodically to prolong their lives but. They should be protected from grazing stock and their bases left undisturbed to protect the newts.

Grassland Management

The great crested newts are dependent on a mosaic of terrestrial and aquatic habitats for breeding, shelter and hibernation. Open habitats such as grassland are important feeding areas but the sward should be long enough to provide cover for the newts and their prey, grazing is not strictly necessary as the newts can thrive in rank grassland and scrub. However, it is recognised that the greater parts of units 2, 4, 6, 7 & 8 will continue to be managed as pasture land.

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.

Habitat enhancement

Terrestrial habitat enhancements to all units will be beneficial to the newt population and should be a conservation management aim. This might include:

- Grassland: Leaving areas of grass uncut over the summer months creates a rank grassland community this provides cover and foraging habitat for newts dispersing from breeding and natal ponds

- Scrub/woodland: Planting additional hedgerows, allowing scrub to develop, and allowing fallen dead wood to accumulate provides shelter and foraging habitat for newts.

- Sheltering habitats: The provision of log and rubble piles provides suitable areas for shelter and hibernation

Other Factors to be considered:

<u>Invasive Plants</u>

Non-natives water plants, such as 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 (with the possible exception of

least duckweed). However, they should not be introduced to the site.

Predators

Amphibian breeding ponds should ideally contain no fish, as fish will predate newt larvae and frog tadpoles or eat plants that provide egg laying substrate. Consequently, no fish should be introduced to Granllyn Pool or the Moat. Any unsuitable fish that are found in these water bodies should be removed.

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 (unit 10), 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.

Development

The site lies next to a residential area and some owners may wish to develop their land in future. There is insufficient information on the potential impact on newts to set limits on development. However, maintenance works to existing structures (particularly in units 5 & 10), alterations to structures and proposed new structures should be carefully assessed and any work implemented in a way that will cause minimal disturbance to newts.

Recreational Use

Part of unit 1 is a ‘woodlands on your doorstep site’ owned and managed by the Woodland Trust. Dog walkers and teenagers regularly use the site but there is no evidence of any impact on newts. The cemetery (unit 5) is also used by the public and there are well-used public footpaths crossing units 2, 4 & 6.

Any burning, littering, dumping of waste or other unauthorised activities likely to adversely affect the newts will need to be addressed through preventative and remedial measures.

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 Granllyn SAC will be concentrated on the Granllyn Pool and surrounding terrestrial habitat (unit 1), which is owned by the Woodland Trust (WT). The WT also have a Management Plan for this unit. Management objectives must be aligned between the two documents and understood by the organisations working to them.

Unit Number	CCW Database Number	Unit Name	Summary of Conservation Management Issues	Action needed?
001	000366	Woodland trust	This Unit is considered to be under appropriate conservation management.	No
002	000367	Moat & Field	This Unit is considered to be under appropriate conservation management.	No
003	000368	Moat Farm	This Unit is considered to be under appropriate conservation management.	No
004	000369	Cross Lane	This Unit is considered to be under appropriate conservation management.	No
005	000370	Cemetry	This Unit is considered to be under appropriate conservation management.	No
006	000372	The Gables	This Unit is considered to be under appropriate conservation management.	No
007	000377	Glebeland	This Unit is considered to be under appropriate conservation management.	No
008	000378	Rhiwhiriaeth Ganol	This Unit is considered to be under appropriate conservation management.	No
009	000735	16 Maes-y-Celyn, Garden	This Unit is considered to be under appropriate conservation management.	No
010	000736	Roads and Tracks	This Unit is considered to be under appropriate conservation 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
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

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

met. The results of conservation status assessment can be summarised either as 'favourable' (i.e. conservation objectives are met) or unfavourable (i.e. conservation objectives are not met). However the value of conservation status assessment in terms of supporting decisions about **conservation management**, lies mainly in the details of the assessment of feature **condition**, **factors** and trend information derived from comparisons between current and previous conservation status assessments and condition assessments.

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

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

Favourable condition See **condition** and **condition assessment**

Favourable conservation status See **conservation status** and **conservation status assessment.**[3]

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

Integrity See **site integrity**

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

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

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

References:

Joint Nature Conservation Committee (JNCC). 2004. Guidance on Common Standards Monitoring (CSM): Reptiles and Amphibians, Version February 2004. JNCC Report, JNCC, Peterborough. Available via website at: http://www.jncc.gov.uk

Links to other managing/regulatory bodies:

The Woodland Trust	http://www.woodland-trust.org.uk/index.htm
The Environment Agency Wales	http://www.environment-agency.wales.gov.uk/