

Information Sheet on Ramsar Wetlands (RIS)

Categories approved by Recommendation 4.7 (1990), as amended by Resolution VIII.13 of the 8th Conference of the Contracting Parties (2002) and Resolutions IX.1 Annex B, IX.6, IX.21 and IX. 22 of the 9th Conference of the Contracting Parties (2005).

Notes for compilers:

1. The RIS should be completed in accordance with the attached *Explanatory Notes and Guidelines for completing the Information Sheet on Ramsar Wetlands*. Compilers are strongly advised to read this guidance before filling in the RIS.
2. Further information and guidance in support of Ramsar site designations are provided in the *Strategic Framework for the future development of the List of Wetlands of International Importance* (Ramsar Wise Use Handbook 7, 2nd edition, as amended by COP9 Resolution IX.1 Annex B). A 3rd edition of the Handbook, incorporating these amendments, is in preparation and will be available in 2006.
3. Once completed, the RIS (and accompanying map(s)) should be submitted to the Ramsar Secretariat. Compilers should provide an electronic (MS Word) copy of the RIS and, where possible, digital copies of all maps.

1. Name and address of the compiler of this form:

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Designation date

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Site Reference Number

2. Date this sheet was completed/updated:

Designated: 02 February 1998

3. Country:

UK (Wales)

4. Name of the Ramsar site:

Corsydd Môn a Llyn/ Anglesey and Llyn Fens

5. Designation of new Ramsar site or update of existing site:

This RIS is for: Updated information on an existing Ramsar site

6. For RIS updates only, changes to the site since its designation or earlier update:

a) Site boundary and area:

** Important note: If the boundary and/or area of the designated site is being restricted/reduced, the Contracting Party should have followed the procedures established by the Conference of the Parties in the Annex to COP9 Resolution IX.6 and provided a report in line with paragraph 28 of that Annex, prior to the submission of an updated RIS.

b) Describe briefly any major changes to the ecological character of the Ramsar site, including in the application of the Criteria, since the previous RIS for the site:

7. Map of site included:

Refer to Annex III of the *Explanatory Notes and Guidelines*, for detailed guidance on provision of suitable maps, including digital maps.

a) A map of the site, with clearly delineated boundaries, is included as:

- i) **hard copy** (required for inclusion of site in the Ramsar List): *yes* ✓ -or- *no* ☐;
- ii) **an electronic format** (e.g. a JPEG or ArcView image) *Yes*
- iii) a **GIS file providing geo-referenced site boundary vectors and attribute tables** *yes* ✓ -or- *no* ☐;

b) **Describe briefly the type of boundary delineation applied:**

e.g. the boundary is the same as an existing protected area (nature reserve, national park etc.), or follows a catchment boundary, or follows a geopolitical boundary such as a local government jurisdiction, follows physical boundaries such as roads, follows the shoreline of a waterbody, etc.

The site boundary is the same as, or falls within, an existing protected area.

For precise boundary details, please refer to paper map provided at designation

8. Geographical coordinates (latitude/longitude):

53 18 45 N 04 17 44 W

9. General location:

Include in which part of the country and which large administrative region(s), and the location of the nearest large town.

Nearest town/city: Bangor

The site comprises a suite of base-rich fens located on the Isle of Anglesey and the Lleyn Peninsula in north-west Wales.

Administrative region: Gwynedd; Ynys Môn/ Isle of Anglesey

10. Elevation (average and/or max. & min.) (metres): **11. Area** (hectares): 624.9

Min.	16
Max.	79
Mean	39

12. General overview of the site:

Provide a short paragraph giving a summary description of the principal ecological characteristics and importance of the wetland.

An internationally important suite of base-rich fens comprised of six component sites, supporting a range of associated floral and faunal rarities. The six wetlands occupy valley heads and former lake basins which have mostly infilled with marl and peat deposits, with open water persisting at two of the sites. Calcareous springs from limestone and calcareous drift aquifers irrigate the fens and result in a distinctive vegetation. These fens are notable as the best sites in Wales for stoneworts.

13. Ramsar Criteria:

Circle or underline each Criterion applied to the designation of the Ramsar site. See Annex II of the *Explanatory Notes and Guidelines* for the Criteria and guidelines for their application (adopted by Resolution VII.11).

1, 3

14. Justification for the application of each Criterion listed in 13 above:

Provide justification for each Criterion in turn, clearly identifying to which Criterion the justification applies (see Annex II for guidance on acceptable forms of justification).

Ramsar criterion 1

The site supports a suite of base-rich, calcareous fens which is a rare habitat type within the United Kingdom's biogeographical zone.

Habitats Directive Annex I features present on the SAC include:

H3140	Hard oligo-mesotrophic waters with benthic vegetation of <i>Chara</i> spp.
H4010	Northern Atlantic wet heaths with <i>Erica tetralix</i>
H6410	<i>Molinia</i> meadows on calcareous, peaty or clayey-silt-laden soils (<i>Molinion caeruleae</i>)
H7210	Calcareous fens with <i>Cladium mariscus</i> and species of the <i>Caricion davallianae</i>
H7230	Alkaline fens
S1013	<i>Vertigo geyeri</i>
S1044	<i>Coenagrion mercuriale</i>
S1065	<i>Euphydrias</i> (<i>Eurodryas</i> , <i>Hypodryas</i>) <i>aurinia</i>

Ramsar criterion 3

The site supports a diverse flora and fauna with associated rare species and is of special value for maintaining the genetic and ecological diversity of the region.

See Sections 21/22 for details of noteworthy species

15. Biogeography (required when Criteria 1 and/or 3 and /or certain applications of Criterion 2 are applied to the designation):

Name the relevant biogeographic region that includes the Ramsar site, and identify the biogeographic regionalisation system that has been applied.

a) biogeographic region:

Atlantic

b) biogeographic regionalisation scheme (include reference citation):

Council Directive 92/43/EEC

16. Physical features of the site:

Describe, as appropriate, the geology, geomorphology; origins - natural or artificial; hydrology; soil type; water quality; water depth, water permanence; fluctuations in water level; tidal variations; downstream area; general climate, etc.

Soil & geology	basic, sand, clay, peat, igneous, limestone/chalk, maerl, gravel, boulder
Geomorphology and landscape	lowland, floodplain, basins
Nutrient status	mesotrophic, oligotrophic
pH	alkaline, circumneutral
Salinity	fresh
Soil	mainly organic
Water permanence	usually permanent
Summary of main climatic features	Annual averages (Valley, 1971–2000) (www.metoffice.com/climate/uk/averages/19712000/sites/valley.html) Max. daily temperature: 13.1° C Min. daily temperature: 7.5° C Days of air frost: 18.3 Rainfall: 827.9 mm Hrs. of sunshine: 1621.4

General description of the Physical Features:

No information available

17. Physical features of the catchment area:

Describe the surface area, general geology and geomorphological features, general soil types, general land use, and climate (including climate type).

No information available

18. Hydrological values:

Describe the functions and values of the wetland in groundwater recharge, flood control, sediment trapping, shoreline stabilization, etc.

Flood water storage / desynchronisation of flood peaks, Maintenance of water quality (removal of nutrients)

19. Wetland types:

Inland wetland

Code	Name	% Area
U	Peatlands (including peat bogs swamps, fens)	99.2
Other	Other	0.4
O	Freshwater lakes: permanent	0.2
Ts	Freshwater marshes / pools: seasonal / intermittent	0.1
Tp	Freshwater marshes / pools: permanent	0.1
Y	Freshwater springs	0.01

20. General ecological features:

Provide further description, as appropriate, of the main habitats, vegetation types, plant and animal communities present in the Ramsar site, and the ecosystem services of the site and the benefits derived from them.

All six wetlands within this site occupy valley heads and former lake basins which have mostly infilled with marl and peat deposits, although in the cases of Cors Goch and Cors Erddreiniog open water lakes persist. Calcareous springs, from limestone aquifers or shelly glacial drift, irrigate the fens and lead to a distinctive vegetation of *Schoenus nigricans*-*Juncus subnodulosus* hummocks which is rich in plants such as *Dactylorhiza traunsteineri*, *Ophrys insectifera*, *Pinguicula vulgaris*, the long-stalked yellow-sedge *Carex viridula* ssp. *brachyrrhyncha*, and the moss *Scorpidium scorpioides*.

In lower-lying areas, swamp vegetation dominated by stands of *Cladium mariscus*, *Carex elata* and *Carex lasiocarpa* is characteristic. These fens are notable as the best Welsh sites for stoneworts such as *Nitella tenuissima*.

Plant community types are prefixed by the National Vegetation Classification (NVC) code (e.g. S9).

Ecosystem services

21. Noteworthy flora:

Provide additional information on particular species and why they are noteworthy (expanding as necessary on information provided in 12. Justification for the application of the Criteria) indicating, e.g. which species/communities are unique, rare, endangered or biogeographically important, etc. *Do not include here taxonomic lists of species present – these may be supplied as supplementary information to the RIS.*

Nationally important species occurring on the site.**Higher Plants.**

Dactylorhiza traunsteineri

Eriophorum gracile

Lower Plants.

Nitella tenuissima.

22. Noteworthy fauna:

Provide additional information on particular species and why they are noteworthy (expanding as necessary on information provided in 12. Justification for the application of the Criteria) indicating, e.g. which species/communities are unique, rare, endangered or biogeographically important, etc., including count data. *Do not include here taxonomic lists of species present – these may be supplied as supplementary information to the RIS.*

Birds

Species Information

Species occurring at levels of international importance.

Invertebrates.

Vertigo geyeri (Habitats Directive Annex II (S1013))
Vertigo moulinsiana (Annex II (Habitats Directive (S1016); RDB3)
Coenagrion mercuriale (Habitats Directive Annex II (S1044))
Euphydryas aurinia (Habitats Directive Annex II (S1065))

Nationally important species occurring on the site.

Invertebrates.

Mammals.

Lutra lutra (Habitats Directive Annex II (S1355))

Invertebrates.

Chlaenius tristis (RDB1)
Asilus crabroniformis (Notable)
Stratiomys chamaeleon, *Acrometopia wahlbergi*, *Hirudo medicinalis* (Habitats Directive Annex V (S1034)).

23. Social and cultural values:

Describe if the site has any general social and/or cultural values e.g. fisheries production, forestry, religious importance, archaeological sites, social relations with the wetland, etc. Distinguish between historical/archaeological/religious significance and current socio-economic values.

Aesthetic
 Archaeological/historical site
 Environmental education/ interpretation
 Livestock grazing
 Scientific research
 Sport hunting

b) Is the site considered of international importance for holding, in addition to relevant ecological values, examples of significant cultural values, whether material or non-material, linked to its origin, conservation and/or ecological functioning? No

If Yes, describe this importance under one or more of the following categories:

- i) sites which provide a model of wetland wise use, demonstrating the application of traditional knowledge and methods of management and use that maintain the ecological character of the wetland:
- ii) sites which have exceptional cultural traditions or records of former civilizations that have influenced the ecological character of the wetland:
- iii) sites where the ecological character of the wetland depends on the interaction with local communities or indigenous peoples:

- iv) sites where relevant non-material values such as sacred sites are present and their existence is strongly linked with the maintenance of the ecological character of the wetland:

24. Land tenure/ownership:

Ownership category	On-site	Off-site
Non-governmental organisation (NGO)	+	
Local authority, municipality etc.	+	+
Private	+	+
Public/communal	+	

25. Current land (including water) use:

Activity	On-site	Off-site
Nature conservation	+	+
Tourism	+	+
Recreation	+	+
Current scientific research	+	+
Commercial forestry		+
Cutting of vegetation (small-scale/subsistence)	+	+
Arable agriculture (unspecified)	+	+
Livestock watering hole/pond	+	+
Grazing (unspecified)	+	+
Rough or shifting grazing	+	+
Permanent pastoral agriculture	+	+
Hay meadows	+	+
Hunting: recreational/sport	+	+
Industry		+
Flood control	+	+
Transport route		+

26. Factors (past, present or potential) adversely affecting the site's ecological character, including changes in land (including water) use and development projects:

Explanation of reporting category:

1. Those factors that are still operating, but it is unclear if they are under control, as there is a lag in showing the management or regulatory regime to be successful.
2. Those factors that are not currently being managed, or where the regulatory regime appears to have been ineffective so far.

NA = Not Applicable because no factors have been reported.

Adverse Factor Category	Reporting Category	Description of the problem (Newly reported Factors only)	On-Site	Off-Site	Major Impact?
Vegetation succession	1		+	+	

Drainage/land-claim: (unspecified)	1		+		+
Eutrophication	1		+	+	+
Pollution – agricultural fertilisers	1		+	+	+

For category 2 factors only.

What measures have been taken / are planned / regulatory processes invoked, to mitigate the effect of these factors?

Is the site subject to adverse ecological change? NO

27. Conservation measures taken:

List national category and legal status of protected areas, including boundary relationships with the Ramsar site; management practices; whether an officially approved management plan exists and whether it is being implemented.

Conservation measure	On-site	Off-site
Site/ Area of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI/ASSI)	+	
National Nature Reserve (NNR)	+	
Land owned by a non-governmental organisation for nature conservation	+	
Management agreement	+	
Special Area of Conservation (SAC)	+	
Management plan in preparation	+	

b) Describe any other current management practices:

The management of Ramsar sites in the UK is determined by either a formal management plan or through other management planning processes, and is overseen by the relevant statutory conservation agency. Details of the precise management practises are given in these documents.

28. Conservation measures proposed but not yet implemented:

e.g. management plan in preparation; official proposal as a legally protected area, etc.

No information available

29. Current scientific research and facilities:

e.g. details of current research projects, including biodiversity monitoring; existence of a field research station, etc.

Flora.

Monitoring of vegetational changes.

Palaeoecological research to determine trends in vegetation development over time.

Monitoring of the population size and distribution of vulnerable species.

30. Current communications, education and public awareness (CEPA) activities related to or benefiting the site:

e.g. visitor centre, observation hides and nature trails, information booklets, facilities for school visits, etc.

Four of the sites are used by local schools and community groups for environmental education. There are boardwalks and interpretive boards at Cors Goch NNR.

31. Current recreation and tourism:

State if the wetland is used for recreation/tourism; indicate type(s) and their frequency/intensity.

Activities, Facilities provided and Seasonality.

The network of footpaths is used for rambling and horse riding which takes place all year, but mainly during the summer.

No other facilities are provided.

32. Jurisdiction:

Include territorial, e.g. state/region, and functional/sectoral, e.g. Dept. of Agriculture/Dept. of Environment, etc.

Head, Countryside Division, Welsh Assembly Government, Cathays Park, Cardiff, CF1 3NQ

33. Management authority:

Provide the name and address of the local office(s) of the agency(ies) or organisation(s) directly responsible for managing the wetland. Wherever possible provide also the title and/or name of the person or persons in this office with responsibility for the wetland.

Site Safeguard Officer, International Designations, Countryside Council for Wales, Maes-y-Ffynnon, Penrhosgarneidd, Bangor, Gwynedd, LL57 2DW

34. Bibliographical references:

Scientific/technical references only. If biogeographic regionalisation scheme applied (see 15 above), list full reference citation for the scheme.

Site-relevant references

- Gibbons, B (1999) Reserve focus – Cors Erddreiniog and other Anglesey fens. *British Wildlife*, **10**(5), 334-337
- Gilman, K & Newson, MD (1982) The Anglesey Wetlands Study. (Final report) (Contractor: Institute of Hydrology, Wallingford) *NCC CSD Report*, No. **430**
- Jones, PS, Stevens, DP, Blackstock, TH, Burrows, CR & Howe, EA (eds.) (2003) *Priority habitats of Wales: a technical guide*. Countryside Council for Wales, Bangor
- Killeen, IJ (2000) Status and distribution of Des Moulin's whorl snail *Vertigo moulinsiana* on Cors Geirch SSSI. *CCW Contract Science Report*, No. **373**
- McLeod, CR, Yeo, M, Brown, AE, Burn, AJ, Hopkins, JJ & Way, SF (eds.) (2004) *The Habitats Directive: selection of Special Areas of Conservation in the UK*. 2nd edn. Joint Nature Conservation Committee, Peterborough. www.jncc.gov.uk/SACselection
- Meade, R & Blackstock, TH (1988) The impact of drainage on the distribution of rich-fen plant communities in two Anglesey basins. *Wetlands*, **8**, 159-177
- Ratcliffe, DA (ed.) (1977) *A Nature Conservation Review. The selection of biological sites of national importance to nature conservation in Britain*. Cambridge University Press (for the Natural Environment Research Council and the Nature Conservancy Council), Cambridge (2 vols.)
- Shirt, DB (ed.) (1987) *British Red Data Books: 2. Insects*. Nature Conservancy Council, Peterborough
- Stewart, NF (2004) *Important stonewort areas. An assessment of the best areas for stoneworts in the United Kingdom*. Plantlife International, Salisbury
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