

Information Sheet on Ramsar Wetlands (RIS)

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

Note for compilers:

1. The RIS should be completed in accordance with the attached *Explanatory Notes and Guidelines for completing the Information Sheet on Ramsar Wetlands*. Compilers are strongly advised to read this guidance before filling in the RIS.
2. Once completed, the RIS (and accompanying map(s)) should be submitted to the Ramsar Secretariat. Compilers are strongly urged to provide an electronic (MS Word) copy of the RIS and, where possible, digital copies of maps.

1. Name and address of the compiler of this form:**Joint Nature Conservation Committee**

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Designation date

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Site Reference Number

2. Date this sheet was completed/updated:

Designated: 07 November 1991 / updated 12 May 2005

3. Country:

UK (Wales)

4. Name of the Ramsar site:

Llyn Idwal

5. Map of site included:

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

a) hard copy (required for inclusion of site in the Ramsar List): yes -or- no

b) digital (electronic) format (optional): Yes

6. Geographical coordinates (latitude/longitude):

53 06 55 N 04 01 29 W

7. General location:

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

Nearest town/city: Bangor

Llyn Idwal lies 17.5 km SSE of Bangor in the Snowdonia mountains of north Wales.

Administrative region: Gwynedd

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

Min. 378
Max. 380
Mean 378

9. Area (hectares): 13.56

(2005 calculation, no boundary change)

10. Overview:

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

A relatively shallow oligotrophic lake, with a species-rich flora with nearly all species typical of such waters in Britain being represented. These include six-stamened waterwort *Elatine hexandra*, pillwort *Pilularia globulifera* and awlwort *Subularia aquatica*. There are small areas of emergent vegetation. Biologically it is a relatively rich lake.

11. Ramsar Criteria:

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

1, 2

12. Justification for the application of each Criterion listed in 11. above:

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

Ramsar criterion 1

A small, shallow, oligotrophic corrie lake. The semi-circular rock basin (or cwm) containing the lake is one of the finest examples in Snowdonia.

Ramsar criterion 2

Species-rich plant community, including almost all of the species typical of oligotrophic waters in Britain. Notable species include *Elatine hexandra* and *Subularia aquatica* (both nationally scarce) and *Pilularia globulifera* (vulnerable at a European level).

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

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

a) biogeographic region:

Atlantic

b) biogeographic regionalisation scheme (include reference citation):

Council Directive 92/43/EEC

14. Physical features of the site:

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

Soil & geology	acidic, basic, sand, mud, nutrient-poor, igneous, peat, gravel, pebble, cobble, boulder
Geomorphology and landscape	upland, island, hilly, crags/ledges, cliffs, basins
Nutrient status	oligotrophic
pH	circumneutral
Salinity	fresh
Soil	mainly mineral
Water permanence	usually permanent

Summary of main climatic features	Annual averages (Colwyn Bay, 1971–2000) (www.metoffice.com/climate/uk/averages/19712000/sites/colwyn_bay.html) Max. daily temperature: 13.3° C Min. daily temperature: 6.9° C Days of air frost: 22.5 Rainfall: 788.1 mm Hrs. of sunshine: 1499.1
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General description of the Physical Features:

No information available

15. Physical features of the catchment area:

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

Llyn Idwal has a small but precipitous catchment with relatively large areas of heathland and base-rich bare rock. The chemistry of the water is indicative of nutrient-poor conditions but Idwal exhibits relatively high alkalinity and pH values. The conservation importance of the site lies primarily in the representation of a nutrient-poor mountain lake system and a macrophyte assemblage which includes a number of rare species.

16. Hydrological values:

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

No special values known

17. Wetland types

Inland wetland

Code	Name	% Area
O	Freshwater lakes: permanent	100

18. General ecological features:

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

Submerged aquatic flora in an oligotrophic lake associated with base-poor conditions. *Pilularia globulifera*, *Subularia aquatica*, *Littorella uniflora*, *Isoetes lacustris*, *Lobelia dortmanna* and *Sparganium angustifolium* are all present.

19. Noteworthy flora:

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

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

Elatine hexandra, *Subularia aquatica*, *Pilularia globulifera*.

20. Noteworthy fauna:

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

Species Information

None reported

21. Social and cultural values:

e.g. fisheries production, forestry, religious importance, archaeological sites, social relations with the wetland, etc. Distinguish between historical/archaeological/religious significance and current socio-economic values.

- Aesthetic
- Aquatic vegetation (e.g. reeds, willows, seaweed)
- Archaeological/historical site
- Environmental education/ interpretation
- Non-consumptive recreation
- Sport fishing
- Tourism

22. Land tenure/ownership:

Ownership category	On-site	Off-site
Non-governmental organisation (NGO)	+	

23. Current land (including water) use:

Activity	On-site	Off-site
Nature conservation	+	+
Recreation		+
Current scientific research	+	+
Fishing: recreational/sport	+	
Grazing (unspecified)		+

24. Factors adversely affecting the site’s ecological character, including changes in land (including water) use and development projects:

Explanation of reporting category:

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

NA = Not Applicable because no factors have been reported.

Adverse Factor Category	Reporting Category	Description of the problem (Newly reported Factors only)			
			On-Site	Off-Site	Major Impact?
No factors reported	NA				

For category 2 factors only.

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

Is the site subject to adverse ecological change? NO

25. Conservation measures taken:

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

Conservation measure	On-site	Off-site
Site/ Area of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI/ASSI)	+	
National Nature Reserve (NNR)	+	
Site management statement/plan implemented	+	
Special Area of Conservation (SAC)	+	

26. Conservation measures proposed but not yet implemented:

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

No information available

27. Current scientific research and facilities:

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

Miscellaneous.

Palaeolimnological assessment of effects of acid deposition (BSc dissertation) (ref.?).

Study of recent environmental change in selected standing waters in Wales (Bennion 1996; Bennion *et al.* 1997).

Ecology and conservation history of Llyn Idwal & Cwellyn (Duigan *et al.* 1998).

Survey for *Luronium natans* in 1998.

28. Current conservation education:

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

Site is provided with interpretive material and educational groups often use the surrounding land for geology, geography and biology studies. Limited guided walks given by CCW/NT/SNP wardens/staff.

29. Current recreation and tourism:

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

Activities, Facilities provided and Seasonality.

Most activities are walkers on the surrounding land. Very few people use the site itself - a few anglers (seldom seen now) and one or two brave people in the summer for swimming in the lake.

30. Jurisdiction:

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

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

31. Management authority:

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

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

32. Bibliographical references:

Scientific/technical references only. If biogeographic regionalisation scheme applied (see 13 above), list full reference citation for the scheme.

Site-relevant references

- Bassett, DE (ed.) (1986) National Nature Reserves in Wales: a systematic survey. 7. Cwm Idwal NNR, Gwynedd. *Nature in Wales*, NS,3(1/2) (1984), 79-90
- Bennion, H (ed.) (1996) A study of recent environmental change within selected standing waters in Wales. *CCW Contract Science*, No. 130
- Bennion, H, Allott, TEH, Appleby, PG, Hunt, M, Oliver, E & Patrick, ST (1997) A study of recent environmental change within selected standing waters proposed as Special Areas of Conservation (SAC) in Wales – Llyn Idwal, Llyn Cwellyn and Llyn Safadden (Llangorse Lake) Phase II. *CCW Contract Science*, No. 187
- Duigan, CA, Allott, TEH, Monteith, DT, Patrick, ST, Lancaster, J & Seda, JM (1998) The ecology and conservation of Llyn Idwal and Llyn Cwellyn (Snowdonia National Park, north Wales, UK) – two lakes proposed as special areas of conservation in Europe. *Aquatic Conservation: Marine and Freshwater Ecosystems*, 8(3), 325-360
www3.interscience.wiley.com/cgi-bin/abstract/10006549/ABSTRACT
- Jones, PS, Stevens, DP, Blackstock, TH, Burrows, CR & Howe, EA (eds.) (2003) *Priority habitats of Wales: a technical guide*. Countryside Council for Wales, Bangor
- Radford, GL (2005) Monitoring vegetation change in the Eryri SAC. Fifth repeat survey and final report for Cwm Idwal. *CCW Contract Science Report*, No. 702
- Ratcliffe, DA (ed.) (1977) *A Nature Conservation Review. The selection of biological sites of national importance to nature conservation in Britain*. Cambridge University Press (for the Natural Environment Research Council and the Nature Conservancy Council), Cambridge (2 vols.)

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