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

# CORE MANAGEMENT PLAN

INCLUDING CONSERVATION OBJECTIVES

# FOR

# ST DAVID'S SAC (SPECIAL AREA OF CONSERVATION)

**Version:** **10**

**Date:** **23 April 2008**

**Approved by: Tracey Lovering**

**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 site named. It sets out what needs to be achieved on the site, the results of monitoring and advice on the action required. This document is made available through CCW's web site and may be revised in response to changing circumstances or new information. This is a technical document that supplements summary information on the web site.

One of the key functions of this document is to provide CCW's statement of the Conservation Objectives for the relevant Natura 2000 site. This is required to implement the Conservation (Natural Habitats, &c.) Regulations 1994, as amended (Section 4). As a matter of Welsh Assembly Government Policy, the provisions of those regulations are also to be applied to Ramsar sites in Wales.

# 1. VISION FOR THE SITE

This is a descriptive overview of what needs to be achieved for conservation on the site. It brings together and summarises the Conservation Objectives (part 4) into a single, integrated statement about the site.

The cliffs and exposed grasslands should continue to be protected from damaging activities, but require no active management. The heathlands and grasslands away from the cliff edge have been maintained by traditional forms of management such as grazing, mowing and burning. These activities should be continued across much of the site. Many of the special plant, bird and invertebrate species here need areas of open ground or short vegetation, and conservation efforts should be directed at maintaining and increasing this.

# 2. SITE DESCRIPTION

## 2.1 Area and Designations Covered by this Plan

Grid references: SM 847225 – SM 770297 / SM 910410 – SM 883353 / SM 702238

Unitary authority: Pembrokeshire Coast National Park Authority

Area (hectares): 681.8 ha

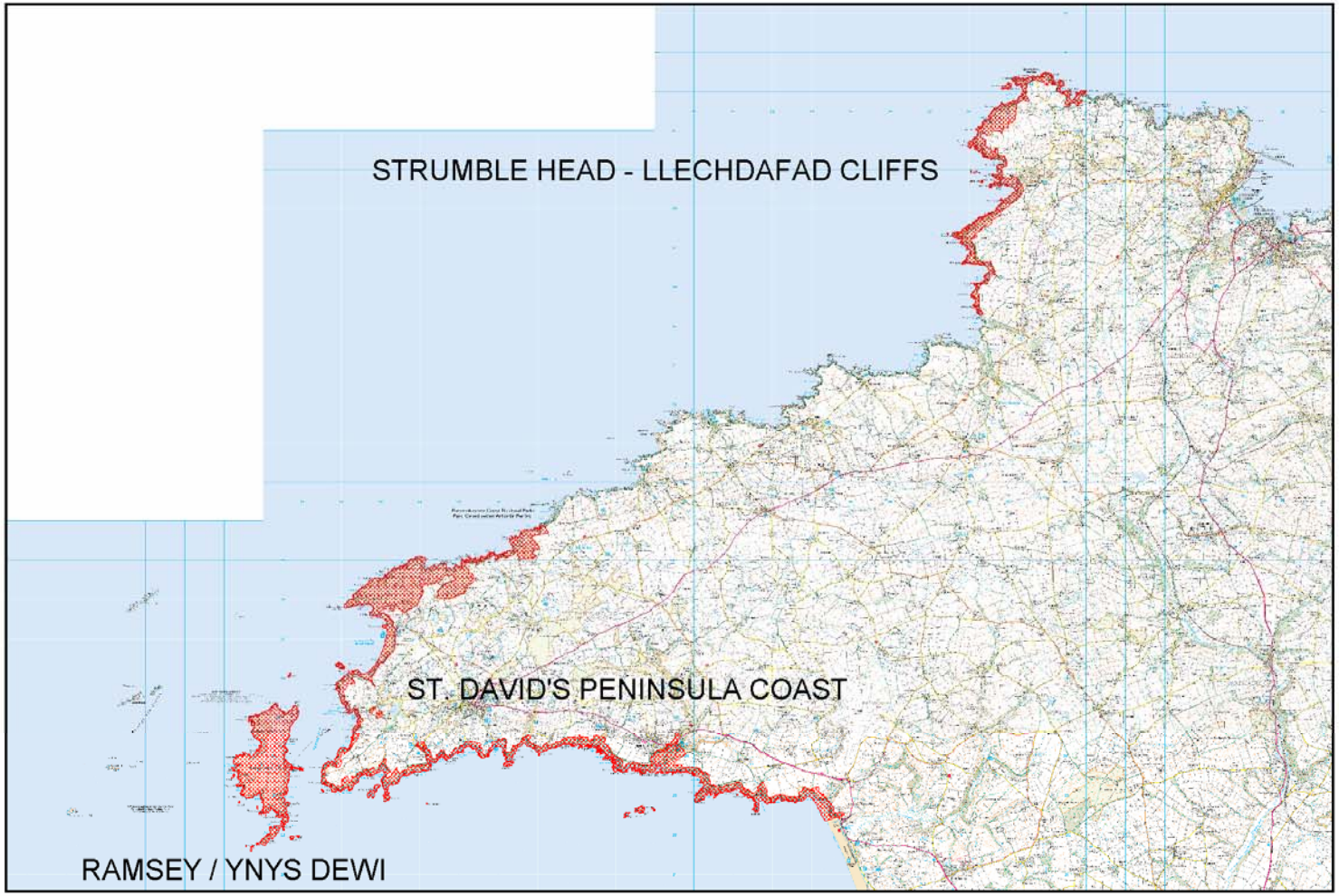
Designations covered:

- St David's SAC: St David's Peninsula Coast SSSI / Strumble Head – Llechdafad Cliffs SSSI / Ramsey SSSI
- Ramsey and St David's Peninsula Coast SPA: St David's Peninsula Coast SSSI / Ramsey SSSI

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

A summary map showing the coverage of this document is shown below

**St David's SAC - Component SSSI's**




Produced by CCW on: 26 November 2007

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## 2.2 Outline Description

This site includes two major sections of coast in addition to Ramsey and several smaller islands.

These sections of cliff-land carry fine examples of a wide range of typical maritime vegetation, ranging from rock-crevice communities on the most exposed cliff faces to maritime grassland, heath and scrub in the hinterland. They have numerous rare plants and invertebrates, and a high density of nesting chough and peregrine falcon.

Ramsey is a rugged island, nationally important for its grey seal breeding colony, the largest in south-west Britain, as well as significant populations of guillemots, razorbills, kittiwakes and chough. Ramsey has classic sea-cliff vegetation, extensive maritime heath and associated rare species. The heathland has several pools with scarce aquatic plants including floating water-plantain.

## 2.3 Outline of Past and Current Management

The St David's coast has a long history of traditional pastoral practices supported by patch burning (including the slopes) which continued up until the 1920's-30's. Heavy rabbit grazing pressure maintained open areas until an influx of myxomatosis in the 1950's decimated the rabbit population and the warrening industry ceased. Much of the coastal land was effectively abandoned during the second half of last century, with only occasional grazing and sporadic burning. The latter often resulted in severe large-scale burns of over-mature heath.

Ramsey Island has been inhabited and farmed for at least 5000 years, and was considered productive until the middle of last century when the production of seed corn was the main earner. The RSPB now own Ramsey, and focus on the management of key habitats for chough and lapwing. Red deer, ponies and sheep are kept. Much of the St David's Peninsula Coast and Strumble Head – Llechdafad cliffs SSSIs are now subject to the re-introduction of grazing and patch-burning through a combination of Management Agreements, the Environmentally Sensitive Area scheme and Tir Gofal. Much work has also been undertaken by the National Trust and the Pembrokeshire Coast National Park Authority in recent years, for example through the Pembrokeshire Living Heathlands Project. Despite this the site generally remains under-managed, livestock being absent or grazing levels too low. Extensive burns continue to cause problems.

## 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 on tenure and enclosure pattern. In some cases where, there are numerous owners of small sections of the coastal strip, these have been amalgamated into larger units.

The two maps below show the management units referred to in this plan:

## Management Units - Newgale to Penclegyr


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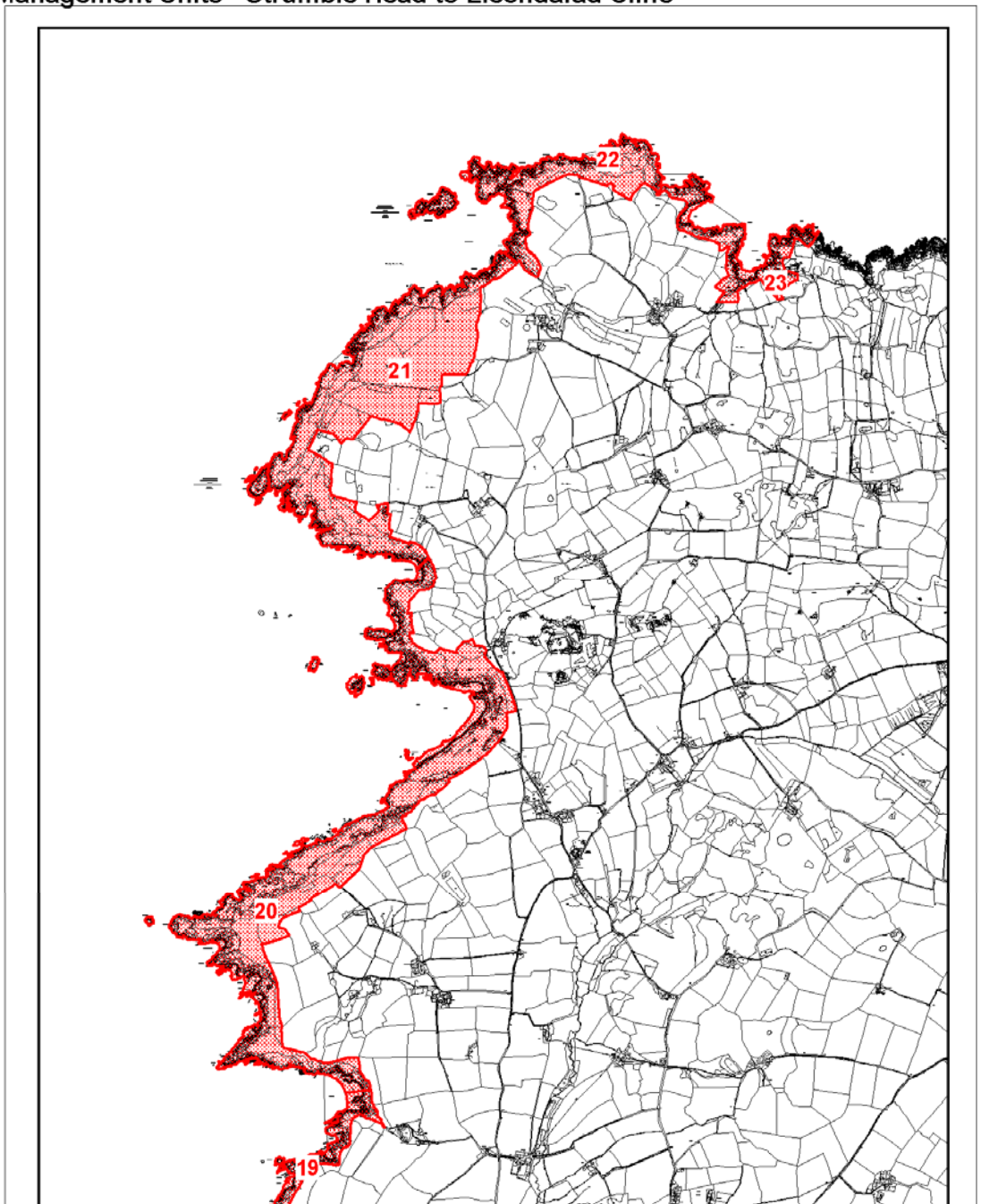
Scale 1:64348

Management Units - Strumble Head to Llechdafad Cliffs



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

| Unit number | SSSI | SAC | SPA | Name | Previous Name (LIFE) | Common Land |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | ✔ St DPC | ✔ | ✔ | Ramsey | | |
| 2 | ✔ | ✔ | ✔ | Offshore Rocks | | |
| 3 | ✔ | ✔ | ✔ | Newgale – Cwm-bach | N/A | |
| 4 | ✔ | ✔ | ✔ | Cwm-bach - Solva | Solva – Cwmbach Cliffs A | |
| 5 | ✔ | | ✔ | Solva Harbour | N/A | |
| 6 | ✔ | ✔ | ✔ | Solva – Porth-y-rhaw | Porthclais – Solva Cliffs C | |
| 7 | ✔ | ✔ | ✔ | Morfa / Trelerw | Porthclais – Solva Cliffs B | ✔ |
| 8 | ✔ | ✔ | ✔ | Caerbwdy - Porthclais | Porthclais – Solva Cliffs A | |
| 9 | ✔ | ✔ | ✔ | Porthclais - Porthlysgi | Porthclais – Whitesands Bay Cliffs E | |
| 10 | ✔ | ✔ | ✔ | Treginnis | Porthclais – Whitesands Bay Cliffs D | |
| 11 | ✔ | ✔ | ✔ | St Justinians | Porthclais – Whitesands Bay Cliffs C | |
| 12 | ✔ | ✔ | ✔ | Porth Cadnaw | N/A | |
| 13 | ✔ | ✔ | ✔ | Pencarnan | Porthclais – Whitesands Bay Cliffs B | |
| 14 | ✔ | ✔ | ✔ | Whitesands | Porthclais – Whitesands Bay Cliffs A | ✔ |
| 15 | ✔ | ✔ | ✔ | St David’s Head & Trefelli | Section 1 – St Davids Head D, E, F | ✔ |
| 16 | ✔ | ✔ | | Carn Lleidr | Section 1 – St Davids Head C | ✔ |
| 17 | ✔ | ✔ | ✔ | Llanferran | Section 1 – St Davids Head B | |
| 18 | ✔ | ✔ | ✔ | Penberry | St David’s Head Block A | ✔ |
| 19 | ✔ SH - LC | ✔ | | Llech Dafad | Strumble Head and Llechdafad Cliffs Block E | |
| 20 | ✔ | ✔ | | Pwllcrochan – Pwll Deri | Strumble Head and Llechdafad Cliffs Block D | |
| 21 | ✔ | ✔ | | Llanwnwr | Strumble Head and Llechdafad Cliffs Block C | |
| 22 | ✔ | ✔ | | Strumble Head | Strumble Head and Llechdafad Cliffs Block B | |
| 23 | ✔ | ✔ | | Porthsychan | Strumble Head and Llechdafad Cliffs Block A | |

| | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 24 | ✔ | ✔ | ✔ | SPA coastal fringe | N/A | |
| 25 | ✔ | ✔ | ✔ | SPA/Marine SAC rocks | N/A | |

Note that these units retain, with one minor modification, the same divisions as the Management Blocks selected for the SAC plan prepared by CCW as part of the LIFE – Nature programme of management planning.

# 3. THE SPECIAL FEATURES

## 3.1 Confirmation of Special Features

| ***Designated feature*** | ***Relationships, nomenclature etc*** | ***Conservation Objective in part 4*** |
|---|---|---|
| *SAC features* | | |
| Annex I habitats that are a primary reason for site selection | *Subdivisions of Feature for Management Planning purposes:* | |
| **1. Vegetated sea cliffs of the Atlantic and Baltic coasts** | **Maritime cliff and crevice vegetation** | **4.1** |
| **2. Vegetated sea cliffs of the Atlantic and Baltic coasts** | **Maritime Grasslands** | **4.2** |
| **3. Vegetated sea cliffs of the Atlantic and Baltic coasts** | **Maritime Heathland** | **4.3** |
| **4. European Dry Heaths** | | **4.4** |
| *Annex II species that are a primary reason for site selection* **5. Floating Water Plantain *Luronium natans*** | | **4.5** |
| *SPA features* | | |
| **6. Chough *Pyrrhocorax pyrrhocorax*** | | **4.6** |
| *Ramsar features* | | |
| N /A | | |
| SSSI features | | |
| *Primary Features* | | |
| 7. Intertidal communities | | |
| 8. Grey Seal *Halichoerus grypus* | | |
| 9. Golden Hair Lichen *Teloschistes flavicans* | | |
| 10. Rare Coastal Plants | *Allium schoenoprasum, Genista pilosa, Asplenium billotii, Erodium* | |

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| | *maritimum, Hypericum linarifolium x humifusum, Lavatera arborea, Limonium binervosum, Limonium paradoxum, Veronica spicata ssp. Hybrida, Viola lactea* | |
| 11. Coastal invertebrates | | |
| 12. Coastal landforms | | |
| 13. Quaternary deposits and associated landforms | | |
| 14. Precambrian, Cambrian and Ordovician rock sequences and associated fossils | | |
| 15. Ordovician Igneous and associated rocks | | |

## 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) , 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 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, buffer zones around water bodies, etc.

**x –** Features not present in the management unit.

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

| **St David's Coast SAC** | **Management unit** | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | **1** | **2** | **3** | **4** | **5** | **6** | **7** | **8** | **9** | **10** | **11** | **12** | **13** | **14** | **15** | **16** | **17** | **18** | **19** | **20** | **21** | **22** | **23** | **24** | **25** |
| SSSI | ✔ | ✔ | ✔ | ✔ | ✔ | ✔ | ✔ | ✔ | ✔ | ✔ | ✔ | ✔ | ✔ | ✔ | ✔ | ✔ | ✔ | ✔ | ✔ | ✔ | ✔ | ✔ | ✔ | ✔ | ✔ |

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| SAC | ✔ | ✔ | ✔ | ✔ | | ✔ | ✔ | ✔ | ✔ | ✔ | ✔ | ✔ | ✔ | ✔ | ✔ | ✔ | ✔ | ✔ | ✔ | ✔ | ✔ | ✔ | ✔ | ✔ | ✔ |
| SPA | ✔ | ✔ | ✔ | ✔ | | ✔ | ✔ | ✔ | ✔ | ✔ | ✔ | ✔ | ✔ | ✔ | ✔ | ✔ | ✔ | ✔ | ✔ | | | | | | ✔ | ✔ |
| **SAC features** | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 1. Vegetated Sea Cliffs - Maritime cliff and crevice vegetation | Sym | Sym | Sym | Sym | Sym | Sym | Sym | Sym | Sym | Sym | Sym | Sym | Sym | x | Sym | Sym | Sym | Sym | Sym | Sym | Sym | Sym | Sym | Sym | x |
| 2. Vegetated Sea Cliffs – Maritime Grassland | Sym | Sym | **KH** | Sym | x | **KH** | Sym | **KH** | Sym | Sym | Sym | Sym | Sym | x | Sym | Sym | **KH** | Sym | Sym | Sym | Sym | Sym | Sym | x | x |
| 3. Vegetated Sea Cliffs – Maritime Heathland | **KH** | x | Sym | **KH** | x | x | **KH** | Sym | **KH** | **KH** | x | x | **KH** | x | **KH** | **KH** | x | **KH** | **KH** | **KH** | **KH** | **KH** | **KH** | x | x |
| 4. European Dry Heath | x | x | x | x | x | x | Sym | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | Sym | Sym | x | Sym | Sym | Sym | Sym | Sym | Sym | x | x |
| 5. Floating Water Plantain | **KS** | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | x |
| **SPA Features** | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 6. Chough | **KS** | Sym | **KS** | **KS** | x | Sym | Sym | **KS** | **KS** | **KS** | Sym | **KS** | **KS** | x | **KS** | Sym | Sym | **KS** | **KS** | **KS** | **KS** | Sym | Sym | x | x |

| St David's Coast SAC (cont.d) | Management unit | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | **1** | **2** | **3** | **4** | **5** | **6** | **7** | **8** | **9** | **10** | **11** | **12** | **13** | **14** | **15** | **16** | **17** | **18** | **19** | **20** | **21** | **22** | **23** | **24** | **25** |
| **SSSI features** | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 7. Intertidal communities | Sym | **KH** | Sym | Sym | Sym | Sym | Sym | Sym | Sym | Sym | Sym | Sym | Sym | **KH** | Sym | Sym | Sym | Sym | x | x | x | x | x | **KH** | **KH** |
| 8. Grey Seal *Halichoerus grypus* | KS | **KS** | Sym | Sym | Sym | Sym | Sym | Sym | Sym | Sym | Sym | Sym | Sym | Sym | Sym | KS | Sym | Sym | Sym | Sym | Sym | Sym | Sym | Sym | Sym |
| 9. Rare Lichens *Teloschistes flavicans, Heterodermia ciliata* | Sym | x | x | Sym | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | Sym | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | x |
| 10. Rare Coastal Plants | Sym | Sym | Sym | Sym | Sym | Sym | Sym | **KS** | **KS** | Sym | Sym | **KS** | Sym | Sym | **KS** | x | x | x | x | **KS** | **KS** | Sym | x | x | x |
| 11. Coastal invertebrates | Sym | Sym | Sym | **KS** | Sym | Sym | **KS** | Sym | Sym | **KS** | Sym | Sym | Sym | **KS** | Sym | Sym | Sym | Sym | Sym | Sym | Sym | Sym | Sym | Sym | Sym |
| 12. Coastal landforms | Sym | Sym | | Sym | **KH** | | Sym | Sym | Sym | Sym | Sym | Sym | Sym | Sym | Sym | Sym | Sym | Sym | x | x | x | x | x | x | x |
| 13. Quaternary deposits and associated landforms | | | | | | | | | | | | | | Sym | | Sym | Sym | Sym | x | x | x | x | x | x | x |
| 14.Precambrian, Cambrian & Ordovician rock sequences &associated fossils | Sym | | | | | | | | | | | | | | Sym | | | | x | x | x | x | x | Sym | Sym |
| 15. Ordovician Igneous and associated rocks | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | Sym | x | x | x | x | x | Sym | Sym |

Note Where coastal heath is present in any quantity or quality, it has been selected as a key habitat in preference to coastal grassland. Management requirements of heathland are more demanding, and are generally sympathetic to any associated maritime grassland.

# 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] Available through www.jncc.gov.uk and follow links to Protected Sites and Common Standards Monitoring.

## 4.1 Conservation Objective for Feature 1: Vegetated sea cliffs of the Atlantic and Baltic coasts (1230) Maritime Cliff and Crevice vegetation

### Vision for Maritime Cliff and Crevice vegetation

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

- Cliff and crevice vegetation will occur naturally on suitable cliff sections throughout the site.
- The vegetation will be composed of native plants such as sea spurrey *Spergularia rupicola* and sea samphire *Crithmum maritimum*.
- The establishment of non-native plants such as Hottentot fig *Carpobotus edulis* will be discouraged.
- The factors affecting the feature are under control

### Performance indicators for Maritime Cliff and Crevice vegetation

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 Maritime Cliff and Crevice vegetation | Lower limit is based on current extent | *Upper limit*: As limited by natural processes.<br>*Lower limit*: Present in all units |
| **A2.** Condition of Maritime Cliff and Crevice vegetation | Based on the Standard CSM attribute for this feature. Modified according to site-specific requirements. | *Upper limit*: Not required<br>*Lower limit*: 70% of the vegetation is characterised by vegetation where, within a 2m radius:<br>• At least two positive indicator species are present; *Armeria maritima, Asplenium marinum, Aster tripolium, Cochlearia officinalis, Crithmum maritimum, Lavatera arborea, Limonium* spp, *Plantago maritima, Plantago coronopus, Spergularia rupicola.*<br>• Invasive non-native plant species such as *Carpobotus edulis* should be absent |
| ***Performance indicators for factors affecting the feature*** | | |
| ***Factor*** | ***Factor rationale and other comments*** | ***Operational Limits*** |
| **F1.** Pollution | Oil spills and other pollution episodes may cause short-term damage. Feature will be affected by climate change. | *Upper limit*: (to be set)<br>*Lower limit*: (to be set) |

| *Performance indicators for factors affecting the feature (cont.d)* | | |
|---|---|---|
| ***Factor*** | ***Factor rationale and other comments*** | ***Operational Limits*** |
| **F2.** Recreational Impacts | Localised impacts of climbing and coasteering. | *Upper limit*: (to be set)<br>*Lower limit*: (to be set) |
| **F3.** Coastal Erosion processes | | *Upper limit*: (to be set)<br>*Lower limit*: (to be set) |

## 4.2 Conservation Objective for Feature 2: Vegetated sea cliffs of the Atlantic and Baltic coasts (1230) Maritime Grassland vegetation

### Vision for Maritime Grassland

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

- Maritime Grassland will occupy at least **x**% of the total site area (to be set).
- The following plants will be common in the maritime grassland: thrift *Armeria maritima;* spring squill *Scilla verna* and sea plantain *Plantago maritima*
- Competitive species indicative of under-grazing, particularly cocksfoot *Dactylis glomerata*, bracken *Pteridium aquilinum* and western gorse *Ulex gallii* will be kept in check.
- The factors affecting the feature are under control.

### Performance indicators for maritime grassland

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 Maritime Grassland vegetation | Lower limit based on extent at notification (yet to be defined) | *Upper limit*: As limited by other habitats.<br>*Lower limit*: no loss of extent |
| **A2.** Condition of Maritime Grassland vegetation | Based on the Standard CSM attribute for this feature. Modified according to site-specific requirements (Hurford *et al*, 2000). | *Upper limit*: Not required<br>*Lower limit*: 70% of the maritime grassland vegetation is in good condition, characterised by:<br>• Two or more positive indicator species<br>• Short, open vegetation structure<br>• Bare ground 1-10% cover |

| *Performance indicators for factors affecting the feature* | | |
|---|---|---|
| ***Factor*** | ***Factor rationale and other comments*** | ***Operational Limits*** |
| **F1.** Livestock grazing | The more exposed, seaward areas of maritime grassland are maintained by 'natural' environmental factors – including exposure to salt spray, thin soils and climatic extremes. Further away from the cliff edges, the maritime grassland vegetation has been maintained by traditional grazing practices. Without an appropriate grazing regime, it would become rank and turn to bracken, bramble or gorse scrub. Light grazing by animals – ideally cattle in summer or ponies throughout year - is key to maintaining these areas. | *Upper limit*: The grazing pressure must not be so high as to break down the vegetation structure and cause significant bare areas to appear.<br>*Lower limit*: The maritime grassland must be subject to sufficient grazing to prevent the growth of coarse grass, bracken and scrub from smothering the growth of small plants. |
| **F2.** Burning | Burning can damage the vegetation, invertebrates and soil structure and encourages a vigorous re-growth of more competitive, fire-resistant species like bracken. | *Upper limit*: 5% of feature in six year period<br>*Lower limit*: none set |

## 4.3 Conservation Objective for Feature 3: Vegetated sea cliffs of the Atlantic and Baltic coasts (1230) Maritime Heathland vegetation

**Vision for Maritime Heathland**

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

- Maritime heathland will occupy at least x% of the total site area (to be set).
- The following plants will be common in the maritime heathland: heather *Calluna vulgaris*; bell heather *Erica cinerea* and spring squill *Scilla verna*.
- Competitive species indicative of under-grazing, particularly bracken *Pteridium aquilinum* and gorse *Ulex europaeus* will be kept in check.
- The factors affecting the feature are under control

**Performance indicators for Maritime Heathland**

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 Maritime heathland vegetation | Lower limit based on extent at notification (yet to be defined). Areas mapped in 1997 by LIFE team provide a baseline for sampling. | *Upper limit*: not set.<br>*Lower limit*: no loss of extent |
| **A2.** Condition of Maritime heathland vegetation | Based on the Standard CSM attribute for this feature. Modified according to site-specific requirements. | *Upper limit*: Not required<br>*Lower limit*: 70% of the **Maritime heath** vegetation is in good condition, characterised by:<br>• Three or more positive indicator species<br>• Dwarf shrubs have a cover of 30-75%, at least **2** species present.<br>• *Ulex* species < 50% cover<br>• Indicators of negative change, non-native species and scrub or trees absent<br>• Bare ground or early successional vegetation should occupy at least 400 $cm^2$ (20x20cm) but not cover more than 25% of the sample |

| **Site-specific habitat definitions** | |
|---|---|
| **Coastal and maritime heath** | In any 1m radius there is >10% ericoid cover |
| **Open heath** | In any 1m radius there is:<br>>30% sub-shrub cover of *Calluna vulgaris*, *Erica cinerea* or *Genista pilosa*<br>and<br>>10% bare soil or vegetation <3cm in height (excluding areas of exposed rock) or *Scilla verna* |
| **Open, species rich heath** | In any 1m radius there is:<br>>30% sub-shrub cover of *Calluna vulgaris*, *Erica cinerea* or *Genista pilosa*<br>and<br>>10% bare soil or vegetation <3cm in height (excluding areas of exposed rock) or *Scilla verna*<br>and<br>>2 of *Festuca rubra*/*Festuca ovina*, *Lotus corniculatus*, *Viola riviniana*, *Hypochaeris radicata*, *Anthoxanthum odoratum* are present |
| **Bracken or scrub** | In any 1m radius:<br>*Pteridium aquilinum*, *Ulex europaeus* or *Rubus* sp. is present |

| *Performance indicators for factors affecting the feature* | | |
|---|---|---|
| ***Factor*** | ***Factor rationale and other comments*** | ***Operational Limits*** |
| **F1.** Livestock grazing | The more exposed, seaward areas of maritime heathland are maintained by 'natural' environmental factors – including exposure to salt spray, thin soils and climatic extremes. Further away from the cliff edges, the heathland vegetation has been maintained by traditional grazing practices. Without an appropriate grazing regime, it would become rank and turn to gorse scrub. Light grazing by animals – ideally cattle in summer or ponies throughout year - is key to maintaining these areas. | *Upper limit*: The grazing pressure must not be so high as to break down the vegetation structure and cause significant bare areas to appear.<br>*Lower limit*: The maritime heathland must be subject to sufficient grazing to prevent the growth of over-mature heather and gorse scrub from smothering the growth of small plants. |
| **F2.** Burning | Regular burning takes place on some sections, some of it as part of controlled management programmes. If not used properly and backed by an appropriate grazing regime, it can lead to a vigorous re-growth of competitive, fire-resistant species like western gorse. | *Upper limit*: no more than 10% of feature to be burnt in six year period burning to take place on the heath<br>*Lower limit*: none set |
| **F3.** Pollution | The heath could be affected by airborne pollutants such as nitrous oxides from vehicle exhausts | *Upper limit*: levels of pollutants must not exceed critical thresholds for vegetation types according to JNCC guidance<br>*Lower limit*: none set |

## 4.4 Conservation Objective for Feature 4: European Dry Heath (4030)

**Vision for Dry Heath**

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

- Dry Heath will occupy areas of the site where heathland extends beyond the zone of maritime influence and lacks the species characteristic of maritime heath as a result
- Much of the dry heath will be short and open.
- The factors affecting the feature are under control

**Performance indicators for Dry Heath**

Under the LIFE project, all heathland was considered as part of the vegetated sea cliffs habitat. Further work would be required if it were considered necessary to determine the distribution of these two features. In practice, the presence or absence of maritime forbs in the heathland in this site is governed mostly by vegetation structure. Dry heath therefore generally represents the under-managed form of the maritime heathland, and would be best treated as such in this management planning exercise. No separate performance indicators have therefore been set for this feature.

## 4.5 Conservation Objective for Feature 5: Floating Water Plantain *Luronium natans* (1831)

**Vision for Floating Water Plantain**

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

- At least one population is well established.
- This population covers at least 15 square metres in two or more separate pools.
- Current areas of open water to be maintained on Ramsey; other pool habitats within the SAC to be kept in a suitable state for *Luronium* where possible.
- The factors affecting the feature are under control

| ***Performance indicators for feature condition*** | | |
|---|---|---|
| ***Attribute*** | ***Attribute rationale and other comments*** | ***Specified limits*** |
| **A1.** Extent of population | | *Upper limit*: not set.<br>*Lower limit*: total population to cover at least 30 square metres |
| **A2.** Distribution of population | | *Upper limit*: not set<br>*Lower limit*: Presence in at least six pools in one location, **or** in at least three pools in two hydrologically separated locations |
| ***Performance indicators for factors affecting the feature*** | | |
| ***Factor*** | ***Factor rationale and other comments*** | ***Operational Limits*** |
| **F1.** Livestock grazing | The pools need to be kept open, and grazing animals are key to this. | *Upper limit*: The grazing pressure must not be so high as to reduce Luronium cover below the specified limits.<br>*Lower limit*: The pools must be subject to sufficient trampling disturbance to prevent the growth of more competitive aquatic plants from smothering the *Luronium*. |
| **F2.** Water Quantity | Pools must remain at least seasonally wet | *Upper limit*: none set<br>*Lower limit*: pools with *Luronium* to contain standing water for at least six months of the year |
| **F3.** Water Quality | The pools are unlikely to be affected by pollutants but could be vulnerable to eutrophication caused by roosting birds such as gulls | *Upper limit*: levels of nutrients must not exceed thresholds that cause a decline in abundance of the species<br>*Lower limit*: none set |
| **F4.** Non-native plants | Vigilance should be maintained to ensure that *Crassula helmsii* and other invasive alien plants do not become established in pools on Ramsey and elsewhere in the SAC. | *Upper limit:* none set<br>*Lower limit:* no invasive alien plants to occur in pools with *Luronium* |

## 4.6 Conservation Objective for Feature 6: Chough *Pyrrhocorax pyrrhocorax*

**Vision for Chough**

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

- The breeding population of Chough is at least 11 pairs
- Breeding success averages at least 2.5 chicks/pair
- Sufficient suitable habitat is present to support the populations
- The factors affecting the feature are under control

**Performance indicators for Feature 6**

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.** Breeding population | Based on performance indicators and targets as set out in the SPA review site account. | *Upper limit*: None set<br>*Lower limit*: To contribute towards maintaining the Chough population in a favourable condition where, in 3 out of 5 consecutive years:<br>• The SPA breeding population is at least 11 pairs<br>• The SPA wintering population is at least 22 pairs |
| **A2.** Breeding productivity | Based on annual productivity surveillance data collected over the last 15 years on the Castlemartin Coast SPA | *Upper limit*: None set<br>*Lower limit*: To contribute towards the maintenance of the Chough population in a favourable condition where, during a six year monitoring period<br>• the average number of young fledged per occupied territory will be at least 2<br>• the average number of young fledged per successful nest should be at least 2.5. |
| **A.3.** Foraging habitat condition | The foraging habitat for chough will need to be in favourable condition for chough to be favourable. | *Upper limit*: None set<br>*Lower limit*: The Maritime grassland feature within the St David's Coast SAC must achieve favourable condition |

| ***Performance indicators for factors affecting the feature*** | | |
|---|---|---|
| ***Factor*** | ***Factor rationale and other comments*** | ***Operational Limits*** |
| **F1.** Disturbance | | *Upper limit*: no breeding attempts to be know to fail because of impact of human disturbance<br>*Lower limit*: None set |

# 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: Vegetated sea cliffs of the Atlantic and Baltic coasts: Maritime Cliff and Crevice Vegetation

**Conservation Status of Maritime Cliff and Crevice Vegetation**
**2005: Favourable Maintained**

Performance indicators have not been developed for this element of the vegetated sea cliff featureand no monitoring has been carried out. A judgement on condition has therefore been made on ongoing surveillance of the feature by CCW conservation officers.

**Management Requirements of Maritime Cliff and Crevice Vegetation**

None, maintained by natural processes. Monitoring of this feature should include checking for the presence of non-native species such as Hottentot fig *Carpobotus edulis.*

## 5.2 Conservation Status and Management Requirements of Feature 2: Vegetated sea cliffs of the Atlantic and Baltic coasts: Maritime Grassland

**Conservation Status of Maritime Grassland**
**2005: Unfavourable recovering**

Performance indicators have been developed for this element of the vegetated sea cliff feature (Hurford *et al*, 2000) but they have not been monitored against. A judgement on condition has therefore been made on ongoing surveillance of the feature by CCW conservation officers.

**Management Requirements of Maritime Grassland**

Grazing regimes should be maintained and fine-tuned across all key managed sections. The relatively light grazing required by maritime grassland may not always be compatible with the heavier grazing required to recover maritime heathland to favourable condition.

## 5.3 & 5.4 Conservation Status and Management Requirements of Features 3 & 4: Vegetated sea cliffs of the Atlantic and Baltic coasts: Maritime Heathland & European Dry Heath

**Conservation Status of Maritime heathland and Dry heath**
**2005: Unfavourable recovering**

Monitoring of the coastal and dry heath in 1997 focussed on 4 key management units. This work concluded that this aggregated feature was in unfavourable condition. Much conservation effort has subsequently been focussed on the heathland management within this SAC. This has clearly paid dividends, as stands of neglected heath across the site have undergone recovery management. However, the conservation objective for the feature is quite stringent, particularly with respect to open ground / short vegetation. Surveillance of the key heathland block at St David's Head suggests that

even this area - with secure, sustained management effort - would not yet meet performance targets. The heathland area at Point St John (Unit 12 - Pencarnan) has been somewhat neglected in the last few years, and is likely to have lost condition since the 1997 monitoring. Grazing and gorse control has recently been extended within Strumble Head Block C, and Block B continues to be grazed with a view to improving the quality of the heathland in those areas.

**Management Requirements of Maritime heathland**

Burning, cutting and pony grazing are key tools for recovery management of the heathland. Ensuring adequate livestock grazing with ponies and/or cattle is key to maintenance management.

## 5.5 Conservation Status and Management Requirements of Feature 5: Floating Water Plantain

**Conservation Status of Floating water plantain**
**2005: Favourable**

The status of floating water plantain in the St David's SAC determined by personal observation (Matt Sutton / Andy Jones), is Favourable. The plant is spread across seven discreet waterbodies in the central part of Ramsey Island. By visual estimation, the total extent appears to exceed 30 square metres. The number of flowering plants varies annually; no formal counts or monitoring have been carried out.

**Management Requirements of Floating water plantain**

Regular pool edge disturbance by grazing deer and, more recently, ponies has maintained ideal conditions for floating water plantain here. Water quality is protected by the island context and the setting of the pools amongst permanent, low fertility habitats. Water flows are being protected and enhanced where possible – the plant has colonised new pools created for breeding lapwings *Vanellus vanellus* in recent years. A negative factor that could become significant is the spread of *Crassula helmsii* in the St. David's area; there is some potential for the habitat to become unsuitable through guanotrophication if the water bodies become attractive to roosting gulls or other seabirds.

# 6. ACTION PLAN: SUMMARY

This section takes the management requirements outlined in Section 5 a stage further, assessing the specific management actions required on each management unit. This information is a summary of that held in CCW's Actions Database for sites, and the database will be used by CCW and partner organisations to plan future work to meet the Wales Environment Strategy targets for sites.

| Unit Number | CCW Database Number | Unit Name | Summary of Conservation Management Issues | Action needed? |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | 000204 | Ramsey Island | RSPB management catering for all features. | No |
| 3 | 000206 | Newgale - Cwmbach | Section of cliff land not well suited to grazing management, but potential for reversion of adjoining farmland to coastal grassland. | No |
| 4 | 000207 | Cwmbach - Solva | NT have re-introduced grazing to some sections, supported by cutting and burning. This effort needs to be maintained and expanded. Extending the cliff-land through strategic acquisitions and re-alignment of boundaries would help management of some currently neglected areas. | Yes |
| 6 | 000209 | Solva - Porth y Rhaw | Cliff-land too narrow and steep for grazing management, but NT tenancy on adjoining land has entered Tir Gofal and some of coastal belt is being reverted to coastal grassland. | No |
| 7 | 000210 | Morfa - Trelerw | Common land owned and managed by NT. Following cutting and burning, grazing was recently re-introduced following long period of neglect - this was unpopular with sections of the local community, and the current stocking regime is sensitive to this. Welsh mountain ponies are grazed in late autumn and winter. Problems with uncontrolled burning have occurred. | Yes |
| 8 | 000211 | Caerbwdy - Porthclais | Cliff-land here is generally too steep and narrow to allow grazing. Some reversion to coastal grassland is underway on adjoining farmland, supported by Tir Gofal. Further, long-term, action of this nature should be encouraged. | No |
| 9 | 000212 | Porthclais - Porthlysgi | Owned and managed by NT in conjunction with neighbouring tenant. Grazing regime is supported by Tir Gofal, and this scheme is also encouraging some reversion on adjoining land. Despite this, grazing levels generally remain too low to maintain heathland in favourable condition, and there has been an over-reliance on burning as a management tool until recent years. | Yes |
| 10 | 000213 | Treginnis | NT owned, but managed through tenancy agreement supported by Tir Gofal. Grazing regime comprises tack sheep in winter, supported by a small number of NT owned ponies at various times of the year. NT also carry out rotational burning. Grazing regime appears insufficient to maintain all sections of heathland, and an increase in pony numbers would appear to be the only viable option to achieve favourable condition here. | Yes |
| 11 | 000214 | St Justinians | Cliff-land here too steep and narrow for grazing management | No |
| 12 | 000215 | Porthcadnaw | Cliff-land here too steep and narrow for grazing management | No |

| Unit Number | CCW Database Number | Unit Name | Summary of Conservation Management Issues | Action needed? |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 13 | 000216 | Pencarnan | Headland here has heathland previously managed under ESA and S15. Limited grazing by tack sheep in winter took place, and a fence was erected by CCW to allow cattle or ponies to graze the heathland away from the cliff edge. This grazing was not carried out, and the fence - as well as appearing redundant - has landscape impacts in this otherwise wild and open landscape. | Yes |
| 14 | 000217 | Whitesands | Recreational impacts are pronounced in this section, but there is no significant representation of features | No |
| 15 | 000218 | St David's Head and Trefelli | There are occasional issues with ragwort control, bracken spread and supplementary feeding but the grazing regime - combined with small-scale burning - has generally halted the succession of heath to gorse scrub. | No |
| 16 | 000219 | Carn Lleidr | An attempt to tackle decades of neglect was made by the Pembrokeshire's Living Heaths project, with some burning and cutting carried out. Getting a regular grazing regime in place has proved problematic. The eastern side has had some NT pony grazing, but remains undergrazed. | Yes |
| 17 | 000220 | Llanferran | Cliff-land here is generally too steep and narrow to graze. ESA reversion schemes are underway on some adjoining land - these should be maintained beyond the ten year life of the agreement. | No |
| 18 | 000221 | Penberry | Common land, part owned by NT. Undergrazed. | Yes |
| 19 | 000222 | Llech Dafad | This unit is NT owned, in Tir Gofal, and the coastal slopes are grazed with cattle, ponies and sheep. During monitoring in 2008, the maritime grasslands and heath were in unfavourable condition. The maritime heath formed a very closed sward with little bare ground and failed. The grassland was nearly favourable but again lacked bare ground. However, with current grazing levels and stock types both features are likely to be recovering. | Yes |
| 20 | 000223 | Pwllcrochan - Pwllderi | There is a need to get heavier stock on to this section to help control taller vegetation and to break up the gorse and bracken that dominates some areas. the worst gorse/bracken area is the landward side of the Penbwchdy ridge. Neither of these two farms are currently in any environmental schemes.<br><br>The northern section of the unit from Pwll Deri to Porth Maen Melyn has recently been purchased by NT This area is unmanaged, being a steep, narrow coastal strip. (See below) | Yes |
| 21 | 000224 | Llanwnwr | There are no issues in the northern half of the unit.<br><br>Monitoring during 2008 indicated that both maritime heath and grasslands were in favourable condition in this unit. | Yes |

| Unit Number | CCW Database Number | Unit Name | Summary of Conservation Management Issues | Action needed? |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 22 | 000225 | Strumble Head | This unit is PCNPA owned. There is grazing by ponies. The Maritime heath is basically good but falls slightly short of achieving favourable condition. This is likely to be due to slight undergrazing and excessive trampling by visitors around the carpark and view points. | Yes |
| 23 | 000226 | Porthsychan | This unit is in Tir Gofal. The maitime grasslands and heath are both in unfavourable condition, suffering from a lack of grazing. | Yes |
| 2 | 002437 | SPA/St Davids SAC Rocks | This unit is considered to be under appropriate conservation management. | No |
| 25.2 | 002912 | SPA\Marine SAC Rocks | This unit is considered to be under appropriate conservation management. | No |
| 2a | 002979 | SPA/St Davids SAC Rocks | This unit is considered to be under appropriate conservation management. | No |

# 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.

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

**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.

**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**.

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

**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

Minimum Format Management Plans for Tyddewi / St David's cSAC (LIFE – Nature Reports, CCW 1999)
Wilkinson, 2006. St David's SAC Monitoring Report
Hurford, C. & Perry, K. 2000. Habitat Monitoring for Conservation Management and Reporting, 1: Case studies. Life - Nature, CCW.