

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

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

for

**WYE VALLEY WOODLANDS/COETIROEDD DYFFRYN  
GWY  
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.**



# **CONTENTS**

## **Preface: Purpose of this document**

- 1. Vision for the Site**
- 2. Site Description**
  - 2.1 Area and Designations Covered by this Plan**
  - 2.2 Outline Description**
  - 2.3 Outline of Past and Current Management**
  - 2.4 Management Units**
- 3. The Special Features**
  - 3.1 Confirmation of Special Features**
  - 3.2 Special Features and Management Units**
- 4. Conservation Objectives**

**Background to Conservation Objectives**

**Conservation Objective for**

  - 4.1** Feature 1: *Tilio-Acerion* forests of slopes, screes and ravines
  - 4.2** Feature 2: *Asperulo-Fagetum* beech forests
  - 4.3** Feature 3: *Taxus baccata* woods of the British Isles
  - 4.4** Feature 4: Lesser horseshoe bat *Rhinolophus hipposideros*
  - 4.5** Feature 5: Non-SAC semi natural broadleaved woodland
- 5. Assessment of Conservation Status and Management Requirements: for**
  - 5.1** Feature 1: *Tilio-Acerion* forests of slopes, screes and ravines
  - 5.2** Feature 2: *Asperulo-Fagetum* beech forests
  - 5.3** Feature 3: *Taxus baccata* woods of the British Isles
  - 5.4** Feature 4: Lesser horseshoe bat *Rhinolophus hipposideros*
  - 5.5** Feature 5: Non-SAC semi natural broadleaved woodland
- 6. Action Plan: Summary**
- 7. Glossary**

## **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**

The Wye Valley Woodland SAC is a cross border site and comprises sixteen SSSIs. Nine of these are situated in Wales. The woodland SSSIs are found along the River Wye's meandering borders. They provide a rich backdrop to the agriculturally improved farmland in the valley bottom.

All nine SSSIs continue to be covered by at least 90% semi-natural broadleaved woodland. Woodland communities vary across the nine SSSIs, depending on soil conditions, thus producing a mosaic of vegetation rich in wildlife. Those particularly dominating are locally native species such as beech, ash, lime, yew and oak.

All canopy species should be present within the field layer as seedlings and within the shrub layer as saplings. The ground layer will contain plant species typical of semi-natural broadleaf woodland such as bluebell, yellow archangel and primrose.

In the long term the canopy will include trees of all ages and particular attention will be given to maintaining old veteran trees. Dead wood, standing and fallen, will be retained to provide habitat for invertebrates, fungi and other woodland species.

## **2. DESCRIPTION OF THE SITE**

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

Grid references:

- Blackcliff-Wyndcliff: ST531979
- Cleddon Shoots Woodland: SO523041
- Fiddler's Elbow: SO527140
- Graig Wood: SO533087
- Harper's Grove – Lord's Grove: SO528113
- Livox Wood: SO519112
- Lower Hael Wood: SO533075
- Pierce, Alcove and Piercefield Woods: ST530958
- Upper Wye Gorge: SO560155

Unitary authority: Monmouthshire

Area (hectares): 916.24 ha

Designations covered:

Wye Valley Woodlands/Coetiroedd Dyffryn Gwy Special Area of Conservation is notified as sixteen component SSSIs, nine of which are in Wales:

- Blackcliff-Wyndcliff
- Cleddon Shoots Woodland
- Fiddler's Elbow
- Graig Wood
- Harper's Grove – Lord's Grove
- Livox Wood
- Lower Hael Wood
- Pierce, Alcove and Piercefield Woods
- Upper Wye Gorge

Each component SSSI may have additional land or features that are not part of the SAC interest features. Refer to Section 3.

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

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

A summary map showing the coverage of this document can be found in Annex 1

### **2.2 Outline Description**

The Wye Valley Woodlands SAC is a large woodland SAC that straddles the Wales–England border. The site measures c.914ha. It is underpinned by 9 SSSIs in Wales and 7 in England, all of which lie entirely within the SAC. This report only considers the sites that occur within Wales. Note however that although the Upper Wye Gorge SSSI, (unit 19), is in Wales, it is managed by Natural England so will not be considered as part of this plan. This leaves 8 sites to be considered here.

These eight SSSIs have been selected as having the best examples of *Tilio-Acerion* forests of slopes, screes and ravines, *Asperulo-Fagetum* beech forests and *Taxus baccata* woods of the British Isles in the United Kingdom. In addition, lesser horseshoe bats *Rhinolophus hipposideros* use the woodlands

for foraging during the breeding period. In addition to the SAC habitats above, the woodlands also support non-SAC semi-natural broadleaved woodland.

### 2.3 Outline of Past and Current Management

The majority of the Wye Valley Woodland SSSI's broad-leaved woodland stands comprise regrowth or standards over derelict coppice dating from the Second World War. Some older stands occur in the more inaccessible areas, e.g. steep cliffs. Much of the yew *Taxus baccata* woodland is also pre-Second World War in origin.

Current management varies across the SSSIs; many stands have changed to high forest due to the cessation of coppicing. On Forestry Commission owned land there is a programme of thinning and/or coppice management; the rest of the woodland is largely unmanaged.

### 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 primarily on tenure, with reference to features and land management requirements.

See management unit maps 1 – 6 .

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

Unit no.	Unit name	SAC	SSSI	NNR/ CCW	Other
<b>Blackcliff-Wyndcliff</b>					
1		✓	✓		
2		✓	✓		
3		✓	✓		
<b>Cleddon Shoots Woodland</b>					
4		✓	✓		
5		✓	✓		
6		✓	✓		
<b>Fiddler's Elbow</b>					
7		✓	✓	✓	
8		✓	✓	✓	
<b>Graig Wood</b>					
9		✓	✓		
10		✓	✓		
<b>Harper's Grove – Lord's Grove</b>					
11		✓	✓		
12		✓	✓		
13		✓	✓		
14		✓	✓		
<b>Livox Wood</b>					
15		✓	✓		
<b>Lower Hael Wood</b>					
16		✓	✓		
<b>Pierce, Alcove and Piercefield Woods</b>					
17		✓	✓		
18		✓	✓		

### 3. THE SPECIAL FEATURES

#### 3.1 Confirmation of Special Features

<i>Designated feature</i>	<i>Relationships, nomenclature etc</i>	<i>Conservation Objective no. in part 4</i>
<i>SAC features</i>		
<i>Annex I habitats that are a primary reason for selection of this site</i>	Generally referred to as <i>Tilio-Acerion</i> , <i>Asperulo-Fagetum</i> and <i>Taxus baccata</i> woods in this plan.	4.1
1. <b><i>Tilio-Acerion</i> forests of slopes, screes and ravines (EU Habitat Code: 9180)</b>		4.2
2. <b><i>Asperulo-Fagetum</i> beech forests (EU Habitat Code: 9130)</b>		4.3
3. <b><i>Taxus baccata</i> woods of the British Isles (EU Habitat Code: 91JO)</b>		
<i>Annex II species present as a qualifying feature, but not a primary reason for site selection</i>		4.4
4. <b><i>Rhinolophus hipposideros</i> lesser horse shoe bat (EU Species Code:1303 )</b>		
<i>SPA features</i>		
Not applicable		
<i>Ramsar features</i>		
Not applicable		
<i>SSSI features</i>		
5. <b>Non SAC semi-natural broadleaved woodland (EU habitat Code: 9160)</b>		4.5

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

### Background information on Wye Valley Woodland SAC

The Wye Valley Woodland SAC is a cross border site and comprises sixteen SSSIs. Nine of these are in Wales; Blackcliff-Wyndcliff, Cleddon Shoots Woodland, Fiddler’s Elbow, Graig Wood, Harper’s Grove – Lord’s Grove, Livox Wood, Lower Hael Wood, Pierce, Alcove and Piercefield Woods and Upper Wye Gorge. These sites are included in the Natura 2000 series primarily for the areas of *Tilio-Acerion*, *Asperulo-Fagetum* and *Taxus baccata* present in the woods, with occasional colonisation by the lesser horseshoe bat adding to their importance. None of the sites are believed to support core lesser horseshoe bat colonies, but the woodlands are likely to be important for flight lines and foraging. The woodlands are also important for their population of dormice *Muscardinus avellenarius*.

The sites also host one SSSI feature, namely semi-natural broadleaved woodland (a broad type that can also include EU Annex 1 habitats).

Blackcliff – Wyndcliff SSSI is the largest SSSI in the SAC. The site was treated as three discrete management units, making unitisation straightforward. All four SAC and the SSSI habitats are present.

Blackcliff- Wyndcliff	Management Unit					
	1	2	3			
SAC	✓	✓	✓			
SSSI	✓	✓	✓			
<b>SAC features</b>						
<i>Tilio-Acerion</i>	KH	KH	KH			
<i>Asperulo-Fagetum</i>	KH	KH	KH			
<i>Taxus baccata</i>	KH	KH	KH			
<b>SSSI features</b>						
Semi natural broadleaved woodland	Sym	Sym	Sym			
Lesser horseshoe bats	Sym	Sym	Sym			
Dormice	Sym	Sym	Sym			



Cleddon Shoots Woodland SSSI has three discrete management units. The site is dominated by *Asperulo-Fagetum* woodland with a small area of *Tilio-Acerion* woodland through the Shoots. All Units are managed with minimum intervention.

Cleddon Shoots Woodland	Management Unit					
	4	5	6			
SAC	✓	✓	✓			
SSSI	✓	✓	✓			
<b>SAC features</b>						
<i>Tilio-Acerion</i>	KH	✗	✗			
<i>Asperulo-Fagetum</i>	KH	KH	KH			
<i>Taxus baccata</i>	✗	✗	✗			
<b>SSSI features</b>						
Semi natural broadleaved woodland	Sym	✗	✗			
Lesser horseshoe bats	Sym	Sym	Sym			
Dormice	✗	✗	✗			

Fiddler's Elbow SSSI is a straightforward site, comprising two management units. The main focus of the management in Unit 1 and Unit 2 is the *Tilio-Acerion* and *Asperulo-Fagetum* woodlands, which will be managed to create optimum dormice habitat, which is also sympathetic management for the remaining areas of semi natural broadleaved woodland.

Fiddlers Elbow	Management Unit					
	7	8				
SAC	✓	✓				
SSSI	✓	✓				
<b>SAC features</b>						
<i>Tilio-Acerion</i>	KH	KH				
<i>Asperulo-Fagetum</i>	KH	KH				
<i>Taxus baccata</i>	✗	✗				
<b>SSSI features</b>						
Semi natural broadleaved woodland	KH	Sym				
Lesser horseshoe bats	Sym	Sym				
Dormice	Sym	Sym				

Graig Wood SSSI is a small and straightforward site, comprising two management units. The main focus of the management in Unit 1 and Unit 2 is the *Tilio-Acerion* woodland, which will be managed as high forest. This type of management is also sympathetic for the remaining areas of semi-natural broadleaved woodland.

Graig Wood	Management Unit					
	9	10				
SAC	✓	✓				
SSSI	✓	✓				
<b>SAC features</b>						
<i>Tilio-Acerion</i>	KH	KH				
<i>Asperulo-Fagetum</i>	✗	✗				
<i>Taxus baccata</i>	✗	✗				
<b>SSSI features</b>						
Semi natural broadleaved woodland	Sym	✗				
Lesser horseshoe bats	Sym	Sym				
Dormice	Sym	Sym				

Harper's Grove – Lord's Grove SSSI comprises four management units. The main focus of the management in all units is the semi-natural broadleaved woodland. There are small areas of *Tilio–Acerion* and *Asperulo–Fagetum* within the woodland; management for the whole site is sympathetic to the needs of these areas.

Harper's Grove – Lord's Grove	Management Unit				
	11	12	13	14	
SAC	✓	✓	✓	✓	
SSSI	✓	✓	✓	✓	
<b>SAC features</b>					
<i>Tilio–Acerion</i>	KH	KH	✗	✗	
<i>Asperulo–Fagetum</i>	KH	KH	✗	✗	
<i>Taxus baccata</i>	✗	✗	✗	✗	
<b>SSSI features</b>					
Semi natural broadleaved woodland	Sym	Sym	KH	KH	
Lesser horseshoe bats	Sym	Sym	Sym	Sym	
Dormice	Sym	Sym	Sym	Sym	

Livox Wood SSSI *Tilio–Acerion* is the main focus of the management effort in this wood. The management across the site is also sympathetic for the remaining areas of semi natural broadleaved woodland.

Livox Wood	Management Unit				
	15				
SAC	✓				
SSSI	✓				
<b>SAC features</b>					
<i>Tilio–Acerion</i>	KH				
<i>Asperulo–Fagetum</i>	✗				
<i>Taxus baccata</i>	✗				
<b>SSSI features</b>					
Semi natural broadleaved woodland	Sym				
Lesser horseshoe bats	Sym				
Dormice	Sym				

Lower Hael Wood SSSI is a relatively small and straightforward site, comprising one management unit. The management across the site aims to create optimum *Tilio–Acerion* and *Asperulo–Fagetum* Woodland habitat, which is also sympathetic management for the remaining areas of semi natural broadleaved woodland present on the site.

Lower Hael Wood	Management Unit				
	16				
SAC	✓				
SSSI	✓				
<b>SAC features</b>					
<i>Tilio–Acerion</i>	KH				
<i>Asperulo–Fagetum</i>	KH				
<i>Taxus baccata</i>	✗				
<b>SSSI features</b>					
Semi natural broadleaved woodland	Sym				
Lesser horseshoe bats	Sym				

Dormice	Sym					
---------	-----	--	--	--	--	--

Pierce, Alcove and Piercefield Woods SSSI is a straightforward site, comprising two management units. The main focus of the management in Unit 1 and Unit 2 is the *Tilio-Acerion* Woodland, which will be managed as coppice with standards and high forest/ minimum management. The semi natural broadleaved woodland in these units will be under sympathetic management.

Pierce, Alcove and Piercefield Wood	Management Unit					
	17	18				
SAC	✓	✓				
SSSI	✓	✓				
<b>SAC features</b>						
<i>Tilio-Acerion</i>	KH	KH				
<i>Asperulo-Fagetum</i>	✗	✗				
<i>Taxus baccata</i>	✗	✗				
<b>SSSI features</b>						
Semi natural broadleaved woodland	Sym	Sym				
Lesser horseshoe bats	Sym	Sym				
Dormice	✗	✗				

## 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.

---

<sup>1</sup> Web link: <http://www.jncc.gov.uk/page-2199>

**4.1 Conservation Objective for Feature 1: *Tilio–Acerion* forests of slopes, screes and ravines (EU Habitat Code: 9180)**

**Vision for feature 1**

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

- *Tilio–Acerion* woodland is found in all eight of the Welsh SSSIs that contribute to the Wye Valley Woodlands SAC.
- The woodland area covers the entire site.
- The woodland is maintained as far as possible by natural processes.
- The location of open glades varies over time.
- Trees and shrubs are mainly locally native broadleaved species.
- The abundance and density of individual native species varies across the site.
- Trees and shrubs of a wide range of ages and sizes are present.
- Tree seedlings are plentiful throughout the site.
- Tree seedlings develop into saplings in the open glades.
- There are abundant dead and dying trees with holes and hollows, rot columns, torn off limbs and rotten branches.
- Some dead and dying trees will be partially or completely hollow.
- Fallen dead wood is dense enough to obstruct progress by foot across the entire site, except on established maintained paths.
- Dead wood dependent species of moss, liverwort, fungi and specialised invertebrates are present, in spatially and temporally variable abundance, throughout the site.
- Field and ground layers are well developed with a patchwork of vegetation communities characteristic of local soil and humidity conditions.
- 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> Extent of <i>Tilio–Acerion</i> woodland	Monitoring is likely to be a map-based exercise. The area of <i>Tilio–Acerion</i> woodland will be mapped as a baseline extent and the total area measured. Repeat monitoring will either re-map the site or review the baseline map in the field.  <i>Tilio–Acerion</i> woodland is defined as Woodland occurring on steep, rocky or sloping ground with rocky outcrops. In which <i>Fraxinus excelsior</i> and/or <i>Tilia cordata</i> are dominant/co-dominant in the canopy. Other species that may occur in the canopy include <i>Ulmus glabra</i> , <i>Quercus</i> spp., <i>Fagus sylvatica</i> , <i>Salix</i> spp.,	<i>Lower Limit:</i> No loss of extent of feature (mapped as NVC community W8d-g). Refer to Ecotech survey 1996 <u>and</u> The extent of the feature under high forest management, coppice with standards and minimum intervention is as outlined on Map X.  Loss = 0.5 ha or 0.5% of the stand area, whichever is the smaller (i.e. loss of extent through felling).

	<i>Prunus avium</i> and in some instances <i>Acer pseudoplatanus</i> . <i>Corylus avellana</i> is constant in the shrub layer along with occasional <i>Acer campestre</i> and <i>Taxus baccata</i> . <i>Phyllitis scolopendrium</i> is at least present in the field layer within 10m of any point.	
<b>A2.</b> Condition of the <i>Tilio-Acerion</i> woodland	Based on the Standard CSM attribute for this feature. Modified according to site-specific requirements.	<p><i>Tilio-Acerion</i> woodland continues to be present within all eight of the woodlands that contribute to the Welsh side of this SAC</p> <p><b>Blackcliff Wyndcliff</b> –29,30,31  <b>Cleddon Shoots Woodland</b> -32  <b>Fiddler’s Elbow</b> –35,36  <b>Graig Wood</b> – 37,38  <b>Harper’s Grove-Lord’s Grove</b> 39,40  <b>Livox Wood</b> -43  <b>Lower Hael</b> -44  <b>Pierce, Alcove and Piercefield</b> –45,46</p> <p><i>Upper limit:</i>  Not required</p> <p><i>Lower limit:</i>  100% of the <i>Tilio-Acerion</i> woodland meets the following conditions within a given 25 m radius sample point</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <math>\geq 20</math> ash (<i>Fraxinus excelsior</i>) saplings</li> <li>• <math>\geq 5</math> native canopy forming trees with girth <math>&gt;1.5</math> m</li> <li>• <math>\leq 5\%</math> of the canopy forming trees are non-native species</li> <li>• <math>\geq 2</math> dead trees, standing or fallen, of <math>&gt;20</math> cm diameter.</li> <li>• <math>&lt;20\%</math> of the canopy forming trees are sycamore (<i>Acer pseudoplatanus</i>)</li> </ul>
<b>Performance indicators for factors affecting the feature</b>		
<b>Factor</b>	<b>Factor rationale and other comments</b>	<b>Operational Limits</b>
<b>F1.</b> Livestock grazing		<p><i>Upper limit:</i> Light browsing  <i>Lower limit:</i> Not applicable</p> <p><b>Deer browsing</b> definitions:  <b>Heavy:</b> Absence of shrub layer, topiary effect on shrubs and young trees, browse line on mature trees, ground vegetation <math>&lt;10</math>cm mostly grasses and mosses. Abundant dung, paths.  <b>Moderate:</b> Patchy understorey with some evidence of browse line. Ground vegetation <math>&gt;30</math>cm with mixture of</p>

		<p>species, locally some close cropped area. Tree saplings projecting above ground vegetation but may show some evidence of browsing</p> <p><b>Light:</b> Well-developed understorey with no obvious browse line, lush ground vegetation with sensitive species such as bramble, honeysuckle and ivy. Tree seedlings and saplings common.</p>
<b>F2. Adjacent land use</b>	One of the component SSSIs lies close to opencast quarry. This may have indirect effects on the extent and quality of the woodland	No limits set. May need to be considered in the future.



---

## 4.2 Conservation Objective for Feature 2: *Asperulo–Fagetum* beech forests (EU Habitat Code:9130)

---

### Vision for feature 2

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

- *Asperulo–Fagetum* woodland continues to be present in Fiddler’s Elbow, Harper’s Grove-Lord’s Grove, Lower Hael, Cleddon Shoots and Blackcliff Wyndcliff, woods that contribute to the Wye Valley Woodlands SAC.
- The woodland area covers the entire site.
- The woodland is maintained as far as possible by natural processes.
- One quarter of the woodland canopy is open at any time.
- The location of open glades varies over time.
- Trees and shrubs are mainly locally native broadleaved species.
- The abundance and density of individual native species varies across the site.
- Trees and shrubs of a wide range of ages and sizes are present.
- Tree seedlings are plentiful throughout the site.
- Tree seedlings develop into saplings in the open glades.
- There are abundant dead and dying trees with holes and hollows, rot columns, torn off limbs and rotten branches.
- Some dead and dying trees will be partially or completely hollow.
- Fallen dead wood is dense enough to obstruct progress by foot across the entire site, except on established maintained paths.
- Field and ground layers are a patchwork of vegetation communities characteristic of local soil and humidity conditions.
- The woodland supports populations of birds (including pied flycatchers, redstarts, wood warblers) and mammals (including several bat species, otters and badgers).
- All factors affecting the achievement of these conditions are under control.

### Performance indicators for Feature 2

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> Extent of <i>Asperulo–Fagetum</i> beech forests	Monitoring is likely to be a map-based exercise. The area of <i>Asperulo–Fagetum</i> beech forests will be mapped as a baseline extent and the total area measured. Repeat monitoring will either re-map the site or review the baseline map in the field.  <i>Asperulo–Fagetum</i> woodland is defined as having a canopy generally dominated (>50%) by <i>Fagus sylvestris</i> , however in some areas <i>Tilia cordata</i> , <i>Ulmus</i> spp., <i>Quercus</i> spp. or <i>Fraxinus excelsior</i> share dominance. The shrub layer is sparse with	<i>Lower Limit:</i> No loss of extent of feature (mapped as NVC community W12). Refer to Ecotech survey 1996. <u>and</u> The extent of the feature under high forest management, coppice with standards management and minimum intervention management is as outlined on Map X.  Loss = 0.5 ha or 0.5% of the stand area, whichever is the smaller

	<p>scattered <i>Corylus avellana</i> and <i>Fagus</i> saplings and occasional <i>Ilex aquifolium</i>. The field layer is also characterised by its sparse-ness, largely due to the presence of deep leaf litter, low light levels and thin soils. Patches of bare ground are frequent. However in some areas <i>Rubus fruticosus</i> or <i>Hedera helix</i> can form dense patches. Other associated ground flora species include <i>Mercurialis perennis</i>, <i>Hyacinthoides non-scripta</i> and <i>Luzula sylvatica</i> and <i>Dryopteris filis-mas</i></p>	
<p><b>A2.</b> Condition of the <i>Asperulo–Fagetum</i> beech forests</p>	<p>Based on the Standard CSM attribute for this feature. Modified according to site - specific requirements.</p>	<p><i>Asperulo–Fagetum</i> woodland continues to be present within the following woodlands, in the units specified:  <b>Blackcliff-Wyndcliff</b> – 29,30,31  <b>Cleddon Shoots</b> – 32,33,34  <b>Fiddler’s Elbow SSSI (both Garth Wood and Lady Grove)</b> –35,36  <b>Harper’s Grove-Lord’s Grove</b> – 39,40  <b>Lower Hael</b> -44</p> <p><i>Upper limit:</i>  Not required  <i>Lower limit:</i>  100% of the <i>Asperulo–Fagetum</i> woodland is in good condition, characterised by:  Within a 25 m radius sample point</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• ≤50% of the canopy forming trees are beech</li> <li>• ≥ 3 beech (<i>Fagus sylvatica</i>) saplings</li> <li>• ≥ 5 native canopy forming trees with girth &gt;1.5 m</li> <li>• ≥ 2 dead trees, standing or fallen, of &gt;20 cm diameter.</li> <li>• No more than 5% or less? of the canopy forming trees are non-native species</li> <li>• &lt;20% of the canopy forming trees are sycamore (<i>Acer pseudoplatanus</i>)</li> <li>• &lt;5% of the shrub layer is non-native</li> </ul>
<p><b><i>Performance indicators for factors affecting the feature</i></b></p>		
<b><i>Factor</i></b>	<b><i>Factor rationale and other comments</i></b>	<b><i>Operational Limits</i></b>
<b>F1.</b> Livestock grazing	Refer to Feature 1	Refer to Feature 1
<b>F2.</b> Adjacent land use	Refer to Feature 1	Refer to Feature 1

---

### 4.3 Conservation Objective for Feature 3: *Taxus Baccata* woods of the British Isles (EU Habitat Code:91JO)

---

#### Vision for feature 3

- *Taxus Baccata* woodland continues to be present in Blackcliff Wyndcliff Woods that contribute to the Wye Valley Woodlands SAC.
- The woodland area covers the entire site.
- The woodland is maintained as far as possible by natural processes.
- The location of open glades varies over time.
- Trees and shrubs are mainly locally native broadleaved species.
- The abundance and density of individual native species varies across the site.
- Trees and shrubs of a wide range of ages and sizes are present.
- Tree seedlings are plentiful throughout the site.
- Tree seedlings develop into saplings in the open glades.
- There are abundant dead and dying trees with holes and hollows, rot columns, torn off limbs and rotten branches.
- Some dead and dying trees will be partially or completely hollow.
- Fallen dead wood is dense enough to obstruct progress by foot across the entire site, except on established maintained paths.
- Dead wood dependent species of moss, liverwort, fungi and specialised invertebrates are present, in spatially and temporally variable abundance, throughout the site.
- Field and ground layers are a patchwork of vegetation communities characteristic of local soil and humidity conditions.
- The woodland supports populations of birds (including pied flycatchers, redstarts, wood warblers) and mammals (including several bat species, otters and badgers).
- All factors affecting the achievement of these conditions are under control.

#### Performance indicators for Feature 3

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> Extent of <i>Taxus baccata</i> woodland	Monitoring is likely to be a map-based exercise. The area of <i>Taxus baccata</i> woodland will be mapped as a baseline extent and the total area measured. Repeat monitoring will either re-map the site or review the baseline map in the field.  <i>Taxus baccata</i> woodland is defined as where <i>Taxus baccata</i> (yew) achieves dominance or co-dominance in the canopy	<b>Blackcliff Wyndcliff</b> <i>Upper limit:</i> As limited by other habitat types <i>Lower limit:</i> As mapped in 1996 by Ecotech
<b>A2.</b> Condition of the <i>Taxus baccata</i> woodland	Based on the Standard CSM attribute for this feature. Modified according to site-specific requirements.	<b>Where <i>Taxus baccata</i> woodland is the Key Habitat in the Management Units, Blackcliff –Wyndcliff - 30</b>  <i>Upper limit:</i> Not required

		<p><i>Lower limit:</i>  <b>The woodland canopy in managed sections of the wood is comprised of:</b>  &gt;40% of trees are <i>Taxus baccata</i></p> <p>Tree - Any woody plant &gt;2m tall</p>
<b><i>Performance indicators for factors affecting the feature</i></b>		
<b><i>Factor</i></b>	<b><i>Factor rationale and other comments</i></b>	<b><i>Operational Limits</i></b>
<b>F1. Livestock grazing</b>	Refer to Feature 1	Refer to Feature 1

---

#### 4.4 Conservation Objective for Feature 4: Lesser horseshoe bat *Rhinolophus hipposideros* (EU Species Code: 1303)

---

##### Vision for feature 4

- The woodlands continue to support populations of lesser horseshoe bat.
- Sufficient foraging habitat is available, in which factors such as disturbance, interruption to flight lines, mortality from predation or vehicle collision, and changes in habitat management that would reduce the available food source are not at levels, which could cause any decline in population size.
- Management of the woodland SAC is of the appropriate type and sufficiently secure to ensure there is likely to be no reduction in population size or range, nor any decline in the extent or quality of breeding, foraging or hibernating habitat, for example due to over-intensive woodland management.
- There will be no loss or decline in quality of linear features (such as hedgerows and tree lines), which the bats use as flight lines.
- Disturbance to roost sites both within the site and in the surrounding area, especially from human physical presence, noise and lighting, is minimized.
- All factors affecting the achievement of these conditions are under control.

##### Performance indicators for Feature 4

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>
A1. Population of Lesser Horse shoe bat	<p>Lesser horseshoe bat is a qualifying feature but is not a primary reason for the selection of this SAC site.</p> <p>A number of lesser horseshoe bat maternity and hibernation roosts are located within the English side of the Wye Valley Woods SAC. Natural England will consider the condition of these and provide the assessment of this feature. However lesser horseshoe bats do use caves within the Welsh side of this SAC as hibernation roosts. Also, a number of large maternity roosts are located close to this SAC and the woodland are highly likely to be important feeding areas for this species of bat. A number of these roosts are included in the Wye Valley and Forest of Dean Bat Sites SAC.</p> <p>The lesser horseshoe bat is a feature of this SAC. However, the roosts lie on the English side of the SAC. Assessment of</p>	

	this feature shall be based on data collected by Natural England.	
<b><i>Performance indicators for factors affecting the feature</i></b>		
<b><i>Factor</i></b>	<b><i>Factor rationale and other comments</i></b>	<b><i>Operational Limits</i></b>
<b>F1.</b> Condition of the <i>Tilio–Acerion</i> , <i>Asperulo–Fagetum</i> , <i>Taxus Baccata</i> and non SAC semi natural broadleaved woodland	The conditions stipulated in the conservation objective/performance indicators for Feature 1,2, 3, 5 will ensure that the necessary requirements for flightlines and foraging for lesser horse shoe bat are met	Refer to Feature 1,2,3,5 - Attributes 1 & 2.

---

**4.5 Conservation Objective for Feature 5: Non SAC semi natural broadleaved woodland (EU habitat Code: 9160)**

---

**Vision for feature 5**

As Feature 1,2 and 3

**Performance indicators for Feature 5**

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> Extent of non-SAC semi natural broadleaved woodland	Monitoring is likely to be a map-based exercise. The areas of non- SAC semi natural broadleaved woodland will be reviewed in the field against The Ecotech survey 1996  Definition of non-SAC semi natural broadleaved woodland: semi-natural woodland types not selected as SAC habitat features at this site including Sun-Atlantic and medio European oak and/or old sessile oak woods, alder woodland, conifer plantations and non-wooded areas.	No loss of extent in any of the eight woodlands
<b>A2.</b> Condition of the <i>non-SAC</i> semi natural broadleaved woodland	Based on the Standard CSM attribute for this feature. Modified according to site-specific requirements.  See individual SSSI management plans for full details on site specific performance indicators.	It has been possible to deduce the SSSI feature condition from the SAC monitoring except in Fiddler’s Elbow and Harper’s Grove – Lord’s Grove where additional monitoring work to assess the condition of the SSSI feature was undertaken
<i>Performance indicators for factors affecting the feature</i>		
<i>Factor</i>	<i>Factor rationale and other comments</i>	<i>Operational Limits</i>
As feature 1		

## **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: *Tilio–Acerion* forests of slopes, screes and ravines (EU Habitat Code: 9180)**

---

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

The *Tilio–Acerion* forests and associated non-SAC semi natural broadleaved woodland features were monitored in detail in the summer 2005-6. In this case we can give condition information at the unit level. As all of the five areas have to be in good condition for the *Tilio–Acerion* overall to be favourable the feature is in **unfavourable condition**.

In the five core areas the woodland is referable to good condition *Tilio–Acerion* as defined by site-specific quality targets;

**Blackcliff-Wyndcliff SSSI**; current assessments are:

MU29 Unfavourable

MU30 Unfavourable

MU31 Unfavourable

**Graig Wood SSSI**

MU37 Unfavourable

MU38 Unfavourable

**Livox Wood SSSI**

MU43 Unfavourable

**Lower Hael Wood SSSI**; current assessments are:

MU44 Unfavourable

**Pierce, Alcove and Piercefield Woods SSSI**; current assessments are:

MU45 Unfavourable

MU46 Unfavourable

Continued presence of >50m<sup>2</sup> of good condition habitat in;

**Cleddon Shoots Woodland SSSI**

MU32 Favourable

**Fiddlers Elbow SSSI**

MU35 Favourable

MU36 Favourable

**Harpers Grove – Lords Grove SSSI**

MU39 Favourable

MU40 Favourable

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

The current status of the feature overall is unfavourable. The site-specific monitoring reports provide more detail on the condition of the *Tilio–Acerion* feature in the individual woodlands; these outline, which attributes are considered favourable/unfavourable at each site. In summary though, regeneration is frequently recorded as unfavourable. This is largely because of the extensive deer grazing throughout the Wye Valley. Heavy deer browsing is particularly evident in areas of any recent woodland management including coppicing in Blackcliff Wyndcliff, thinning of beech in Blackcliff – Wyndcliff and canopy gap creation in Lower Hael Wood.



### Habitat management

The *Tilio–Acerion* woodland has been maintained through traditional woodland management, a combination of minimum intervention, coppice with standards and managed high forest.

### Livestock grazing

When woodland is grazed for many years it can prevent the natural regeneration of the woodland, since seedlings and coppice stools are given no opportunity to grow into viable trees.

There is a serious problem with deer grazing in these woodlands. It is necessary to control the number of animals grazing in the wood using appropriate measures. Fences and gates should be erected and maintained around areas of regeneration in order to prevent damage. In the future, light grazing by stock may be considered to help reduce the competition from other species allowing seedling regeneration to replace older stools.

This is a particular issue on all of the management units in all SSSI woods.

### Off-site pollution

The effects of the releases of quarry dust into the atmosphere from the works adjacent to the Blackcliff -Wyndcliff SSSI are not known; these emissions are subject to the authorisation of other competent authorities, particularly the Environment Agency.

*Note:* The management requirements for the *Tilio–Acerion* woodland (SAC feature) are consistent with those of other SSSI features, namely the non-sac semi natural broadleaved woodland and the species interests of the site.

---

## **5.2 Conservation Status and Management Requirements of Feature 2: *Asperulo–Fagetum* beech forests (EU Habitat Code: 9130)**

---

### **Conservation Status of Feature 2**

The *Asperulo–Fagetum* forests and associated non-SAC semi natural broadleaved woodland features were monitored in detail in the 2005-6. The assessment on all 5 component SSSIs showed *Asperulo–Fagetum* to be unfavourable in one of the three key areas. As all of the three areas have to be in good condition for the *Asperulo–Fagetum* overall to be favourable the feature is in **unfavourable condition**, and in this case we can give condition information at the unit level.

In the three core areas where the woodland is referable to good condition *Asperulo–Fagetum* as defined by site-specific quality targets;

**Blackcliff-Wyndcliff SSSI;** current assessments are:

MU29 Unfavourable

**Cleddon Shoots Woodland SSSI;** current assessments are:

MU32 Favourable

MU33 Favourable

MU34 Favourable

**Lower Hael Wood SSSI;** current assessments are:

MU44 Unfavourable

In addition there should be continued presence of >50m<sup>2</sup> of good condition habitat in;

**Fiddler’s Elbow SSSI**

MU36 Favourable

## Harper's Grove – Lord's Grove SSSI MU40 Favourable

### Management Requirements of Feature 2

The current status of the feature overall is unfavourable. The site- specific monitoring reports provide more detail on the condition of the *Asperulo–Fagetum* feature in the individual woodlands. These outline those attributes that are considered favourable/unfavourable at each site. In summary, regeneration is frequently recorded as unfavourable. This is largely because of the extensive deer grazing throughout the Wye Valley. Evidence of deer browsing has been recorded in all of the Welsh woodlands, including the southern most sites, Pierce Alcove and Piercefield

#### Habitat management

The majority of the *Asperulo–Fagetum* woodlands are maintained through minimum intervention, with some areas also using traditional management practices of coppice with standards and managed high forest.

#### Livestock grazing

When woodland is grazed for many years it can prevent the natural regeneration of the woodland since seedlings and coppice stools are given no opportunity to grow into viable trees.

There is a serious problem with deer grazing in these woodlands. It is necessary to control the number of animals grazing in the wood using appropriate control measures. Fences and gates should be erected and maintained around areas of regeneration in order to prevent damage. In the future light grazing by stock may be considered to help reduce the competition from other species allowing seedling regeneration to replace older stools.

This is a particular issue on all of the management Units.

#### Off-site pollution

The effects of the releases of quarry dust into the atmosphere from the works adjacent to the Blackcliff-Wyndcliff SSSI are not known; these emissions are subject to the authorisation of other competent authorities, particularly the Environment Agency.

---

## 5.3 Conservation Status and Management Requirements of Feature 3: *Taxus baccata* woods of the British Isles (EU Habitat Code:91JO)

---

### Conservation Status of Feature 3

The *Taxus baccata* woods were monitored in detail in the Winter 2005. The assessment of Blackcliff-Wyndcliff component SSSI was that the feature was in **favourable condition**, and in this case we can give condition information at the unit level.

**Blackcliff-Wyndcliff SSSI current assessments are:**

MU29 Favourable

### Management Requirements of Feature 3

The current status of the feature overall is favourable. The site- specific monitoring report provides more detail on the condition of the *Taxus baccata* feature in the woodland; these outline which attributes are considered favourable/unfavourable at each site.

#### Habitat management

The *Taxus baccata* woods are maintained through minimum intervention.

*Note:* The management requirements for the *Taxus baccata* woods (SAC feature) are consistent with those of other SSSI features, namely the non-sac semi natural broadleaved woodland and the species interests of the site.

---

#### **5.4 Conservation Status and Management Requirements of Feature 4: *Rhinolophus hipposideros* lesser horse shoe bat (EU Species Code: 1303 )**

---

##### **Conservation Status of Feature 4**

Need to speak with Natural England to get monitoring results of this feature.

##### **Management Requirements of Feature 4**

The current status of the feature is unknown need to speak to NE re its condition.

##### Habitat management

All the habitat management requirements for the lesser horseshoe bat will be met through the appropriate management of the *Tilio–Acerion* (Feature 1), *Asperulo–Fagetum* (Feature 2), *Taxus baccata* (Feature 3) and the non-SAC semi natural broadleaved woodland (Feature 5).

---

#### **5.5 Conservation Status and Management Requirements of Feature 5: Non-SAC semi-natural broadleaved woodland (EU habitat Code: 9160)**

---

##### **Conservation Status of Feature 5**

Unfavourable – refer to Feature 1

##### **Management Requirements of Feature 5**

The management requirements of the non-SAC semi-natural broadleaved woodland are entirely consistent with those of the areas of Annex 1 habitats *Tilio–Acerion*, *Asperulo–Fagetum*, *Taxus baccata* woods (Features 1, 2, 3) and these features will be managed collectively.

## 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	000029	Blackcliff - Wyndcliff	Deer are present within wood; they browse off seedlings and saplings reducing the viable regeneration. In addition, this unit has been subject to management through Life and the regeneration here has also been affected by deer grazing.	Yes
002	000030	Liveoaks Brake	Deer are present within wood; they browse off seedlings and saplings reducing the viable regeneration.	Yes
003	000031	Porthcassog Woods	Deer are present within wood; they browse off seedlings and saplings reducing the viable regeneration.	Yes
004	000032	Cleddon Shoots Woodland	The primary issue for this woodland is the spread of cherry laurel, particularly through the shoots.	Yes
005	000033	Cleddon Shoots2	No issues	No
006	000034	Bread and Cheese stones	No issues	No
007	000035	Garth Wood	Deer are present within wood; they browse off seedlings and saplings reducing the viable regeneration.	Yes
008	000036	Priory Grove	Deer are present within wood; they browse off seedlings and saplings reducing the viable regeneration.	Yes
009	000037	Graig Wood	Deer browsing in wood is reducing the regeneration potential.	Yes
010	000038	Prisk Wood	Deer are present within wood; they browse off seedlings and saplings reducing the viable regeneration.	Yes
011	000039	Lords Grove	Deer are present within wood; they browse off seedlings and saplings reducing the viable regeneration.	Yes
012	000040	Wyesham Lane section	Deer are present within wood; they browse off seedlings and saplings reducing the viable regeneration.	Yes
013	000041	Harpers Grove	Deer are present within wood; they browse off seedlings and saplings reducing the viable regeneration.	Yes
014	000042	Duffields Lane section	Deer are present within wood; they browse off seedlings and saplings reducing the viable regeneration.	Yes
015	000043	Livox	Deer are present within wood; they browse off	Yes

<b>Unit Number</b>	<b>CCW Database Number</b>	<b>Unit Name</b>	<b>Summary of Conservation Management Issues</b>	<b>Action needed?</b>
		Wood	seedlings and saplings reducing the viable regeneration.	
016	000044	Lower Hael Wood	Deer are present within wood; they browse off seedlings and saplings reducing the viable regeneration.	Yes
017	000045	Piercefield Woods	Deer are present within wood; they browse off seedlings and saplings reducing the viable regeneration.	Yes
018	000046	Castle Wood	No issues	No

## **7. GLOSSARY**

This glossary defines some of the terms used in this **Core Management Plan**. Some of the definitions are based on definitions contained in other documents, including legislation and other publications of CCW and the UK nature conservation agencies. None of these definitions is legally definitive.

<b>Action</b>	A recognisable and individually described act, undertaking or <b>project</b> of any kind, specified in section 6 of a <b>Core Management Plan</b> or <b>Management Plan</b> , as being required for the <b>conservation management</b> of a site.
<b>Attribute</b>	A quantifiable and monitorable characteristic of a <b>feature</b> that, in combination with other such attributes, describes its <b>condition</b> .
<b>Common Standards Monitoring</b>	A set of principles developed jointly by the UK conservation agencies to help ensure a consistent approach to <b>monitoring</b> and reporting on the <b>features</b> of sites designated for nature conservation, supported by guidance on identification of <b>attributes</b> and monitoring methodologies.
<b>Condition</b>	A description of the state of a feature in terms of qualities or <b>attributes</b> 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.
<b>Condition assessment</b>	The process of characterising the <b>condition</b> of a <b>feature</b> with particular reference to whether the aspirations for its condition, as expressed in its <b>conservation objective</b> , are being met.
<b>Condition categories</b>	The <b>condition</b> of <b>feature</b> can be categorised, following <b>condition assessment</b> 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.

---

<sup>2</sup> 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**

<b>Favourable conservation status</b>	See <b>conservation status</b> and <b>conservation status assessment</b> . <sup>3</sup>
<b>Feature</b>	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.
<b>Integrity</b>	See <b>site integrity</b>
<b>Key Feature</b>	The habitat or species population within a <b>management unit</b> that is the primary focus of <b>conservation management</b> and <b>monitoring</b> in that unit.
<b>Management Plan</b>	The full expression of a designated site's legal status, <b>vision</b> , <b>features</b> , <b>conservation objectives</b> , <b>performance indicators</b> 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 <b>the Core Management Plan</b> ) and sets of electronically stored information.
<b>Management Unit</b>	An area within a site, defined according to one or more of a range of criteria, such as topography, location of <b>features</b> , tenure, patterns of land/sea use. The key characteristic of management units is to reflect the spatial scale at which <b>conservation management</b> and <b>monitoring</b> 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.
<b>Monitoring</b>	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 <b>Common Standards Monitoring</b> , the formulated standard is the quantified expression of favourable <b>condition</b> based on <b>attributes</b> .
<b>Operational limits</b>	The levels or values within which a <b>factor</b> is considered to be acceptable in terms of its influence on a <b>feature</b> . 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.
<b>Performance indicators</b>	The <b>attributes</b> and their associated <b>specified limits</b> , together with <b>factors</b> and their associated <b>operational limits</b> , which provide the standard against which information from <b>monitoring</b> and other sources is used to determine the degree to which the <b>conservation objectives</b> for a <b>feature</b> are being met.

---

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



Performance indicators are part of, not the same as, conservation objectives. See also **vision for the feature**.

<b>Plan or project</b>	<p><b>Project:</b> 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.</p> <p><b>Plan:</b> a document prepared or adopted by a public body or statutory undertaker, intended to influence decisions on the carrying out of <b>projects</b>.</p> <p>Decisions on plans and projects which affect Natura 2000 and Ramsar sites are subject to specific legal and policy procedures.</p>
<b>Site integrity</b>	<p>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.</p>
<b>Site Management Statement (SMS)</b>	<p>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.</p>
<b>Special Feature</b>	<p>See <b>feature</b>.</p>
<b>Specified limit</b>	<p>The levels or values for an <b>attribute</b> which define the degree to which the attribute can fluctuate without creating cause for concern about the <b>condition</b> of the <b>feature</b>. 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.</p>
<b>Unit</b>	<p>See <b>management unit</b>.</p>
<b>Vision for the feature</b>	<p>The expression, within a <b>conservation objective</b>, of the aspirations for the <b>feature</b> concerned. See also <b>performance indicators</b>.</p>
<b>Vision Statement</b>	<p>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>.</p>