

Skomer, Skokholm and the seas off Pembrokeshire / Sgomer, Sgogwm a Moroedd Penfro potential Special Protection Area: Draft conservation objectives

December 2015

Crynodeb a Chefndir

Mae'r ddogfen yma yn cyflwyno amcanion cadwraeth drafft ar gyfer Ardal Gwarchodaeth Arbennig arfaethedig Skomer, Skokholm and the seas off Pembrokeshire / Sgomer, Sgogwm a Moroedd Penfro.

Mae'r AGA arfaethedig yn cael ei gynnig fel ymestyniad morol pellach i AGA presennol Skokholm and Skomer, a ddynodwyd (neu 'ddosbarthwyd') felly yn gyntaf yn 1982, a'i ymestyn yn ddiweddarach yn 2014 i gynnwys rhai ardaloedd morol cyfagos. Mae'r AGA presennol yno er mwyn amddiffyn poblogaethau bridio nifer o rywogaethau o adar môr, gan gynnwys aderyn drycin Manaw *Puffinus puffinus*, y pâl *Fratercula arctica*, pedryn drycin *Hydrobates pelagicus* a'r wylan gefnddu leiaf *Larus fuscus*. Mae hefyd yn amddiffyn poblogaethau bychain yr ynysoedd o frain coesgoch *Pyrhocorax pyrrhocorax* a thylluanod clustiog *Asio flammeus*. Mae'r ymestyniad morol arfaethedig, sy'n cynnwys rhanbarth o fewn cyfyngiad 12 milltir dyfroedd tiriogaethol Cymru yn ogystal â rhanbarth alltraeth y tu hwnt i'r cyfyngiad 12 milltir, yn cynrychioli poethfan ddwys i adar drycin Manaw ac adar pâl o fewn y DU. Oherwydd agosrwydd y boethfan at AGA presennol Skokholm and Skomer a'r nythfeydd bridio sylweddol i'r ddwy rywogaeth yno, y cynnig yw i ddynodi'r ardal forol yn estyniad i'r AGA presennol.

Cafodd y ddogfen hon ei pharatoi fel rhan o ystod o wybodaeth gefndirol er mwyn cefnogi ymgynghoriad cyhoeddus ynghylch cynigion i restru amryw o ardaloedd morol newydd o amgylch Cymru yn Ardaloedd Gwarchodaeth Arbennig ac yn Ardaloedd Cadwraeth Arbennig (ACA). Caiff ei darparu er gwybodaeth yn unig ac nid yw'n destun yr ymgynghoriad. Mae map o'r AGA arfaethedig ar gael ar y dudalen ymgynghoriadau ar wefan CNC: www.cyfoethnaturiol.cymru/mn2k

Mae AGA yn anghenraid yn ôl Cyfarwyddeb yr UE ar Warchod Adar Gwyllt yn 2009 (deddfwyd yn wreiddiol yn 1979). Maent, ynghyd ag ACA, a ddynodwyd yn sgil Cyfarwyddeb yr UE ar Gynefinoedd a Rhywogaethau yn 1992, yn cael eu galw'n safleoedd Ewropeaidd, neu'n safleoedd morol Ewropeaidd pan maent yn cynnwys ardaloedd morol.

Dan Reoliad 35 Rheoliadau Gwarchod Cynefinoedd a Rhywogaethau 2010, fel y'i diwygiwyd, mae gofyn i CNC roi cyngor ynghylch yr amcanion cadwraeth ar gyfer safleoedd morol Ewropeaidd yn nyfroedd Cymru, ac unrhyw weithredoedd a all achosi dirywiad neu amharu ar nodweddion y safleoedd. Gelwir hyn yn aml yn 'cyngor Rheoliad 35'. Mae gan Cyd-bwyllgor Cadwraeth Natur swyddogaeth

gyfatebol mewn perthynas â dyfroedd môr mawr y DU dan Reoliad 18 Rheoliadau Cadwraeth Forol Alltraeth 2007. Mae ar CNC gyfrifoldeb i gynnig cyngor Rheoliad 35 unwaith y caiff AGA ei ddynodi (neu 'ei ddsbarthu') yn ffurfiol gan y Gweinidogion Cymreig. Mae cyfrifoldeb cyfatebol Cyd-bwyllgor Cadwraeth Natur dros safleoedd alltraeth dan Reoliad 19 Rheoliadau 2007 yn codi pan gaiff safle ei gynnwys ar gofrestr y safleoedd morol alltraeth Ewropeaidd, sy'n digwydd unwaith caiff AGA ei ddsbarthu felly gan Ysgrifennydd Gwladol y DU.

Mae'r amcanion cadwraeth ar gyfer AGA presennol Skokholm and Skomer yn cael eu nodi yng nghynllun rheoli craidd yr AGA a gyhoeddwyd gan CNC. Mae'r amcanion hyn yn parhau yn weithredol nes i CNC a Cyd-bwyllgor Cadwraeth Natur yn eu tro gyhoeddi 'cyngor Rheoliad 35/18' diwygiedig ar gyfer estyniad/aillddosbarthiad yr AGA, pe dewisai Gweinidogion Cymreig a'r DU aillddosbarthu ac ymestyn y safle. Mae'r cynllun rheoli ar gael o:

[https://naturalresources.wales/media/674159/Skomer\[1\].Skokholm%20management%20plan%2007%20Cymraeg.pdf](https://naturalresources.wales/media/674159/Skomer[1].Skokholm%20management%20plan%2007%20Cymraeg.pdf)

Os oes gennych unrhyw gwestiynau ynghylch y ddogfen, a fydddech cystal ag e-bostio morol.n2k@cyfoethnaturiolcymru.gov.uk, neu roi galwad ffôn i ni ar 0300 065 3000. Os yw eich ymholiad yn ymwneud yn bennaf â dyfroedd alltraeth, cysylltwch â Cyd-bwyllgor Cadwraeth Natur os gwelwch yn dda drwy e-bostio seabirds@jncc.gov.uk.

Summary and background

This document presents draft conservation objectives for Skomer, Skokholm and the seas off Pembrokeshire / Sgomer, Sgogwm a Moroedd Penfro potential Special Protection Area (pSPA).

The pSPA is being proposed as a further marine extension to the existing Skokholm and Skomer SPA, which was first designated (or 'classified') in 1982, and subsequently extended in 2014 to include some adjacent marine areas. The existing SPA is designated to protect breeding populations of a number of species of seabirds, including Manx shearwater *Puffinus puffinus*, Atlantic puffin *Fratercula arctica*, European storm petrel *Hydrobates pelagicus* and lesser black-backed gull *Larus fuscus*. It also protects the islands' small populations of chough *Pyrrhocorax pyrrhocorax* and short eared owl *Asio flammeus*. The proposed marine extension, which includes both an area within the 12 mile limit of Welsh Territorial waters and an area of offshore waters beyond the 12 mile limit, represents a density 'hotspot' for Manx shearwater and Atlantic puffin in a UK context. Because of the proximity of this hotspot to the existing Skokholm and Skomer SPA with its major breeding colonies of these two species, the proposal is to designate the marine area as an extension to the existing SPA.

This document has been prepared as part of a range of background information in support of a public consultation over proposals to designate a number of new marine areas around Wales as SPAs and Special Areas of Conservation (SACs). It is provided for information only and is not the subject of the consultation. A map of the pSPA is available on the consultation page on the NRW website:

www.naturalresources.wales/mn2k

SPAs are a requirement of 2009 EU Wild Birds Directive (originally enacted in 1979). Together with SACs, which are designated under the 1992 EU Habitats and Species

Directive, they are referred to as European sites, or European marine sites where they include marine areas.

Under Regulation 35 of the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010, as amended, NRW is required to issue advice as to the conservation objectives for European marine sites in Welsh waters, and any operations which may cause deterioration or disturbance to the sites' features. This is often called 'Regulation 35 advice'. JNCC has a corresponding duty in relation to UK offshore waters under Regulation 18 of the Offshore Marine Conservation Regulations 2007. NRW's duty to issue Regulation 35 advice arises once an SPA is formally designated (or 'classified') by the Welsh Ministers. JNCC's corresponding duty in relation for offshore sites under Regulation 18 of the 2007 Regulations arises when a site is included in the register of European offshore marine sites, which happens once the SPA has been classified by the UK Secretary of State.

The conservation objectives for the existing Skokholm and Skomer SPA are set out in the core management plan for the SPA published by NRW. These objectives continue to apply until in due course NRW and JNCC have issued revised 'Regulation 35/18 advice' for the extended/reclassified SPA, should Welsh and UK Ministers decide to reclassify and extend the site. The management plan is available from:

[http://naturalresources.wales/media/674164/Skomer\[1\].Skokholm%20management%20plan%2007.pdf](http://naturalresources.wales/media/674164/Skomer[1].Skokholm%20management%20plan%2007.pdf)

If you have any questions about this document, please email marine.n2k@naturalresourceswales.gov.uk, or call us on 0300 065 3000. If your query is mainly in relation to offshore waters, please contact JNCC at seabirds@jncc.gov.uk.

Draft conservation objectives

- Feature 1: Breeding population of storm petrel *Hydrobates pelagicus*
- Feature 2: Breeding population of lesser black-backed gull *Larus fuscus*
- Feature 3: Breeding population of Manx shearwater *Puffinus puffinus*
- Feature 4: Breeding population of Atlantic puffin *Fratercula arctica*
- Feature 5: Breeding seabird assemblage

Please note that draft conservation objectives for other, terrestrial qualifying species of the SPA are not included here (namely short-eared owl *Asio flammeus* and chough *Pyrrhocorax pyrrhocorax*)

Feature 1: Breeding population of storm petrel <i>Hydrobates pelagicus</i>	
The size of the population should be stable or increasing, allowing for natural variability, and sustainable in the long term.	The breeding population of storm petrel should be stable or increasing. The aim, across the 2 islands is for at least 3500 pairs, with this number to be stable or increasing.
The distribution of the	The distribution of this species within the site should not

population should be being maintained, or where appropriate increasing.	be constrained by anthropogenic factors, including disturbance by the public and activities leading to possible loss of suitable nesting sites.
There should be sufficient habitat, of sufficient quality, to support the population in the long term.	The foraging habitat of this species should be stable or increasing in terms of its area, and its quality should remain unaffected by anthropogenic factors. There should be no contraction of the distribution of nesting sites as a result of anthropogenic factors.
Factors affecting the population or its habitat should be under appropriate control.	Breeding success of this species should remain unaffected by negative human influence. Factors affecting the species within the site should be under control

Feature 2: Breeding population of lesser black-backed gull <i>Larus fuscus</i>	
The size of the population should be stable or increasing, allowing for natural variability, and sustainable in the long term.	The breeding population size of lesser black-backed gull should be stable or increasing, aiming for at least 20,300, with a breeding productivity rate and an adult survival rate that allows this number to be maintained/increased.. Colonies of this species must not be lost as a result of anthropogenic influence.
The distribution of the population should be being maintained, or where appropriate increasing.	The distribution of this species within the site should not be constrained by anthropogenic factors. Reductions in the range of this species can only be acceptable if there is significant risk of detriment, to the FCS of priority features of this SPA.
There should be sufficient habitat, of sufficient quality, to support the population in the long term.	The breeding and foraging habitat of this species should be stable or increasing in terms of its area, and its quality should remain unaffected by anthropogenic factors.
Factors affecting the population or its habitat should be under appropriate control.	There should be no mammalian land predators present in the SPA, and control measures should be in place to ensure that accidental introduction does not take place. Access beyond designated footpaths, should be under appropriate control. Factors affecting the species within the site should be under control

Feature 3: Breeding population of Manx shearwater <i>Puffinus puffinus</i>	
The size of the population should be stable or increasing, allowing for natural variability, and sustainable in the long term.	The breeding population of Manx shearwater should be stable or increasing with no measured decrease in numbers (based on a population count of 150,968), based on annual study plots.
The distribution of the population should be being maintained, or where appropriate increasing.	The distribution of this species within the site should not be constrained by anthropogenic factors, including disturbance of nesting sites by the public and activities leading to possible loss of suitable nesting sites.
There should be sufficient habitat, of sufficient quality, to support the population in the long term.	The breeding and foraging habitat of this species should be stable or increasing in terms of its area, and its quality should remain unaffected by anthropogenic factors.
Factors affecting the population or its habitat should be under appropriate control.	Rafting birds should remain unaffected by boat use and other anthropogenic factors; appropriate codes of conduct must be followed by all visitors and craft surrounding the islands. Factors affecting the species within the site should be under control

Feature 4: Breeding population of Atlantic puffin <i>Fratercula arctica</i>	
The size of the population should be stable or increasing, allowing for natural variability, and sustainable in the long term.	The breeding population of Atlantic puffin should be stable or increasing with an aim of 9500 individuals being achieved.
The distribution of the population should be being maintained, or where appropriate increasing.	The distribution of this species within the site should not be constrained by anthropogenic factors. There should be no contraction of the distribution of nesting sites as a result of anthropogenic factors.
There should be sufficient habitat, of sufficient quality, to support the population in the long term.	The breeding and foraging habitat of this species should be stable or increasing in terms of its area, and its quality should remain unaffected by anthropogenic factors.
Factors affecting the population or its habitat should be under appropriate control.	There should be no mammalian land predators present in the SPA, and control measures should be in place to ensure that accidental introduction does not take place. Access beyond designated footpaths, should be under appropriate control.

	Rafting birds should remain unaffected by boat use and other anthropogenic factors; appropriate codes of conduct must be followed by all visitors and craft surrounding the islands. Factors affecting the species within the site should be under control
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Feature 5: Breeding seabird assemblage	
The size of the population should be stable or increasing, allowing for natural variability, and sustainable in the long term.	The breeding populations should be stable or increasing based on a total population of 394,260.
The distribution of the population should be being maintained, or where appropriate increasing.	The distribution of these species within the site should not be constrained by anthropogenic factors, including disturbance by the public and activities leading to possible loss of suitable nesting sites.
There should be sufficient habitat, of sufficient quality, to support the population in the long term.	The breeding and foraging habitat of these species should be stable or increasing in terms of their area, and its quality should remain unaffected by anthropogenic factors. There should be no contraction of the distribution of nesting sites as a result of anthropogenic factors.
Factors affecting the population or its habitat should be under appropriate control.	There should be no mammalian land predators present in the SPA, and control measures should be in place to ensure that accidental introduction does not take place. Access beyond designated footpaths, should be under appropriate control. Rafting birds should remain unaffected by boat use and other anthropogenic factors; appropriate codes of conduct must be followed by all visitors and craft surrounding the islands. Factors affecting these species within the site should be under control