

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

**CORE MANAGEMENT PLAN  
(INCLUDING CONSERVATION OBJECTIVES)**

for

**TANAT AND VYRNWY BAT SITES  
SPECIAL AREA OF CONSERVATION**

**Date:** 14 April 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.**



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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(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 two maternity roosts contain a minimum of 300 adult Lesser Horseshoe Bats in total every year, with at least 200 at Hendre Cottage and at least 100 at Bryngwyn Hall Stables and Coach House. The buildings are maintained in a suitable condition for use by the bats, to ensure that the roofs are in good repair, not heavily shaded by surrounding trees, and the roof space is undisturbed (except in emergencies). Access for the bats to and from the buildings and roof spaces is unhindered and flight paths along surrounding hedgerows and woodland edges are protected. All other factors that affect the species are under control.

The four hibernation roosts contain a minimum of 200 Lesser Horseshoe Bats in total every year, with at least 50 in each of Allt-y-main Mine and Penygarnedd Mine; and evidence of continued use of West Llangynog Slate Mine and Garth-eryr. All four sites are maintained in a suitable condition for use by the bats, by ensuring that they remain undisturbed (except for monitoring purposes), and that the entrance is free from obstruction. The extent, quality and connectivity of broadleaved woodland habitat is also maintained and may be enhanced if possible. All other factors that affect the species are under control.

## **2. SITE DESCRIPTION**

### **2.1 Area and Designations Covered by this Plan**

Grid references: SJ171152, SJ177181, SJ164236, SJ187234, SJ109237, SJ048258

Unitary authority: Powys County Council

Area (hectares): 11.2

Designations covered: Tanat and Vyrnwy Bat Sites Special Area of Conservation (SAC); Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI): Allt-y-Main Mine, Bryngwyn Hall Stables and Coach House, Garth-eryr, Hendre (Llangedwyn), Penygarnedd Mine, West Llangynog Slate Mine. The combined areas and boundaries of the six SSSI are identical to those of the SAC.

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

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

### **2.2 Outline Description**

The site consists of six separate SSSI divided into ten management units, all situated within the northeastern part of Montgomeryshire. The greatest distance between any two sites is less than 20 kilometres. Two of the SSSI contain buildings that house maternity roosts (Bryngwyn and Hendre), whilst the other four are disused mines containing hibernation roosts. Five of the sites (the exception being Bryngwyn) also contain a small amount of associated habitat, in the form of broadleaved woodland or hedgerows. Other roosts of both types are known both within this locality and further south within Montgomeryshire. It is not known how the different sites relate to one another in terms of the seasonal movements of the bats, and so no judgement can be made as to whether they support one meta-population or several smaller populations.

The numbers of bats at all the sites varies significantly from year to year, but at the time of writing Hendre contained the largest number of breeding bats (2<sup>nd</sup> largest in Montgomeryshire, in top ten in Wales) and Allt-y-Main Mine the largest hibernating group (2<sup>nd</sup> largest in Montgomeryshire, probably in top twelve in Wales). The overall population, as judged by annual counts, has shown an increase in recent years, consistent with the national trend, and the SAC is thought to support at least 4% of the UK population of this species. Numbers have not been increasing at all of the individual sites however. Bryngwyn suffered a major reduction for unknown reasons in between 1999 and 2003, from which it appears to be slowly recovering. Garth-eryr suddenly lost virtually all its bats between 1997 and 2002 (reasons again unknown), and yet the nearest maternity roost (Hendre) has increased its numbers. It appears that either the Hendre bats are now hibernating elsewhere, or the Garth-eryr bats were from an unknown maternity roost that may since been lost.

### **2.3 Outline of Past and Current Management**

The two maternity roosts (Bryngwyn and Hendre) are in buildings that were disused for many years until the early 1990s, and were in a poor and deteriorating state of repair, which would eventually have made them unsuitable for this species. Since notification, both have been made secure and weatherproof. Ongoing management is aimed at maintaining this situation, with opportunities taken for further enhancement if this is considered desirable. The four

hibernation roosts are all situated in disused mines. After mining ceased at various times (mostly early twentieth century) no management took place on any of the sites. Management since notification has been minimal, focusing on protecting the bats from disturbance, and maintaining any associated habitat within the sites. More detail on each of the SSSI now follows.

**Allt-y-Main Mine.** Roost discovered in 1987 and SSSI notified in 1990. This is a small disused lead mine, extending on one level for approximately 80 metres. Prior to notification it is understood that a local schoolteacher used to take children to see the bats. Management has been minimal, the most important action being the installation of a grill at the entrance to prevent such disturbance, and protection of the immediate woodland area to ensure continuity of feeding habitat.

**Bryngwyn Hall Stables & Coach House.** Roost discovered 1988 and SSSI notified in 1991. It is believed that historically the bats occupied the hall itself, their maternity roost being located in the roof-space and some at least of them hibernating in the cellars. Some were still using the cellars when the site was first visited, but the maternity roost had moved to the coach house. Many such large rural properties would have provided ideal conditions for this species until at least the middle of the last century, with the combination of buildings for roosting, and surrounding parkland, woodland and ornamental water bodies forming superb feeding habitat. In this particular case the property had been empty for many years, until the current owner began a programme of renovation.

During the early 1990s the stables/coach house building too was renovated, and the ground floor of most of it was split between use as an office and as residential accommodation. This benefited the bats by ensuring that the building remained structurally sound. CCW ensured that the roost space in the roof was isolated from disturbance, as was the flight corridor above the office, and the exercise space and access point in the stables, which remained unused except for storage. A secondary access hole was also installed at the side of the building, and modified in 2002.

**Garth-eryr.** Roost discovered in 1984 and SSSI notified in 1992. This is a small, disused phosphate mine, consisting of three linked chambers extending no more than 30-40 metres into the hillside. It lies on the edge of an ancient woodland site, although this has been partially planted with conifers in recent decades. Management of the site since notification has been minimal, the most important being the installation of grills at all the openings to prevent disturbance, and protection of the immediate woodland area to ensure connectivity of habitat around the site.

**Hendre, Llangedwyn.** Roost discovered in 1985 and SSSI notified in 1994. When this site was discovered the building was in a very bad state of repair, having been disused for many years. The only part that was weatherproof and useable by a small number of bats was the ground-floor chimneybreast. The Vincent Wildlife Trust acquired a lease on the building in 1992 and began a programme of renovation to create what is in effect a purpose-built maternity roost, as this is now the sole use of the cottage. It has been made structurally sound and secure from disturbance, and the bats have responded by increasing their numbers from approx. 60 in 1992 to over 200 in every year since 1998. The hedges that connect the cottage to surrounding woodland are managed sensitively to ensure that at all times most of them are tall and bushy, thus providing both cover and feeding opportunities.

**Penygarnedd Mine.** Roost discovered in 1985 and SSSI notified in 1993. This is a very small, disused phosphate mine, opened in the latter part of the nineteenth century, and consisting of one adit less than 30 metres in length. Management of the site since notification has been minimal, the most important action being the installation of a grill at the opening to prevent

disturbance, and protection of the immediate woodland area to ensure connectivity of habitat around the site.

**West Llangynog Slate Mine.** SSSI notified in 1993. There is a record of bats here in the 1960s, but it was only consistently monitored from 1988 to 1994. This is an extensive, disused slate mine, consisting over four large chambers connected by adits and shafts totalling over 250 metres in length. Management of the site since notification has been minimal, the most important action being the installation of a grill at the opening to prevent disturbance, and protection of the immediate woodland area to ensure connectivity of habitat around the site. In 1997 a Mine Inspector's report declared the mine unsafe to enter, since when it has been impossible for CCW staff to determine the number of bats hibernating within it. Autumn emergence counts have at least confirmed that the site is still being used.

## 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 land ownership.

Maps showing the management units referred to accompany this plan .

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

Unit number	Unit Name (if any)	SAC	SSSI	CCW owned	Other
Tanat and Vyrnwy Bat Sites					
1	West Llangynog (North)	✓	✓		
2	West Llangynog (South)	✓	✓		
3	West Llangynog (East)	✓	✓		
4	Penygarnedd Mine	✓	✓		
5	Garth-eryr (West)	✓	✓		
6	Garth-eryr (East)	✓	✓		
7	Hendre (Roost)	✓	✓		Vincent Wildlife Trust
8	Hendre (Hedges)	✓	✓		
9	Allt-y-main	✓	✓		
10	Bryngwyn Hall	✓	✓		

### 3. THE SPECIAL FEATURES

#### 3.1 Confirmation of Special Features

<i>Designated feature</i>	<i>Relationships, nomenclature etc</i>	<i>Conservation Objective in part 4</i>
<i>SAC features</i>		
Annex I species that are a primary reason for selection of this site <b>1. Lesser Horseshoe Bat</b> <i>Rhinolophus hipposideros</i>	<b>EU Species Code: 1303</b>	1
<i>SPA features</i>		
Not applicable		
<i>Ramsar features</i>		
Not applicable		
<i>SSSI features</i>		
<b>1. Lesser Horseshoe Bat</b> <i>Rhinolophus hipposideros</i>		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 below sets out the relationship between the special features and management units identified in this plan:

Tanat and Vyrnwy Bat Sites	Management unit									
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
SAC	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
SSSI	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
NNR/CCW owned										
<b>SAC features</b>										
1. Lesser Horseshoe Bat	<b>KS</b>	<b>KS</b>	<b>KS</b>	<b>KS</b>	<b>KS</b>	<b>Sym</b>	<b>KS</b>	<b>Sym</b>	<b>KS</b>	<b>KS</b>
<b>SSSI features</b>										
See above										



## 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<sup>1</sup>.

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.

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<sup>1</sup> Available through [www.jncc.gov.uk](http://www.jncc.gov.uk) and follow links to Protected Sites and Common Standards Monitoring.

#### 4.1 Conservation Objective for Feature 1:

Lesser Horseshoe Bat *Rhinolophus hipposideros* (EU Species Code: 1303)

##### Vision for feature 1

- There is only one feature for the site, and so the vision for this feature is the same as that for the site (please refer to section 1). It is required that the feature be in a favourable conservation status, where all of the conditions set out in the Performance Indicators table (below) are satisfied, and all factors affecting the achievement of these conditions are under control.

##### Performance indicators for Feature 1

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

<i>Performance indicators for feature condition</i>		
<i>Attribute</i>	<i>Attribute rationale and other comments</i>	<i>Specified limits</i>
<b>A1.</b> Pre-parturition population(s) in maternity roosts	The fundamental objective of the site is to maintain, and if possible increase, the number of Lesser Horseshoe Bats it supports.	<i>Upper limit:</i> None. <i>Lower limit:</i> 300 in total, with 200 at Hendre and 100 at Bryngwyn.
<b>A2.</b> Population(s) in hibernation roosts	As above.	<i>Upper limit:</i> None <i>Lower limit:</i> 200 in total, with 50 in each of Allt-y-main and Penygarnedd, and evidence of continued use at West Llangynog and Garth-eryr.
<i>Performance indicators for factors affecting the feature</i>		
<i>Factor</i>	<i>Factor rationale and other comments</i>	<i>Operational Limits</i>
<b>Condition of maternity roosts</b>		
<b>F1.</b> Site Security	It is essential to minimize disturbance within the roosts and potential harm to the bats.	<i>Upper limit:</i> Limited access, under the control of the owner/occupier and CCW staff, and locked if necessary. <i>Lower limit:</i> None. Access doors/hatches are in sound condition.
<b>F2.</b> Roost entrance(s)	The bats must be able to enter and leave the roost freely	<i>Upper limit:</i> If possible, large birds or other predators should be prevented from entering or otherwise deterred from using the roof space. <i>Lower limit:</i> All entrances are unobstructed and large enough for the bats to fly through freely. This will normally require a gap of at least 300 x 200 mm.

<b>F3. External disturbance</b>	The bats must not be deterred from using the roost.	<i>Upper limits:</i> There has been no significant increase in human activity around the roost since the previous assessment, and no artificial lighting is shining on the entrance(s) or associated flight-paths. <i>Lower limit:</i> None.
<b>F4. External condition of building</b>	Must be maintained to ensure continued suitability as a roost	<i>Upper limit:</i> None. <i>Lower limits:</i> The structure of the building is sound and stable, with no significant deterioration since the previous assessment. In particular, the roof is weatherproof, to prevent rain and light from entering, and heat from escaping.
<b>F5. Internal condition of the roost area</b>	Must be maintained to ensure continued suitability as a roost	<i>Upper limits:</i> Light levels are low, with complete darkness in the core roosting area. There is a range of temperatures available to the bats, with a mean temperature in mid summer in excess of 20°C. There are no drafts, and no substances present that are damaging to the health of bats. <i>Lower limit:</i> None.
<b>Condition of hibernation roosts</b>		
<b>F6. Site Security</b>	It is essential to minimize disturbance within the roosts and potential harm to the bats.	<i>Upper limit:</i> Limited access is under the control of the owner/occupier and CCW staff. Entrances are grilled and locked, and the grills in sound condition. <i>Lower limit:</i> None.
<b>F7. Roost entrance(s)</b>	The bats must be able to enter and leave the roost freely	<i>Upper limit:</i> ? <i>Lower limit:</i> All entrances are unobstructed and large enough for the bats to fly through freely. This will normally require a gap of at least 300 x 200 mm.
<b>F8. Stability of roost</b>	Must be maintained to ensure continued suitability as a roost	<i>Upper limit:</i> No new, unplanned, entrances have opened up. <i>Lower limit:</i> There is no likelihood of collapse to the extent that the remaining roost area would be unviable or the entrance blocked.
<b>F9. External disturbance</b>	The bats must not be deterred from using the roost.	<i>Upper limits:</i> There has been no significant increase in human activity around the roost since the previous assessment, and no artificial lighting is shining on the entrance(s) or associated

		flight-paths. <i>Lower limit:</i> None.
<b>F10.</b> Internal condition of the roost area	Must ensure continued suitability as a roost	<i>Upper limits:</i> Light levels are low, with complete darkness in the core roosting area. There are no substances present that are damaging to the health of bats. <i>Lower limit:</i> None. Also: There is a range of temperatures available to the bats, with a mean temperature between November and March of 8-12°C. There has been no significant change in humidity.
<b>Condition of habitat within SAC boundary</b>		
<b>F11.</b> Quantity of woodland/scrub/hedgerows	Must continue to provide feeding and commuting opportunities.	<i>Upper limit:</i> None. <i>Lower limit:</i> There has been no net loss of such habitat within the boundaries of each site.
<b>F12.</b> Quality of woodland/scrub/hedgerows	Must continue to provide feeding and commuting opportunities.	<i>Upper limit:</i> None. <i>Lower limit:</i> 90% of the habitat is composed of native broad-leaved species. Hedgerows are at least 1.5 m high, with no gaps larger than 5m.

## **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.

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### **5.1 Conservation Status and Management Requirements of Feature 1: Lesser Horseshoe Bat. (EU Species Code: 1303)**

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#### **Conservation Status of Feature 1**

Objective assessment against the performance indicators has been undertaken in most units in most years between 1997 & 2007, which provides robust information on which to base the following judgement. **The feature within this site is considered to be in favourable condition.** The overall population in both maternity roosts and hibernation roosts currently meets the criteria. There is no room for complacency, however, as one of the maternity roosts did temporarily drop below the threshold, and only two of the four hibernation sites are known to support the minimum number of bats required for qualification as a SSSI. In one case, however, this is because access within the roost is no longer possible due to Health & Safety considerations.

Assessment of units:

Unit 1	West Llangynog (North)	Favourable
Unit 2	West Llangynog (South)	Favourable
Unit 3	West Llangynog (East)	Favourable
Unit 4	Penygarneidd Mine	Favourable
Unit 5	Garth-eryr (West)	Favourable
Unit 6	Garth-eryr (East)	Favourable
Unit 7	Hendre (Roost)	Favourable
Unit 8	Hendre (Hedges)	Favourable
Unit 9	Allt-y-main	Favourable
Unit 10	Bryngwyn Hall	Favourable

#### **Management Requirements of Feature 1**

The two maternity roosts require the most input in terms of active management, as they are buildings and so need regular maintenance. At Hendre, the roost is leased by Vincent Wildlife Trust, an organization very experienced in bat conservation, and all expenses are covered by them. At Bryngwyn, the owner has had a Management Agreement with CCW for many years. The four hibernation roosts require very little ongoing management, other than maintenance of security grills and monitoring to ensure the entrances are unobstructed and that there is no increase in disturbance. Relationships with all the owners are again good.

In the longer term, it is essential to closely monitor feature condition in all units on an annual basis, both formally and informally, to ensure that the feature remains at Favourable Conservation Status. Consideration should also be given to extending the SAC to include more roosts, as there are other very important roosts nearby, both maternity and hibernation, and the populations within these are almost certainly linked to those within the SAC. CCW staff also monitor these to maintain the fullest picture possible of population of the species in Montgomeryshire. The situation in individual units is as follows (as of December 2007):

**Unit 1: West Llangynog (North): Favourable**

The species is known to be still using the mine, the latest autumn count indicating a population in excess of 30. There has been no significant change to the associated habitat. There are no immediate management issues.

**Unit 2: West Llangynog (South): Favourable**

The species is known to be still using the mine, the latest autumn count indicating a population in excess of 30. The entrance grill, which is located in this unit, is in sound condition, locked, and clear of obstruction. There have been no significant changes to the associated habitat. There are no immediate management issues.

**Unit 3: West Llangynog (East): Favourable**

The species is known to be still using the mine, the latest autumn count indicating a population in excess of 30. There has been no significant change to the associated habitat. There are no immediate management issues.

**Unit 4: Penygarnedd Mine: Favourable**

The number of bats counted at the last monitoring visit was 78. The entrance grill is in sound condition, locked, and clear of obstruction. There have been no significant changes to the associated habitat. There is one slight concern, which is the ongoing build-up of soil, small rocks and leaf-litter around the entrance grill. This is not on such a scale as to significantly obstruct the entrance, but steps need to be taken to construct a barrier above to prevent this.

**Unit 5: Garth-eryr (West): Favourable**

The unit is still being used by the species, but the number of bats counted at the last monitoring visit was only 8, and has been in single figures for several years. This is cause for concern, although the maternity roost thought to be associated with it (Hendre) is in favourable condition and so it appears that the bats have not been lost altogether, but have relocated. To the extent that this leaves them beyond our influence and so potentially threatened, measures need to be taken to encourage them back to this site. Measures to achieve this are being investigated in partnership with the Vincent Wildlife Trust, who manage Hendre. It is possible that the multiple entrance points may be reduced to one main one and another secondary, thus reducing light levels, the danger of predation by owls, drafts, whilst also increasing humidity. The entrance grills are in sound condition, locked, and clear of obstruction. There have been no significant changes to the associated habitat.

**Unit 6: Garth-eryr (East): Favourable**

This unit contains only associated woodland habitat, to which there has been no significant change. There are no immediate management issues.

**Unit 7: Hendre (Roost): Favourable.**

The number of bats counted at the last monitoring visit (emergence count) was 222. The building is in sound condition and secure, and there has been no significant change to the associated habitat. There are no immediate management issues.

**Unit 8: Hendre (Hedges): Favourable.**

This unit contains only associated hedgerow habitat, which links the roost to nearby woodland. There has been no significant change to this. One issue that has recently been discussed with the tenant is the need to trim the hedges as they have become very dense, wide and tall. This will be done in the near future, but not to the extent that the performance indicators will not be met.

**Unit 9: Allt-y-main: Favourable.**

The number of bats counted at the last monitoring visit was 100. The entrance grill is in sound condition, locked, and clear of obstruction. There have been no significant changes to the associated habitat. One issue that has been of concern in recent years is the proposal to reopen the public footpath that runs within a few metres of the entrance. The concern is that this could lead to increased

disturbance through noise, or even an attempt to force the lock on the grill. CCW staff have requested a minor diversion of the route, but at the time of writing the proposal seems to have been shelved.

**Unit 10: Bryngwyn Hall:** Favourable.

The number of bats counted at the last monitoring visit (emergence count) was 106. The building is in sound condition and secure, and there has been no significant change to the associated habitat. CCW has recently agreed to some modifications to the building that will further separate the different interests by allowing the conversion of a small additional area to residential use, whilst removing disturbance from the pre-emergence exercise area and creating an additional roost space above the new accommodation, and a dedicated, locked access to the exercise area, to be used only by CCW staff and, in emergencies, the owner. This proposal would maintain the overall space available to the bats, and reduce the potential for accidental disturbance. This is currently awaiting planning consent.



## **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.

<b>Unit Number</b>	<b>CCW Database Number</b>	<b>Unit Name</b>	<b>Summary of Conservation Management Issues</b>	<b>Action needed?</b>
001	000356	West Llangynog (North)	The species is known to be still using the mine, the latest autumn count indicating a population in excess of 30. There has been no significant change to the associated aboveground habitat. There are no known management issues. However, staff have been unable to enter the mine since the late 1990s due to safety concerns, and so conditions within are unknown.	No
002	000357	West Llangynog (South)	The species is known to be still using the mine, the latest autumn count indicating a population in excess of 30. The entrance grill, which is located in this unit, is in sound condition, locked, and clear of obstruction. There have been no significant changes to the associated aboveground habitat. There are no immediate management issues. However, CCW staff have been unable to enter the mine since the late 1990s due to safety concerns, and so conditions within are unknown. The owner has applied to Tir Gofal.	No
003	000358	West Llangynog (East)	The species is known to be still using the mine, the latest autumn count indicating a population in excess of 30. There has been no significant change to the associated aboveground habitat. There are no immediate management issues. However, CCW staff have been unable to enter the mine since the late 1990s due to safety concerns, and so conditions within are unknown.	No
004	000359	Penygarnedd Mine	The number of bats counted at the last monitoring visit was 71. The entrance grill is in sound condition, locked, and clear of obstruction. There have been no significant changes to the associated habitat. There is one slight concern, which is the ongoing build-up of soil, small rocks and leaf-litter around the entrance grill. This is not on such a scale as to significantly obstruct the entrance, but steps need to be taken to construct a barrier above to prevent this. This would be a small job and most effectively done by staff (no current issue category covers this, it is a natural process).	No

<b>Unit Number</b>	<b>CCW Database Number</b>	<b>Unit Name</b>	<b>Summary of Conservation Management Issues</b>	<b>Action needed?</b>
005	000360	Garth-eryr (West)	The number of bats counted at the last monitoring visit was 50, the highest for several years, following a dramatic decline between 1997 and 2002. There is still cause for concern, although the maternity roost thought to be associated with it (Hendre) is in favourable condition and so it appears that the bats have not been lost altogether, but have relocated. To the extent that this leaves them beyond our influence and so potentially threatened, measures need to be taken to encourage them back to this site. Measures to achieve this are being investigated in partnership with the Vincent Wildlife Trust, who manage Hendre. It is possible that there have been changes to the temperature and humidity within the mine, and also that predation by owls may be a factor. The entrance grills are in sound condition, locked, and clear of obstruction. There have been no significant changes to the associated aboveground habitat.	No
006	000361	Garth-eryr (East)	This unit contains only associated woodland habitat, to which there has been no significant change. There are no immediate management issues.	No
007	000362	Hendre (Roost)	The number of bats counted at the last monitoring visit (emergence count) was 288. The building is leased and maintained by the Vincent Wildlife Trust, is in sound condition and secure, and there has been no significant change to the associated habitat. There are no immediate management issues.	No
008	000363	Hendre (Hedges)	This unit contains only associated hedgerow habitat, which links the roost to nearby woodland. There has been no significant change to this. One issue that has recently been discussed with the tenant is the need to trim the hedges as they have become very dense, wide and tall. This will be done in the near future, but not to the extent that the performance indicators will not be met.	No
009	000364	Allt-y-main	This unit has benefited from a Management Agreement with the owner for many years. The number of bats counted at the last monitoring visit was 84. The entrance grill is in sound condition, locked, and clear of obstruction. There have been no significant changes to the associated aboveground woodland habitat. One issue that has been of concern in recent years is the proposal to reopen the public footpath that runs within a few metres of the entrance. The concern is that this could lead to increased disturbance through noise, or even an attempt to force the lock on the grill. CCW staff have requested a minor diversion of the route, but at the time of writing the proposal seems to have been shelved. There are consequently no current management issues.	No

Unit Number	CCW Database Number	Unit Name	Summary of Conservation Management Issues	Action needed?
010	000365	Bryngwyn Hall	This unit has benefited from a Management Agreement with the owner for many years. The number of bats counted at the last monitoring visit (emergence count) was 106. The building is in sound condition and secure, and there has been no significant change to the associated habitat. CCW has recently agreed to some modifications to the building that will further separate the different interests by allowing the conversion of a small additional area to residential use, whilst removing disturbance from the pre-emergence exercise area and creating an additional roost space above the new accommodation, and a dedicated, locked access to the exercise area, to be used only by CCW staff and, in emergencies, the owner. This proposal would maintain the overall space available to the bats, and reduce the potential for accidental disturbance. Some of this work is currently awaiting listed building consent, and if granted the work is expected to take place during winter 2008/09.	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<sup>2</sup>:
- Favourable: maintained;
  - Favourable: recovered;
  - Favourable: un-classified
  - Unfavourable: recovering;
  - Unfavourable: no change;
  - Unfavourable: declining;
  - Unfavourable: un-classified
  - Partially destroyed;
  - Destroyed.
- Conservation management** Acts or undertaking of all kinds, including but not necessarily limited to **actions**, taken with the aim of achieving the **conservation objectives** of a site. Conservation management includes the taking of statutory and non-statutory measures, it can include the acts of any party and it may take place outside site boundaries as well as within sites. Conservation management may also be embedded within other frameworks for land/sea management carried out for purposes other than achieving the conservation objectives.
- Conservation objective** The expression of the desired **conservation status** of a **feature**, expressed as a **vision for the feature** and a series of **performance indicators**. The conservation objective for a feature is thus a composite statement, and each feature has one conservation objective.
- Conservation status** A description of the state of a **feature** that comprises both its **condition** and the state of the **factors** affecting or likely to affect it. Conservation status is thus a characterisation of both the current state of a feature and its future prospects.
- Conservation status assessment** The process of characterising the **conservation status** of a **feature** with particular reference to whether the aspirations for it, as expressed in its **conservation objective**, are being met. The results of conservation status assessment can be summarised either as ‘favourable’ (i.e. conservation objectives are met) or

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

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**.<sup>3</sup>

**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

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<sup>3</sup> A full definition of favourable conservation status is given in Section 4.

communication with those responsible for management of different parts of a site.

**Monitoring** An intermittent (regular or irregular) series of observations in time, carried out to show the extent of compliance with a formulated standard or degree of deviation from an expected norm. In **Common Standards Monitoring**, the formulated standard is the quantified expression of favourable **condition** based on **attributes**.

**Operational limits** The levels or values within which a **factor** is considered to be acceptable in terms of its influence on a **feature**. A factor may have both upper and lower operational limits, or only an upper limit or lower limit. For some factors an upper limit may be zero.

**Performance indicators** The **attributes** and their associated **specified limits**, together with **factors** and their associated **operational limits**, which provide the standard against which information from **monitoring** and other sources is used to determine the degree to which the **conservation objectives** for a **feature** are being met. Performance indicators are part of, not the same as, conservation objectives. See also **vision for the feature**.

**Plan or project** **Project:** Any form of construction work, installation, development or other intervention in the environment, the carrying out or continuance of which is subject to a decision by any public body or statutory undertaker.  
**Plan:** a document prepared or adopted by a public body or statutory undertaker, intended to influence decisions on the carrying out of **projects**.  
Decisions on plans and projects which affect Natura 2000 and Ramsar sites are subject to specific legal and policy procedures.

**Site integrity** The coherence of a site's ecological structure and function, across its whole area, that enables it to sustain the habitat, complex of habitats and/or the levels of populations of the species for which it is designated.

**Site Management Statement (SMS)** The document containing CCW's views about the management of a site issued as part of the legal notification of an SSSI under section 28(4) of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981, as substituted.

**Special Feature** See **feature**.

**Specified limit** The levels or values for an **attribute** which define the degree to which the attribute can fluctuate without creating cause for concern about the **condition** of the **feature**. The range within the limits corresponds to favourable, the range outside the limits corresponds to unfavourable. Attributes may have lower specified limits, upper specified limits, or both.

<b>Unit</b>	See <b>management unit</b> .
<b>Vision for the feature</b>	The expression, within a <b>conservation objective</b> , of the aspirations for the <b>feature</b> concerned. See also <b>performance indicators</b> .
<b>Vision Statement</b>	The statement conveying an impression of the whole site in the state that is intended to be the product of its <b>conservation management</b> . A ‘pen portrait’ outlining the <b>conditions</b> that should prevail when all the <b>conservation objectives</b> are met. A description of the site as it would be when all the <b>features</b> are in <b>favourable condition</b> .

## **8. REFERENCES**

Joint Nature Conservation Committee (JNCC). 2004. Guidance on Common Standards Monitoring (CSM): Terrestrial Mammals, Version February 2004. JNCC Report, JNCC, Peterborough.