

# Information Sheet on Ramsar Wetlands (RIS)

Categories approved by Recommendation 4.7, as amended by Resolution VIII.13 of the Conference of the Contracting Parties.

Note 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. Once completed, the RIS (and accompanying map(s)) should be submitted to the Ramsar Secretariat. Compilers are strongly urged to provide an electronic (MS Word) copy of the RIS and, where possible, digital copies of maps.

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Designation date

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Site Reference Number

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**2. Date this sheet was completed/updated:**

Designated: 02 February 1998 / updated 12 May 2005

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**3. Country:**

UK (Wales)

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**4. Name of the Ramsar site:**

Corsydd Môn a Llyn/ Anglesey and Llyn Fens

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**5. Map of site included:**Refer to Annex III of the *Explanatory Notes and Guidelines*, for detailed guidance on provision of suitable maps.**a) hard copy** (required for inclusion of site in the Ramsar List): yes  -or- no **b) digital (electronic) format** (optional): Yes

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**6. Geographical coordinates** (latitude/longitude):

53 18 45 N

04 17 44 W

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**7. 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 Llyn Peninsula in north-west Wales.

**Administrative region:** Gwynedd; Ynys Môn/ Isle of Anglesey

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**8. Elevation** (average and/or max. & min.) (metres):

Min. 16

Max. 79

Mean 39

**9. Area** (hectares): 625.53

(2005 calculation, no boundary change)

## 10. Overview:

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.

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## 11. 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**

**Secretariat comment: The RIS provides information requiring the application of Criterion 2. This needs to be included in the next update.**

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## 12. Justification for the application of each Criterion listed in 11. 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 *Chara* spp.
- H4010 Northern Atlantic wet heaths with *Erica tetralix*
- H6410 *Molinia* meadows on calcareous, peaty or clayey-silt-laden soils (*Molinion caeruleae*)
- H7210 Calcareous fens with *Cladium mariscus* and species of the *Caricion davallianae*
- H7230 Alkaline fens
- S1013 *Vertigo geyeri*
- S1044 *Coenagrion mercuriale*
- S1065 *Euphydrias* (*Eurodryas*, *Hypodryas*) *aurinia*

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 19/20 for details of noteworthy species

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## 13. 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

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**14. 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) ( <a href="http://www.metoffice.com/climate/uk/averages/19712000/sites/valley.html">www.metoffice.com/climate/uk/averages/19712000/sites/valley.html</a> ) 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

**15. 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

**16. 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)

**17. Wetland types**

Inland wetland

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

**18. General ecological features:**

Provide further description, as appropriate, of the main habitats, vegetation types, plant and animal communities present in the Ramsar site.

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).

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### 19. 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*.

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### 20. 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.*

#### 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)).

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### 21. Social and 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

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**22. Land tenure/ownership:**

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

**23. 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		+

**24. Factors 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

**25. 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	+	

**26. Conservation measures proposed but not yet implemented:**

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

No information available

**27. 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.

**28. Current conservation education:**

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.

**29. 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.

**30. 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

**31. 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, Penrhosgarnedd, Bangor, Gwynedd, LL57 2DW

### 32. Bibliographical references:

Scientific/technical references only. If biogeographic regionalisation scheme applied (see 13 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](http://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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