

Action for Nature

Part Three - Appendices



A Local Bio**diversity Action** Plan for Rhondda Cynon Taff
October 2000

Cover Photo: Rhondda Fach showing biodiversity on your doorstep. Habitats include ffridd, heathland, coalspoil and urban.

Preface

This Local Biodiversity Action Plan for Rhondda Cynon Taff has three parts.

Part One is the main document. It provides an introduction to biodiversity and describes the actions under four headings: raising awareness, identifying and recording wildlife, protecting sites and managing land for wildlife. Boxes in the text provide additional information on particular topics.

Part Two contains the Habitat and Species Action Plans. There are 26 Habitat Action Plans and 57 Species Action Plans, each giving details of current status and threats and the proposed actions for the habitats and species of particular importance in Rhondda Cynon Taff.

Part Three contains the Appendices. These include background information for reference purposes.

Action for Nature

Part Three: Appendices

Contents

Appendix 1:	The Local Biodiversity Action Plan Process	3
Appendix 2:	Habitat and Species with UK Action Plans	7
Appendix 3:	Sites of Importance for Wildlife	19
	Map 2: Important Wildlife Sites	20
	Map 3: Key Countryside Sites	22
Appendix 4:	Draft criteria for Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINC)	25
Appendix 5:	Part I Locally important habitats	41
	Part II Favourite places for wildlife	45
Appendix 6:	Wildlife Law	49
Appendix 7:	Existing Planning Guidance and Policies	51
Appendix 8:	Other Relevant Rhondda Cynon Taff CBC Policies	73
Appendix 9:	Recording Schemes	77
Appendix 10:	Raising Awareness of Biodiversity: A Development Plan	83
Appendix 11:	Key Players	87
Appendix 12:	Partner Organisations	91
Appendix 13:	Monitoring of Part Three: partner organisations	95
Appendix 14:	Abbreviations	97
Appendix 15	Bibliography	99

Appendix 1: The Local Biodiversity Action Plan Process

Key Events

- RCT Planning Committee resolution to produce a Local Biodiversity Action Plan April 1998.
- Initial meeting at Glyncornel Environmental Centre September 1998.
- Report to RCT Planning Committee December 1998.
- 'Partnership' meeting in Pontypridd January 1999 set up Steering Group.
- Report to RCT Planning Committee March 1999.
- Steering Group meetings: March, April, June, August, October 1999.
- 'Favourite Places' consultation: Press article March 1999, ESIS Schools conference April 1999, Groundwork newsletter May 1999, GWT newsletter August 1999, Interlink newsletter.
- Business and biodiversity meeting May 1999.
- Report to RCT Planning Committee August 1999.
- Second Pontypridd 'Partnership' meeting to consider draft Local Biodiversity Action Plan text November 1999.
- Report to RCT Planning Committee proposing draft Supplementary Planning Guidance November 1999.
- Launch of the draft at Tower Colliery Ponds November 1999.
- Consultation period to 31st January 2000.
- Report to Planning Committee April 2000.
- Meeting with CCW May 2000.
- Steering Group meetings February, April, May, August 2000.
- Report to Rhondda Cynon Taff Policy Committee October 2000.
- Distribution of consultation report October 2000.
- Launch of the Local Biodiversity Action Plan October 2000.

Steering Group Terms of Reference

The Steering Group will:

- co-ordinate the production of a draft Local Biodiversity Action Plan for Rhondda Cynon Taff;
- endeavour to make the process County Borough wide;
- seek to involve a wide spectrum of organisations and individuals in the production of the draft, both specialist and non specialist;
- publicise the draft plan and produce an amended version by 2000;
- report its discussions and conclusions back to the wider biodiversity group and to the general public;
- maintain a non-political stance;
- promote and monitor the actions in the plan.

Steering Group Membership

Rob Seymour (to April '99), Ryan McClusky (to Nov '99) then Chris Tucker, Forest Enterprise.

Karen Yates, National Farmers Union.

Owain Williams, Country Landowners Association.

Celia Thomas, Coed Cymru.

Peter Cloke and Matthew Easter, Groundwork Merthyr and Rhondda Cynon Taff.

Alex Coxhead, Glamorgan Wildlife Trust.

Paul Marshman, Local Naturalist.

Cullen Morris, Group for Environmental Awareness in Rhondda.

Glenn Evans, (Tonyrefail Community Council, to May '99).

Andy Wilkinson and Tim Orrell, Glyncornel Environmental Centre

Suzanne Davies, Keep Wales Tidy (to June '99), then CSV.

Janet Lintern, Llantwit Fardre Friends of the Earth (Taff Ely Friends of the Earth from September 2000).

Richard Gotheridge (Sept '99-April 2000) then Bernard Jones, Keep Wales Tidy

Rob Hathaway, Chief Assistant Environment and Countryside, Richard Wistow, Ecologist and Liz Dean, Rhondda Cynon Taff Planning Department (to August 2000), then Environment Division.

Consultation

The tables in Appendix 12 list the partner organisations and the information they provided about their work and interests in biodiversity at the initial stages of Plan preparation.

A full list of all the organisations and individuals consulted on the draft is given below. In addition, a copy of the summary (with comments form) was sent to 700 organisations and individuals with the Autumn 1999 Countryside Strategy newsletter. The people responding to the 'favourite places' consultation (see Appendix 5ii) were included in this mailing.

Following the resolution of Planning Committee to consider adopting the Local Biodiversity Action Plan as 'Supplementary Planning Guidance' a notification letter was sent to 183 additional development consultees. The proposal was advertised in the local press and copies were placed in libraries, Planning Department offices, on the internet and made available for sale.

The draft was formally launched for consultation on 22nd November 1999 at Tower Colliery Ponds. A small exhibition about the draft Plan was on display and this was also displayed at Planning Committee and at seven of the larger libraries during the consultation period (Pontypridd, Aberdare, Mountain Ash, Pontyclun, Treorchy, Tylorstown and Porth). English and Welsh copies of the summary document (with Comments Form) were also distributed through all County Borough libraries.

Responses to the consultation

Fifty three responses were received to the consultation. These detailed comments have been invaluable and reflect a major commitment of time and resources by those responding. A separate report summarising the observations, and the changes which resulted has been produced and distributed to those responding.

List of Consultees

Ms. Sue Essex AM	Development Plans Section
Ms. Christine Chapman AM	Urban Renewal Section
Ms. Jane Davidson AM	Countryside Section (including Rangers)
Mr. Geraint Davies AM	Libraries (36)
Ms. Christine Gwyther AM	
Rhondda Cynon Taff County Borough Council:	Abercynon Action Team
Councillor P. Jarman, Leader RCT, AM	Abertaf Residents Association
Councillor J Huish, Deputy Leader RCT	Association of Local Government Ecologists
Councillor G. Bunn, Chair of Planning	Barn Owl Trust
Councillor J Williams Vice Chair of Planning	Bat Conservation Trust
Rhondda Cynon Taff County Borough Council:	Brecon Beacons National Park
Chief Executive	Bridgend CBC
Economic Development Unit	British Association of Nature Conservation
Director Leisure and Tourism	British Association of Shooting and Conservation
Director of Education	British Dragonfly Society
Director of Social Services	British Herpetological Society
Director of Housing	British Horse Society
Director of Property Services	British Trust For Conservation Volunteers
Director of Environmental Services	British Trust for Ornithology
Director of Highways, Transportation and	British Waterways Board
Engineering	Bryncynon Angling Association
Director of Legal and Admin. Services	BSBI
Director of Planning	Business and Environment Campaign
Rhondda District Planning Office	Butterfly Conservation
Cynon District Planning Office	Campaign for the Protection of Rural Wales
Taff Ely District Planning Office	Caerphilly CBC
	Caerphilly Mountain Countryside Service
	Cardiff CC

Cascade Angling Association	Neath and Port Talbot CBC
Celtic Energy	Open Spaces Society
Coed Cymru	Osprey Fly Fishers Association
Community Service Volunteers Wales	Penywaun and Tenant Residents Association
Country Landowners Association	Plantlife
Countryside Council for Wales (Cardiff)	Pond Action
Countryside Council for Wales (Bangor)	Pontyclun Community Council
Countryside Council for Wales (Swansea)	Pontypridd Town Council
Countryside Management Association	Powys County Council
Dwr Cymru Welsh Water	Prince's Trust Bro
Earthwatch	Ramblers Association Wales
Ecover Meadowlands Trust	Rhigos Community Council
Environment Agency	Rhondda Civic Society
Environment Wales	Royal Society for the Protection of Birds
ESIS	Royal Town Planning Institute
Farming and Rural Conservation Agency	South Wales Police
Farmers Union of Wales	City and County of Swansea
Forestry Commission	Taff Conservation Group
Forest Enterprise	Taffs Well Community Council
Friends of the Earth Wales	Timber Growers Association
Friends of Ewenny Fach	Tonyrefail & District Community Council
Froglife	Tree Council
GEAR	Treherbert Forum
Gilfach Goch Community Council	University Of Glamorgan
Glamorgan Wildlife Trust	Valleys Enterprise Aberdare
Glamorgan Moth Recording Group	Valleys Forest Initiative
Glamorgan Bird Club	Vale of Glamorgan Council
Glamorgan Bat Group	Vincent Wildlife Trust
Glamorgan Badger Group	Wales Biodiversity Local Issues Advisory Group
Glamorgan Heritage Coast	Welsh Development Agency
Glamorgan Young Farmers	Welsh Historic Gardens Trust
Glyncornel Environmental Centre	Welsh Local Government Association
Greenpeace	Welsh Water Environment Centre
Groundwork Merthyr, Rhondda Cynon Taff	Wildfowl and Wetland Trust
Groundwork Wales	Ynysybwl & Coed Y Cwm Community Council
Hawk and Owl Trust	
Herpetological Trust	
Hirwaun Community Council	
Interlink	
Joint Nature Conservation Committee	
Keep Wales Tidy	
Llanharan Community Council	
Llanharry Community Council	
Llantrisant Community Council	
Llantrisant Town Trust	
Llantwit Fardre Community Council	
Llantwit Fardre Friends of the Earth	
Mammal Society	
Merthyr Tydfil CBC	
Mid Fach Rivercare Group	
National Assembly for Wales Agricultural Department	
National Farmers Union	
National Museums and Galleries of Wales	

Appendix 2: Habitat and Species with UK Action Plans

UK PRIORITY HABITATS	Present in Rhondda Cynon Taff
Upland oakwood	Yes
Lowland beech and yew woodland	Probably
Upland mixed ash woods	Yes
Wet woodlands	Yes
Lowland wood pasture & parkland	Yes
Native pine woodlands	
Ancient and or species rich hedgerows	Yes
Cereal field margins	
Coastal floodplain and grazing marsh	Yes
Lowland meadow	Yes
Upland hay meadow	Yes
Lowland calcareous grassland	Probably
Upland calcareous grassland	
Lowland dry acid grassland	Yes
Lowland heathland	Yes
Upland heathland	Yes
Purple moor grass and rush pasture	Yes
Fens	Yes
Reedbeds	Yes
Lowland raised bog	Yes
Blanket bog	Yes
Mesotrophic lakes	
Eutrophic standing waters	Yes
Aquifer fed naturally fluctuating waterbody	
Chalk rivers	
Limestone pavements	
Caves and natural rock exposures	
Maritime cliff and slopes	
Coastal sand dune	
Machair	
Coastal vegetation shingle	
Chalk coasts (littoral and sub-littoral)	
Sabellaria alveolata reefs	
Seagrass beds	
Coastal saltmarsh	
Mudflats	
Sheltered muddy gravels	
Sabellaria spinulosa reefs	
Tidal rapids	
Modiolus modiolus beds	
Maerl beds (open coast)	
Saline lagoons	
Deep mud	
Serpulid beds	
Lophelia pertusa reefs	
Ascophyllum nodosum mackii beds	
Estuaries	
Sublittoral sands and gravels	

UK Priority Species Present in Rhondda Cynon Taff

Scientific name	Common name	Taxon	Present
<i>Armillaria ectypa</i>	an agaric	Fungi	
<i>Battarrea phalloides</i>	Sandy stilt puffball	Fungi	
<i>Boletopsis leucomelaena</i>	a poroid fungus	Fungi	
<i>Boletus regius</i>	Royal bolete	Fungi	
<i>Boletus satanas</i>	Devil's bolete	Fungi	
<i>Buglossoporus pulvinus/ quercinus</i>	Oak polypore	Fungi	
<i>Hericeum erinaceum</i>	a hedgehog fungus	Fungi	
<i>Hydnoid fungi (14 spp)</i>	tooth fungi	Fungi	
<i>Hygrocybe calyptiformis</i>	Pink meadow cap	Fungi	
<i>Hygrocybe spadicea</i>	Date-coloured waxcap	Fungi	
<i>Hypocreopsis rhododendri</i>	an ascomycete	Fungi	
<i>Microglossum olivaceum</i>	an earth-tongue	Fungi	
<i>Poronia punctata</i>	Nail fungus	Fungi	
<i>Tulostoma niveum</i>	a gasteromycete fungus	Fungi	
<i>Anotrichium barbatum</i>	a red alga	Alga	
<i>Ascophyllum nodosum ecad mackii</i>	egg (or knotted) wrack	Alga	
<i>Alectoria ochroleuca</i>	a lichen	Lichen	
<i>Arthothelium dictyosporum</i>	a lichen	Lichen	
<i>Arthothelium reagens/macounii</i>	a lichen	Lichen	
<i>Bacidia incompta</i>	a lichen	Lichen	
<i>Bellemerea alpina</i>	a lichen	Lichen	
<i>Belonia calcicola</i>	a lichen	Lichen	
<i>Biatoridium monasteriensis</i>	a lichen	Lichen	
<i>Bryoria smithii</i>	a lichen	Lichen	
<i>Buellia asterella</i>	Starry Breck-lichen	Lichen	
<i>Calicium corynellum</i>	a lichen	Lichen	
<i>Caloplaca aractina</i>	a lichen	Lichen	
<i>Caloplaca luteoalba</i>	Orange-fruited elm-lichen	Lichen	
<i>Caloplaca nivalis</i>	Snow caloplaca	Lichen	
<i>Catapyrenium psoromoides</i>	Tree catapyrenium	Lichen	
<i>Chaenotheca phaeocephala</i>	a lichen	Lichen	
<i>Cladonia botrytes</i>	Stump lichen	Lichen	
<i>Cladonia mediterranea</i>	a reindeer lichen	Lichen	
<i>Cladonia peziziformis</i>	a lichen	Lichen	
<i>Collema dichotomum</i>	River jelly lichen	Lichen	
<i>Enterographa elaborata</i>	a lichen	Lichen	
<i>Enterographa sorediata</i>	a lichen	Lichen	
<i>Graphina pauciloculata</i>	a lichen	Lichen	
<i>Gyalecta ulmi</i>	Elm's gyalecta	Lichen	
<i>Gyalideopsis scotica</i>	a lichen	Lichen	
<i>Halecania rhypodiza</i>	a lichen	Lichen	
<i>Heterodermia leucomelos</i>	Ciliate strap-lichen	Lichen	
<i>Hypogymnia intestiniformis</i>	a lichen	Lichen	
<i>Lecanactis hemisphaerica</i>	Churchyard lecanactis	Lichen	
<i>Opegrapha paraxanthodes</i>	a lichen	Lichen	
<i>Peltigera lepidophora</i>	Ear-lobed dog-lichen	Lichen	
<i>Pertusaria bryontha</i>	Alpine moss pertusaria	Lichen	
<i>Pseudocyphellaria aurata</i>	a lichen	Lichen	
<i>Pseudocyphellaria norvegica</i>	a lichen	Lichen	

Scientific name	Common name	Taxon	Present
<i>Schismatomma graphidiooides</i>	a lichen	Lichen	
<i>Squamaria lentigera</i>	Scaly breck-lichen	Lichen	
<i>Teloschistes chrysophthalmus</i>	a lichen	Lichen	
<i>Thelenella modesta</i>	Warty wax-lichen	Lichen	
<i>Acrobolbus wilsonii</i>	Wilson's pouchwort	Liverwort	
<i>Adelanthus lindenbergianus</i>	Lindenberg's featherwort	Liverwort	
<i>Cephaloziella nicholsonii</i>	Greater copperwort	Liverwort	
<i>Fossombronia crozalsii</i>	Crozal's fillwort	Liverwort	
<i>Herbertus borealis</i>	Northern prongwort	Liverwort	
<i>Jamesoniella undulifolia</i>	Marsh earwort	Liverwort	
<i>Laphozia rutheana</i>	Norfolk flapwort	Liverwort	
<i>Lejeunea mandonii</i>	Atlantic lejeunea	Liverwort	
<i>Marsupella profunda</i>	Western rustwort	Liverwort	
<i>Marsupella stableri</i>	Stabler's rustwort	Liverwort	
<i>Pallavicinia lyellii</i>	Veilwort	Liverwort	
<i>Petalophyllum ralfsii</i>	Petalwort	Liverwort	
<i>Riccia huebeneriana</i>	Violet crystalwort	Liverwort	
<i>Acaulon triquetrum</i>	Triangular pygmy-moss	Moss	
<i>Andreaea frigida</i>	Icy rock-moss	Moss	
<i>Atrichum angustatum</i>	Lesser smoothcap	Moss	
<i>Barbula glauca/ Didymodon glaucus</i>	Glaucus beard-moss	Moss	
<i>Bartramia stricta</i>	Rigid apple-moss	Moss	
<i>Brachythecium appleyardiae</i>	Appleyard's feather-moss	Moss	
<i>Bryoerythrophyllum caledonicum</i>	Scottish beard-moss	Moss	
<i>Bryum calophyllum</i>	Matted bryum	Moss	
<i>Bryum mamillatum</i>	Dune threadmoss	Moss	
<i>Bryum neodamense</i>	Long-leaved threadmoss	Moss	
<i>Bryum turbinatum</i>	Pear-fruited bryum	Moss	
<i>Bryum uliginosum</i>	Cernuous bryum	Moss	
<i>Bryum warneum</i>	Sea bryum	Moss	
<i>Buxbaumia viridis</i>	Green shield-moss	Moss	
<i>Campylopus setifolius</i>	Silky swan-neck moss	Moss	
<i>Cryphaea lamyana</i>	Multi-fruited river moss	Moss	
<i>Desmatodon cernuus</i>	Flamingo moss	Moss	
<i>Didymodon (Barbula) mamillosa</i>	Perthshire beard-moss	Moss	
<i>Didymodon (Barbula) tomaculosa</i>	Sausage beard-moss	Moss	
<i>Ditrichum cornubicum</i>	Cornish path moss	Moss	
<i>Ditrichum plumbicola</i>	Lead-moss	Moss	
<i>Ephemerum cohaerens</i>	Clustered earth-moss	Moss	
<i>Ephemerum stellatum</i>	Starry earth-moss	Moss	
<i>Fissidens exiguus</i>	Tiny fern-moss	Moss	
<i>Hamatocaulis vernicosus</i>	Slender green feather-moss	Moss	
<i>Leptodontium gemmascens</i>	Thatch moss	Moss	
<i>Micromitrium tenerum</i>	Millimetre moss	Moss	
<i>Orthodontium gracile</i>	Slender thread-moss	Moss	
<i>Orthotrichum gymnostomum</i>	Aspen bristle-moss	Moss	
<i>Orthotrichum obtusifolium</i>	Blunt-leaved bristle-moss	Moss	
<i>Orthotrichum pallens</i>	Pale bristle-moss	Moss	
<i>Orthotrichum sprucei</i>	Spruce's bristle-moss	Moss	
<i>Pictus scoticus</i>	Pict-moss	Moss	

Scientific name	Common name	Taxon	Present
<i>Plagiothecium piliferum</i>	Hair silk-moss	Moss	
<i>Pohlia scotica</i>	Scottish pohlia	Moss	
<i>Rhynchostegium rotundifolium</i>	Round-leaved feather-moss	Moss	
<i>Seligeria calycina</i>	English rock-bristle	Moss	
<i>Seligeria carniolica</i>	Water rock-bristle	Moss	
<i>Sematophyllum demissum</i>	Prostrate feather-moss	Moss	
<i>Sphagnum balticum</i>	Baltic bog-moss	Moss	
<i>Sphagnum skyense</i>	Skye bog-moss	Moss	
<i>Tetraphodontium repandum</i>	Small four-tooth moss	Moss	
<i>Thamnobryum angustifolium</i>	Derbyshire feather-moss	Moss	
<i>Thamnobryum cataractarum</i>	Yorkshire feather moss	Moss	
<i>Tortula freibergii</i>	Freiberg's screw-moss	Moss	
<i>Weissia multicapsularis</i>	a moss	Moss	
<i>Weissia rostellata</i>	Beaked beardless-moss	Moss	
<i>Weissia squarrosa</i>	Spreading-leaved beardless-moss	Moss	
<i>Weissia sterilis</i>	Sterile beardless-moss	Moss	
<i>Zygodon forsteri</i>	Knothole moss	Moss	
<i>Zygodon gracilis</i>	Nowell's limestone moss	Moss	
<i>Alchemilla minima</i>	an alchimilla	Vascular plant	
<i>Alisma gramineum</i>	Ribbon-leaved water-plantain	Vascular plant	
<i>Apium repens</i>	Creeping marshwort	Vascular plant	
<i>Arabis glabra</i>	Tower mustard	Vascular plant	
<i>Artemisia norvegica</i>	Norwegian mugwort	Vascular plant	
<i>Asparagus officinalis ssp. prostratus</i>	Wild asparagus	Vascular plant	
<i>Athyrium flexile</i>	Newman's lady fern	Vascular plant	
<i>Bromus interruptus</i>	Interrupted brome	Vascular plant	
<i>Calamagrostis scotica</i>	Scottish small-reed	Vascular plant	
<i>Carex muricata ssp. muricata</i>	Prickly sedge	Vascular plant	
<i>Carex vulpina</i>	True fox-sedge	Vascular plant	
<i>Centaurea cyanus</i>	Cornflower	Vascular plant	
<i>Cerastium nigrescens</i>	Shetland mouse-ear	Vascular plant	
<i>Cochlearia micacea</i>	Mountain scurvy-grass	Vascular plant	
<i>Cochlearia scotica</i>	Scottish scurvygrass	Vascular plant	
<i>Coincyia wrightii</i>	Lundy cabbage	Vascular plant	
<i>Cotoneaster integerrimus/cambricus</i>	Wild cotoneaster	Vascular plant	
<i>Crepis foetida</i>	Stinking hawk's-beard	Vascular plant	
<i>Cypripedium calceolus</i>	Lady's slipper orchid	Vascular plant	
<i>Damasonium alisma</i>	Starfruit	Vascular plant	
<i>Dianthus armeria</i>	Deptford pink	Vascular plant	Yes
<i>Epipactis youngiana</i>	Young's helleborine	Vascular plant	
<i>Euphrasia cambrica</i>	an eyebright	Vascular plant	
<i>Euphrasia campbelliae</i>	an eyebright	Vascular plant	
<i>Euphrasia heslop-harrisonii</i>	an eyebright	Vascular plant	
<i>Euphrasia rivularis</i>	an eyebright	Vascular plant	
<i>Euphrasia rotundifolia</i>	an eyebright	Vascular plant	
<i>Euphrasia vigursii</i>	an eyebright	Vascular plant	
<i>Filago lutescens</i>	Red-tipped cudweed	Vascular plant	
<i>Filago pyramidata</i>	Broad-leaved cudweed	Vascular plant	
<i>Fumaria occidentalis</i>	Western ramping-fumitory	Vascular plant	
<i>Fumaria purpurea</i>	Purple ramping-fumitory	Vascular plant	

Scientific name	Common name	TAXON	Present
<i>Galeopsis angustifolia</i>	Red hemp-nettle	Vascular plant	
<i>Galium tricornutum</i>	Corn cleavers	Vascular plant	
<i>Gentianella anglica ssp. anglica</i>	Early gentian	Vascular plant	
<i>Gentianella uliginosa</i>	Dune gentian	Vascular plant	
<i>Hieracium Sect Alpestria</i> (Shetland only)	Hawkweeds	Vascular plant	
<i>Juncus pygmaeus</i>	Pigmy rush	Vascular plant	
<i>Juniperus communis</i>	Juniper	Vascular plant	
<i>Leersia oryzoides</i>	Cut-grass	Vascular plant	
<i>Limonium</i> (endemic taxa)	Sea lavender	Vascular plant	
<i>Linnaea borealis</i>	Twinflower	Vascular plant	
<i>Liparis loeselii</i>	Fen orchid	Vascular plant	
<i>Luronium natans</i>	Floating water-plantain	Vascular plant	
<i>Lycopodiella inundata</i>	Marsh clubmoss	Vascular plant	
<i>Melampyrum sylvaticum</i>	Small cow-wheat	Vascular plant	
<i>Mentha pulegium</i>	Pennyroyal	Vascular plant	
<i>Najas flexilis</i>	Slender naiad	Vascular plant	
<i>Najas marina</i>	Holly-leaved naiad	Vascular plant	
<i>Pilularia globulifera</i>	Pillwort	Vascular plant	
<i>Potamogeton compressus</i>	Grass-wrack pondweed	Vascular plant	
<i>Potamogeton rutilus</i>	Shetland pondweed	Vascular plant	
<i>Ranunculus tripartitus</i>	Three-lobed water-crowfoot	Vascular plant	
<i>Rumex rupestris</i>	Shore dock	Vascular plant	
<i>Salix lanata</i>	Woolly willow	Vascular plant	
<i>Saxifraga hirculus</i>	Yellow marsh saxifrage	Vascular plant	
<i>Scandix pecten-veneris</i>	Sheperd's needle	Vascular plant	
<i>Schoenoplectus triquetus</i>	Triangular club-rush	Vascular plant	
<i>Scleranthus perennis ssp. prostratus</i>	Perennial knawel	Vascular plant	
<i>Silene gallica</i>	Small-flowered catchfly	Vascular plant	
<i>Sium latifolium</i>	Greater water-parsnip	Vascular plant	
<i>Sorbus leyana</i>	Ley's whitebeam	Vascular plant	
<i>Spiranthes romanzoffiana</i>	Irish lady's-tresses	Vascular plant	
<i>Thlaspi perfoliatum</i>	Cotswold pennycress	Vascular plant	
<i>Torilis arvensis</i>	Spreading hedge-parsley	Vascular plant	
<i>Trichomanes speciosum</i>	Killarney fern	Vascular plant	
<i>Valerianella rimosa</i>	Broad-fruited corn-salad	Vascular plant	
<i>Woodsia ilvensis</i>	Oblong woodsia	Vascular plant	
<i>Amphianthus dohrnii</i>	sea fan anemone	Sea anemone	
<i>Clavopsella navis</i>	a hydroid	Sea anemone	
<i>Edwardsia ivelli</i>	Ivell's sea anemone	Sea anemone	
<i>Eunicella verricosa</i>	Pink sea fan	Sea anemone	
<i>Funiculina quadrangularis</i>	Tall sea pen	Sea anemone	
<i>Nematostella vectensis</i>	Starlet sea anemone	Sea anemone	
<i>Leptopsammia pruvoti</i>	Sunset cupcoral	Coral	
<i>Lophopus crystallinus</i>	a freshwater bryozoan	Bryozoa	
<i>Anisus vorticulus</i>	a snail	Mollusc	
<i>Atrina fragilis</i>	Fan mussel	Mollusc	
<i>Catinella arenaria</i>	Sandbow snail	Mollusc	
<i>Margaritifera margaritifera</i>	Freshwater pearl mussel	Mollusc	
<i>Myxas glutinosa</i>	Glutinous snail	Mollusc	
<i>Ostrea edulis</i>	Native oyster	Mollusc	

Scientific name	Common name	Taxon	Present
<i>Pisidium tenuilineatum</i>	Freshwater pea mussel	Mollusc	
<i>Pseudanodonta complanata</i>	Depressed river mussel	Mollusc	
<i>Segmentina nitida</i>	Shining ram's-horn snail	Mollusc	
<i>Tenella adspersa</i>	Lagoon sea slug	Mollusc	
<i>Thyasira gouldi</i>	Northern hatchet shell	Mollusc	
<i>Vertigo angustior</i>	Narrow-mouthed whorl snail	Mollusc	
<i>Vertigo genesii</i>	Round-mouthed whorl snail	Mollusc	
<i>Vertigo geyeri</i>	a whorl snail	Mollusc	
<i>Vertigo moulinsiana</i>	Desmoulin's whorl snail	Mollusc	
<i>Armandia cirrhosa</i>	Lagoon sandworm	Worm	
<i>Hirudo medicinalis</i>	Medicinal leech	Worm	Probably
<i>Prostoma jenningsi</i>	a freshwater nemertean	Worm	
<i>Heptagenia longicauda</i>	a mayfly	Mayfly	
<i>Coenagrion mercuriale</i>	Southern damselfly	Damselfly	Probably
<i>Brachyptera putata</i>	a stonefly	Stonefly	
<i>Decticus verrucivorus</i>	Wart-biter	Cricket	
<i>Gryllotalpa gryllotalpa</i>	Mole cricket	Cricket	
<i>Gryllus campestris</i>	Field cricket	Cricket	
<i>Stethophyma grossum</i>	Large marsh grasshopper	Cricket	
<i>Aphrodes duffieldi</i>	a leafhopper	True bug	
<i>Cicadetta montana</i>	New Forest cicada	True bug	
<i>Hydrometra gracilenta</i>	Lesser water measurer	True bug	
<i>Orthotylus rubidus</i>	a plant bug	True bug	
<i>Argynnis adippe</i>	High brown fritillary	Butterfly	Yes
<i>Aricia artaxerxes</i>	Northern brown argus	Butterfly	
<i>Boloria euphrosyne</i>	Pearl-bordered fritillary	Butterfly	Yes
<i>Carterocephalus palaemon</i>	Checkered skipper	Butterfly	
<i>Eurodryas aurinia</i>	Marsh fritillary	Butterfly	Yes
<i>Hesperia comma</i>	Silver spotted skipper	Butterfly	
<i>Lycaena dispar</i>	Large copper	Butterfly	
<i>Lysandra bellargus</i>	Adonis blue	Butterfly	
<i>Maculinea arion</i>	Large blue	Butterfly	
<i>Mellilla athalia</i>	Heath fritillary	Butterfly	
<i>Plebejus argus</i>	Silver-studded blue	Butterfly	Probably
<i>Acosmetia caliginosa</i>	Reddish buff	Moth	
<i>Aspitates gilvaria gilvaria</i>	Straw belle	Moth	
<i>Athetis pallustris</i>	Marsh moth	Moth	
<i>Bembecia chrysidiiformis</i>	Fiery clearwing	Moth	
<i>Calophasia lunula</i>	Toadflax brocade	Moth	
<i>Catocala promissa</i>	Light crimson underwing	Moth	
<i>Catocala sponsa</i>	Dark crimson underwing	Moth	
<i>Coleophora tricolor</i>	Basil thyme case-bearer	Moth	
<i>Coscinia cribaria bivittata</i>	Speckled footman	Moth	
<i>Cosmia diffinis</i>	White-spotted pinion	Moth	
<i>Cucullia lychnitis</i>	Striped lychnis	Moth	
<i>Cyclophora pendularia</i>	Dingy mocha	Moth	
<i>Dicycla oo</i>	Heart moth	Moth	
<i>Epione paralellaria</i>	Dark bordered beauty	Moth	
<i>Eustroma reticulata</i>	Netted carpet	Moth	
<i>Hadena albimacula</i>	White-spot	Moth	

Scientific name	Common name	TAXON	Present
<i>Heliothis reticulata</i>	Bordered gothic	Moth	
<i>Hemaris tityus</i>	Narrow-bordered hawk-moth	Moth	Probably
<i>Hydraecia osseola hucherardi</i>	Marsh mallow moth	Moth	
<i>Hydrelia sylvata</i>	Waved carpet	Moth	
<i>Hypena rostralis</i>	Buttoned snout	Moth	
<i>Idaea dilutaria</i>	Silky wave	Moth	
<i>Idaea ochrata cantiata</i>	Bright wave	Moth	
<i>Jodia croceago</i>	Orange upperwing	Moth	
<i>Lycia zonaria brittanica</i>	Belted beauty	Moth	
<i>Lygephila craccae</i>	Scarce black-neck	Moth	
<i>Minoa murinata</i>	Drap looper	Moth	
<i>Moma alpium</i>	Scarce Merveille du Jour	Moth	
<i>Mythimna turca</i>	Double line	Moth	Yes
<i>Noctua orbona</i>	Lunar yellow underwing	Moth	
<i>Oria musculosa</i>	Brighton wainscot	Moth	
<i>Paracolax tristalis</i>	Clay fan-foot	Moth	
<i>Paradiarsia sobrina</i>	Cousin German	Moth	
<i>Pareulype berberata</i>	Barberry carpet	Moth	
<i>Pechipogo strigilata</i>	Common fan-foot	Moth	
<i>Phyllodesma ilicifolia</i>	Small lappet	Moth	
<i>Polia bombycina</i>	Pale shining brown	Moth	
<i>Polymixis xanthomista</i>	Black-banded	Moth	
<i>Rheumaptera hastata</i>	Argent and sable	Moth	
<i>Schrankia taenialis</i>	White-line snout	Moth	
<i>Scotopteryx bipunctaria cretata</i>	Chalk carpet	Moth	
<i>Semiothisa carbonaria</i>	Netted mountain moth	Moth	
<i>Siona lineata</i>	Black-veined moth	Moth	
<i>Thetidia smaragdaria maritima</i>	Essex emerald	Moth	
<i>Trichopteryx polycommata</i>	Barred toothed stripe	Moth	
<i>Trisateles emortualis</i>	Olive crescent	Moth	
<i>Tyta luctuosa</i>	Four-spotted moth	Moth	
<i>Xestia alpicola alpina</i>	Northern dart	Moth	
<i>Xestia ashworthii</i>	Ashworth's rustic	Moth	
<i>Xestia rhomboidea</i>	Square-spotted clay	Moth	
<i>Xylena exsoleta</i>	Sword-grass	Moth	
<i>Zygaena loti scotica</i>	Slender Scotch burnet	Moth	
<i>Zygaena viciae argyllensis</i>	New Forest burnet	Moth	
<i>Asilus crabroniformis</i>	Hornet robberfly	Fly	Probably
<i>Blera fallax</i>	a hoverfly	Fly	
<i>Bombylius discolor</i>	Dotted bee-fly	Fly	
<i>Bombylius minor</i>	Heath bee-fly	Fly	
<i>Callicera spinolae</i>	a hoverfly	Fly	
<i>Chrysotoxum octomaculatum</i>	a hoverfly	Fly	
<i>Clorisimia rustica</i>	a stileto-fly	Fly	
<i>Doros profuges/conopseus</i>	a hoverfly	Fly	
<i>Dorycera graminum</i>	a picture-winged fly	Fly	
<i>Eristalis cryptarum</i>	a hoverfly	Fly	
<i>Hammerschmidia ferruginea</i>	a hoverfly	Fly	
<i>Lipsothrix ecucullata</i>	a cranefly	Fly	
<i>Lipsothrix errans</i>	a cranefly	Fly	

Scientific name	Common name	Taxon	Present
<i>Lipsothrix nervosa</i>	a cranefly	Fly	
<i>Lipsothrix nigristigma</i>	a cranefly	Fly	
<i>Myolepta potens</i>	a hoverfly	Fly	
<i>Odontoymia hydroleon</i>	a soldierfly	Fly	
<i>Rhabdomastix laeta</i>	a cranefly	Fly	
<i>Spiriverpa lunulata</i>	a stileto-fly	Fly	
<i>Thereva serrulifera</i>	a cranefly	Fly	
<i>Thyridanthrax fenestratus</i>	mottled bee-fly	Fly	
<i>Andrena ferox</i>	a mining bee	Bee	
<i>Andrena gravida</i>	Banded mining bee	Bee	
<i>Andrena lathyri</i>	a mining bee	Bee	
<i>Bombus distinguendus</i>	Great yellow bumblebee	Bee	
<i>Bombus humilis</i>	a carder bumblebee	Bee	Probably
<i>Bombus ruderatus</i>	Large garden bumblebee	Bee	
<i>Bombus subterraneus</i>	Short-haired bumble-bee	Bee	
<i>Bombus sylvarum</i>	Shrill carder bee	Bee	
<i>Colletes floralis</i>	Northern colletes	Bee	
<i>LasioGLOSSUM angusticeps</i>	a solitary bee	Bee	
<i>Nomada armata</i>	a cuckoo bee	Bee	
<i>Nomada errans</i>	a cuckoo bee	Bee	
<i>Nomada ferruginata</i>	a cuckoo bee	Bee	
<i>Osmia inermis</i>	a mason bee	Bee	
<i>Osmia parietina</i>	a mason bee	Bee	
<i>Osmia uncinata</i>	a mason bee	Bee	
<i>Osmia xanthomelana</i>	a mason bee	Bee	
<i>Cerceris quadricincta</i>	a solitary wasp	Wasp	
<i>Cerceris quinquefasciata</i>	a solitary wasp	Wasp	
<i>Chrysis fulgida</i>	a ruby-tailed wasp	Wasp	
<i>Chrysura hirsuta</i>	a cuckoo wasp	Wasp	
<i>Evagetes pectinipes</i>	a spider-hunting wasp	Wasp	
<i>Homonotus sanguinolentus</i>	a spider-hunting wasp	Wasp	
<i>Pseudepipona herrichii</i>	Purbeck mason wasp	Wasp	
<i>Anergates atratulus</i>	Dark guest ant	Ant	
<i>Formica aquilonia</i>	Scottish wood ant	Ant	
<i>Formica candida</i>	Black bog ant	Ant	
<i>Formica exsecta</i>	Narrow headed ant	Ant	
<i>Formica lugubris</i>	Hairy wood ant (Northern)	Ant	
<i>Formica pratensis/nigricans</i>	Black-backed meadow ant	Ant	
<i>Formica rufa</i>	Southern wood ant	Ant	
<i>Formica rufibarbis</i>	Red barbed ant	Ant	
<i>Formicoxenus nitidulus</i>	Shining guest ant	Ant	
<i>Agabus brunneus</i>	a diving beetle	Beetle	
<i>Amara famelica</i>	a ground beetle	Beetle	
<i>Amara strenua</i>	a ground beetle	Beetle	
<i>Ampedus nigerrimus</i>	a saproxylic beetle	Beetle	
<i>Ampedus ruficeps</i>	a saproxylic beetle	Beetle	
<i>Ampedus rufipennis</i>	a saproxylic beetle	Beetle	
<i>Anisodactylus nemorivagus</i>	a ground beetle	Beetle	
<i>Anisodactylus poeciloides</i>	a ground beetle	Beetle	
<i>Anostirus castaneus</i>	a click beetle	Beetle	

Scientific name	Common name	Taxon	Present
<i>Aphodius niger</i>	a dung beetle	Beetle	
<i>Badister collaris</i>	a ground beetle	Beetle	
<i>Badister peltatus</i>	a ground beetle	Beetle	
<i>Bembidion argenteolum</i>	a ground beetle	Beetle	
<i>Bembidion humerale</i>	a ground beetle	Beetle	
<i>Bembidion nigropiceum</i>	a ground beetle	Beetle	
<i>Bembidion testaceum</i>	a ground beetle	Beetle	
<i>Bidessus minutissimus</i>	a diving beetle	Beetle	
<i>Bidessus unistriatus</i>	a diving beetle	Beetle	
<i>Byctiscus populi</i>	a leaf-rolling weevil	Beetle	
<i>Carabus intricatus</i>	Blue ground beetle	Beetle	
<i>Cathormiocerus britannicus</i>	a broad-nosed weevil	Beetle	
<i>Ceutorhynchus insularis</i>	a weevil	Beetle	
<i>Chrysolina cerealis</i>	Rainbow leaf beetle	Beetle	
<i>Cicindela germanica</i>	a tiger beetle	Beetle	
<i>Cicindela hybrida</i>	a tiger beetle	Beetle	
<i>Cicindela maritima</i>	dune tiger beetle	Beetle	
<i>Cicindela sylvatica</i>	Heath tiger beetle	Beetle	
<i>Cryptocephalus coryli</i>	a leaf beetle	Beetle	
<i>Cryptocephalus decemmaculatus</i>	a leaf beetle	Beetle	
<i>Cryptocephalus exiguus</i>	a leaf beetle	Beetle	
<i>Cryptocephalus nitidulus</i>	a leaf beetle	Beetle	
<i>Cryptocephalus primarius</i>	a leaf beetle	Beetle	
<i>Cryptocephalus sexpunctatus</i>	a leaf beetle	Beetle	
<i>Curimopsis nigrita</i>	mire pill-beetle	Beetle	
<i>Donacia aquatica</i>	a reed beetle	Beetle	
<i>Donacia bicolora</i>	a reed beetle	Beetle	
<i>Dromius quadrisignatus</i>	a ground beetle	Beetle	
<i>Dromius sigma</i>	a ground beetle	Beetle	
<i>Dryophthorus corticalis</i>	a saproxylic beetle	Beetle	
<i>Dyschirius angustatus</i>	a ground beetle	Beetle	
<i>Elater ferrugineus</i>	a saproxylic beetle	Beetle	
<i>Ernopus tiliae</i>	a bark beetle	Beetle	
<i>Eucnemis capucina</i>	a saproxylic beetle	Beetle	
<i>Gastrallus immarginatus</i>	a wood-boring beetle	Beetle	
<i>Gnorimus nobilis</i>	a chafer	Beetle	
<i>Gnorimus variabilis</i>	a chafer	Beetle	
<i>Graphoderus zonatus</i>	Spangled diving beetle	Beetle	
<i>Harpalus cordatus</i>	a ground beetle	Beetle	
<i>Harpalus dimidiatus</i>	a ground beetle	Beetle	
<i>Harpalus froelichi</i>	a ground beetle	Beetle	
<i>Harpalus obscurus</i>	a ground beetle	Beetle	
<i>Harpalus parallelus</i>	a ground beetle	Beetle	
<i>Harpalus punctatulus</i>	a ground beetle	Beetle	
<i>Helophorus laticollis</i>	a water beetle	Beetle	
<i>Hydrochara caraboides</i>	Lesser silver water beetle	Beetle	
<i>Hydrochus nitidicollis</i>	a beetle	Beetle	
<i>Hydroporus cantabricus</i>	a diving beetle	Beetle	
<i>Hydroporus rufifrons</i>	a diving beetle	Beetle	
<i>Hypebaeus flavipes</i>	a saproxylic beetle	Beetle	

Scientific name	Common name	Taxon	Present
<i>Laccophilus ponticus/poecilus</i>	a diving beetle	Beetle	
<i>Lacon quercus</i>	a saproxylic beetle	Beetle	
<i>Limoniscus violaceus</i>	Violet click beetle	Beetle	
<i>Lionychus quadrillum</i>	a ground beetle	Beetle	
<i>Lucanus cervus</i>	Stag beetle	Beetle	
<i>Malachius aeneus</i>	a false soldier beetle	Beetle	
<i>Megapenthes lugens</i>	a saproxylic beetle	Beetle	
<i>Melanapion minimum</i>	a weevil	Beetle	
<i>Melanotus punctolineatus</i>	a click beetle	Beetle	
<i>Meotica anglica</i>	a beetle	Beetle	
<i>Oberea oculata</i>	a longhorn beetle	Beetle	
<i>Ochthebius poweri</i>	a water beetle	Beetle	
<i>Pachytychius haematocephalus</i>	a weevil	Beetle	
<i>Panagaeus cruxmajor</i>	a ground beetle	Beetle	
<i>Paracymus aeneus</i>	a water beetle	Beetle	
<i>Perileptus areolatus</i>	a ground beetle	Beetle	
<i>Procas granulicollis</i>	a weevil	Beetle	
<i>Protapion ryei</i>	a weevil	Beetle	
<i>Psylliodes luridipennis</i>	Lundy cabbage flea beetle	Beetle	
<i>Psylliodes sophiae</i>	a flea beetle	Beetle	
<i>Pterostichus aterrimus</i>	a ground beetle	Beetle	
<i>Pterostichus kugelanni</i>	a ground beetle	Beetle	
<i>Rhynchaenus testaceus</i>	a jumping weevil	Beetle	
<i>Stenus palposus</i>	a ground beetle	Beetle	
<i>Synaptus filiformis</i>	a click beetle	Beetle	
<i>Tachys edmondsi</i>	a ground beetle	Beetle	
<i>Tachys micros</i>	a ground beetle	Beetle	
<i>Thinobius newberryi</i>	a rove beetle	Beetle	
<i>Austropotamobius pallipes</i>	White-clawed crayfish	Crustacean	
<i>Gammarus insensibilis</i>	Lagoon sand shrimp	Crustacean	
<i>Triops cancriformis</i>	Tadpole shrimp	Crustacean	
<i>Clubiona rosserae</i>	a spider	Spider	
<i>Clubiona subsultans</i>	a spider	Spider	
<i>Dolomedes plantarius</i>	Fen raft spider	Spider	
<i>Eresus cinnaberinus</i>	Ladybird spider	Spider	
<i>Uloborus walckenaerius</i>	a spider	Spider	
<i>Euophrys browningi</i>	a jumping spider	Spider	
<i>Styela gelatinosa</i>	a sea squirt	Sea squirt/sea fir	
<i>Alosa alosa</i>	Allis shad	Fish	
<i>Alosa fallax</i>	Twaite shad	Fish	Yes
<i>Cetorhinus maximus</i>	Basking shark	Fish	
<i>Coregonus albula</i>	Vendace	Fish	
<i>Coregonus autumnalis</i>	Pollan	Fish	
<i>Coregonus oxyrhynchus</i>	Houting	Fish	
<i>Lota lota</i>	Burbot	Fish	
<i>Raja batis</i>	Common skate	Fish	
<i>Bufo calamita</i>	Natterjack toad	Amphibian	
<i>Rana lessonae</i>	Pool frog	Amphibian	
<i>Triturus cristatus</i>	Great crested newt	Amphibian	Yes
<i>Caretta caretta</i>	loggerhead turtle	Reptile	

Scientific name	Common name	TAXON	Present
<i>Chelonia mydas</i>	Green turtle	Reptile	
<i>Dermochelys coriacea</i>	Leatherback turtle	Reptile	
<i>Eretmochelys imbricata</i>	Hawksbill turtle	Reptile	
<i>Lacerta agilis</i>	Sand lizard	Reptile	
<i>Lepidochelys kempii</i>	Kemp's ridley turtle	Reptile	
<i>Acrocephalus paludicola</i>	Aquatic warbler	Bird	
<i>Acrocephalus palustris</i>	Marsh warbler	Bird	
<i>Alauda arvensis</i>	Skylark	Bird	Yes
<i>Botaurus stellaris</i>	Bittern	Bird	
<i>Burhinus oedicnemus</i>	Stone curlew	Bird	
<i>Caprimulgus europaeus</i>	Nightjar	Bird	Yes
<i>Carduelis cannabina</i>	Linnet	Bird	Yes
<i>Crex crex</i>	Corncrake	Bird	
<i>Emberiza cirlus</i>	Cirl bunting	Bird	
<i>Emberiza schoeniclus</i>	Reed bunting	Bird	Yes
<i>Jynx torquilla</i>	Wryneck	Bird	
<i>Lanius collurio</i>	Red-backed shrike	Bird	
<i>Loxia scotica</i>	Scottish crossbill	Bird	
<i>Lullula arborea</i>	Woodlark	Bird	
<i>Melanitta nigra</i>	Common scoter	Bird	
<i>Miliaria calandra</i>	Corn bunting	Bird	
<i>Muscicapa striata</i>	Spotted flycatcher	Bird	Yes
<i>Passer montanus</i>	Tree sparrow	Bird	Yes
<i>Perdix perdix</i>	Grey partridge	Bird	Probably
<i>Phalaropus lobatus</i>	Red-necked phalarope	Bird	
<i>Pyrrhula pyrrhula</i>	Bullfinch	Bird	Yes
<i>Sterna dougallii</i>	Roseate tern	Bird	
<i>Streptopelia turtur</i>	Turtle dove	Bird	
<i>Tetrao tetrix</i>	Black grouse	Bird	
<i>Tetrao urogallus</i>	Capercaillie	Bird	
<i>Turdus philomelos</i>	Song thrush	Bird	Yes
<i>Arvicola terrestris</i>	Water vole	Mammal	Probably
<i>Balaenoptera acutorostrata</i>	Minke whale	Mammal	
<i>Balaenoptera borealis</i>	Sei whale	Mammal	
<i>Balaenoptera musculus</i>	Blue whale	Mammal	
<i>Balaenoptera physalus</i>	Fin whale	Mammal	
<i>Barbastella barbastellus</i>	Barbastelle bat	Mammal	
<i>Delphinus delphis</i>	Common dolphin	Mammal	
<i>Eubalaena glacialis</i>	Northern right whale	Mammal	
<i>Globicephala melas</i>	Long-finned pilot whale	Mammal	
<i>Grampus griseus</i>	Risso's dolphin	Mammal	
<i>Hyperoodon ampullatus</i>	Northern bottlenose whale	Mammal	
<i>Lagenorhynchus acutus</i>	Atlantic white-sided dolphin	Mammal	
<i>Lagenorhynchus albirostris</i>	White-beaked dolphin	Mammal	
<i>Lepus europaeus</i>	Brown hare	Mammal	Yes
<i>Lutra lutra</i>	Otter	Mammal	Yes
<i>Megaptera novaengliae</i>	Humpback whale	Mammal	
<i>Mesoplodon bidens</i>	Sowerby's beaked whale	Mammal	
<i>Mesoplodon mirus</i>	True's beaked whale	Mammal	
<i>Muscardinus avellanarius</i>	Dormouse	Mammal	Yes

Scientific name	Common name	Taxon	Present
<i>Myotis bechsteini</i>	Bechstein's bat	Mammal	
<i>Myotis myotis</i>	Greater mouse-eared bat	Mammal	
<i>Orcinus orca</i>	Killer whale	Mammal	
<i>Phocoena phocoena</i>	Harbour porpoise	Mammal	
<i>Physeter macrocephalus</i>	Sperm whale	Mammal	
<i>Pipistrellus pipistrellus</i>	Pipistrelle bat	Mammal	Yes
<i>Rhinolophus ferrumequinum</i>	Greater horseshoe bat	Mammal	
<i>Rhinolophus hipposideros</i>	Lesser horseshoe bat	Mammal	
<i>Sciurus vulgaris</i>	Red squirrel	Mammal	Probably
<i>Stenella coeruleoalba</i>	Striped dolphin	Mammal	
<i>Tursiops truncatus</i>	Bottlenosed dolphin	Mammal	
<i>Ziphius cavirostris</i>	Cuvier's beaked whale	Mammal	

Appendix 3: Sites of Wildlife Importance

Map Two: Important Wildlife Sites



Designated sites

Sites of Special Scientific Interest (including sites primarily of geological interest) (Map 2 p20)

1. Blaenrhondda Roadcutting
2. Brofiscin Quarry, Groes Faen
3. Bryncarnau Grasslands, Llwydcoed
4. Castell Coch Woodlands and Road Section
5. Craig Pont Rhondda, Llwlynypia
6. Craig y Llyn
7. Ely Valley
8. Mynydd Ty-Isaf Rhondda
9. Nant Gelliwion Woodland
10. Dyffrynnoedd Nedd a Mellte a Moel Penderyn
11. Llantrisant Common

Local Nature Reserves (Map 2 p20)

1. Glyncornel Local Nature Reserve (Llwlynypia)
2. Craig yr Hesg Local Nature Reserve (Pontypridd)
3. Llwyd Coed - Cwmbach Railway Corridor proposed Local Nature Reserve (Aberdare)

Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation

A list of provisional sites has been prepared, drawing on the Countryside Council for Wales' 'Phase I' habitat survey, the three Welsh Development Agency funded 'landscape strategy' reports prepared for Cynon, Rhondda and the Taff Ely areas, and more recent survey work. The draft criteria for selecting the sites are set out in Appendix 4. The general location of the sites will be included in the Landscape Strategy, currently in preparation. Once the criteria have been approved, the site boundaries defined and the landowners notified, the sites will be included in the Unitary Development Plan.

Glamorgan Wildlife Trust Nature Reserves (Map 2 p20)

1. Pwll Waun Cynon, Mountain Ash (owned by GWT)
2. Nightingales Bush, Pontypridd (owned by GWT)
3. Aberdare Canal, Aberdare (leased by GWT)
4. Nant Myddlin, Beddau (leased by GWT)

Sites managed for wildlife

Coed Cymru

Coed Cymru holds data relating to woodlands within Rhondda Cynon Taff for which management plans have been produced. The following table indicates the area of various native woodland types included in Coed Cymru woodland management plans in Rhondda Cynon Taff (to July 2000).

- Upland oakwood 86ha
- Lowland mixed woods 60ha
- Upland (mixed) ash woods 26ha
- Wet woods 22ha
- Lowland wood pasture and parkland 14ha
- Ffridd 27ha
- Conifer conversion to native woodland 18ha

Map Three: Key Countryside Sites



Key Countryside Sites (*Map 3 p22*)

'Key Countryside Sites' are owned or managed by Rhondda Cynon Taff CBC. For each site a brief management statement has been prepared and an annual programme of work is drawn up. Over a period of time more detailed Management Plans are being prepared for each site. Sites with existing Management Plans or Plans in preparation are noted on the following page.

Key Countryside Sites

1. Glyncornel Grounds (Management Plan and Lake Management Plan completed)
2. Clydach Vale (former land reclamation area) (Lake Management Plan in preparation)
3. Fach River corridor (Including parkway, Maerdy land reclamation area) (survey work for management plan undertaken)
4. Cwmparc railway line and basin
5. Darran Woodlands
6. Bronwydd Woodlands (Woodland Management Plan in preparation)
7. Blaenrhondda/ Blaencwm railway paths and Penpych Woodland Park
8. Trehaftod to Porth community route corridor
9. Maesycoed Woodlands/ Railway corridor
10. Railway corridor Glyntaff to Taffs Well (Management Plan in preparation)
11. Railway and river corridor north of Pontypridd (Management Plan in preparation)
12. Coed Caedyrys (Woodland Management Plan)
13. Ty-rhiwi picnic site (Management Plan in preparation by Caerphilly Mountain Countryside Service)
14. Gelliwion (Management Plan in preparation)
15. Craig-yr-hesg (Management Plan in preparation)
16. Penrhos cutting and associated lands (ecological survey)
17. Trecastle tip (Initial walk-over survey)
18. Cefn yr Hendy
19. Gilfach Goch (former land reclamation site)
20. Nantgarw railway (Groundwork and Community Council involvement)
21. Railway corridor Llwydcoed to Cwmbach (Management Plan in preparation)
22. Dare Valley countryside area
23. Dare-Aman railway corridor (Management Plan in preparation)
24. Incline Row/ Fforch Aman river corridor (survey work commenced)
25. Fforchwen former land reclamation site (survey work commenced)
26. Cwm Cynon proposed community route corridor
27. Dumfries Park
28. Craig yr Dyffryn Woods (Management Plan in preparation)
29. Lady Windsor Ynysybwl informal recreation site
30. Parc Dowlais (Management Plan in preparation)
31. A4119 verge (parts) (Management Plan in preparation)
32. Nant Celyn Meadows, Llantwit Fardre

Appendix 4: Selection Criteria for Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINC) in Rhondda Cynon Taff

A Site of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINC) is a non-statutory designated area of biodiversity significance within the County Borough. SINC are nationally recognised planning designations (Collis and Tyldesley, 1993) which are often referred to as second-tier sites. In parts of Britain where the local county wildlife trusts runs and administers the second-tier system, SINC are generally called Wildlife Sites.

Unlike Sites of Special Scientific Interest (first-tier sites), SINC have no statutory protection but they are material considerations in the planning process. The significance of SINC within the planning process has been recognised by the Welsh Office Planning Guidance of PPG (Wales) and TAN (Wales) 5. The Mid Glamorgan Structure Plan (Policy EV5) and the Rhondda Local Plan (Policy ENV8), Cynon Valley Local Plan (CON4) and Taff Ely Local Plan (En11) provide the planning policy protection for SINC in Rhondda Cynon Taff. Currently all SINC in Rhondda Cynon Taff are proposed (pSINC). It is likely that their full designation will be made as part of the County Borough Council's Unitary Development Plan. In Rhondda Cynon Taff, pSINC are considered to have either regional (Glamorgan) or local (County Borough) significance.

PSINC were first identified within the Landscape Strategies (Rhondda Borough Council, Cynon Valley Borough Council and Taff Ely Borough Council) which were produced with Welsh Development Agency funding in the mid nineteen-nineties. No formal SINC criteria were used in identifying these sites. The three former Borough Council Landscape Strategies are currently being revised into a new Rhondda Cynon Taff Landscape Strategy and a review of the pSINC has also been undertaken using these criteria to assess the biodiversity value of sites. Although many pSINC remain the same, a number of new pSINC have been identified, boundaries of existing pSINC have been revised, a significant number of pSINC have been lost and a small number of others have been rejected.

The Rhondda Cynon Taff SINC criteria have been compiled by the County Borough Ecologist. The Draft Criteria have been subject to a consultation process involving Countryside Council for Wales, Glamorgan Wildlife Trust, local wildlife organisations, a number of professional and amateur ecologists, neighbouring local authorities in the old mid and south Glamorgan and the Brecon Beacons National Park. In addition, two Glamorgan Biodiversity Advisory Group sub-meetings have been held to discuss the development of a Glamorgan framework for SINC criteria (the second meeting including representatives from some Gwent local authorities). The Vale of Glamorgan County Council and Rhondda Cynon Taff County Borough Council have already developed a very similar framework to their respective SINC Habitat criteria. The County Borough Council wishes to thank everyone who has commented and reviewed these Criteria (see Acknowledgements).

A somewhat unusual feature of the Rhondda Cynon Taff SINC criteria is the adoption of two categories of pSINC: Upland pSINC and Lowland pSINC. This has been necessary to reflect the very different character of the vegetation and habitat structure of upland (un-enclosed areas) and lowland (often enclosed) areas. The former consists of large expanses of upland heath, rhos pasture and acid grassland, often in complex habitat mosaics. There has been little systematic survey work in the uplands, the baseline assessment for these areas relying almost entirely on the Wales Field Unit Upland Vegetation Survey of 1985. The Upland pSINC designation refers directly to the survey areas of the Upland Vegetation Survey. The large size of all of the Upland pSINC is not the weakness it may appear. It is indeed a wholly pragmatic way of dealing with the expanses of un-enclosed habitat which occur in the uplands. Much of the characteristic fauna of the uplands (in particular birds of prey) is a direct result of the sheer size of these un-enclosed expanses of habitat. To a large extent Upland pSINC are subject to very different land-use pressure to those experienced by Lowland pSINC. The vegetation of the uplands is very closely linked to agri-environment issues and in particular sheep stocking rates. Commercial Forestry is the other major land use pressure on upland areas.

In comparison to the uplands, Lowland pSINC are generally far smaller sites of discrete habitat set within well defined boundaries. They also generally support a different, often wider range of species. Lowland pSINC are subject to a far wider range of industrial, commercial, residential and infrastructure development pressures. The lowlands have also suffered severe pressures from agricultural improvement and drainage. Baseline ecological information for lowland areas is also much more complete.

There is evidently some overlap in those sites identified as Upland and Lowland pSINC. This has occurred where areas of 'upland un-enclosed character' were not included in the NCC Upland Vegetation Survey, but were surveyed by the CCW Phase I Habitat Survey. All such sites which meet SINC criteria have therefore been identified as Lowland pSINC. However the upland character of these pSINC has been recognised in their site description.

Data sources for pSINC Identification

The main source of habitat information for identifying pSINC in lowland parts of the County Borough has been the Countryside Council for Wales Phase I Habitat Survey. This survey (undertaken between 1992 and 1997) provides a comprehensive baseline audit of semi-natural habitats within the old counties of Mid and South Glamorgan. This invaluable data-set has been augmented by the detailed grassland surveys which have been undertaken on a number of sites by the CCW Phase II Lowland Grassland Survey (1993-1999). Upland areas have been assessed using the Wales Field Unit Upland Vegetation Survey (No. 22: Mid Glamorgan Uplands; December 1985). The Glamorgan Inventory of Ancient Woodland (Provisional) (Nature Conservancy Council 1986) and Woodland Surveys in South Wales Region and Brecknock District, 1989 (Cooke and Saunders, NCC 1990) have been important reference sources for Ancient Woodland sites.

A number of organisations and individuals have supplied important comments and site and species data (see Acknowledgements). In addition staff from the County Borough Council's Countryside and Environment Section have undertaken site surveying of a large number of pSINC, concentrating on those without previous detailed site assessment information. Environmental and ecological assessment work commissioned for a variety of development proposals has provided some additional baseline information.

Wildlife Sites in south Wales

In April 1999, a joint Glamorgan and Gwent Wildlife Trust Project (with funding from the Esmee Fairbairn Charitable Trust) was commenced in south Wales. The objective of the project is to produce Wildlife Sites (SINC) selection criteria for the whole of south Wales (Carmarthenshire has latterly been added to the project area). The south Wales Regional Criteria have yet to be published. It is hoped that they will provide consistency in the SINC selection criteria method across south Wales, whilst respecting the necessity for individual Local Authority areas to fine tune criteria to local biodiversity conditions.

Selection Criteria

CRITERIA PRINCIPLES

The criteria used as the basis to identify pSINC are based upon a series of principles developed by the former Mid Glamorgan County Council and adopted by the County Borough Council in January 1996. The criteria are an amended version of the ten 'typical' criteria set out in 'Natural Assets' (Collis and Tyldesley, 1993); Naturalness, Size, Diversity, Rarity, Fragility, Irreplaceability, Typicalness / Representativeness, Geographic Position, Significant Populations of species and Age/Continuity of Land-use. In addition two community characteristics are also employed: Community/Amenity Value and Physical Access.

A site selected as a proposed Site of Importance for Nature Conservation need not qualify against all criteria and different sites will meet combinations of criteria. It is most likely that the majority of sites will qualify on the basis of more than one criterion and many sites will have multiple importance. Therefore, whilst all pSINC must satisfy a minimum level of importance, there will be variations in importance between sites.

Scientific Criteria;

- 1. Naturalness:** Site 'naturalness' represents the basic principle for site selection. The process is intended to ensure that a viable and sustainable representation of the full range of natural and semi-natural habitat types found in the County Borough is conserved. Naturalness will be assessed by considering the lack of features which indicate gross or recent human modification, and by the occurrence of features and species which are indicative of habitat continuity.

- 2. Size:** Size is a relative term and will vary in importance and critical dimension according to the habitat/species in question. It is generally agreed that large sites are of greater value for nature conservation than small sites. However, in the absence of larger sites, small sites increase in value and may qualify where the habitat is considered to be viable. Furthermore small sites may assume particular importance where very specialised and/or threatened species are concerned. Thus, as a minimum the site must be considered large enough to be a viable unit for the ecological interest defined.
- 3. Diversity:** Generally, the more diverse a site (in terms of habitat, micro-climates, topography, hydrology, etc.) the greater the number of habitat niches and the greater the variety of species that will be supported. However, some valued habitats (e.g. reedbeds) are naturally of low diversity and use of this criterion should not result in the under valuation of such habitats. Habitat diversity should be considered for SINC selection when a site consists of a mosaic of three or more habitats (i.e. woodland, tall scrub, grassland, heath, valley mire, pond and stream). This is consistent with the selection process of SSSIs.
- 4. Rarity:** Rarity relates to both habitats and species and must be considered at international, national and county scales. Clearly the rarer the features of any site are, the greater is the site's importance for nature conservation. Rarity will be assessed with respect to the occurrence of rare fauna and flora. Habitat rarity will be considered with respect to the known distribution of semi-natural habitats at an international, national, vice-county or County Borough level. For instance, The national/international rarity of Biodiversity Action Plan habitats (Biodiversity: The UK Steering Group Report) will be reflected in the designation of SINC within the County Borough. At the other end of the scale, County Borough rarity will be considered with respect to the distribution of semi-natural habitats as revealed by the CCW Phase I Habitat Survey of Mid Glamorgan and subsequent habitat and species surveys.
- 5. Fragility :** Some habitats, communities and species are particularly sensitive to environmental change and this should be reflected in site selection.
- 6. Irreplaceability :** Some sites (e.g. ancient woodlands, species-rich hay meadows and rhos pastures) are particularly important because the habitats they support have gradually developed, often over centuries. As products of undisturbed ground conditions (including hydrology and soil structure) and traditional land husbandry techniques these habitats, are irreplaceable and cannot be re-created.
- 7. Typicalness or Representativeness:** Typicalness relates to whether the site represents a good example of a particular habitat type or geographical feature. It is desirable to safeguard a sequence and range of good habitat types and geographical features to ensure that a reservoir of the best and most characteristic features of the County Borough are sustained.
- 8. Geographical Position :** The geographical position of a site may enhance its value; for example because of its location in or adjacent to a linear habitat or position in a wildlife network, or its proximity to other pSINC.
- 9. Significant Populations of Species :** Sites with important or particularly large populations of key species will be designated as pSINC. These criteria include populations or colonies of national or international priority species (as defined by National Action Plans), regionally scarce or important species (as developed through the Glamorgan Biodiversity Advisory Group) or locally rare, uncommon or characteristic species.
- 10. Age / Continuity of Landuse :** A site which has been occupied by a semi-natural habitat for a long time is usually more valuable than one which has only recently arisen. Ancient habitats, and particularly those which have been subject to a uniform management regime, will have retained and acquired a range and diversity of species as a direct result of long standing and traditional landuse practises.

Community Characteristics

11. Community and Amenity Value: Sites are assessed in terms of their value to local people. For example, some sites are valued by the local community on account of their attractive flowers or their rural atmosphere, away from the hubbub of urban life. Others are of particular significance to the local community because of their links with community history, such as canals, disused railway lines, distant industrial activities and old cemeteries.

12. Physical Access : Physical access to sites is a valuable asset in urban areas. Sites with access for disabled people are particularly important.

Detailed Criteria

The following section provides the detail of the key nature conservation features which have been used to identify the SINC register and which will be used to identify new sites and areas. They are presented as Habitat and Species criteria.

Habitats

1. Marshy Grassland

The wet valley bottoms and flushed valley and hillsides of Rhondda Cynon Taff provide ideal conditions for marshy grassland (as defined using standard CCW Phase I Habitat Survey Methodology). Depending upon altitude, land management and the pH, and nutrient status of soils and water sources, a variety of marshy grassland types occur. Each type supports a rich diversity of wetland plants, invertebrates, amphibians and birds. Because of the historical and present day pressures of agricultural, industrial and urban development, the total area and quality of marshy grassland remaining in the County Borough is now considerably reduced. However, in recent years the national and international significance of Welsh wetlands has been recognised. As a result, the habitat resource in south Wales is of considerable nature conservation significance in both regional and national terms. Any large, and/or species rich stands of marshy grassland will be considered for pSINC status. The best stands and sites of the following National Vegetation Classification (NVC) community types will be designated. Marshy grassland sites rarely support a single NVC community type and many of the most important sites support very complex mosaics of different mire and wet/dry heath communities. The following marshy grassland types are of key interest and are included in the national 'Purple Moor-grass and Rush Pasture Biodiversity Action Plan' and the Glamorgan 'Purple Moor-grass and Rush Pasture Biodiversity Action Plan'. In Wales these wet grasslands are often collectively referred to as 'rhos' pasture (which in Welsh means 'a wet, often heathy, grazing pasture').

Blunt-flowered rush and marsh thistle (*Juncus subnodulosus* - *Cirsium palustre*) fen meadow - M22

This is a rare marshy grassland type in south Wales largely confined to base flushed sites in the Vale of Glamorgan. M22 is characterised by its dominance of blunt-flowered rush (*Juncus subnodulosus*). Important associates include marsh thistle (*Cirsium palustre*), marsh horsetail (*Equisetum palustre*), meadowsweet (*Filipendula ulmaria*), Yorkshire fog (*Holcus lanatus*), greater bird's-foot trefoil (*Lotus uliginosus*) and water mint (*Mentha aquatica*). It is possible that some M22 occurs on marshy grassland sites on the limestone at the southern edge of Rhondda Cynon Taff. Any area of M22 will be designated as a pSINC.

Soft rush/sharp-flowered rush and marsh bedstraw (*Juncus effusus/acutiflorus* - *Galium palustre*) rush pasture - M23

This is a typical lowland form of rush dominated marshy grassland which has considerable value as invertebrate and bird habitat. All species-rich stands which support a variety of typical herbaceous associates (which may include angelica (*Angelica sylvestris*), meadowsweet, ragged-robin (*Lychnis flos-cuculi*), skullcap (*Scutellaria galericulata*), lesser spearwort (*Ranunculus flammula*), southern marsh orchid (*Dactylorhiza praetermissa*), common spotted-orchid (*Dactylorhiza fuchsii*), water horsetail (*Equisetum fluviatile*), marsh horsetail, marsh marigold (*Caltha palustris*) and purple loosestrife (*Lythrum salicaria*)) will qualify for pSINC status.

In addition all large stands (over 4 hectare) of more species-poor M23 will also be considered.

Purple moor-grass and meadow thistle (*Molinia caerulea-Cirsium dissectum*) fen-meadow - M24.

This species rich, base-flushed rhos pasture is a habitat type of key international significance. The community is characterised by the high frequency of meadow thistle (*Cirsium dissectum*) with purple moor-grass (*Molinia caerulea*). Common associates include devil's-bit scabious (*Succisa pratensis*) and carnation sedge (*Carex panicea*) and the mild calcicoles, flea sedge (*Carex pulicaris*) and tawny sedge (*Carex hostiana*). Other species of interest can include whorled caraway (*Carum verticillatum*), globeflower (*Trollius europaeus*), petty-whin (*Genista anglica*) and marsh valerian (*Valeriana dioica*).

Within Glamorgan, M24 is restricted to damp base-flushed areas. It mainly occurs on the southern coal measures of Taff Ely, although important sites also exist along the northern limestone belt in the Cynon Valley. In all areas, agricultural improvement and industrial/residential development has significantly reduced the area of M24. All stands of M24 are therefore a priority habitat type and will be considered for pSINC designation.

Purple moor-grass and tormentil (*Molinia caerulea-Potentilla erecta*) Mire - M25

M25 is the principal rhos pasture of south Wales. Dominated by purple moor-grass and often supporting high frequency of rushes, the typical associated species include tormentil (*Potentilla erecta*), devil's-bit scabious, lousewort (*Pedicularis sylvatica*) and saw-wort (*Serratula tinctoria*). In the lowlands, species-rich stands are particularly important for a wide range of associated flora and fauna. All lowland, species-rich stands will qualify for pSINC status. In addition large species-poor stands of lowland M25 over 4 hectares will also be considered.

In the uplands, large typically species-poor stands of M25 form important upland biodiversity areas, especially for breeding upland birds. Large, extensive areas of upland M25 will be designated within Upland SINC.

Meadowsweet and angelica (*Filipendula ulmaria- Angelica sylvestris*) Mire - M27

On rich, often alluvial soils, M27 can often occur in close association with lowland M23, M24 and swamp communities. It is characterised by the dominance of meadowsweet, with an often species-rich association of tall herbaceous species. The latter can include common valerian (*Valeriana officinalis*), common sorrel (*Rumex acetosa*), ragged-robin, and angelica. Rushes and purple moor-grass occur at very low frequency and cover.

All stands of species-rich M27 will be considered for designation as pSINC.

Flushes

Acid flushes (usually star sedge and sphagna - *Carex echinata-Sphagnum recurvum/auriculatum* Mire - M6) are composed of wet *Sphagnum* dominated vegetation (which can include up to 5 species of *Sphagnum*) with a vascular component which is either dominated by low growing sedges or taller M25 type vegetation. M6 is the predominant form of acid flush found in the County Borough and it is a characteristic vegetation feature of many valley sides pSINC. Neutral and basic flushes (including dioecious sedge and common butterwort - *Carex dioica-Pinguicula vulgaris* Mire M10) are very rare in the County Borough.

All flushes almost invariably occur as small areas within larger stands of rhos pasture, heath or bracken. Larger, species-rich acid flushes are likely to be constituent features of larger mosaic pSINC. Because of their scarcity all neutral/base flushes will be designated as pSINC.

2. Neutral Grassland

As a result of geology, topography and agricultural practise, areas of relatively unmodified neutral grassland (as defined using standard CCW Phase I Habitat Survey Methodology) are scarce in the County Borough. Most pSINC grasslands are horse or cattle grazed although a few traditionally managed hay meadows also remain. As defined by the National Vegetation Classification, a number of different neutral grassland types occur in the County Borough;

Black knapweed and crested dog's-tail (*Centaurea nigra*-*Cynosaurus cristatus*) mesotrophic grassland - MG5

This grassland type represents the best examples of species-rich, traditionally managed neutral grassland in the County Borough. MG5 grassland is characterised by low frequencies of 'agricultural' grass species, such as rye-grass (*Lolium perenne*) and high frequencies of finer, less robust grasses such as red fescue (*Festuca rubra*), crested dog's-tail (*Cynosaurus cristatus*), and common bent (*Agrostis capillaris*). The diversity of herbaceous species confers a typically flowery appearance to MG5 grassland. Bird's-foot trefoil (*Lotus corniculatus*) and black knapweed (*Centaurea nigra*) are common and red clover (*Trifolium pratense*), rough hawk-bit (*Leontodon hispidus*), autumn hawk-bit (*Leontodon autumnalis*), cowslip (*Primula veris*), ox-eye daisy (*Leucanthemum vulgare*), and bulbous buttercup (*Ranunculus bulbosus*) are often present. The scarce and declining green-winged orchid (*Orchis morio*) is strongly associated with MG5. There is estimated to only be 4000 hectares of MG5 grassland in the UK. Because of its rarity all stands of MG5 will be considered for designation as pSINC.

Rye grass and crested dog's-tail (*Lolium perenne*- *Cynosaurus cristatus*) mesotrophic grassland - MG6

MG6 covers a relatively wide range of semi-improved dry neutral grasslands. It is characterised by the presence, at high cover, of rye grass and species such as white clover (*Trifolium repens*), common mouse-ear (*Cerastium fontanum*) and common daisy (*Bellis perennis*). It can however include species-rich stands which, although evidently modified by fertiliser application, still support a variety of herbaceous species (the latter can include flowery hay meadows). These can include black knapweed, ribwort plantain (*Plantago lanceolata*), cats-ear (*Hypochaeris radicata*), common sorrel, and hay-rattle (*Rhinanthus minor*). PSINC designations will be used to protect the more species-rich, unmodified examples of MG6.

False oat-grass (*Arrhenatherum elatius*) grassland - MG1

MG1 typically occurs as relatively small stands of rather rank, irregularly managed neutral grassland. The infrequency of cutting or grazing often results in a domination by tall coarse grasses, such as false oat-grass (*Arrhenatherum elatius*), cock's-foot (*Dactylis glomerata*) and Yorkshire fog (*Holcus lanatus*). The large umbellifer hogweed (*Heracleum sphondylium*) is often frequent with species such as black knapweed, nettle (*Urtica dioica*) and thistles. However, under these tall grasses and herbaceous species, the best MG1 grasslands often supports a lower growing flora, more characteristic of good MG5 grassland. Indeed many MG1 sites are likely to have developed from unmanaged MG5, e.g. old cemeteries and road verges. They are particularly important for grassland invertebrates and the cover of rank vegetation is also important for small birds and mammals. All species-rich MG1 stands will be considered for pSINC designation.

Yorkshire fog and soft rush (*Holcus lanatus* -*Juncus effusus*) rush pasture - MG10

This is a wet mesotrophic grassland community, which is often found on the periphery of marshy grassland. Although generally species-poor, MG10 is often important as invertebrate and bird habitat and as a linking habitat between areas of rhos pasture. It is also an important element in floodplain grassland. Due to alluvial deposition, floodplain grasslands are often naturally more improved than other forms of traditional grassland. Very little functioning floodplain remains in the County Borough. Stands of MG10 and other 'damp' grasslands are generally designated as parts of larger mosaic grassland pSINC, often on floodplains.

3. Calcareous Grassland (including road verges)

A wide band of carboniferous limestone runs along the fringe of the southern coalfield in Rhondda Cynon Taff, and another band of limestone runs across the northern edge of the County Borough. Where the limestone is exposed, or lies close to the surface, the flora is strongly influenced and supports characteristic calcareous species which are absent from the great majority of the County Borough.

In Rhondda Cynon Taff no 'original' or unimproved calcareous grassland has survived. However 'secondary' calcareous grassland occasionally develops (from the seed bank) where limestone is exposed by road cuttings or quarry operations. Although these calcareous grasslands do not 'fit' an NVC community type, they are often species-rich, supporting species such as cowslip, salad burnet (*Sanguisorba minor*), kidney vetch (*Anthyllis vulneraria*), and bee orchid (*Ophrys apifera*). These sites

are often important for invertebrates and could include rare insects such as the small blue butterfly and glow-worm. Because they are rarely associated with grazed land many secondary calcareous grasslands are threatened by scrub invasion. Grassland in active quarries can also be threatened by extraction and/or post quarrying development.

All species-rich stands of secondary calcareous grassland will be considered for pSINC status.

4. Acid Grassland

Because of the underlying geology and climate, much of the dry grassland in the uplands of Glamorgan and on the upland fringe is acidic in nature. Although widely distributed, unimproved lowland sites are becoming uncommon. The most significant lowland form of acid grassland is sheep's fescue- common bent - heath bedstraw (*Festuca ovina-Agrostis capillaris- Galium saxatile*) U4 grassland;

Sheep's fescue- common bent - heath bedstraw (*Festuca ovina-Agrostis capillaris- Galium saxatile*) grassland - U4

U4 is characterised by a high constancy of typical acid grassland species, such as common bent, sweet vernal grass, tormentil, sheep's fescue and heath bedstraw. In lowland areas, forms of U4 which are floristically similar to MG5 grassland can occur. At its most species-rich, this grassland type is of considerable nature conservation significance and includes species such as bitter vetchling (*Lathyrus montanus*) and betony (*Stachys betonica*). In the upland fringes and the ffridd, a heathy form of U4 occurs with bilberry (*Vaccinium myrtillus*) and wavy hair-grass (*Deschampsia flexuosa*) is also characteristic.

In addition to U4, there are at least four other common acid grassland communities. These generally occur in the uplands or as isolated communities on rock-outcrops. Upland acid grasslands are generally species-poor and can often be characterised by the predominance of a few species such as mat-grass (*Nardus stricta*) and heath rush (*Juncus squarrosus*).

All species-rich, unimproved stands of U4 will be considered for pSINC designation. In more uplands areas larger, relatively unimproved stands of U4, together with other acid grassland communities will also be designated within Upland pSINC.

5. Wet Heath

Wet heath (as defined using standard CCW Phase I Habitat Survey Methodology supports a characteristic range and variety of species and in many areas occurs in complex mosaics with rhos pasture communities. The majority of wet heath in Rhondda Cynon Taff is referable to deer grass and cross-leaved heath (*Scirpus cespitosus-Erica tetralix*) M15 heath. Typical species include cross-leaved heath, purple moor-grass, deer grass, common cotton-grass (*Eriophorum angustifolium*), bog asphodel, and locally frequent heather and bilberry.

Today wet heath is a scarce habitat resource, with only a scatter of sites having survived the effects of drainage and industrial/residential development. All remaining areas of wet heath are therefore considered to be of key nature conservation significance and will be considered for pSINC designation.

6. Dry Heath

Heather and bilberry dry heath is an important biodiversity habitat for a characteristic range of invertebrates, reptiles and birds. In Rhondda Cynon Taff, three principle dry heath communities are recognised;

Heather and western gorse (*Calluna vulgaris-Ulex gallii*) heath - H8

This dry heath is dominated by western gorse (*Ulex gallii*), with an associated flora which can include heather, cross-leaved heath and bilberry and other acid/heathy species.

Heather and bilberry (*Calluna vulgaris-Vaccinium myrtillus*) heath - H12

The typical dry heath, in which heather is dominant or co-dominant.

Bilberry and wavy hair-grass (*Vaccinium myrtillus*-*Deschampsia flexuosa*) heath - H18

The classic bilberry heath, in which heather only plays a relatively minor role.

Unfortunately the area of all three dry heath communities has been much reduced by afforestation and overgrazing. Today large areas of dry heath are largely restricted to the uplands and upland fringes, inaccessible crags and slopes and areas of vegetated coal spoil. Smaller stands are also important components of many rhos pastures. All large stands will be considered as pSINC. In addition examples of the three NVC communities will also be considered.

7. Bogs

There are two main types of ombrotrophic (rain fed) mire; raised bogs and blanket bogs. Raised bogs are characteristic of relatively flat underlying topography; the surface contours are independent of the underlying topography. In their classic form they include a raised centre in the area of greatest peat depth and gentle side slopes (rand). Few intact raised bogs exist. Blanket bogs are genuine upland features. They mimic the underlying topography 'forming a blanket over both concave and convex surfaces, on level to moderately sloping ground in the uplands' (CCW Phase I Habitat Survey Handbook 1995). Inter-grading between the two extreme forms of bog is common and many bogs cannot be easily referred to one or the other. The characteristic vegetation cover is of *Sphagnum* with hummocks of wet heath, and stands of cotton-grass (*Eriophorum sp*). Sundew is a specialist bog species. Bog pools and areas of old peat cuttings often occur and these can be important habitats for amphibians and upland aquatic invertebrates.

Very little blanket bog and raised bog survives in the County Borough and that which does is generally fragmented and modified by drainage. It is another key habitat, restricted in European terms to the western Atlantic seaboard. Due to its rarity and fragile nature all remaining areas of (even degraded) blanket and raised bog will be considered for designation as pSINC.

8. Swamp (including Reedbeds)

Very little true swamp survives in the County Borough, because of drainage for agricultural production and industrial development of the valley bottom. There are a large number of NVC swamp communities and too little work has been undertaken in Glamorgan to provide a quantitative assessment of the key swamp communities. However, typical swamp communities include single and mixed species stands of greater pond-sedge (*Carex riparia*), lesser pond-sedge (*Carex acutiformis*), bottle sedge (*Carex rostrata*), reed sweet-grass (*Glyceria maxima*), common reed (*Phragmites communis*) and canary reed-grass (*Phalaris arundinacea*). These areas of wet, tall vegetation are of considerable importance for a number of specialist invertebrate and bird species (including breeding reed warbler, reed bunting and water rail and wintering snipe). All remaining stands will be considered for pSINC status, the larger sites having the greatest nature conservation potential. In addition, examples of different NVC swamp communities will also be considered for designation.

9. Fen

According to the CCW Phase I Habitat Survey Handbook, 'fens are defined as minerotrophic mires, usually over peat more than 0.5 metres deep. The water table is at or just above the surface. Three main types of fen can be distinguished, and these depend upon topographic, rather than vegetation 'criteria'. These are valley mire (fed by an obvious water flow), basin mire and flood-plain mire (both formed by impeded drainage). The vegetation of these fen communities are usually characteristic of other habitat types, including marshy grassland, swamp and reedbeds. The County Borough supports regionally important areas of valley mire. Due to their rarity and vulnerability to drainage and forestry, all remaining fen sites will be considered for pSINC designation.'

10. Woodland/Scrub

Native woodland is an integral feature of the County Borough. Ancient woodland is rare and all ancient woodland sites supporting semi-natural woodland as identified in the Glamorgan Inventory of Ancient Woodland will be considered for designation as pSINC. Further assessment is required of all sites to establish their existing nature conservation value. PSINC designations will be used to protect a range of different woodland communities.

Semi-natural woodland and scrub has developed throughout the County Borough and is often associated with disused railway lines, old spoil tips and abandoned agricultural land. Many of these sites support species-rich woodland with diverse tree, understorey and ground flora compositions and well developed woodland structures. Scrub can be a very important breeding bird and invertebrate habitat. All large or species rich areas of woodland and scrub will be considered for pSINC designation.

Conifer plantations are a recent but very obvious upland feature, covering a huge area of Glamorgan. In addition, a considerable proportion of the County's lowland woodlands have been converted to conifer plantations and many of these are Ancient Woodland sites. Although extensive areas are species-poor and of limited nature conservation significance some areas do support habitat of significant nature conservation value. Birds such as heron, goshawk, merlin and nightjar utilise upland conifer plantations, at various stages in the management cycle, and there is a possibility that red squirrel and pine marten occur in the County Borough.

11. Crags, Ledges and Scree

Glacial cwms, crags, cliffs and scree slopes are geomorphological features of considerable biodiversity character and significance. They include sheltered north-facing upland ledges with relict alpine flora, inaccessible nesting sites for birds of prey and ring ouzel, and scree slopes of importance for flora and specialist invertebrates. Many sites are included within the large Upland SINC. Elsewhere sites with rare species assemblages and breeding bird interest will be considered for designated as pSINC

12. Rivers and Streams

All areas of relatively unmodified river will be considered for designation as riparian pSINC. Of particular importance will be unpolluted river courses which support natural bankside vegetation and which are associated with other wetland habitats (e.g. marshes and alder carrs). Because of their County significance as means of species dispersal and habitat connectivity, the entire lengths of a number of main Rivers (including the rivers Taff, Cynon, Rhondda Fach, Rhondda Fawr and Ely) have been designated as riparian pSINC.

13. Ponds, Lakes and Canals

Natural areas of open, still (or slow flowing) water are very rare in the County Borough. Most natural ponds are small and suffering from management neglect or run-off pollution. Most of the major still waterbodies are artificial in origin. However, such features are often of considerable local significance to aquatic invertebrates and breeding amphibians.

No systematic assessment of the nature conservation value of ponds, lakes or canals has yet been undertaken in the County Borough. However, all sites which support species-rich, native floras will be considered for pSINC site designation, as will sites which support diverse or particularly large populations of aquatic invertebrates and amphibians, or which support breeding populations of key breeding bird species (see species section).

14. Bracken Slopes

Bracken areas which support a species-rich acid grassland or heath ground flora or abundant violets are another important biodiversity resource in the County Borough. Bracken slopes are particularly significant for breeding whinchat, reptiles and four species of fritillary butterfly. All species-rich bracken slopes will be considered for pSINC designation, most as components of larger ffridd designations (see below).

15. Ffridd

Traditionally the ffridd is the uncultivated valley side, the zone between the upland sheep walks and the valley bottom. In Rhondda Cynon Taff the ffridd can be characterised as an intricate mosaic of heath, bracken, acid grassland, woodland and flushed rhos pasture. It is a particularly important and characteristic biodiversity feature in the Cynon and Rhondda Valleys. Although the individual constituent areas of habitat (woodland, bracken, dry heath and unimproved grassland) may not always reach pSINC standard, the intricate mosaic of different habitat types are often extremely species-rich. These mosaic sites can include large areas of semi-natural habitat very unlike the 'island' status of some lowland areas (where species-rich sites sit in a sea of improved agricultural land). The ffridd pSINCs are some of the real biodiversity jewels of the County Borough.

Species

Mammals

A number of mammals are protected under the Wildlife and Countryside Act (Schedule 5) and/or have been afforded Biodiversity Action Plans.

1. All Bats, including their breeding, roosting and hibernation sites are fully protected by statute. CCW have advised that private dwellings should not be designated as pSINC, but pSINC designation will be used to protect large, or important breeding, roosting and hibernation sites at non-dwelling sites and to extend protection to feeding areas. In urban localities these could include derelict land sites and old railway lines. Within rural locations, woodlands, pastures, marshes, mature hedgerows and ponds could also be important. Very little site information is available on the status of bats in Rhondda Cynon Taff.
2. Otter (and their breeding and resting sites) are fully protected by statute. PSINC designations will be used to protect sections of undisturbed river and stream as breeding, feeding and resting habitat.
3. Badger (and their breeding and resting sites) are fully protected by statute. PSINC designations will be used to protect feeding habitat in the vicinity of active setts. Such habitat may include improved pastures and playing fields. Priority will be given to areas where potential feeding grounds are limited, in which the loss of feeding habitat can have a crucial effect on the viability of a badger colony. These circumstances will most likely refer to urban and suburban locations.
4. Brown hare is a formerly common species of farmland, which since the 1960's has undergone a serious population decline as a result of modern agricultural practises. The species has a Biodiversity Action Plan which proposes to maintain and expand existing numbers, doubling them by 2010. This is to be achieved through the influencing of agri-environmental schemes. Important local sites with high densities of brown hare will be considered for pSINC designation.
5. Polecat is a nationally scarce species, with a stronghold in South Wales. Where site and survey data permits pSINC designations will be used to protect localities in which the species has been regularly recorded.
6. Pine marten are fully under the 1981 Wildlife and Countryside Act. They may possibly occur in some of the larger upland conifer plantations in Glamorgan. All reliably identified localities will be considered for designation as pSINC.
7. Red squirrel are fully protected under the 1981 Wildlife and Countryside Act. They are very rare in Glamorgan. All reliably identified localities will be considered for designation as pSINC.
8. Water vole are fully protected under UK legislation. The species has declined considerably in recent years and is now very rare in Glamorgan. All reliably identified localities will be considered for designation as pSINC.
9. Dormice are protected under the 1981 Wildlife and Countryside Act. All dormouse sites will be considered for designation as pSINC.
10. The harvest mouse is a rare species in the Glamorgan valleys, with few records. All reliably identified localities will be considered for designation as pSINC.

Birds

All sites with species-rich or important populations of breeding, wintering or passage birds will be considered for pSINC status. These include all sites supporting regular and/or important breeding, passage or wintering areas for species listed in Schedule 1 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act.

Within Rhondda Cynon Taff the following Schedule 1 species are possible breeding species;

- goshawk
- hobby
- kingfisher
- merlin
- barn owl
- peregrine

In addition to Schedule 1 species the following are local or rare in the context of Rhondda Cynon Taff (see Glamorgan Bird Atlas), or are nationally uncommon breeding species, but fairly well distributed in RCT, or are key national biodiversity action plan species. Sites supporting regular and/or important breeding (b), or feeding, wintering or passage populations (w) of the following will be considered for pSINC designation;

- little grebe (b,w)
- great crested grebe (b,w)
- grey heron (b,w)
- mute swan (b,w)
- teal (w)
- pintail (w)
- shoveller (w)
- wigeon (w)
- pochard (w)
- tufted duck (b,w)
- goosander (w)
- grey partridge (b)
- water rail (b,w)
- coot (b,w)
- lapwing (b,w)
- snipe (b,w)
- woodcock (b,w)
- curlew (b,w)
- redshank (b,w)
- common sandpiper (b)
- little owl (b)
- long-eared owl (b,w)
- short-eared owl (b,w)
- kestrel (b)
- buzzard (b)
- nightjar (b)
- lesser spotted woodpecker (b)
- sand martin (b)
- yellow wagtail (b)
- tree pipit (b)
- dipper (b)
- whinchat (b)
- stonechat (b)
- ring ouzel (b)
- grasshopper warbler (b)
- sedge warbler (b)
- reed warbler (b)
- lesser whitethroat (b)
- wood warbler (b)
- pied flycatcher (b)
- marsh tit (b)
- willow tit (b)
- rook- all rookeries (b,w)
- raven (b)
- tree sparrow (b,w)
- siskin (b)
- redpoll (b)
- hawfinch (b)
- crossbill (b)
- yellowhammer (b)
- reed bunting (b)

Amphibians and reptiles

All sites supporting great crested newt (fully protected under Schedule 5 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act) will automatically qualify as pSINC.

All sites with breeding populations of the following will be considered. Sites which regularly support three, or more species (excluding great crested newt) of amphibian will be considered for pSINC designation;

- common frog
- common toad
- palmate newt
- smooth newt

Sites which regularly support three or more species of reptile will also be considered for pSINC designation;

- slow worm
- viviparous lizard
- grass snake
- adder

In addition sites with regionally important populations of any one species will also be considered for designation as pSINC.

Invertebrates

Butterflies

All sites with species-rich assemblages (20 species or more) will be considered for pSINC designation.

In addition, all sites with breeding populations of the following species (which are either afforded protection under British or European legislation, or are identified by Butterfly Conservation within the Priority Butterfly List for Wales (National Action Plan for Wales, Butterfly Conservation) will be considered for designation;

- marsh fritillary
- high brown fritillary
- silver-washed fritillary
- pearl-bordered fritillary
- small pearl-bordered fritillary
- silver-studded blue
- small blue
- dingy skipper
- grizzled skipper
- white-letter hairstreak
- brown hairstreak

Moths

All sites with locally or nationally rare species as recognised by the Glamorgan Moth Recording Group will be considered for designation as pSINC. This will include two national biodiversity action plan species which have been recorded in Rhondda Cynon Taff;

- narrow-bordered bee hawk
- double line

Dragonflies

All sites with species-rich assemblages (10 species) will be considered. All sites with breeding populations of the following will be considered for pSINC designation;

- southern damselfly (*Coenagrion mercuriale*)
- keeled skimmer (*Orthetrum coerulescens*)
- hairy dragonfly (*Brachytron pratense*)
- variable damselfly (*Coenagrion pulchellum*)
- small red damselfly (*Ceriagrion tenellum*)
- scarce blue-tailed damselfly (*Ischnura pumilio*)
- ruddy darter (*Sympetrum sanguineum*)

General

Any site supporting statutory protected species, species listed in the Habitats Directive, Nationally Notable or Red Data Book species will also be considered for pSINC designation.

Plants

The following is a provisional list of rare or uncommon Rhondda Cynon Taff species, as identified from the Flora of Glamorgan (Wade, Kay and Ellis 1994). It includes nationally rare species, protected under Schedule 8 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act (1981) and 'Red Data Book' Species recorded in RCT. At present the provisional list does not include complex aggregate species such as *Rubus fruticosus*, *Taraxacum* and *Hieracium*, however this is under review. It also does not include *charophytes*. Casual or introduced species are also not included and more work is required to assess locally significant bryophytes (mosses and liverworts) and lichens. The list includes a number of species, which although not currently recorded from Rhondda Cynon Taff occur elsewhere in Glamorgan in habitat types which occur in the County Borough. Thanks to Julian Woodman, BSBI recorder for East Glamorgan for his comments on this species list.

Sites supporting colonies or populations of the following species will be considered for designation as pSINC;

- stag's-horn clubmoss (*Lycopodium clavatum*)
- quillwort (*Isoetes lacustris*)
- spring quillwort (*Isoetes echinospora*)
- rough horsetail (*Equisetum hyemale*)
- adder's-tongue (*Ophioglossum vulgatum*)
- moonwort (*Botrychium lunaria*)
- royal fern (*Osmunda regalis*)
- parsley fern (*Cryptogramma crispa*)
- tonbridge filmy fern (*Hymenophyllum tunbrigense*)
- wilson's filmy fern (*Hymenophyllum wilsonii*)
- green spleenwort (*Asplenium viride*)
- maidenhair spleenwort (*Asplenium trichomanes* subsp *trichomanes*)
- brittle bladder-fern (*Cystopteris fragilis*)
- hard shield-fern (*Polystichum aculeatum*)
- mountain male-fern (*Dryopteris oreades*)
- hay-scented buckler-fern (*Dryopteris aemula*)
- oak fern (*Gymnocarpium dryopteris*)
- beech fern (*Phegopteris connectilis*)
- limestone fern (*Gymnocarpium robertianum*)
- killarney fern (*Trichomanes speciosum*)
- creeping willow (*Salix repens*)
- bog myrtle (*Myrica gale*)
- fine-leaved sandwort (*Minuartia hydrida*)
- water chickweed (*Myosoton aquaticum*)

Deptford pink (*Dianthus armeria*)
globeflower (*Trollius europaeus*)
monk's-hood (*Aconitum napellus*)
goldilocks (*Ranunculus auricomus*)
pond water-crowfoot (*Ranunculus peltatus*)
thread-leaved water-crowfoot (*Ranunculus trichophyllus*)
fan-leaved water-crowfoot (*Ranunculus circinatus*)
lesser meadow-rue (*Thalictrum minus* subsp. *minus*)
meadow-rue (*Thalictrum flavum*)
oblong-leaved sundew (*Drosera intermedia*)
meadow saxifrage (*Saxifraga granulata*)
stone bramble (*Rubus saxatilis*)
fragrant agrimony (*Agrimonia procera*)
water avens (*Geum rivale*)
marsh cinquefoil (*Potentilla palustris*)
green-leaved whitebeam (*Sorbus porrigentiformis*)
bird cherry (*Prunus padus*)
dyer's greenweed (*Genista tinctoria*)
petty-whin (*Genista anglica*)
wood bitter-vetch (*Vicia orobus*)
wood vetch (*Vicia sylvatica*)
grass vetchling (*Lathyrus nissolia*)
kidney vetch (*Anthyllis vulneraria*)
bird's-foot (*Ornithopus perpusillus*)
wood spurge (*Euphorbia amygdaloides*)
spindle (*Euonymus europaeus*)
buckthorn (*Rhamnus catharticus*)
marsh St. Johns-wort (*Hypericum elodes*)
hairy St. Johns-wort (*Hypericum humifusum*)
water purslane (*Lythrum portula*)
alpine enchanter's-nightshade (*Circaeа alpina*) and hybrid x *intermedia*
spiked water-milfoil (*Myriophyllum spicatum*)
alternate water-milfoil (*Myriophyllum alterniflorum*)
corky-fruited water-dropwort (*Oenanthe pimpinelloides*)
whorled caraway (*Carum verticillatum*)
serrated wintergreen (*Orthilia secunda*)
cranberry (*Vaccinium oxycoccus*)
cowberry (*Vaccinium vitis-idaea*)
crowberry (*Empetrum nigrum*)
field madder (*Sherardia arvensis*)
fen bedstraw (*Galium uliginosum*)
limestone bedstraw (*Galium sternerii*)
blunt-fruited water-starwort (*Callitrichе obtusangula*)
intermediate water-starwort (*Callitrichе hamulata*)
lesser skullcap (*Scutellaria minor*)
Cornish moneywort (*Sibthorpia europaea*)
eyebright sp. (*Euphrasia rostkoviana*)
marsh lousewort (*Pedicularis palustris*)
toothwort (*Lathraea squamaria*)
common butterwort (*Pinguicula vulgaris*)
hoary plantain (*Plantago media*)
shoreweed (*Littorella uniflora*)
wayfaring-tree (*Viburnum lantana*)

moschatel (*Adoxa moschatellina*)
marsh valerian (*Valeriana dioica*)
ivy-leaved bellflower (*Wahlenbergia hederacea*)
heath groundsel (*Senecio sylvaticus*)
arrowhead (*Sagittaria sagittifolia*)
marsh arrowgrass (*Triglochin palustris*)
bog asphodel (*Narthecium ossifragum*)
lily-of-the-valley (*Convallaria majalis*)
solomon's-seal (*Polygonatum multiflorum*)
herb paris (*Paris quadrifolia*)
wild daffodil (*Narcissus pseudonarcissus* subsp. *Pseudonarcissus*)
blunt-flowered rush (*Juncus subnodulosus*)
downy oat-grass (*Avenula pubscens*)
bristle bent (*Agrostis curtisi*)
upright brome (*Bromus erectus*)
crested hair-grass (*Koleria macrantha*)
wood small-reed (*Calamagrostis epigejos*)
wood millet (*Milium effusum*)
fat duckweed (*Lemna gibba*)
greater duckweed (*Spirodela polyrhiza*)
unbranched bur-reed (*Sparganium emersum*)
floating bur-reed (*Sparganium angustifolium*)
floating club-rush (*Scirpus fluviatilis*)
wood club-rush (*Scirpus sylvaticus*)
slender spike-rush (*Eleocharis uniglumis*)
many-stalked spike-rush (*Eleocharis multicaulis*)
few-flowered spike-rush (*Eleocharis quinquefolia*)
brown sedge (*Carex disticha*)
white sedge (*Carex curta*)
bladder sedge (*Carex vesicaria*)
thin-spiked wood-sedge (*Carex strigosa*)
long-stalked yellow-sedge (*Carex lepidocarpa*)
soft-leaved sedge (*Carex montana*)
slender tufted-sedge (*Carex acuta*)
bird's-nest orchid (*Neottia nidus-avis*)
twayblade (*Listera ovata*)
greater butterfly orchid (*Platanthera chlorantha*)
southern marsh orchid (*Dactylorhiza praetermissa*)
green-winged orchid (*Orchis morio*)
early-purple orchid (*Orchis mascula*)
bee orchid (*Ophrys apifera*)

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Draft Criteria were also sent for comment to; Bridgend County Borough Council, Brecon Beacons National Park Authority, Vale of Glamorgan County Council, Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council, Welsh Development Agency and Butterfly Conservation.

Appendix 5: Part I: Locally Important Habitats and Species: Threats and Actions (from initial workshop sessions)

Habitat/Species September 1998	Threats	Actions	Ref No
broadleaved valley woodlands	Overgrazing by sheep. Housing developments.	Community support. Cultural history. Fence, coppice etc. Develop local industries based on local timber.	8
broadleaved woodland	Development. Overgrazing. Inappropriate management.	Awareness. Management plans. Fencing out. Tir Gofal.	2
hedgerows	Development. Overgrazing. Inappropriate management.	Hedgerow retention notices. Awareness. Tir Gofal.	3
linear habitats; streams, rivers, railway, road verge	Maintenance regimes linked to budget. Too tidy approach.	River care groups. Advice and training.	7
marsh fritillary	Housing development. Industrial development. Neglect.	Appropriate management. Awareness. Alternative development area.	1
moorland (wilderness/ marshy)	Inappropriate management. Over grazing. Fires. Scramblers. Changes in agricultural practice. Afforestation.	Education and awareness. Tir Gofal. Prevent unauthorised development.	5
revegetated spoil heaps orchids graylings	Land reclamation. Tidying up.	Raise awareness. Retain some.	6

Habitat/Species	Threats	Actions	Ref No
small urban sites	Infill development. Dumping.	Education and awareness. Appropriate management.	4
upland rock outcrops, including old quarries	Landfill. Disturbance of nesting birds through persecution. Disturbance of nesting birds by recreation (eg rock climbing).	Raise awareness. Education. Planning control.	10
wet marshy grassland and moor	Not appreciated, as home of BAP species like marsh fritillary and pearl bordered fritillary.	Raise awareness with development control officers. Raise awareness with developers. Advice on management.	9
January 1999			
ancient semi natural woodland	Fragmented. Destroyed in development.	Is it mapped?, needs to be 1st, TPO trees, take schools to study them, don't know where to go without marking (?), schools grow acorns as part of science, plant out on new sites?	12
badgers	Losing habitat. Baiting and persecution. Traffic.	Protect woodland, hedges, grassland, education as to value. Enforce the law, encourage hotlines and rural watch, join badgers groups. Make provision for badger tunnels and fencing, badger signs.	19
common birds	Numbers have fallen.	Strong hunting ?, education at schools, survey, contact community councils, encourage management of gardens, planting and growing of native species, farming improvements, providing nesting habitat.	14
commons	Pollution. Tipping and rubbish. Boys with guns.	Filters, prosecute/legal action, adverse publicity. Prosecute, change the collection rules for rubbish and reintroduce community skips, more amenity sites. Police, talking , involving children and young people, education for the whole community.	22

Habitat/Species	Threats	Actions	Ref No
deciduous woodland (sweet chestnut grove)	Chopped down. Building. Overuse destroys undergrowth.	Buy it. Planning. Better management. Leave it alone will be OK.	21
goshawks	Low numbers. Habitat loss.	Safeguard existing habitat, improve, link with local landowners.	15
grasslands	Undervalued. Overgrazed. Development. Insensitive management/overmanaged.	Appreciation of valley bottoms, protect, education and campaign, understand rarity and importance, demonstration area in parks. Horse tax, rotation of animals, change grant regime Planning control, re-creation through Planning Gain. Education.	18
hedgerows	Grubbing out. Council spraying the edges damage to flora/fauna.	In developments plant native trees/hedgerows around habitats, work with other authorities (network), sensitive management, work with NFU and farmers, encourage hedgelaying, SSSIs respect this designation, involve schools (appreciation also curriculum).	13
landscape (general)	Farming practices, changes in landuse. Drainage. Development.	Influence farming practice, farm unions and individuals, reform CAP, improve and maintain access, encourage landowners to welcome locals for positive management works. Influence farmers to protect wet sites, and grant aid to protect wet sites. Council allocations.	27
marsh fritillary	Loss of habitat to development.	Identify potential breeding sites for planners, environmental assessments before planning permission.	24
opencast sites (restoration?)	Not properly restored.	Council.	28
rivers	Pollution for housing. Pollution from industry. Mink (taking duck and moorhen). Knotweed.	Get rid of sewage. Kill them. Keep cutting.	25

Habitat/Species	Threats	Actions	Ref No
rivers	Canalisation. Pollution/pesticides. Mine workings/iron oxide. Rubbish.	Educate civil engineers, campaign, ask for EIA, planning control. Educate farmers, industry, better waste management, enforce against adjacent owners. Press coal authority, learn from R Pellen project, upgrade pipework. More river care groups, control landfill, source remediation.	16
song birds	Toxins, pollution. Poor waste management. Loss of habitat. Lack of habitat creation.	Enforce, monitor, educate, location of development. Educate farmers and industry, better waste management, enforce. Development, concern jobs and environment. Enforce through landscaping, planning, create through voluntary sector, schools adopt, integrated countryside service.	20
Talygarn Lake	Poor management. Loss of habitats to development. Loss of surrounding habitats. Loss of footpaths.		11
upland			30
wet grasslands			29
wetland	Housing and industry. Drainage.	Planning. More contacts with farmers.	23
woodland	Development. Lack of management. No perceived economic benefit. Lack of new broadleaf planting.	Planning control, identify and record, alternative sites, make developers leave woods alone. Education, identify ownership, ensure owners aware of importance, tree wardens. Education and financial incentives. Planning control/gain, grants, Coed Cymru.	17
woods (native)	Planting of uplands with trees. Spraying natural vegetation. Agricultural improvements and drainage.		26

Appendix 5: Part II: Favourite Places for Wildlife (from public consultation)

Aberdare				
<i>Aberaman</i> Favourite Places Oaklands' School Grounds	Maes - y - Deri Woodland	Country Park (Aberdare)	Aberdare Park	Hay Field (Aberaman)
<i>Cwmbach</i> Favourite Places here really (woods and back fields)				
Bridgend				
<i>Blackmill</i> Favourite Places fields	road verges	river banks		
Ferndale				
Favourite Places Mid Fach river i.e. Tylorstown Ferndale and Pontywaith	Aberdare Park	Llanwonno	Pontypridd Park	Ferndale Park
Favourite Places wildlife in River Rhondda Fach	birds on river walk	wildflowers along the old railway line, Ferndale	my garden (Mid Rhondda Fach)	
<i>Tylorstown</i> Favourite Places Mid Fach river bank	mountains	sea side especially Weston s.Mare	Graig woodland area Tylorstown	bowling green
Favourite Places Llanwonno	Ferndale Park Woods	Rhondda Fach River Walk (now it is clear)	Maerdy Reservoir	Clydach Vale Lake, Glyncornel

Favourite Places Tylorstown	River walk	woods	open ground	
Favourite Places river walkway (Mid Fach)	Darren Park Ferndale	The Graig, behind Vivian St. Tylorstown		
Favourite Places river	mountain	garden		
Mountain Ash				
Favourite Places River Cynon, Glenboi to Mountain Ash town	Peace Park, Glenboi, Mountain Ash	Dare Valley Country Park	River Rhondda Fawr, Treorchy (ducks)	The Cwm Valley, Ynysybwl and Llanwonno
Favourite Places Peace Park, Glenboi, Mountain Ash	Cynon River banks	Country Park Aberdare	Dyffryn Woods, Mountain Ash	forestry above Fernhill, Mountain Ash
<i>Abercynon</i>				
Favourite Places River Taff, path at former pit site	Pen-Parc Woods	River Taff at Abertaf	Gilfach Rhydd mountain	
Favourite Places River Taff, Abercynon to Cifynydd	Pen Parc Wood	Parc Abercynon	Cifynydd Environmental Education centre	mountains of Abercynon
Favourite Places Park Stream, Abercynon	River Cynon, Abercynon	The Meadow, Imperial Court, Abercynon	forestry, Abercynon	

Pontyclun				
<i>Llantrisant</i>				
Favourite Places Pant Marsh (whats left of it)	The Clun valley bottom, Llantrisant	Rhiwsaeson, C to Cross Inn	Graig, Acre, Common Llantrisant (any green field sites around Llantrisant, we don't need any more development)	Orchid site cemetery, Mwyndy (who mowed them? That was really clever!)
Pontypridd				
<i>Church Village</i>				
Favourite Places Nelson Bog	Garth Hill	Kenfig NNR	Brook Farm	
Favourite Places Central Park (Church Village)	Mountains of Gilfach Goch	Mountains of Aberdare	bats in my garden (Central Park)	
<i>Efail Isaf</i>				
Favourite Places oakwood on left of fp96 (Garth Isaf to Garth Fawr)	hedgerows	old railway line Creigiau to Efail Isaf (where accessible)	Llantwit Fardre marshes (orchids etc.)	rough ground at bottom of Efail Isaf path (needs sensitive tidying/ development into good habitat)
Favourite Places Parc Dowlais	Parc Nant Celyn			

<i>Graig</i>				
Favourite Places				
Graig, Pontypridd	Graigwen, Pontypridd	Mynydd y Glyn	Graig y Hesg	Cefn Gwyngyl
<i>Gwaun miskin, Beddau</i>				
Favourite Places				
The Garth Hill, Pentyrch	Caerau, Rhiwsaeson	Nature Reserve Tynant Beddau	Llantrisant Common	Ridgeway footpath
<i>Llantwit Fardre</i>				
Favourite Places				
Central Park	scrubland near Garth Olwg old peoples' home	stream, Maisey's Garage to Ship Inn		
Favourite Places				
woods opposite Ceaser's Pub	Parc Dowlais	Llantrisant Common		
Favourite Places				
The Common (Pontypridd)	Dyffryn Dowlais	Craig yr Hesg	Coed y Hendy	Coed cae Derys
<i>Tonteg</i>				
Favourite Places				
Central Park	Tir y Craig	countryside	Llantrisant Common	
<i>Ynysybwl</i>				
Favourite Places				
St Gwynno Forest	Ynysybwl			
Treorchy				
Favourite Places				
Gower Peninsular	Brecon Beacons	Rhondda Valley mountains		

Appendix 6: Wildlife Law

Wildlife is protected under a wide variety of different Acts of Parliament. In the South Wales Police area, there is a specialist Wildlife Liaison Officer who has expertise in wildlife law. If you believe that a wildlife offence has been committed, you should contact the Police to report the incident.

Abandonment of Animals Act 1960	Licensing Act 1872
Agricultural Holdings Act 1986	Litter Act 1983
Agriculture Act 1947	Night Poaching Acts 1828 and 1844
Agriculture (Misc. Provisions) Act 1997	Occupiers Liability Acts 1957 and 1984
Animal By-products Order 1992	Offences Against the Person Act 1861
Animal (Cruel Poisons) Act 1962	Pests Act 1954
Animal Health Act 1981	Poaching Prevention Act 1862
Animals Act 1971	Poisons Act 1972
Badger (Control Areas) Order 1977	Police and Criminal Evidence Act 1984
Betting Gaming and Lotteries Act 1963	Powers of the Criminal Courts Act 1973
Civil Aviation Act 1982	Prevention of Damage by Pests Act 1949
Cockfighting Act 1952	Prevention of Damage by Rabbits Act 1939
Control of Dogs Order 1930	Protection of Animals Act 1911
Control of Explosives Order 1953	Protection of Animals (Amendment) Act 1988
Control of Explosives Regulations 1991	Protection of Badgers Act 1992
Control of Pollution Act 1974	Public Health Act 1961
Control of Pollution (Anglers' Lead Weights)	Public Order & Criminal Justice Act 1994
Regulations 1986	Rabies (Importation of Dogs, Cats and other Mammals) Order 1974
Criminal Damage Act 1971	Rights of Way Act 1990
Criminal Law Act 1967	Road Traffic Act 1972
Dangerous Dogs Act 1991	Salmon Act 1696 and 1986
Dangerous Wild Animals Act 1976	Salmon & Freshwater Fisheries Act 1975
Deer Act 1991	Spring Trap Approval Orders 1975
Destructive Imported Animals Act 1932	Theft Act 1607 and 1968
Diseases of Fish Act 1937	Town Police Clauses Act 1847
Dogs Act 1871 and 1906	Transport of Animals (Gen.) Order 1973
Dogs (Protection of Livestock) Act 1990	Water Resources Act 1963
Environmental Protection Act 1990	Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981
Explosives Act 1875	Wildlife and Countryside (Amendment) Act 1985
Explosives Act 1875 (Exemptions) Regulations 1979	Wild Mammals (Protection) Act 1996
Firearms Act 1968	Zoo Act 1981
Firearms (Amendment) Acts 1988 & 1992	
Firearms Rules 1989	
Firearms (Amendment) Rules 1992	
Firearms (Dangerous Air Weapons) Rules 1969	EC Legislation
Food & Environment Protection Act 1985	Control of the Acquisition and Possession of Weapons (91/477/EC)
Food Safety (General Food Hygiene) Regulations 1995	Wild Game Meat (Hygiene and Inspection) Regulations 1995
Game Act 1831 and 1970	The Control of Trade In Endangered Species (Enforcement) Regulations 1997
Game Laws (Amendment) Act 1960	Conservation of Natural Habitats and Wild Fauna and Flora (92/43/EEC)
Game Licences Act 1860	Conservation of Wild Birds (79/409/EEC)
Ground Game Act 1880	
Guard Dogs Act 1975	
Gun Barrel Proof Acts 1868 to 1978	
Conservation (Natural Habitats &c.) Regulations 1994	From Fair Game: The Law of Country Sports and the Protection of Wildlife by Charlie Parkes and John Thornley (April 1997) Pelham Books, London
Hares Act 1848	
Hares Preservation Act 1892	
Hedgerows Regulations 1997	
Highways Act 1980	
Highways (Amendment) Act 1986	
Justice of the Peace Act 1361	

Appendix 7: Existing Planning Policies and Guidance

Copies of all these documents are available for reference in the Planning Division Offices in Aberdare, Tonypandy and Pontypridd. Copies of the Strategic Guidance and Development Plans are also available in libraries in Rhondda Cynon Taff and can be purchased from the Planning Division Offices in Pontypridd. Government documents can be purchased from the Stationery Office, St Mary St. Cardiff.

Planning Guidance (Wales) First Revision Welsh Office April 1999

This guidance sets out the Government's land use planning policies as they apply in Wales. The guidance is supplemented by Technical Advice Notes. In July 1999 the National Assembly for Wales took on the responsibilities of the Secretary of State for Wales.

The guidance outlines the relevant legislation, the primary principles of the planning system, (with specific references to sustainable development, the environment and biodiversity) and general principles (including Environmental Impact Assessment).

Sustainable Development

'...The government's vision of sustainable development is based on 4 broad objectives:

- maintenance of high and stable levels of economic growth and employment;
- social progress which recognises the needs of everyone;
- effective protection of the environment; and
- prudent use of natural resources.

....A key role of the planning system is to provide homes, investment and jobs in a way that is consistent with the principle of sustainable development'

The Environment

'Where there are significant risks of damage to the environment, the Government will be prepared to take precautionary action to limit the use of potentially dangerous materials or the spread of potentially dangerous pollutants, even where scientific knowledge is not conclusive, if the balance of likely costs and benefits justifies it. If there are significant risks of environmental damage it will be necessary to act on the basis of the precautionary principle.'

Biodiversity

' Maintaining biodiversity is an essential element of sustainable development and the planning system has an important part in countering the decline of biodiversity. The government has set a target for all local planning authorities to have Local Biodiversity Action Plans in place by the year 2000. In order that biodiversity considerations are incorporated into the planning system local planning authorities should address biodiversity issues (as they relate to planning) in their development plans.'

Section 5 deals with the Conservation of the Natural and Built Environment, referring to countryside, agricultural land, landscape and nature conservation, the historic environment, listed buildings, conservation areas and archaeology. The text of the landscape and nature conservation section relevant to Rhondda Cynon Taff, is given below.

5.3.1 The Government, which has signed and ratified the Convention on Biological Diversity, is committed to conserving and, where possible, enhancing biodiversity. The Government's policy is to protect the nature conservation interest of statutorily designated sites and to sustain or enhance the biodiversity of the wider countryside (*references: Biodiversity: The UK Action Plan, HMSO, 1994; Biodiversity: The UK Steering Group Report, HMSO, 1995; 'Government Response to the UK Steering Group Report on Biodiversity', Cm3260, HMSO, 1996*).

5.3.2 Landscape and nature conservation issues are not confined by administrative boundaries, and should be addressed strategically through consultation and collaboration with adjoining planning authorities:

5.3.3 The Countryside Council for Wales (CCW) has a statutory role in development control and will provide specific advice on landscape and nature conservation issues for development plan preparation. Voluntary conservation organisations can also provide valuable advice.

5.3.4 In areas statutorily designated for their landscape quality, account should be taken, both in plan policies and in determining applications and appeals, of the objectives and purposes of the designation and the features and qualities that led to designation (*references: National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act 1949; Countryside Act 1968*)

5.3.5 The quality of the countryside outside statutorily designated areas should be maintained or, where possible, enhanced while allowing for appropriate development to be accommodated. Local countryside designations, carry less weight than national designations and development plans should not apply the same policies to them. Such designations may unduly restrict acceptable development and economic activity without identifying the particular features of the local countryside which need to be respected or enhanced. Local planning authorities should only maintain or extend local countryside designations where there is good reason to believe that normal planning policies cannot provide the necessary protection. They should state in their development plans what it is that requires extra protection and why. When they review their development plans, they should rigorously consider the function and justification of existing countryside designations. They should ensure that they are soundly based on a formal assessment of the qualities of the countryside. Where these have been satisfied and a landscape assessment has identified certain components of the local landscape or a local biodiversity action plan or a countryside strategy has identified certain habitats which need to be respected or enhanced, local planning authorities can consider including appropriate policies in their development plans.

5.3.6 The Government regards National Park designation as conferring the highest status of protection as far as landscape and scenic beauty are concerned.....

5.3.7 The primary objective of designation of Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONBs) is the conservation and enhancement of their natural beauty.....

5.3.8 Major developments should not take place in National Parks save in exceptional circumstances of proven national interest.....

5.3.9 In National Parks environmental impact assessment may be required for a greater proportion of schedule 2 proposals than in the wider countryside

5.3.10 Designation as an Environmentally Sensitive Area or Heritage Coast.....

5.3.11 The government's objectives for nature conservation are to ensure that its policies contribute to the conservation of the abundance and diversity of British wildlife and its habitats, or minimise the adverse effects on wildlife where conflict of interest is unavoidable, and to meet its international responsibilities and obligations for nature conservation. The Government, local authorities and all public agencies concerned with the use of land and natural resources must make adequate provision for development and economic growth whilst ensuring effective conservation of the natural environment in line with the principles of sustainable development (*references: Biodiversity: The UK Action Plan, HMSO, 1994; Technical Advice Note (Wales) 5, Nature Conservation and Planning, 1996*).

5.3.12 The Secretary of State wishes to ensure that international obligations are fully met, and that, as far as possible and consistent with the objectives of designation, statutorily protected sites are protected from damage and destruction, with their important scientific features conserved by appropriate management (*references: EC Directive on Conservation of Natural Habitats and Wild Fauna and Flora (Habitats Directive) 1992/43/EEC; EC Directive on the Conservation of Wild Birds 79/409/EEC*).

5.3.13 Both statutorily designated sites and other designated sites are important for the conservation of the natural heritage, as are some non-designated areas and features which provide wildlife corridors.

Land use planning should take account of the objectives and purpose of nature conservation designations and the wildlife or scientific features and qualities that led to the designation. Local planning authorities should have regard to the relative significance of international, national and local designations in considering the weight which should be attached to nature conservation interests. They should only apply local designations to sites of substantive nature conservation value, and take care to avoid unnecessary constraints on development (reference: *Convention on Wetlands of International Importance especially as Waterfowl Habitat, Ramsar, 1971 (as amended 1987)*).

5.3.14 The Secretary of State, on the advice of CCW, will normally call in for his own determination planning applications which are likely significantly to affect sites of international importance or which have a significant effect on National Nature reserves or on Nature Conservation Review or Geological Conservation Review sites. He will also normally call in other applications affecting SSSIs if they raise planning issues of more than local importance.

5.3.15 Development plans and development control decisions should ensure that relevant international, national and local conservation interests are properly provided for; they should also be concerned that other land of conservation value, including wildlife sites in urban areas and the possible provision of new habitats. Development plans must include policies in respect of the conservation of natural beauty and amenity of land. Under the Habitats Regulations such policies shall include encouraging the management of landscape features which are of major importance for wild flora and fauna, being essential for the migration, dispersal and genetic exchange of wild species. Suitable planning conditions and obligations may serve to promote such management (references: *Conservation (Natural Habitats &c) Regulations 1994 SI No 1994/2716, Reg37*).

5.3.16 Sites statutorily designated for their nature conservation importance, Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs), National Nature Reserves (NNRs), Special Protection Areas (SPAs), Special Areas of Conservation (SACs), Ramsar sites and potential SPAs candidate SACs, and listed Ramsar sites (i.e. not yet designated) should be identified in plans. Development plan policies and development control decisions applied to these sites should reflect their relative significance, placing particular emphasis on the protection of internationally important sites. Principles and targets taken from locally prepared Agenda 21, biodiversity action plans and countryside strategies, can inform development plan preparation (references: *National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act 1949; Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981*)

5.3.17 For the purpose of considering development proposals affecting them, potential SPAs and candidate SACs (included in the list sent to the European Commission) should be treated in the same way as classified SPAs or designated SACs. Sites which the Government and the European Union have agreed as Sites of Community Importance which are to be designated as SACs attract the same legal protection as if they had already been designated. As a matter of policy the government has chosen to apply the same considerations to listed Ramsar sites.

5.3.18 Nature conservation can be a significant material consideration in determining many planning applications, especially in or near SSSIs. Protected sites can be seriously damaged by developments within or adjacent to their boundaries, and in some cases, by development some distance away. Local planning authorities must consult CCW before granting permission for the development of land within an SSSI, in any consultation area which has been defined by CCW around an SSSI, or for any development which is likely to affect an SSSI (reference: *TCP(GDPO) 1995, SI No 1995/419*)

5.3.19 Consideration should be given to the need for Environmental Impact Assessment where a development listed in Schedule 2 of the Town and Country Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) (England and Wales) Regulations 1999 is likely to have a significant effect on the special character of an SSSI. However, in practice, the effect of a Schedule 2 development on an SSSI will often be such as to require EIA. Whilst each case should be judged on its merits EIA would normally be required where a Ramsar site, a listed Ramsar site, a potential or classified SPA or a candidate, agreed or designated SAC could be affected. Local planning authorities should consult CCW if uncertain about the significance of a project's likely effect on the environment.

5.2.20 The presence of a protected species is a material consideration when a local planning authority is considering a development proposal which, if carried out, would be likely to result in harm to the

species or its habitat. Local planning authorities should consult CCW before granting permission and should also advise anyone submitting a planning application that they must conform with any statutory species protection affecting the site concerned (*references: Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981; Protection of Badgers Act 1992; Habitats Regulations 1994*)

5.3.21 Local planning authorities should not refuse permission if development can be subject to conditions that will prevent damaging impacts on wildlife habitats or important physical features, or if other material factors are sufficient to override nature conservation considerations.

Sections 6- 16 deal with the coast, green belts, transport and infrastructure, housing, economic development, advertisements, tourism recreation and sport, energy, waste treatment and disposal, land reclamation, unstable land, contaminated land, flood risk and pollution.

Welsh Office Technical Advice Note (TAN) 5: Nature Conservation and Planning (1996)

Technical Advice Notes should be taken into account by local planning authorities in the preparation of development plans and may be material to decisions on individual planning applications and will be taken into account by the Secretary of State and his Inspectors in the determination of called in planning applications and appeals.

The TAN has sections on

- Development Plans,
- Development Control for Special Protection Areas (SPAs) and Special Areas of Conservation (SACs)
- Sites of Special Scientific Interest
- Local Nature Reserves
- Nature Conservation outside Statutorily Designated Sites
- Protection of Species and
- Commons and Greens

The relevant text is given below:

Development Plans

4. To ensure that development plans are based on adequate information about geology, landform, habitats and species, nature conservation issues should be included in surveys of local authority areas. Nature conservation policies in development plans should indicate the criteria against which development will be judged, having regard to the relative significance of international, national and local designations. The plan proposals map should identify the areas to which these policies apply (*references: Planning Guidance (Wales): Planning Policy; Town and Country Planning Act 1990*).

5. Local authorities have an important role in delivering biodiversity objectives at a local level. Local Biodiversity Action Plans and Local Agenda 21 Plans can inform development plan preparation and development plan policies may help to maintain or enhance biodiversity (*reference: Government response to the UK Steering Group Report on Biodiversity Cm3260, HMSO, 1996*).

Development Control for SPAs and SACs

Detailed advice is given with regard to:

Classification of SPAs and Designation of SACs (para.6-7)

Consideration of Development Proposals affecting SPAs or SACs (para. 8-11)

Development affecting SPAs and SACs (paras. 12-13)

Local Authority and Crown development affecting SPAs and SACs (para 14)

Permitted Development rights: SPAs and SACs (para.15-18)

Unauthorised developments affecting SPAs and SACs (para 19-20)

(References: Welsh Office Circular 39/92 TCP Gen. Regs. TCP (Development Plans and Consultation) Directions 1992; Welsh Office Circular 37/84 Crown land and Crown development, The TCP (General Permitted Development) Order 1995; EC Directive on Conservation of Natural Habitats and Wild Fauna and Flora (Habitats Directive) 1992/43/EEC; EC Directive on the Conservation of Wild Birds 79/409/EEC, Conservation (Natural Habitats &c) Regulations 1994 SI No 1994/2716, Planning Guidance (Wales): Planning Policy).

Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs)

21. Development proposals in or likely to affect an SSSI must be subject to special scrutiny. Before granting planning permission for development in or likely to affect an SSSI, local planning authorities must consult CCW. Such consultations should take place as soon as possible and authorities may not determine any application to develop such a site within 14 days of initiating consultation. CCW will respond as quickly as possible. Authorities should inform CCW **promptly** of decisions on all applications for the development of land about which they were consulted. (*References: Planning Guidance Wales 1996 and TCP (GDP) Order 1995*)

Consultation Areas around Sites of Special Scientific Interest

22. SSSIs may be seriously damaged by developments outside their boundaries. To ensure that the potential effect of such developments can be taken properly into account when considering planning applications CCW should define consultation areas around SSSIs, giving priority to defining areas around sites of international importance. Consultation areas should be as narrow as is consistent with protecting the scientific interest of the site.

23. Normally a consultation area will not extend beyond about 500m, although it may extend up to 2km from the boundary of an SSSI. CCW will notify local planning authorities of the boundaries of such consultation areas and may advise that it wishes to be consulted only about certain types of development. CCW may also advise a local planning authority that it would like to be consulted about other types of development beyond the 2km maximum.

Permitted Development Rights for Recreational Activities

24. Permitted development rights for the temporary use of land for war games, motorsports and clay pigeon shooting do not apply in SSSIs. Planning Permission is therefore required for all such uses of land within an SSSI. This is to ensure that nature conservation and other relevant considerations can be taken properly into account before the land is so used. Such uses need not be incompatible with SSSI status and planning permission should be granted if the activities can be accommodated without risk to the features of special interest. (*Reference: TCP (Gen. Permitted Development) Order 1995*)

25. Where appropriate, an authority may wish to consider making a direction to withdraw permitted development rights for other activities within an SSSI.

Local Nature Reserves

26. Local authorities should make reasonable provision for Local Nature Reserves (LNR) and natural green space. They should consider designating LNRs on sites which have high value for nature conservation or local wildlife or geological interest and are of particular value for community enjoyment, involvement and education. While LNRs are not designated under planning legislation local planning authorities should have due regard to them in formulating their development plan policies and deciding planning applications. (*Reference: Biodiversity the UK Action Plan 1994*)

27. To ensure the most appropriate sites are chosen, the selection of potential LNRs should form part of a countryside strategy. CCW will advise local authorities on the nature conservation value of potential LNRs.

Nature Conservation outside Statutorily Designated Sites

28. Statutory and non statutory sites, together with features which provide wildlife corridors, links or stepping stones from one habitat to another, all contribute to the network necessary to ensure the maintenance of the current range and diversity of our flora, fauna, geological and landform features and the survival of important species. Sensitive landscaping and planting, the creation, maintenance and management of landscape features important to wildlife, and the skilled adaptation of derelict areas can provide extended habitats. (*References: Habitats Directive, Habitats Regulations 1994 and PPG (Wales) 1996*)

29. Non-statutory sites of local nature conservation importance (often known collectively as Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation(SINCs)) should be both selected and designated according to clear and strict criteria which ensures the sites are of substantive nature conservation value. Regionally

important geological/geomorphological sites (RIGS) should be selected and designated according to clear and strict criteria.

Protection of Species

30. Certain plants and animals, including all wild birds, are protected. Protected species are not confined to designated sites. Schedules 5 and 8 of the 1981 Act (relating to protected animals and plant species respectively) are reviewed every 5 years and local authorities notified of any amendments. Some other animals are protected under their own legislation. It is an offence to kill, injure, sell or take protected species or intentionally to damage, destroy or obstruct their places of shelter. Bats enjoy additional protection; it is an offence to kill, injure or disturb bats found in the non-living areas of a dwelling (i.e. a loft) or in any other place without first notifying CCW (*Reference: Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981*).

31. It is an offence to kill, injure, take or disturb listed animal species or destroy their resting places or breeding sites; or deliberately pick, collect, cut, uproot or otherwise destroy listed plant species. Animals and plant species in need of strict protection are listed in Annex IV of the Habitats Directive. (*Reference: Habitats Regulations 1994*)

32. CCW are responsible for issuing licenses to permit, in the course of development, interference with a badger sett. Although consideration of granting a licence is separate from the process of applying for planning permission, a local authority should advise anyone submitting an application for development in an area where there are badger setts that they must comply with the provisions of the Act. Local authorities and all other public bodies also need a licences in respect of any development which they themselves carry out in any areas where there are setts. (*References: Protection of Badgers Act 1992, Home Office circular 100/91*)

Common and Greens

33. Much common land is important ecologically. The Secretary of State is committed to maintaining the status of common land, protecting the rights of commoners and encouraging the proper management of commons. The placing of buildings, fences or works on common land normally require the consent of the Secretary of State, or may be prohibited under common land legislation. Town and village greens are also generally protected against enclosures. (*References: A Working Countryside for Wales 1996, Law of Property Act 1925, Commons Act 1899*)

Cancellations

34. Welsh Office circular 50/81 and 38/82 are cancelled.

Annex A: Statutory Framework for Nature Conservation (including the government framework of legislation to safeguard the natural heritage and International obligations)

Annex B: Sites Statutorily designated for Nature Conservation

Annex C: Designated sites

Annex D: Countryside Council for Wales

Strategic Planning Guidance for South East Wales (2000)

prepared by the South East Wales Strategic Planning Group

The first volume of this guidance covers population and housing, transportation, retail development, employment land, land reclamation, green belts and green wedges and urban regeneration as well as landscape and nature conservation. The recommendations for landscape and nature conservation are given below.

LNC1: An explicit multi-tiered approach should be used with statutory international, European and national designations forming the highest level supported by non statutory development plan designations.

LNC2: Authorities should work towards recognising non statutory important landscapes and nature conservation sites in their plans, through the adoption of common landscape evaluation methodologies and the participation in and production of regional and local biodiversity action plans.

LNC3: Authorities should work towards defining on their proposals maps landscape and nature conservation site boundaries which are defensible and consistent within the region.

LNC4: Neighbouring planning authorities should aim to co-ordinate and agree designations which overlap or are close to authority boundaries, particularly where a large number of neighbouring authorities are involved (e.g. Severn estuary).

LNC5: All development plans should contain policies which allow for the appropriate protection of species and wildlife networks and corridors.

LNC6: All development plans should contain policies for the management of landscape features, particularly those important for nature conservation.

LNC7: All development plans should contain policies which

- seek to direct new development away from areas involving nature conservation or landscape importance;
- promote opportunities for enhancing nature conservation on development sites;
- provide opportunities to minimise nature conservation loss on sites where development is unavoidable;
- where minimisation opportunities are not possible to provide opportunities for compensating for nature conservation loss through the use of planning obligations and conditions.

Mid Glamorgan (Rhondda Cynon Taff County Borough) Replacement Structure Plan (1999) contains strategic policies. The relevant policies from the Environment Section are listed below.

ENVIRONMENT

EV1: Development in the countryside will not be permitted except for that in the interests of, agriculture and forestry, countryside leisure, the provision of housing for special needs, the conversion of rural buildings, conversions / redevelopment of sites used for institutional purposes, minerals, land reclamation, transportation or utility services.

EV2: Development which is likely to lead to the loss of agricultural land of grade 3a and above will not normally be permitted. Where the loss of such land is involved development should take place on the lowest possible grades of suitable land subject to environmental conservation interests, while the proposal should not be likely to lead to the loss of the farm unit.

EV3: The conversion of existing rural buildings in the countryside will be permitted where the following criteria are satisfied.

- (1) The buildings are structurally sound or capable of being made so without substantial external alteration, or reconstruction
- (2) The form, bulk character and general design of the buildings is respected, and improved where necessary, and the proposal is in scale and sympathy with the surrounding landscape
- (3) The proposed use is compatible with surrounding rural land uses
- (4) The proposal is compatible with transportation considerations (including access, traffic generation and parking)
- (5) Adverse effects on nature conservation interests have been minimised.

EV4: Development which would lead to visual intrusion on the landscape of special landscape areas will only be permitted where suitable measures can be taken to reduce such effects to acceptable levels. Special landscape areas will include areas of strategic importance (namely the coalfield plateau and valley sides, and the Caerphilly Mountain area), and other areas of local landscape importance and will be defined in local plans.

EV5: Developments affecting sites recognised as important for nature conservation will be considered as follows:-

- (1) Development on or in the vicinity of nationally or internationally recognised sites for nature conservation (including major sites of special scientific interest and national nature reserves), which is likely to lead to their destruction damage or disturbance will not be permitted.
- (2) Development which would destroy damage or disturb sites of strategic or local importance for nature conservation as defined in local plans (including regionally important geomorphologic and geological sites (RIGS), ancient and semi-ancient natural woodlands and local nature reserves) will only be permitted where suitable measures can be taken to ensure the survival of habitats, species or features.

EV6 Before a development is approved which disturbs or destroys a site important for nature conservation, provision should be made by the applicant for

- (1) a detailed evaluation of the nature conservation value of the site and
- (2) the protection of habitats, species or features within the site or
- (3) where this is not possible the establishment of a suitable replacement site.

EV7 Proposals for the enhancement and management of existing sites and features of importance for nature conservation will be favoured.

EV8 The continued improvement of the appearance of river banks and where possible the improvement of recreational access to rivers will be favoured, whilst ensuring that important habitats are avoided or not affected adversely, and opportunities are taken to improve their value for wildlife.

EV9 - EV 11 deal with the built and historic environment, historic gardens and archaeological sites.

EV12 Development (including the raising of land), which would be at direct risk from flooding, or be likely to increase the risk of flooding elsewhere will not be permitted.

EV13 Proposals for the protection and maintenance of native broad-leaved trees, woodlands (including ancient woodlands and ancient semi-natural woodlands) and hedgerows, and proposals for the planting of native species will be favoured, except where these would result in unacceptable conflict with nature conservation interests.

EV14 New afforestation proposals will be favoured where they comply with the following:-

- (1) the quality of the environment is maintained or enhanced, particularly with regard to the

protection of high quality agricultural land, important landscapes, sites important to nature conservation and features of the built and historic environment

- (2) local recreational use, amenity and rights of way are maintained or enhanced
- (3) water quality and supplies are maintained, and in particular acidification is avoided.

Rhondda Local Plan (1998): contains the Council's detailed policies and proposals for the Rhondda area. The relevant Environment Policies, from Section 3 of the Plan are given below.

ENV1 SETTLEMENT BOUNDARY

Development beyond the settlement boundary, will not be permitted. Exceptions to this will be:-

- A) Developments associated with agriculture and forestry (refer to housing policy H3) countryside recreation and the winning and working of minerals, subject to the compatibility of their location, scale and design with the surrounding landscape.
- B) The conversion of suitable buildings to residential, tourist accommodation or business uses (Class B1) of The Town and Country Planning (Use Classes) Order 1987, where:-
 - 1) The existing building is structurally sound or capable of being made so without major external alterations or reconstruction.
 - 2) The character and design of the building is in scale and sympathy with the surrounding land uses.
 - 3) The proposed use is compatible with surrounding land uses.
 - 4) Satisfactory provision for services, access and parking can be made.
- C). Development which complies with policies PU8, PU9 or PU10 of this plan.

ENV2 LANDSCAPE PROTECTION AND CONSERVATION - STRATEGIC LANDSCAPE AREA

Within the strategic landscape area, development proposals, where acceptable in principle must pay particular regard, in respect of their siting, scale and design, to the special landscape qualities of such areas.

ENV3 LANDSCAPE PROTECTION AND CONSERVATION - LOCAL LANDSCAPE AREA

Within the strategic landscape area, development proposals, where acceptable in principle must pay particular regard, in respect of their siting, scale and design, to the special landscape qualities of such areas.

1	Penych	Treherbert
2	Cwmsaerbren	Treherbert
3	Glyncoed/Fforch Orky	Treorchy
4	Graig Fawr Bwlch	Treorchy
5	Glyncoli	Treorchy
6	Tyle-Coch	Treorchy
7	Cwm Nant-Y-Pentre	Pentre
8	Mynydd Maendy	Pentre
9	Cwm Bodringallt	Ystrad
10	Glyncornel/Nant-Y-Gwyddon	Ystrad/Llwynypia
11	Melin Yr Hom	Ystrad/Llwynypia
12	Cwm Clydach	Cwm Clydach
13	Hendre Gwilym	Penygraig
14	Llwyncelyn/Cwm Hafod	Cymmer/Porth
15	Birchgrove	Porth
16	Bronwydd	Porth
17	Penylan	Ynyshir
18	Twyn Llechau	Tylorstown
19	Blaenllechau	Tylorstown/Ferndale
20	Darran Park/Graig Rhondda Fach	Ferndale
21	Ffaldau	Ferndale/Maerdy
22	Castell-Y-Nos	Maerdy

ENV4 GREEN BARRIERS

In order to prevent the further coalescence of settlements, development which would have an unacceptable impact on the openness of the following green barriers will not be permitted.

- 1 Ton Pentre/Ystradfechan
- 2 Trealaŵ/Tonyypandy/Llwynypia
- 3 Trebanog/Tonyrefail
- 4 Porth/Ynyshir
- 5 Ynyshir/Wattstown
- 6 Wattstown/Pontywaith
- 7 Penrhys/Tylorstown
- 8 Ferndale/Tylorstown

ENV5 AGRICULTURE

The retention of traditional farming landscape features is favoured and full account of the effect on the viability of agricultural holdings and landscape value of farmland will be taken when determining planning applications.

ENV6 PROTECTION AND FUTURE PROVISION OF TREES AND WOODLAND

- A) Development or other activities which necessitate the loss of existing trees and woodlands which are of significant amenity value will not be permitted. Pre-emptive action will be taken to protect important trees and woodlands on areas proposed for development.
- B) Applications to fell, uproot, top or lop trees which are subject to tree preservation orders, arising from any proposed development or other activity, will be refused, exceptions only being made where there are demonstrable reasons of safety, nuisance abatement or woodland management.

Exceptions to this policy will only be allowed where there are demonstrable reasons of safety, nuisance abatement or woodland management, and it will be expected that any trees lost will be replaced by new trees.

ENV7 FORESTRY

Afforestation proposals will be agreed only where:-

- A) The proposal would not have an unacceptable effect on the landscape character of the locality.
- B) Ancient monuments and other features of archaeological importance in terms of environment policy ENV22 are not adversely affected.
- C) There is no unacceptable conflict with nature conservation interests.
- D) Amenity and rights of way are maintained or enhanced.

Liaison will take place with forestry enterprise and authority to secure the potential for environmental improvement and recreation in existing forest plantations.

ENV8 PROTECTION OF SITES OF NATURE CONSERVATION VALUE

- A) Development, either within or in the vicinity of designated Sites of Special Scientific Interest (S.S.S.I.'s) or National Nature Reserves (N.N.R.'s) which would unacceptably harm the protected features of such sites will not be permitted.
- B) Sites of local nature conservation importance as listed below will be safeguarded. development which would be unacceptably harmful to the interests of these sites will not be permitted:-
 - 1) Areas designated as local nature reserves.
 - 2) Non-statutory sites which are designated or managed with nature conservation as a primary consideration.
 - 3) Other areas of conservation importance identified by the Countryside Council for Wales, Glamorgan Wildlife Trust and other conservation bodies.
 - 4) Any Regionally Important Geological/Geomorphological Sites (RIGS) to be identified by rigs groups or other geological/geomorphological sites known to be used for teaching purposes.

- 5) Any site or feature supporting species protected by law.
- 6) Sites supporting habitats and/or species of local importance.

ENV9 MINIMISING THE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT OF DEVELOPMENT

Where a development is permitted which will affect any site of landscape or nature conservation value, the Council will utilise conditions and/or planning obligations appropriate to:-

- A.) Conserve, as far as possible, the sites biological or geological interest
- B.) Provide for replacement wildlife habitats or features where damage is unavoidable.

ENV10 COUNTRYSIDE/LANDSCAPE MANAGEMENT

The environment of the Rhondda will be improved by the identification, formulation and implementation of countryside management schemes under the auspices of the Rhondda Cynon Taff Countryside Service.

ENV11 DERELICT LAND RECLAMATION

Reclamation of the areas of derelict land listed below will be undertaken subject to the protection and incorporation of any existing features of nature conservation, special landscape, historic interest or informal recreational value contained within, or adjacent to these areas.

1. Fernhill, Blaenrhondda	Treherbert
2. Glenrhondda Tips, Blaencwm	Treherbert
3. Tydraw (Phase 2) Blaencwm	Treherbert
4. Tynwydd Tips	Treherbert
5. Penyrenglyn	Treherbert
6. Abergorki Tips	Treorchy
7. Tylacoch Mountain Tip	Treorchy
8. Cwmparc Colliery Phase 2 And Mountain Land	Treorchy
9. Gelli And Ystrad Tips	Pentre/Ystrad
10. Sandy Bank Tips And Bodringallt Tips	Ystrad
11. Cwm Bodringallt Mountain Tips	Ystrad
12. Glamorgan Colliery Yard	Llwynypia
13. Cambrian Ropeway	Cwmclydach
14. Foundry Road	Trealaw
15. Mynydd Brithweunydd Tips	Trealaw
16. Disused Levels, Williamstown	Penygraig
17. Glynfach Mountain Tips	Cymmer
18. Lewis Merthyr Tips, Trehabod	Cymmer
19. Graigdu Tips, Dinas	Porth
20. Lady Lewis Mountain Tips	Ynyshir
21. Standard Colliery Tips	Ynyshir
22. Llanwonno Tips	Tylorstown
23. Tylorstown Mountain Tip	Tylorstown
24. Maerdy Colliery Tips	Maerdy

ENV12 PLANNING/DESIGN BRIEFS

Major developments within areas of townscape and landscape importance must conform with the high standards of design and landscaping specified in planning/design briefs prepared by the council before consent is granted.

ENV13 ENVIRONMENTAL IMPROVEMENT

The Borough Council will implement area based environmental improvement schemes encompassing suitable land and buildings to improve the quality of urban areas.

ENV14 AMENITY OPEN SPACE

Areas of open space, within urban settlements, which are considered to be of special amenity value and/or of townscape significance will be protected and maintained. Development will not be permitted on these areas except for recreation and amenity uses where the open character is retained.

Policies ENV15-20 relate to LISTED BUILDINGS AND CONSERVATION AREAS

Policies ENV21-22 relate to BUILDINGS OF LOCAL IMPORTANCE and ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES

Taff Ely Local Plan including Waste Policies (as proposed to be modified 2000) contains detailed policies and proposals for the Taff Ely area. The Local Plan should be adopted by 2001 and further changes to the environment policies are unlikely. The relevant Environment Policies from Chapter 2 are given below:

Policy en1 - Development in the countryside

Development in areas of countryside, which includes all land outside the defined settlement boundaries, will only be permitted if it is required in the interests of agriculture, forestry, recreational activity compatible with countryside locations and environmentally acceptable, allocated special employment sites, the minerals or utilities industries, renewable energy development, waste management schemes, strategic transportation infrastructure, cemeteries, housing for senior management which complies with the criteria of policy h8, or as part of a rural building conversion or land reclamation scheme. The defined settlement boundaries are shown on the proposals map. Proposed development inside the defined settlement boundaries will be permitted where proposals are in accord with other policies of this plan.

Policy en2 - Development in the countryside

Developments in the countryside will only be permitted under the exceptions of policy en1 if they would not unacceptably adversely affect the character, visual amenity or nature conservation value of a site, or unacceptably adversely affect the quality or quantity of surface waters or groundwater resources.

Policy en3 - Development in smaller settlements

The character and extent of settlements or small groups of houses without defined settlement boundaries will be protected, by restricting any new development to limited infilling, rounding off and development well-related to existing development.

Policy en4 - Avoidance of coalescence

The green wedges listed in Appendix A have been identified in order to prevent coalescence between and within settlements. Within these areas, development will only be permitted which does not prejudice the open nature of the land.

Policy en5 - Special Landscape Areas (SLA)

Proposed development which would unacceptably detract from the visual qualities of special landscape areas, including the area of the Caerphilly Mountain Countryside Service, will not be permitted.

Policy en6 - Common land

Common land will be retained for agricultural use and for its landscape and nature conservation value, and where there is public access, for general recreation use.

Policy en7 - River corridors

The County Borough Council, in consultation with the Environment Agency Wales, will permit measures to conserve existing areas of landscape and wildlife value and upgrade areas of potential value along the corridors of the rivers Taff, Rhondda and Ely within Taff-Ely and their tributaries.

Policy en8 - Protection of the water environment

Development will only be permitted if, after consultation with the Environment Agency Wales, it would not cause unacceptable environmental effects on the quality or quantity of surface waters or groundwater resources, and is not likely to have an unacceptable adverse impact on the nature conservation, fisheries, landscape, public access or water-based recreation of the rivers and their catchments.

Policy en9 - Ponds and wetlands

Development likely to damage, disturb or destroy the landscape, historic or wildlife value of a pond, stream, other watercourse or wetland will only be permitted where mitigation measures, on the site or on adjoining or associated land, to maintain or enhance the landscape, historic or wildlife value are incorporated.

Policy en10 - Sites of major nature conservation or earth science value

Development likely to destroy or significantly damage or disturb the important wildlife or scientific features or qualities of:

1. Sites of special scientific interest;
 2. Habitats of protected species;
 3. Landscape features of major importance for wild flora and fauna
- will not be permitted.

Policy en11 - Other sites of nature conservation value

Development likely to destroy or significantly damage or disturb the important wildlife or scientific features or qualities of sites of regional or local nature conservation or earth science value, including local nature reserves, will only be permitted where measures to ensure the survival of the important wildlife or scientific features or qualities are incorporated

Policy en12 - Evaluations

Before an application for development likely to affect a site of suspected but unknown nature conservation or earth science value is determined, a detailed evaluation of the nature conservation and earth science value of the site will be required.

Policy en13 - Enhancement of sites with nature conservation value

Proposals for the enhancement and management of sites and features of importance for nature conservation, including nature reserves, will be permitted.

Policy en14 - Woodlands and hedgerows

Development involving the loss, damage or disturbance to ancient semi-natural woodlands or ancient replanted woodlands will not be permitted. Development involving the loss or damage to other woodlands or hedgerows of landscape, nature conservation or earth science value will only be permitted where measures to mitigate the loss or damage are incorporated.

Policy en15 has been deleted

Policy en16 - Afforestation

New afforestation proposals will be supported if they comply with the following criteria:-

1. Environmental quality is maintained or enhanced especially in respect of the protection of special landscape areas, sites important to nature conservation or earth science, high grade agricultural land and features of the built and historic environments.
2. Local recreational use, amenity and rights of way are maintained or enhanced.
3. Water quality and supplies are maintained and acidification avoided.

Policy en17 - Landscaping of developments

Proposals for development will be required to include provision for landscaping including new tree planting of native and ornamental species as appropriate, and the protection of existing woodland, trees and hedgerows and other natural features worthy of retention for their amenity and nature conservation value, including wildlife habitats. Measures will be required to protect during construction works such features to be retained. Replacement planting will be required in cases of tree loss from development where it is considered necessary in the interests of amenity.

Policy en18 - Development on agricultural land

Development involving the loss of the best and most versatile agricultural land classed as grades 1,2 and 3a in the MAFF land classification will be permitted only exceptionally. Where the loss of such land is unavoidable development should take place on land of the lowest possible grade of agricultural quality, or non-agricultural land, subject to nature conservation interests, and wherever possible no proposal should lead to the loss of the viable farm unit.

Policy en19 - Restriction of access to agricultural land

Developments which abut agricultural land should include appropriate design measures to control access to the agricultural land.

Policy en20 - Rural economy diversification

Proposals for development on agricultural land which is not classified as being the best and most versatile of agricultural grades 1, 2, 3A will be permitted where it is demonstrated that a proposal is a diversification scheme which will benefit the rural economy, maintain or enhance the environment, be compatible with surrounding land uses, not raise traffic generation to an unacceptable level and contribute to the maintenance of an existing on-farm or rural enterprise.

Policy en21 - Farm viability

Agricultural development requiring permission will be approved where it is demonstrated to be desirable for the continued viability of a farm.

Policy en22 - Horses

Proposed development for equestrian activities will be permitted if its design and siting will not adversely affect environmental amenity or landscape, or the historic or nature conservation value of land and an adequate network of off-road trails is accessible.

Policy en23 - relates to agricultural dwellings

Policy en24 - relates to the occupancy of permitted agricultural dwellings

Policy en25 - relates to the continuing need for occupancy restrictions

policy en26 - relates to alteration of agricultural dwellings and other buildings in the countryside and includes the criterion 'there are no adverse effects on nature conservation interests'. The guidelines in the supporting text includes "Where there is evidence of barn owl occupation, provision for owls should be incorporated into the conversion."

Policy en27 - en34, are policies relating to **design** including design for mobility, crime prevention, grills and shutters, shopfronts design and the re-use of upper floors

Policy en35 - en 45 relate to advertisements

Policy en46 - en 49 relate to development in conservation areas. A new policy relates to the Talygarn Conservation area.

Policy en50 - en57 relate to listed buildings, ancient monuments and archaeology

Policy en58 - Historic parks and gardens

Development will not be permitted if it is likely to have an unacceptable adverse effect on the special character, appearance or fabric of a registered or other park or garden of historic, cultural, aesthetic or ecological value, its associated structures and its setting. Proposed development which is likely to affect

any part of such a site or its setting will only be permitted if measures are taken to safeguard the park or garden and ensure its preservation, enhancement or restoration, where necessary by legal agreement with the local planning authority.

Policy en59 - Urban open space

Development will not be permitted which is likely to result in the significant loss or shading out of undeveloped areas within settlement boundaries which make an important contribution to the character and visual amenity value of the surrounding area, by virtue of their openness, topography, vegetation or special history. Only development which maintains or enhances the open character of the land, and if appropriate, retains public access, will be permitted.

Policy en60 - relates to art in the environment

Policy en61 - Environmental improvements

Schemes for environmental improvement, including the removal of features which are detrimental to the visual environment and the rehabilitation of derelict areas and structures, which can contribute to the quality and interest of the environment will be favoured and permitted.

Policy en62 - en65 relate to land reclamation, development on derelict land, contaminated land and unstable land. A new policy relates to **landfill gas buffer zones**.

Appendix A lists the Green Wedges

Appendix B lists the Special Landscape Areas

Appendix C lists the Sites of Nature Conservation Importance

Appendix 1 lists Ancient woodlands

Appendices 2-5 lists protected buildings and monuments

Appendix 6 lists open spaces protected by policy en59

Cynon Valley Local Plan including Waste Policies (Proposed Modifications 2000)

The Local Plan should be adopted by 2001. The modified policies listed here will be subject to further public consultation and may therefore change. Consult the Planning Division's website for the latest position (www.rhondda-cynon-taff.gov.uk/planning/)

The Plan contains detailed policies for nature conservation. The relevant policies and proposals from Chapter 3 Environment and Chapter 7 Conservation, are listed below.

Environment Policies

Policy ENV1

Applications for planning permission will be considered against the following development control criteria:

- (i) the proposed development is compatible with surrounding land uses, particularly with regard to the generation of noise, smell, traffic and other nuisances;
- (ii) the provision of adequate privacy standards in relation to adjoining properties;
- (iii) the provision of satisfactory access, servicing and parking arrangements, including provisions for pedestrians, cyclists and the disabled;
- (iv) that the siting, scale, layout, design, landscaping and use of materials of all elements of the proposal, including any internal roads, car parking, footpaths and open spaces, are of a high quality and will provide an interesting environment that is appropriate to its setting;
- (v) the proposal would not harm the character or appearance of the area.

Policy ENV2

Development outside the development limits, as defined on the proposals map, will not be permitted except for:

- (i) the purposes of rural enterprise;
- (ii) the conversion of rural buildings;
- (iii) the conversion/redevelopment of sites used for institutional purposes;
- (iv) the expansion of existing educational and institutional uses where proposals are related to and necessary for the continued use of the existing facility; or
- (v) transportation or utility services;

Policy ENV3

In considering applications for planning permission within sites that are visually prominent in relation to the boundary and other areas within the Brecon Beacons National Park, particular emphasis will be placed on the siting, design, use of materials and landscaping of such proposals.

Policy ENV4: is about the conversion of traditional buildings in the countryside

Policy ENV5: is about reducing the risk of criminal activity

Policy ENV6

Proposals for development will be required to include the provision for landscaping and for the protection of existing woodland, trees and hedgerows and other natural features worthy of retention for their amenity and nature conservation value, including wildlife habitats. Replacement planting will be required in cases of tree loss from development where it is considered necessary in the interests of amenity.

Policy ENV7

In granting planning consent for major development proposals, the County Borough Council will, where appropriate, seek the provision of associated environmental and community benefits from developers through appropriate planning conditions or planning obligations.

Policy ENV8: is about site development briefs.

Policy ENV9: is about extensions and alterations to existing buildings.

Policy ENV10: is about new shop fronts.

Policy ENV11: is about advertisement signs.

Policy ENV12: is about security grilles on shops.

Policy ENV13: is about advertisement hoardings.

Policy ENV14

For applications for development of land which is known or suspected to be unstable or potentially unstable, developers will be required to demonstrate that the ground is stable or any actual or potential instability can be reasonably overcome.

Policy ENV15

Where development proposals affect sites known or strongly suspected to be contaminated, applicants will be required to submit the results of an investigation of the nature and extent of contamination and, where necessary, provide details of the remedial measures to be undertaken.

Policy ENV16

In order to protect the water environment, development will be considered favourably where the following criteria can be met:

- (i) adequate mains services including water supply and sewage disposal already exist or can be readily and economically provided; or
- (ii) where private sewage treatment facilities are proposed, these may be considered where connection to the mains system is not feasible and will be subject to satisfactory ground conditions and sufficient land area being available to provide adequate sub-soil drainage; and
- (iii) the proposal would not create an unacceptable risk to quality or quantity of surface waters and/or ground-water resources or features dependant upon such resources;
- (iv) the proposal would not result in an unacceptable increase of flooding, locally or elsewhere, due to additional surface water run-off; and
- (v) the proposal can be designed and implemented to minimise any adverse impacts on water features such as ponds, wetlands, rivers and river corridors of the flora and fauna associated with these features.

Policy ENV17

In areas at risk from flooding, new development or the intensification of existing development including the formation of impervious surfaces will not be permitted unless flood protection and flood compensation schemes are provided.

Policy ENV18 is about accessibility for the disabled

Policy ENV19 is about satellite dishes

Policy ENV20 is about the development of telecommunication facilities and includes the following criteria

- (i) the proposal accords, as far as technically practical, with policies protection of the natural and built environment;
- (ii) it is demonstrated that applicants for new masts have explored the possibility of erecting antennas on existing masts, buildings or other structures.
- (iii) applicants have considered the need to include additional structural capacity to take account of the growing demand for network development including that of other operators.

Policy ENV21

Proposals for renewable energy schemes will be permitted where;

- (i) the cumulative effect of renewable energy schemes would not harm the landscape; and
- (ii) the proposal is accompanied by measures to reduce the impact of ancillary development, such as new roads, tracks, fencing buildings and grid connections.

Policy ENV22

Development proposals that reduce the need for car journeys and are well related to public transport networks and encourage walking and cycling will be supported wherever practicable (and where these are in accordance with other policies and proposals of the local plan).

Policy ENV23

Development proposals incorporating energy efficient designs will be supported where the design solution chosen is appropriate to the building and its setting

Environment proposals

Proposal ENV1

No activity or development that would harm the landscape quality of areas defined on the proposals map as special landscape areas will be allowed.

Proposal ENVP2

Green wedges have been identified in order to prevent coalescence between and within settlements at the following locations:

- a. land south east of Meirion Street and south west of Waterloo Place, Aberdare.
- b. land between the River Cynon and the A4059, Aberdare.
- c. Aberdare Hospital grounds.
- d. land between Abernant and Cwmbach.
- e. land between the A4059 and the railway line, Aberdare.
- f. land between Fernhill and Mountain Ash including Victoria Pleasure Park
- g. land north of Pentwyn avenue, Bryntirion.
- h. land between the A470 and the railway line, Abercynon.
- i. Farm Wood, Abercynon.

Within these areas development will only be permitted which does not prejudice the open nature of the land.

Proposal ENVP3

Within the Cynon and Taff River Park, as defined on the proposals map, development that would not prejudice the environment, will be permitted.

Proposal ENVP4 is about the siting of new development proposals within the vicinity of hazardous installations

Conservation

Conservation policies

Policy CON1

Areas of ancient woodland, and woodlands/trees of landscape value will be protected and enhanced through management agreements and/or tree preservation orders.

Policy CON2

Development proposals or land use changes that are not directly connected with or necessary to the management of a European site, a proposed European site or a Ramsar site and which are likely to have significant effects on the conservation and wildlife importance of the site will not be permitted unless:

- (i) there is no alternative solution; and
- (ii) there are imperative reasons of overriding public interest for the development or land use change.

Policy CON3

Development proposals which may harm, either directly or indirectly sites of special scientific interest will not be permitted unless it can be demonstrated that the need for such development outweighs the importance of the site as an area of national nature conservation interest.

Policy CON4

Development that would affect important wildlife or scientific features or qualities of sites of regional or local nature conservation, or earth science value, including local nature reserves, will only be permitted if measures to ensure the survival of important wildlife or scientific features or qualities are incorporated.

Policy CON5

Before an application for development likely to affect a site of suspected but unknown nature conservation or earth science value is determined, a detailed evaluation of the nature conservation and earth science value of the site will be required.

Policy CON6

In considering planning applications involving the loss of agricultural land, regard will be paid to the impact of such development on the viability of existing farm units and traditional farming practices.

Policy CON7- CON8 are about archaeology

Policy CON9- CON13 are about conservation areas and listed buildings

Conservation proposals

Proposal CONP1

Development proposals which would prejudice the future opportunities for the partial restoration or interpretation of either the Glamorgan Canal or the Trevithick Tramway, as defined on the proposals map, will not be permitted.

Mid Glamorgan Mineral Local Plan for Limestone Quarrying as affecting Rhondda Cynon Taff County Borough (1997) contains policies and proposals for limestone quarries. The relevant development control policies from Chapter 4 are given below.

POLICY 1

Proposals to carry out mineral exploration which are not permitted development will be permitted unless there would be unacceptable adverse impacts on the environment, residential amenity or other sensitive land-uses.

POLICY 2

Where appropriate, the mineral planning authority will impose a condition on new planning permissions for mineral development to vary the duration of the permission to reflect the nature of the proposed development and the extent of the reserves.

POLICY 3

In determining applications for mineral working, the mineral planning authority will require a scheme to be submitted for approval outlining a phased working programme to facilitate the early landscaping, restoration and aftercare of worked-out areas which are no longer required for operational purposes.

POLICY 4

The mineral planning authority will only grant planning permission for mineral development where the visual impact of the proposal is acceptable or conditions can be imposed to ensure that the visual impact of operations is reduced to an acceptable level.

POLICY 5

When an application for planning permission for quarrying or ancillary development is submitted, the mineral planning authority will require applicants to submit a landscape scheme identifying planting and other landscape works to be carried out in association with the proposal.

POLICY 6 is about the hours during which the operations may be carried out

POLICY 7

In determining applications for mineral development, the mineral planning authority will impose conditions on the location and design of vehicular access in order to minimise the impact on the environment, on existing land uses, and on other road users.

POLICY 8 is about access to existing sites.

POLICY 9 is about traffic.

POLICY 10 is about noise.

POLICY 11 is about the use of blasting.

POLICY 12 is about dust.

POLICY 13

The mineral planning authority will monitor the effects of deeper quarry workings on groundwater resources and discuss with operators and the environment agency what measures would be required to protect the quality and quantity of groundwater resources and surface water features dependant on groundwater.

POLICY 14

When submitting an application for mineral development an applicant will be required to submit details of existing and proposed water treatment facilities together with proposals for the control of discharges.

POLICY 15

When granting planning permission for mineral development, the mineral planning authority will impose conditions to ensure that on permanent cessation of operations, sites will be reclaimed to a state capable of beneficial afteruse. The mineral planning authority will also require progressive reclamation of sites where appropriate.

POLICY 16

The mineral planning authority will use powers under the planning acts to ensure that sites which do not have effective restoration and aftercare conditions can be reclaimed to a state capable of beneficial afteruse at the earliest opportunity.

POLICY 17

The mineral planning authority will encourage mineral operators to make beneficial use of mineral waste generated from quarrying operations including creation of screening mounds, backfilling of worked-out areas, progressive restoration for nature conservation purposes and possible substitutes for quarried limestone for low grade aggregates use.

POLICY 18

In permitting any application for disposal of mineral waste arising from limestone quarrying, the mineral planning authority will ensure that the development is carried out in accordance with the overall scheme of quarry working.

POLICY 19

Proposals for ancillary development at limestone quarries will be considered in relation to their impact on the landscape and amenity of an area, and appropriate measures will be taken to control such development, including in exceptional circumstances, removal of permitted development rights.

POLICY 20

The mineral planning authority will consider applications for borrow pits in relation to the needs of particular construction projects, the life of the pit, the impact of operations and proposals for restoration.

POLICY 21

Mineral protection zones around existing quarries are identified on the proposals map. Within these zones new development will be restricted in order to safeguard resources of limestone over the long term. When considering planning applications for development other than minerals within the mineral protection zones, the local planning authority will take account of the potential impact of quarrying on the development proposed and the extent to which the development proposed would inhibit quarrying activity.

POLICY 22 is about a buffer of at least 250 metres between active quarrying operations and dwellings and other sensitive forms of land use.

POLICY 23 is about sites where the winning and working of minerals or the depositing of mineral waste has ceased permanently.

POLICY 24 is about modern conditions on old sites.

POLICY 25 is about archaeological assessment.

POLICY 26 is about sites of historic interest.

The plan also contains detailed policies for each limestone quarry in the County Borough.

Appendix 8: Other Relevant Rhondda Cynon Taff County Borough Council Policies

Corporate / Community Plan

The Corporate or Community Plan was published in 2000. The Plan identifies five main areas as the focus for action; these are:

- Regeneration
- Learning
- Our Health
- Our Caring Society and
- Our Shared Identity

The Plan sets out the long term goals for improvement in each of these areas and the action proposed for the next 12 months.

Local Agenda 21 'Charter for the Future' and draft Strategy

The Local Agenda 21 'Charter for the Future' was adopted by the Council, after a period of consultation, in 1998. The full text is attached. The Charter commits the Council to promoting sustainable development and sets out the eleven components of this and the four underlying principles: fairness, participation, environmental protection and future generations. A 'thriving natural environment' is one of the component parts of sustainable development.

A Local Agenda 21 Strategy is currently being prepared and should be completed by December 2000 (see the web site for details).

Landscape Strategy

The Landscape Strategy developed from the Welsh Development Agency 'Landscapes Working for Wales' initiative which identified the south Wales Valleys as a primary investment area. The strategy provides a vision for the landscape which aims to :

- return the long lost beauty of native woods, attractive river margins and flower-rich meadows
- preservation of cultural and vernacular features which give the area as a whole, and each valley, its special identity
- develop new landscapes and landmarks in an imaginative way
- to enable economic growth to develop without compromise to the area's natural environment

The Rhondda Cynon Taff County Borough Council Landscape Strategy is currently in its final draft. The report is a amalgamation of the three landscape strategy reports produced for the former local authorities of Cynon Valley, Rhondda and Taff Ely. Following the methodology for landscape assessment determined by the Countryside Commission the Landscape Strategy identifies the landscape zones and types and describes the landscape character of the land area outside the designated settlement boundaries. The draft strategy identifies 41 landscape character areas. Sites Important for Nature Conservation Interest (SINC) are proposed to be identified within the Landscape Strategy.

The descriptions of each landscape character area details the existing character, the desired future landscape character and the aims that should be used to achieve the future landscape image for that specific area. The report also identifies the vision for the County Borough's landscape and design principles that should be followed to fulfil the goals of the landscape vision.

LANDMAP

LANDMAP has been developed by the Countryside Council for Wales in association with the Wales Landscape Partnership Group. LANDMAP is an evolving process which the Planning Department's Countryside and Environment section is jointly setting up with Bridgend and Caerphilly County Borough Councils.

The essence of the LANDMAP process and methodology, is to collect, collate and evaluate information on landscape resources, based on internal and external data and field work by a number of aspect specialists. The current aspect areas include the following:

- Earth Science (Geology, Hydrology, Geomorphology)
- Biodiversity
- History
- Cultural Association & Influence
- Visual & Sensory

The LANDMAP also involves the participation of the local people in the evaluation of local landscapes through participatory exercises.

This new and rigorous method of landscape assessment will allow for more informed decision-making and will provide future guidance for planning issues such as Unitary Development Plans, Green Belts, countryside management, landscape and other designations.

The findings of the project will be set up as databases on GIS (Geographical Information System). The GIS system will allow future updating of the data with ease.

Countryside Strategy

The Countryside Strategy states that Rhondda Cynon Taff County Borough Council will

- consider countryside issues in an integrated or holistic way
- protect and enhance the landscape
- protect and enhance sites of nature conservation importance
- promote environmental education and understanding of countryside issues
- protect and enhance countryside access and enjoyment

The Countryside Strategy Integrated Action programme contains more than 250 actions, 41 of these relate specifically to Policy no. 3: 'to protect and enhance sites of nature conservation importance.' Many of the actions under other policies are also relevant; for example under Policy no.1: 'to consider countryside issues in an integrated or holistic way' there are actions relating to the identification of Council land and the management of Key Countryside Sites. Policy no.2: 'to protect and enhance the landscape' includes actions relating to woods, Tree Preservation Orders, hedges and walls, historic gardens, rivers and ponds. Policy no.4: 'to promote environmental education and understanding of countryside issues' includes actions relating to environmental education, walks, events and interpretation and wildlife protection. And Policy no.5: 'to protect and enhance countryside access and enjoyment' includes actions relating to footpaths, cycleways, public transport, disabled access and volunteering.

Rhondda Cynon Taff County Borough Council

Charter for the Future

Rhondda Cynon Taff County Borough Council is committed to improving the quality of life for people today whilst protecting the environment for the children of tomorrow. This is sustainable development.

We recognise the responsibility we have for sustainable development and will seek to minimise the damaging effects that our activities have on the local and global environment. We will implement an environmental management system to enable us to review our current activities. This system will ensure reasonable, continual and measurable improvement in our environmental performance.

We are committed to improving our performance through our policies, actions and influence. We will encourage all sectors of the community to join with us to promote sustainable development in Rhondda Cynon Taff

Sustainable development means:

- A more efficient use of resources and less waste.
- Lower levels of pollution.
- A thriving natural environment.
- The meeting of the basic needs of everyone more locally, including those in poverty.
- Increased opportunities for all to work in a diverse economy.
- Equal access to good health.
- Access to facilities, goods, services and people whilst protecting the environment.
- Freedom from crime and persecution.
- Access to education, training and information.
- Active public participation in decision making.
- People valuing the neighbourhoods and communities in which they live.

The four key principles of sustainable development are;

Fairness

Resources should be used to provide for the needs of all sections of the community without exclusion

Participation

People should be able to share in decisions that effect their quality of life and their environment

Environmental Protection

We all depend on the Earth's resources to live. These precious be protected.

Future generations

Our actions should not have an adverse impact on the lives of those resources should who come after us.

Appendix 10: Raising Awareness of Biodiversity: A Development Plan (1998)

(extract from the concluding section of the document)

The preparation of the Development Plan highlighted the extent of awareness raising required to encourage the conservation and enhancement of biodiversity and to support the production and implementation of a Local Biodiversity Action Plan. Despite the targeted approach, set out in section 3 of the Biodiversity Awareness Raising Development Plan (1998), more projects have been identified than can be pursued with the resources currently available. The following projects were identified as priority projects and these were recommended to be taken forward if financial and staffing resources permit.

1 Raising awareness of biodiversity issues and to seeking changes in behaviour by decision makers, land managers and their advisors.

This combined project is identified as the most important priority. Local biodiversity can only be protected and enhanced if land managers and decision makers, and their professional advisors, have an understanding of the importance of the local biodiversity resource and are able to apply this understanding in their day to day work. This project could be undertaken if Countryside Council for Wales funding for Biodiversity Awareness Raising is continued in 1998/1999/2000 as requested in the Rhondda Cynon Taff bid under the 'Partnership Programme'.

Project summary:

The project would run for two years. The output would be eight habitat briefing papers, each with supporting DC notes, press releases, articles etc., combined and published on CD Rom. A seminar and four habitat walks are also proposed.

2 Develop existing public awareness programmes to address biodiversity

This project is identified as the second priority. The opportunities provided by the existing environmental education resources, in particular through the work of Glyncornel Environmental Centre, provide a cost effective method of raising the profile of biodiversity. The costs arise from the development and piloting of new initiatives, which can then become part of the resources provided by the Centre.

Some parts of the project are currently under development, parts could be developed if funding was available, parts could not be considered until the centre is fully staffed.

Project summary:

The project would run for two years. The output would be a short introductory activity for all groups visiting Glyncornel (currently under development), a Centre based project 'Look or Lose Game Show', a school based project 'Spice World', library events, a free standing display and three venues for the biodiversity road show (if funding is available) and three performances of a play and a pub quiz (if full staff complement and funding is available).

3 Involve existing voluntary groups in practical and positive activities to promote biodiversity

This project is the third priority. The enthusiasm and interest of existing voluntary groups is a valuable resource. The pioneering work of Keep Wales Tidy in establishing local River Care groups has provided a springboard for practical local biodiversity conservation, with a number of groups established in RCT on the Taff, Cynon, Rhondda and Ewenny Fach. The groups are developing an active interest in wildlife (two have carried out plant surveys this year) and could help to disseminate a range of ecological skills as well as undertaking management for nature conservation.

Project summary:

The project would run for at least two years. The output would be an inventory of groups, a quarterly good practice news-sheet, three training days per year, supply of tools and equipment and a number of specific management initiatives.

4 Involve school children and their families in the identification of locally valued habitats and species

This project is the fourth priority. The two components (school based and public centred) are complimentary but each could be developed in isolation. The International Youth Service element could also be considered separately. This project has potential for significant media interest and could produce valuable information for the Local Biodiversity Action Plan.

Project summary:

The project would run for two years. The output would be a schools favourite places competition and a public favourite places competition, culminating in a display, public events and possibly a publication. A 'Creature Feature' and 'Age to Age' projects would be available for schools and two spring clean challenges will be held. An International Youth Service Project and a Local Nature Reserve event would be held.

5 Involve naturalists in the identification of the existing biodiversity resource, including amateur naturalists and biodiversity professionals in the private sector

This project is the fifth priority. The project seeks to identify and harness the knowledge and enthusiasm of local naturalists as a fundamental component of any Local Biodiversity Action Plan.

Project summary:

The project would run for at least two years. The output would be a database of contacts, a low cost leaflet and an annual news-sheet.

6 Encourage increased local membership of wildlife organisations

This project is the sixth priority. Increased membership and active participation in environmental organisations could be a significant factor in raising awareness of biodiversity. Existing organisations are currently an under utilised resource, with potential to support the preparation and implementation of the Local Biodiversity Action Plan.

Project summary:

The project would run for two years. The output would be a travelling exhibition (approx.100 venues), a folder for existing literature and a payroll advertising insert to all RCT staff and pensioners.

7 Promote awareness of global biodiversity issues relating to food

This is the final priority. This project has huge potential but will be very difficult to evaluate. The success would be dependant on support of the store, both corporately and from individual site managers. No approach has been made yet. The link between biodiversity and food has resonance with the public and purchasing can make significant difference.

Project summary:

The project would run for two years, with potential for further development. The output would be four in-store exhibition/promotions with a leaflet/questionnaire competition.

8 Conclusions

The first priority and parts of the second could be undertaken if the bid for £3,000 per year (for three years) for Awareness Raising Initiatives arising from this Development Plan, as submitted to CCW as part of the RCT Partnership Programme, is successful.

Also as part of the RCT Partnership Programme bid to CCW, an additional £3,000 (for three years) has been sought under Partnership Projects . If this was successful; priorities three, and parts of four could be pursued over a three year period. It may be possible to develop priority five if parts of earlier priorities are not taken forward. The remaining priorities would be dependant on additional resources being made available.

The preparation of this Development Plan has, in itself been a very valuable exercise. The information and insight gained will make an important contribution to the preparatory stages of Local Biodiversity Action Planning. The critically important role of awareness raising in the planning process has been recognised. The support of the Countryside Council for Wales for the preparation of the Development Plan for the Awareness Raising Initiative in Rhondda Cynon Taff is gratefully acknowledged.

(Taken from **Biodiversity Awareness Initiative: A Development Plan for Rhondda Cynon Taff (1998)** prepared by RCT Planning and funded by CCW)

Appendix 11: Key players and their role in the Local Biodiversity Action Plan process

Government Organisations UK and Wales

National Assembly for Wales:

- co-ordination of action for biodiversity in Wales,
- speaking for Wales with the UK government and in Europe
- responsible for preparing and monitoring a sustainable development scheme for Wales
- business advice including Environmental Management and Audit Scheme (EMAS)

Countryside Council for Wales:

- government advisor on nature conservation
- lead partner for a number of national Habitat and Species Action Plans
- grant aid to Rhondda Cynon Taff and to other organisations for biodiversity work

Environment Agency:

- government agency responsible for the water environment, for pollution control and waste management
- prepare Local Environment Action Plans (LEAP) for each river catchment
- lead partner for a number of national Habitat and Species Action Plans

Forestry Commission / Forest Enterprise:

- government advisor with regard to forestry and woodlands
- manager of the national forest estate, with a major land-holdings in RCT
- lead partner for a number of national Habitat and Species Action Plans

Welsh Development Agency:

- government agency with responsibility for sustainable economic development and improving the environment of Wales
- promoting Greening the Valleys
- major landowner and developer in the Valleys
- advice to inward investors (including site identification and assembly)
- business advice
- land reclamation
- grants to local authorities and the private sector for environmental enhancement

Local Government Organisations

Rhondda Cynon Taff County Borough Council:

- co-ordination of Local Biodiversity Action Plan production
- co-ordination of Local Agenda 21
- planning authority
- Coed Cymru partnership
- education authority
- environmental health authority (including pollution control)
- major landowner
- economic development promotion

South Wales Police:

- raising awareness of wildlife protection
- enforcement of wildlife law

Community and Town Councils:

- land owners and land managers
- links with the local community

Schools

- education of pupils
- management of school grounds and buildings
- links with the local community

Major land owners**Farmers and woodland owners:**

- managing land for biodiversity
- avoiding inadvertent damage
- see Forest Enterprise above

Dwr Cymru Welsh Water:

- improving water quality through major investment
- avoiding damage to wildlife during works
- wildlife enhancement projects
- managing land and water for biodiversity

Welsh Development Agency:

- see above

Developers:

- managing land (and buildings) for biodiversity
- avoiding important wildlife sites
- designing new developments to protect and enhance biodiversity

Business:

- managing land (and buildings) for biodiversity
- environmental management and audit
- sponsorship 'champions' for wildlife

Professional advisors:

- developing skills and raising awareness of biodiversity matters
- advice regarding land management and development respecting biodiversity
- ecological and environmental management advice
- advice to members by Unions and Representative organisations on biodiversity issues

Voluntary Organisations (including wildlife, volunteering, social groups and care organisations):

- increasing membership,
- raising awareness,
- raising funds,
- managing land,
- enjoyment of wildlife
- developing skills
- practical projects
- lead partner for a number of national Habitat and Species Action Plans

Individuals:

- sustainable lifestyles (less car travel, more volunteering, recycling etc.)
- wildlife friendly purchasing (e.g. no peat, use sustainably produced timber)
- avoiding wildlife poisons and pollution (e.g. no slug pellets, no oil or paint down the drain)
- organic gardening, grow your own veg
- homes for wildlife (e.g. bat boxes, wild gardens, butterfly bushes)
- join a wildlife group
- campaign for wildlife
- learn new skills
- record local wildlife
- enjoy and share wildlife experiences
- think about wildlife at work; could you do things differently to help wildlife?

Appendix 13: Monitoring of the Habitat and Species Action Plans: Partner organisations

List of partner organisations included in Habitat and Species Action Plans.

- Botanical Society of British Isles
- British Dragonfly Society
- British Horse Society
- British Trust for Ornithology
- British Waterways Board
- Butterfly Conservation
- Caerphilly Mountain Countryside Service
- Celtic Energy
- Coed Cymru
- Country Landowners Association
- Countryside Council for Wales
- Environment Agency
- Farmers Union of Wales
- Forest Enterprise
- Forestry Commission
- Glamorgan Badger Group
- Glamorgan Bat Group
- Glamorgan Biodiversity Advisory Group
- Glamorgan Bird Club
- Glamorgan Moth Recording Group
- Glamorgan Wildlife Trust
- Groundwork Trust
- Keep Wales Tidy
- Taff Ely (formerly Llantwit Fardre) Friends of the Earth
- Mammal Society
- National Farmers Union
- Neighbouring Local Authorities
- Rhondda Cynon Taff County Borough Council
- Royal Society for the Protection of Birds
- South Wales Police
- Sustrans
- Vincent Wildlife Trust
- National Assembly for Wales Agriculture Department
- Welsh Development Agency
- Welsh Historic Gardens Trust
- Welsh Water Dwr Cymru

Appendix 14: Abbreviations

A4	Paper size
AM	Welsh Assembly Member
BAP	Biodiversity Action Plan
BASC	British Association of Shooting and Conservation
BBS	Breeding Bird Survey
BD	British Dragonfly Society
BHS	British Horse Society
BSBI	Botanical Society of the British Isles
BSE	Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy
BTCV	British Trust for Conservation Volunteers
BTO	British Trust for Ornithology
BWB	British Waterways Board
BC	Butterfly Conservation
CBC	County Borough Council
CC	County Council
	Coed Cymru
CD Rom	Compact Disc Read Only Memory
CCW	Countryside Council for Wales
CE	Celtic Energy
CLA	Country Landowners' Association
CMCS	Caerphilly Mountain Countryside Service
CSV	Community Service Volunteers
DC	Development Control
DCWW	Dwr Cymru Welsh Water
DDT	dichlorodiphenyltrichloroethane (insecticide)
EA	Environment Agency
EC	European Community
ESIS	Education Schools Inspection and Advisory Service
FC	Forestry Commission
FE	Forest Enterprise
FOE	Llantwit Fardre (now Taff Ely) Friends of the Earth
FORT	Friends of the River Taff
FROG	Friends of the River Ogmore
FUW	Farmers Union of Wales
FWAG	Farming and Wildlife Advisory Group
GBdG	Glamorgan Badger Group
GBtG	Glamorgan Bat Group
GBAG	Glamorgan Biodiversity Advisory Group
GBC	Glamorgan Bird Club
GB	Great Britain
GEAR	Group for Environmental Awareness in Rhondda
GIS	Geographic Information System
GLAMBAG	Glamorgan Biodiversity Advisory Group
GMRG	Glamorgan Moth Recording Group
GW	Groundwork Trust
GWT	Glamorgan Wildlife Trust
ha.	hectares
HAPs	Habitat Action Plans
HDRA	Henry Doubleday Research Association
IAP	Integrated Action Programme
IUCN	International Union for the Conservation of Nature
KWT	Keep Wales Tidy
LA	Local Authority
LBAP	Local Biodiversity Action Plan
LNR	Local Nature Reserves
LP	Local Plan
MEP	Member of the European Parliament
MP	Member of Parliament
MS	Mammal Society
NA	Neighbouring Local Authorities
NAW	National Assembly for Wales

NAWAD	National Assembly for Wales Agriculture Department
NFU	National Farmers Union
NVC	National Vegetation Classification
PPG	Planning Policy Guidance
pSINC	proposed Site of Importance for Nature Conservation
PCBs	Polychlorinated biphenyls
RCT	Rhondda Cynon Taff
RDL	Red Data List
RSPB	Royal Society for the Protection of Birds
SAC	Special Area of Conservation
SAPs	Species Action Plans
SPA	Special Protection Area
SINC	Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation
SPG	Supplementary Planning Guidance
SSSI	Sites of Special Scientific Interest
SPBF	small pearl bordered fritillary
SNH	Scottish Natural Heritage
SWP	South Wales Police
ST	Sustrans
TAN	Technical Advisory Note
TCP	Town and County Planning
TEC	Training and Enterprise Council
VWT	Vincent Wildlife Trust
WCA	Wildlife and Countryside Act
WDA	Welsh Development Agency
WGS	Woodland Grant Scheme
WHGT	Welsh Historic Gardens Trust
WW	Welsh Water Dwr Cymru
UDP	Unitary Development Plan
UK	United Kingdom

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The Plan has been produced by the Rhondda Cynon Taff Local Biodiversity Steering Group, reporting to a wider partnership.

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The text can be viewed at <http://www.rhondda-cynon-taff.gov.uk/planning>

A large print version of this document is available on request.

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