

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

**Draft minutes of the Pen Llŷn a'r Sarnau cSAC Liaison Group meeting held on 23rd March 2000 (starting 7pm) at Neuadd Goffa, Penrhyndeudraeth**

Present:

Jim Andrews	North Western & North Wales Sea Fisheries Committee
Alf Bowen	
David Archer	Snowdonia National Park Authority
Michael Bowyer	
Adam Cole-King	Countryside Council for Wales
Iwan R H Edgar	
Cllr Owen Edwards	
Jenny Fell	
Kelvin Graham	Environment Agency
Greta Hughes	
Jill Jackson	Gwynedd Council
Andy Jeffrey	
Huw T Jones	
Lucy Kay	Countryside Council for Wales
Ann Lewis	
Peter Lloyd	
Bill Miller-Jones	
G D Murray	
Mike Parry	
Caerwyn Roberts	(chairman)
Iain Roberts	
Owie Roberts	
Roland Sharp	
Mike Thrussell	
Jill Whipp	
Dylan Williams	Environment Agency
Cllr Fred Williams	
Tom Woodward	Welsh Water

Apologies:

Apologies were received from Bill Bracewell. Caerwyn Roberts informed the meeting that Bill's absence was due to the recent tragic death of his daughter. Everyone present wished to express their deepest sympathy to him and his family.

**1. Introduction**

- 1.1 Caerwyn Roberts welcomed everyone to the meeting. He reminded everyone about the purpose of the meeting and individuals' roles in helping develop a management scheme for the Pen Llŷn a'r Sarnau candidate Special Area of Conservation (cSAC).

**2. Marine wildlife of the cSAC**

- 2.1 Lucy Kay gave a short slide presentation to illustrate and describe the marine wildlife of the Pen Llŷn a'r Sarnau cSAC.

**3. Outline of the legislation covering SACs**

- 3.1 Jim Andrews gave a short presentation describing the legislation covering SACs and the status and function of a management scheme. He also clarified the roles of different groups and individuals with respect to the management scheme:

- Statutory bodies (relevant and competent authorities): protect wildlife;
  - Identify statutory measures needed to
  - Implement controls/regulations if needed;
- Countryside Council for Wales
  - Provides advice on the needs of the wildlife and what activities may affect the wildlife.
- Public and Interest Group
  - Help the statutory bodies understand what is happening on the site
  - Provide advice on ways to approach management of the cSAC
- Liaison Group
  - Representatives of the different interests present on the site;
  - Brings together all interested parties to discuss and develop management of the cSAC.

3.2 A question was asked about a comment in one of the SAC documents referring to consultations on any future extensions to the cSAC boundary and seeking clarification as to whether there would be boundary changes. Jim Andrews explained that due to the government requirement that intertidal areas had to be notified as Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) before they could be included within the boundary of a marine SAC, currently only the low water channels of the Mawddach and Glaslyn/Dwyrdd estuaries were included within the cSAC boundary (SSSI's can only extend seawards to low water mark); even though the site had been selected on the basis of the whole estuaries. There would be future consultations about including the estuaries within the cSAC boundary.

3.3 On a related issue and for information, Adam Cole-King explained that the UK government, along with a number of other EU member states, has been required by the European Commission to undertake a review of the existing candidate SACs (marine and terrestrial) and the species and habitats for which they have been selected. Because of the way in which the Government had interpreted the Directive, the UK had not identified as complete a list of sites as was required by the Directive. The result of the review is not yet know, but it may result in changes to SAC boundaries, additional habitats and/or species being recognised as 'features' within SACs and the establishment of new SACs. Any new proposals would be subject to consultation.

3.4 Copies of the CCW booklet 'European Marine Site - an introduction to management' were circulated.

#### **4. Draft Terms of Reference for the Liaison Group**

4.1 Caerwyn Roberts explained the draft Terms of Reference (TOR) for the Liaison Group. A query was raised about what was expected from Liaison Group members under 4(v) of the TOR. Adam Cole-King explained that the relevant authorities would be looking to the Liaison Group for suggestions as to how to present and target information more effectively to members of the public. The TOR were accepted.

#### **5. Timetable for the production of the management scheme**

5.1 Adam Cole-King explained the outline timetable. He explained that the timetable had

been put together within the constraint imposed by the European Commission, who have provided funding to support the production of a management scheme by the end of November 2000. The funding is from the EU LIFE-Nature Programme. Within that overall constraint, the relevant authorities wished to maximise the opportunity for input and discussion by the Liaison Group. The outline timetable was agreed as follows:

<b>23 March</b>	· 1st meeting of Liaison Group.
<b>April - May</b>	· Relevant authorities working group draft sections of the management scheme and circulate to Liaison Group for comment.
<b>5 June</b>	· 2nd meeting of Liaison Group.
<b>June - July</b>	· Relevant authorities continue to draft the management scheme. Liaison Group members to continue to feedback information/comments to relevant authorities.
<b>Start August</b>	· Relevant authorities publish the draft plan for consultation - 3 month consultation period.
<b>Mid September</b>	· Northern and Southern fora meet (Pwllheli/Dolgellau public meetings).
<b>Start October</b>	· 3rd meeting of Liaison Group.
<b>End October</b>	· Final deadline for comments on draft management scheme to be with relevant authorities.
<b>November</b>	· Relevant authorities revise the draft management scheme.
<b>End November</b>	· Relevant authorities publish management scheme.

5.2 Queries were raised about the legal standing of the management scheme and who in Europe would receive copies of the scheme. Adam Cole-King explained that the management scheme does have a legal standing. Although copies of the management scheme would be sent to the EC, the main responsibility for SAC in the UK lies with government and with the National Assembly for Wales (NAW) for Welsh SACs. Depending on how frequently the scheme was revised, the NAW could, for example, be sent an annual update on the management scheme.

5.3 As part of the discussions, the relevant authorities present at the meeting introduced themselves. It was agreed that a list of the relevant authority contacts for the cSAC should be attached to the note of the meeting and the Liaison Group representatives agreed to have their contact numbers circulated amongst the Group members.

## **6. Production of discussion papers for the Liaison Group**

6.1 Caerwyn Roberts asked if it would be acceptable for the interim draft document that would be discussed at the second Liaison Group meeting to be produced in English only, for practical reasons. He clarified that the draft management scheme to go out to consultation in August would be produced bilingually, as would the version published in November. It was agreed that the interim document would be produced in English only with the main points highlighted in Welsh as well.

## **7. Outline contents of the management scheme**

7.1 Caerwyn Roberts explained the outline contents of the management scheme.

7.2 Queries were raised about what existing information about the wildlife of the site was available and whether the management scheme would include an audit of the wildlife. Lucy Kay outlined the existing information about the marine wildlife of the cSAC - this included broadscale habitat maps for a large proportion of both the subtidal and intertidal areas, and more detailed site specific information about species communities at certain locations. She briefly described the monitoring trials work that had been undertaken over the last two years with the support of EU LIFE funding; this

work was in the process of being written up. It provided more detailed information about certain parts of the site and guidance about possible ways to monitor the features. It was explained that the section of the management scheme dealing with conservation objectives and monitoring would set out a system for auditing the wildlife interest of the cSAC.

- 7.3 Another query asked about the availability of resources to carry out actions identified in the scheme. Adam Cole-King explained that the management scheme (in particular the action plan) can be used as a kind of “bidding document”, identifying the actions required in for the management scheme.
- 7.4 It was suggested that it may be useful to consider drawing up codes of conduct as part of the management scheme. It was agreed that this should be considered.
- 7.5 With reference to the Cardigan Bay cSAC draft management scheme a comment was made about the importance of making sure that the structure of the plan was such that it was easy to read and followed a logical structure. It was agreed that this needed to be considered as the scheme was drafted.

## **8. Issues to be considered in the management scheme**

- 8.1 Lucy Kay led this item (referring to the ‘discussion document on the development of a management scheme’). She reminded the meeting that the discussion paper had been prepared by the relevant authorities taking into account the issues identified by participants at the public meetings in October 1999. The paper would form a basis for the relevant authorities to begin drafting the management plan, and therefore participants were invited to consider the paper and raise any general or detailed concerns.

- 8.2 The following points were made about the paper:

### Section 1: “Wildlife, the environment and the cSAC designation”

The 3rd issue should be broadened to consider what residents/stakeholders might lose by the designation, as well as gain by it, and that this should be considered in the management scheme

### Section 2: “Tourism and community”

Although overcrowding of towns is not itself an issue for the SAC, some of the impacts arising from the tourism industry (e.g. pollution) are important issues, but are covered in other sections of the document.

Beach cleanup could be relevant to the conservation of the wildlife interests of the cSAC and should be considered in the management scheme.

### Section 3: “Commercial fishing”

Most of the issues identified fall within the statutory remit of the fisheries authorities.

### Section 4: “Recreation”

In relation to power boats, the potential problem was raised of an influx of jet-skis to the area as a result of restrictions on their use elsewhere in Britain. Sensible management of jetskis was a preferable way forward than outright bans, since bans serve to move the problem from one area to another. Gwynedd Council was cited as a national leader in terms of its approach to the management of jetskis.

Codes of Conduct were often the most effective way to manage recreational activities of various kinds. Examples such as the Royal Yachting Association's publication "Tidelines" and the British Marine Industries Federation's "Navigate with Nature" were cited as exemplars of the value of the Codes of Conduct approach. This is not to say that Codes of Conduct are used to control all potential impacts of recreation. For example, legislation was used effectively to prohibit the use of tributyl-tin based antifouling paints on small vessels.

Disturbance to wildlife from power boats was not a simple issue, for example powered boats do not always disturb or harm marine mammals. The tendency of dolphins to approach some vessels was noted. Educating boat users was the most appropriate way forward.

It was noted that in addition to being a potential source of impact on the wildlife of the cSAC, the recreational diving community had also done much to foster a responsible attitude towards marine conservation and there was now much greater awareness amongst divers about the importance of marine conservation.

#### Section 5: "Recreational fishing"

As with other forms of recreation, the point was made that Codes of Conduct are a valuable way to promote marine wildlife conservation among recreational fishermen.

#### Section 6: "Farming and forestry"

The "agri-environment" schemes Tir Cymen and Tir Gofal, administered by CCW, might provide opportunities to promote sensitive farming practices in and around the estuaries of the cSAC.

#### Section 7: "Industry and coastal development"

The lack of specific reference to contamination of estuaries by oil washed off from roads and other sources of land-based runoff was an omission which should be rectified. It was suggested that this might be a more significant source of pollution than vessel-based sources. The difficulty of actually doing anything about sources such as runoff from roads, if it was indeed a problem, was mentioned.

There was some discussion of how the management plan for the cSAC would address the potential effects of reduced artificial nutrient inputs arising from improved sewage treatment, with this leading to reductions in some wildlife populations. It was noted that much of the reduction in sewage input to the marine environment was in response to European legislation. It was agreed that the management plan would need to carefully consider this complex issue.

- 8.3 On the basis of these discussions (and those held at the public meetings) the relevant authorities would proceed with drafting the management scheme concentrating initially on drafting the sections relating to 'factors which may affect the features' and the 'action plan'. The draft would be sent to Liaison Group members prior to the next meeting.

**ACTION: Relevant Authorities to draft and circulate sections of the management scheme**

## **9. Collation of information about activities occurring in and around the cSAC**

- 9.1 Lucy Kay briefly described a project which had been undertaken on behalf of the relevant authorities to gather information about activities occurring in and around the cSAC. The report covered a very wide range of subjects and may not be as comprehensive or as up to date as it could be. Sections of the report were distributed to participants, who were asked to consider relevant sections and help identify gaps

in the information. People were asked to respond to Lucy by 24 April 2000.

**ACTION: All to respond to Lucy Kay by 24th April 2000**

**10. Preparation of a summary of the draft management scheme**

- 10.1 Adam Cole-King asked the Group for their views on the production of a summary document for the management scheme and whether individuals would be interested in helping produce this. He described the summary document that had been produced for the Cardigan Bay cSAC and circulated as part of the consultation about the draft management scheme; the summary document had provided a more accessible summary of the scheme, highlighting the key issues so that people could participate in the consultation without having to read through the whole management scheme document. The Group supported the production of a summary document and several representatives said they would be interested in being closely involved with its production. The production of a summary document would be pursued once the draft management scheme had started to take shape.

**11. Any other business**

No issues were raised.

**12. Date and place of next meeting**

The next meeting of the Liaison Group will be on Monday 5th June at Plas Tan y Bwlch, Maentwrog starting at 7pm. The aim of this meeting will be to discuss the circulated initial draft of the management scheme.

Caerwyn Roberts thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting.

## **Contact numbers for Liaison Group representatives present at the meeting on 23rd March 2000**

This list is provided for information about Liaison Group representatives' contacts with other organisations/interests in addition to the interest groups that they were nominated to represent on the Liaison Group. This list has been sent only to other Liaison Group representatives and relevant authority contacts.

Please note: The contact information below is not for circulation to others outside of this group without permission of the individuals concerned.

Mr Alf Bowen (01654 767804)	Aberdyfi Community Council and Aberdyfi Partnership
Dr Mike Bowyer (01248 351898)	Maritime History
Mr Iwan R H Edgar	
Cllr Owen Edwards	Snowdonia National Park Authority
Ms Jenny Fell	Friends of Cardigan Bay
Ms Greta Hughes	Community Councils
Mr Andy Jeffrey (01654 767464)	Outward Bound Wales / outdoor activity participants
Mr Huw T Jones	Farmers Union of Wales (Dolgellau office)
Ms Ann Lewis (01286 660024)	Wildlife issues
Mr Bill Miller-Jones (01691 658384)	Sub Aqua Association
Cllr G D Murray (01766 515350)	Porthmadog Town Council
Dr Peter Lloyd	Welsh Yachting Association/Royal Yachting Association
Mr Mike Parry (01758 613 828)	Tourism
Mr Iain Roberts (01758 760620)	Farming
Mr Owie Roberts (0468 647670)	Llŷn Fishermen's Association
Mr Roland Sharp (01492 875034)	Welsh Federation of Sea Anglers
Mr Mike Thrussell (01341 250066)	Journalist
Ms Jill Whipp (01758 712083)	Council for the Protection of Rural Wales
Cllr Fred Williams (01970 890639)	Ceredigion County Council
Mr Mike Parry (01758 613828)	Tourism issues

## Relevant authority contacts for the Pen Llŷn a'r Sarnau candidate Special Area of Conservation

Relevant Authority and Pen Llŷn a'r Sarnau cSAC contact(s)	Summary of main duties of the authority
<p><u>Ceredigion County Council</u>  Ms Liz Allan  Coast and Countryside Project Officer  Ceredigion County Council  Neuadd Cyngor / Council Building  Penmorfa  Aberaeron  Ceredigion SA46 0PA    Ffôn/Tel: 01545 570881</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· County planning issues (development of strategic Unitary Development Plan; determination of applications for planning permission)</li> <li>· Conservation and countryside management (includes biodiversity action planning; site management; management plan development; advice on proposed developments)</li> <li>· Economic development and tourism activities</li> <li>· Water quality monitoring</li> <li>· Coast protection (including sea and harbour wall maintenance; promoting and constructing new coast defence schemes where necessary; managed retreat; beach nourishing and beach monitoring)</li> <li>· Harbour Authority responsibilities (including dredging of harbours)</li> <li>· Beach management</li> </ul>
<p><u>Welsh Water</u>  Mr Tom Woodward  Divisional Scientist  Welsh Water  Dinas Depot  Llanwnda  Caernarfon  Gwynedd LL54 5UD    Ffôn/Tel: 01286-832094</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· Water sewerage undertaker - supply of domestic and industrial water supplies; disposal of sewage waste</li> </ul>
<p><u>Environment Agency</u>  Mr Iwan Thomas  Environment Agency  North West Wales Area  Llwyn Brain  Ffordd Penlan  Parc Menai  Bangor  Gwynedd LL57 4DE    Ffôn/Tel: 01248 670770</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· Pollution prevention and control: (includes integrated pollution control; radioactive substances; water quality and waste regulation)</li> <li>· Water management: (includes water resources; flood defence; fisheries (salmon, trout, freshwater and eel fisheries); conservation and recreation)</li> </ul>
<p><u>Gwynedd Council</u>  Ms Jill Jackson  Dept. Planning and Economic Development  Gwynedd Council  County Offices  Caernarfon  Gwynedd LL55 1SH    Ffôn/Tel: 01286 672255    Mr Barry Davies  Maritime Officer</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· County planning issues (development of strategic Unitary Development Plan; determination of applications for planning permission)</li> <li>· Conservation and countryside management (includes biodiversity action planning; site management; management plan development; advice on proposed developments)</li> </ul>



<p>Gwynedd Council Dwyfor Area Office Ffordd y Cob Pwllheli Gwynedd LL53 5AA</p> <p>Ffôn/Tel: 01758 613131</p> <p>Mr Huw Davies Senior Engineer Gwynedd Council Council Offices Cae Penarlag Dolgellau Gwynedd LL40 2YB</p> <p>Ffôn/Tel: 01341 422341</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· Economic development and tourism activities</li> <li>· Water quality monitoring</li> <li>· Harbour Authority responsibilities (including dredging of harbours)</li> <li>· Beach management</li> <li>· Coast protection (including sea and harbour wall maintenance; promoting and constructing new coast defence schemes where necessary; managed retreat; beach nourishing and beach monitoring)</li> </ul>
<p><u>North Western &amp; North Wales Sea Fisheries Committee</u> Dr Jim Andrews Marine Environmental Liaison Officer NW&amp;NWSFC University of Lancaster Bailrigg Lancaster LA1 4YY</p> <p>Ffôn/Tel: 01524 68745</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· Encourage, maintain and regulate sea fisheries within an area which extends from Haverigg Point (Cumbria) to Cemaes Head (Ceredigion) and includes the sea area seawards to the six mile limit.</li> </ul>
<p><u>Countryside Council for Wales</u> Mrs Lucy Kay Marine Conservation Officer North West Area Office Bryn Menai Holyhead Road Bangor Gwynedd LL57 2JA Ffôn/Tel: 01248 373100</p> <p>Dr Adam Cole-King Marine Site Safeguard Officer Plas Penrhos Ffordd Penrhos Bangor Gwynedd LL57 2LQ Ffôn/Tel: 01248 385500</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· Conservation (includes protection of marine and terrestrial habitats and species; conservation of earth heritage interests; management of sites; advice to developers and other authorities about conservation matters)</li> <li>· Advice on landscape protection and enhancement</li> <li>· Encourage sustainable forms of open air recreation and access opportunity.</li> <li>· Promote environmental awareness and increased understanding about the natural environment.</li> <li>· Management of the all-Wales agri environment scheme Tir Gofal</li> </ul>
<p><u>Powys County Council</u> Mr David Keast Planning Department Powys County Council County Hall Llandrindod Wells Powys LD1 5LG</p> <p>Ffôn/Tel: 01597 826000</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· County planning issues (development of strategic Unitary Development Plan; determination of applications for planning permission)</li> <li>· Conservation and countryside management (includes biodiversity action planning; site management; management plan development; advice on proposed developments)</li> <li>· Economic development and tourism activities</li> </ul>
<p><u>Severn Trent Water</u> Mr Geoff Nicholls Recreation and Conservation Manager Severn Trent Water plc 2297 Coventry Road Birmingham B26 3PU</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· Water sewerage undertaker - supply of domestic and industrial water supplies; disposal of sewage waste</li> </ul>

<p>Ffôn/Tel: 0121 722 4000</p>	
<p><u>Snowdonia National Park Authority</u>  Mr David Archer  Assistant National Park Officer  Snowdonia National Park Authority  National Park Offices  Penrhyndeudraeth  Gwynedd LL48 6LS</p> <p>Ffôn/Tel: 01766 770274</p> <p>Dr Rod Gritten  Ecologist  Snowdonia National Park Authority  National Park Offices  Penrhyndeudraeth  Gwynedd LL48 6LS</p> <p>Ffôn/Tel: 01766 770274</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· Planning issues within the National Park</li> <li>· Conservation and countryside management (includes biodiversity action planning; site management; management plan development; advice on proposed developments)</li> <li>· Economic development and tourism activities</li> <li>· Water quality monitoring</li> </ul>
<p><u>Trinity House Lighthouse Authority</u>  Mr Steve Ball  Estates Planning Officer  Administration Directorate  Corporation of Trinity House  Trinity Square  Tower Hill  London EC3N 4DH</p> <p>Ffôn/Tel: 0171 480 6601</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· General Lighthouse Authority for Wales and England (maintenance of lighthouses, buoys and beacon)</li> <li>· Provision and maintenance of aids to navigation; measures to improve navigation safety including wreck marking and/or dispersal</li> </ul>